

Village Hall Public Input meeting 9/2/2020

28 video participants – Josh and Layne (& Penn!), Dan, Lisa, Bob Conachen, Ruby and Isaiah, Caitlin, Mark B., Josh Kollauf, Gale, Wally and Karla, Amy, Gary and Elaine, Dave and Maud Mangin, Tarion, Jim and Marianne, Jerry Dunn, Jerry and Karen, Sally P, Judah, Jared L, Bobby and Katy, Jenny P, Leykn, 7154981662, Anna Z, Patrick

Dave: high level estimate, open bid process, not planned for Gimme Shelter but they are donating this initial design work

Public questions and comments:

Jerry T – Been talking about this need for 8 years; doesn't see value for such a small building in the park, kitchen? Warming area? Would like to see more services. Too small. Too conservative.

Wally – On renovation of fire station, 3 poles would obstruct doesn't make sense. We have an 18" wall, not 20". Don't need floor heat, there's a door in storage area already. Use holding tank. Park option is too small for money. There's a different spot on the other side of the river. Could cost a half million dollars. He could make fire station nice for \$120,000. Josh: 3 poles exist already; put tubing in floor for potential future use; holding tank good idea. Dave: benefit of insulating floor is to keep frost from encroaching from the sides of the building.

Josh – Size of building based on increasing size and being conscious of tax liability to residents.

Cut cost by using volunteers? Covered space for outdoor meetings?

Josh: front porch is covered by overhang; it is limited as planned. Could consider additional structure. We could explore using volunteers, but probably can't count on it at this stage.

Playground questions- Josh: Maintain and/or replace equipment; not remove. Dave: Past plans – we'd do a comprehensive plan in the future when we did a new village hall. If we built in park, we'd also need to look at drainage issues from sledding hill area of the park.

Dan – Jerry wanted to bring up possibility of using space by the post office instead. Mark Pearson: Building costs are doubling and tripling every day. We'll have to bring in fill and excavation costs that are expensive. Extra costs with birms. He thinks it will be over \$200,000.

Amy – Is there an opportunity for residents to look at firehouse? Dan: there is a renter in there. Wally: It's full of stuff. The well did run yesterday. Dave, if you move birms, where there's drain holes, you have to be careful.

Sally P – Over 50 person requires 2 restrooms.

Dan – Process for bids, building inspector would have to approve plans.

Why not invest in a bigger building with a kitchen? Recoup costs through a bigger space? Have you toured other municipal buildings? Josh has been in the Village of Amherst's building. Sally: check out Stockton.

Question on public bathrooms – monitoring and liability? Discussion on locking? Josh: It's an important conversation/policy to have for liability and security. Dave: In Parks commission this came up, wouldn't have it open all times. Definitely are on our radar to plan for this and accommodate everyone we can.

Jerry Dunn – Use existing septic and well at post office. 432 for current, new 548?

Josh, Kendric – Seems like we could make use of space for sledding hill, sell hot chocolate. Jerry T - Lake Emily has space for renting that we could look at.

Josh – cost /sq foot on condition space

Wally – Utilize existing building space, demolish village hall. Josh: estimate for demolishing village hall of \$25,000.

Jerry T – look at upper building at Lake Emily for example. The spot on the other side of the river would be ideal. It's worth looking at. By Tomorrow Valley Ag. Josh: Access from Q or Welton? Grade kind of steep if from Q. Bobby: DNR grant money means they have to approve anything we would want to build over there. Dave: We said we weren't going to develop on that land and therefore scored high on the grant application.

Rubina – Echo location in the park. Need a good location to vote. Likes idea of building in the park where it's a central space for people to congregate. Weather permitting there could be more seating. Update the playground. The whole space should be considered. This would be a community center. Village hall would bring more life into the community by having it at the park.

Dan – People not on meeting, most concern was about taking green space at the park. Josh: People don't want to lose functionality of park; some have safety concerns. Most responses have been positive, short and sweet. Objections are lengthy as would be expected.

Maud – A lot of moms want to see a better playground. Concerned about blocking the view. Josh and Kendra would have a view.

Layne – Can't participate in village functions normally, she loves the idea of having a playground where Penn can be and she can participate in the village hall meetings.

Jery Dunn – impact on neighbor to the west? He was on email list. Josh will talk to them.

Sally – V of Amherst applied for a grant for playground equipment.

Dave – Regarding neighbors to the west, design is low-rising roof. That side of the building only has one window on first floor and location of village hall wouldn't impede their view dramatically. On security, deter gathering with gardens and other design concepts.

Dan – Comments, could a larger building go in park? Dave – there is room. We could do a rendering and do an estimate. How many times would we fill the building? Josh: trying to find a balance between those that don't want project to happen at all and what we can do for a reasonable price.

Mark Pearson – Need to bring to referendum. Have hard numbers, bids. If we go \$300,000, people might be not want it. No bathroom in pole building, no excavating costs because they did it.

Dan – in person options for this meeting? Josh: There weren't a lot of people asking for the in-person meeting. Mark Pearson: Pat Raddatz, Bob Ripley, others. Plan for next Thursday at 6:00. Bring your own seating if you wish.

Dan – people can look at cost impacts, Josh or Dan can help with this.

Gary and Elaine – We've been talking about this for 20 years, we have a horrible situation with what we have. Appreciate efforts of Josh and committee. We are low in civic pride in Nelsonville. Kicking the can down the road has got to stop. Was there going to be no parking improvements on either solution? It's hard to park on slope and get out in winter. Same with fire station. Build in sanctuary? He doesn't think you can build a village hall where we got federal and state money. Trying to solve a problem. At least trying to rectify one problem at least. Elaine: Discussion on size, a little bigger footprint would make a difference. Gary: Can it be expanded in the future? Josh: cost of parking improvement wasn't included in the estimate. Need a cement spot for ADA parking requirement for voting.

Dan – Can in person meeting have a virtual component? Josh: Worth a try, plus participants here are encouraged to attend also. We can send recording to the email list.

Josh and Kendra – increase roof pitch? Grills?

Josh: Have a solar ready roof in plans.