

DEWINGUIT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
COMMITTEE & REPORT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
SUBCOMMITTEE, AS OF JUNE 30, 2022

The Subcommittee consisting of Sheldon Drucker, Wes Elliott and Charlie La Flamme met with the following Department heads for interviews: (1) Neal Pawlik, Acting Police Chief; (2) Russ Osgood, Fire Chief & head of Ocean Rescue Service; (3) Tom Torne, Director of Public Works; (4) John Fusco, Transfer Station Manager; and (5) Phil Pickering, Superintendent. We note that a new Police Chief, John Lizanecz has been appointed by the Select Board and he will assume his duties after July 1, 2022, and we will endeavor to interview him after that date.

The reports for each of our interviews follows.

REPORTS:

(1) OGUNQUIT POLICE DEPT. - Neal Paulik, LT.,
ACTING POLICE CHIEF

From the time of the last Comprehensive Plan done in 2003-04 the residential population, both permanent and seasonal has grown which has resulted in more calls for services and more incidents that OPD has responded to, both during tourist season (April to October) and in the expanded "shoulder" season from November through March. This has caused a need for additional full time officers and patrols and a larger tourist season hire of CSO (Community Service) Officers, who are all based in the basement station in the Dunaway Center.

These officers are required to do training according to Maine laws. The facilities at the station are not large enough to accommodate updated training, and training at the State police academies create additional budgetary implications.

Moreover, the facilities at the basement station are inadequate and unsafe for proper current and future needs, as follows:

(i) There is mold and water seepage in the locker room areas and office and interview areas.

(ii) The holding area is substandard and unsafe for custodial requirements for suspects.

(iii) There is a lack of space to accommodate bail bondsman hearing in a safe manner.

(iv) There is no separate secure access for officers with suspects, who go through the same entrance as people using public restrooms.

(v) With only two corner windows, air quality is non-compliant with applicable codes.

All of the foregoing issues have been reviewed and documented by the Town's Facilities and Space Needs Committee, but a budget recommendation to create expansion plans and begin remediation of Code issues was defeated at the recent Town Meeting election. Those plans would address OPA need for the next five (5) to ten (10) years.

(2) OGUNQUIT FIRE DEPARTMENT and OCEAN RESCUE
Chief Russell Osgood

The OFD occupies the first floor of its station on School and Cottage Streets with One ladder truck, two engines (hose and pumps), one brush truck and two ambulances crewed by EMT trained firefighters and a Chief's SUV vehicle.

The second floor is leased out to the Ogunquit Firefighters Association, a not for profit company on a long term Lease Agreement with the Town.

OFD operates with shifts of four (4) full time firefighters and call firefighters when the need arises. The Chief desires to add at least two full time firefighters to be available when the other full time firefighters answer Ambulance calls, in the event a fire call requires a response from the trucks.

The addition of full time shift members would require more space to accommodate sleeping bunk areas, since the upstairs space is subject to term of the lease with the third party group.

The Chief believes that the fire fighting apparatus is adequate and one truck may have to be replaced in the next two years, subject to a budget appropriation. There is one truck that is a reserve engine that OFD will attempt to sell.

Currently, if calls exceed the availability

of man available, the Town can seek mutual aid from the Town of Wells and/or adjacent communities.

The Ogunquit Ocean Rescue deploys a four passenger beach buggy^(ATV) and a motorized Bobb, pontoon boat to assist the lifeguard crew. Recently OFD has acquired accreditation and certification of the Lifeguard Service from a national organization. The service operates from mid-May through September each year and has 18 members.

(3) Public Works Department (PWD)

The PWD operates from its yard and building on Captain Thomas Road. The Director and Deputy Director, John Musto manage ten (10) full time employees and six (6) part time employees for maintenance of roads, bridges, parks and facilities.

The Director has a plan for bringing in more skilled personnel over the next six (6) years to replace part time positions to streamline seasonal readiness and work toward addressing issues caused by the Town's growth and maintaining all Town facilities and infrastructure over a ten (10) year period to become completely independent.

As indicated by other department heads, the DPW has outgrown its building and will need more space in the future.

(4) Transfer Station.

Recently the Transfer Station has implemented a "Pay as you throw" policy for residential trash allowing only the green plastic bags purchased by Town residents as business for trash compacting and disposal. Also, the separation of clear and ~~plastic~~ colored plastic containers and separate cardboard products allows the Town to be paid for these items to be recycled.

The Manager has recently hired a full time and a part time additional workers to oversee the orderly disposal of items received at the Station. Also,

the Station has purchased new steel transfer boxes to replace boxes that have corroded out.

The Manager has installed programs to monitor increased revenues and changes in the dumping fees for local trash and recycled materials to promote efficiencies at the Station, which will benefit the Town for the next five years.

(5) Ogunquit Sewer District

Phil Pickering has been the Superintendent at the Sewer Treatment Plant at North Beach for many years. While the plant is the main facility where chemicals are added to waste to make it safe as effluent disposal through a long pipe far out into the Ocean, there exists several smaller pumping stations around Town to move waste into the main holding and treatment facility.

Phil is comfortable indicating the current facilities should have an additional ten year life, at the minimum.

The District has purchased a large parcel off Captain Thomas Road, in the event that a new treatment plant might be required, and reserve account has been created and a portion of annual sewer fee bills is earmarked for the reserve account.