



Town of Sanbornton
Office of the Board of Selectmen
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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Sanbornton Board of Selectmen to Hold Public Hearing on \$4,998,120 Bond for Town Buildings Following Completion of Town Building Concept & Design

The Sanbornton Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing at their meeting on February 13, at the Town Office Building, 573 Sanborn Road, Sanbornton NH, at 5:30 PM, for a bond in the approximate amount of \$4,998,120 for the construction of a new town office building connected to the old Town Hall, renovations to the old Town Hall and site, the conversion of the current Town Office building to a Police Station and the conversion of the current Life Safety Building to a Fire Station. In case of inclement weather, a snow date has been set for February 20, 2019 at the same location and time.

The 20 year level principal bond, which will be going before the voters as Article 1 at Town Meeting on March 13th, is the culmination of an effort to comprehensively address the town's space and safety needs which have been identified and evaluated for decades. The proposed plan is the product of the Town Building Concept & Design approved by the voters at last year's Town Meeting and conducted by Bonnette, Page & Stone Corp., which seeks to address all of the town's space and safety deficiencies now and for years to come.

Space and safety deficiencies with the town's current buildings and their use have been documented dating back to at least 1997, where a Building Space Needs Committee issued a report identifying these issues and provided recommendations for the facilities. Since that time; numerous risk assessments, inspections, committee reports and professional studies have continued to identify these same and additional deficiencies, especially in regards to the Police Department and Town Offices. The consistent recommended plan throughout the years has been referred to as the "Domino Effect", where the construction of a new town office building would allow the Police Department to relocate to the current Town Offices and the Fire Department would acquire adequate space within the Life Safety Building. In 2006, the town voted to purchase property to protect the horizon behind the three historic buildings on Meeting House Hill Road and prepare a site for a future town office building. That property serves as the location for the new town office building and parking area presented in the Town Building Concept & Design.



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The Town Building Concept & Design provides drawings and a construction cost estimate which would: establish a climate controlled basement underneath the old Town Hall that would help to stabilize it structurally and address storage needs of the town, construct a new town office building connected to the old Town Hall, construct a parking lot behind the new town office building and old Town Hall, convert the current Town Offices to a Police Department with an addition containing a sally port to address safety needs, convert the Life Safety Building to all Fire Department facilities and address some site work issues at that location. The Town Building Concept & Design impacts multiple facilities in town not depicted in the drawings as well. For example, it provides dedicated office and storage space in the new town office building for the Recreation Department, which has been located in the Highway Garage with storage in multiple facilities such as the Transfer Station since 2014 when the department's former facilities at the Town Park were condemned. This in turn would free up space needed at these other town facilities which were occupied as temporary solutions. In the plan the Welfare office, which also used to be housed in the condemned facilities at the park and is currently located in the kitchen of the Town Offices, would have adequate facilities at the new building that meet the confidentiality needs of the department as required by law. The connector proposed in the design between the new town office building and the old Town Hall serves multiple purposes, as it would contain kitchen and restroom facilities that could be accessed after hours for community events and approved private functions.

While the timing of the proposed comprehensive plan unintentionally falls on the heels of a town wide revaluation, it is also occurring at a time where significant long term debt has been eliminated, with more being removed from the town's long term debt schedule in the near future. The final \$142,761 payment for the Y Project was paid in 2015, the final payment on the Transition Bond of \$112,190 was made in 2018 and the last payment for the Highway Garage will be paid in 2021 at \$135,039. The completion of these loans and bonds would lessen the impact on the tax rate if the proposed bond is approved.

The public is invited to attend and participate in the hearing where the Sanbornton Board of Selectmen plans to provide additional information about: the history of the space and safety needs of the town, the proposed concept and design and the impact that this comprehensive project would have in the Town of Sanbornton.

Further information including the proposed designs and budget can be found at the Town Offices or online at www.sanborntonnh.org.

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