



Town of Lexington

Annual Town Meeting 2022

Article 2: Appropriate for Police Station Construction

A 2011 study by Donham and Sweeney Architects determined that the current 1956 Police Station no longer meets the needs of a modern police force. The study advised that the existing 13,060 square feet should be expanded to approximately 30,000 square feet through new construction.

Special Town Meeting 2016-5 appropriated \$65,000 for studying the feasibility of siting, constructing and equipping a new Police Station to meet modern needs, and on January 8, 2018 the Select Board voted unanimously to locate the new Police Department at its current location, 1575 Massachusetts Avenue. The 2018 Annual Town Meeting appropriated \$1,862,622 for design, engineering and architectural services for constructing a new facility at that site. The completion of the design and request for construction funding was originally planned for the 2021 Annual Town Meeting, but was postponed in order to further engage the community in conversations regarding race, social justice and the future of policing.

Article 2 of the Special Town Meeting 2022-1 is requesting \$32,400,000 for the construction of a new Police Station, including architectural, engineering, and construction services, demolition of the existing 1956 structure and related site and parking improvements. The new Police Station has been designed to meet current and future programmatic needs of the department and community, including a larger, more inviting lobby space, a community/training room for increased community engagement, flexible office space for added social services, space for dynamic de-escalation training, and non-gendered restrooms and one non-gendered locker room.

The new facility will be constructed in compliance with the Town's Integrated Building Design and Construction Policy (2019) and to be solar ready in furtherance of the town's Net Zero goals. The building design and construction in relation to solar ready will include all

infrastructure including handholes, underground conduit, duct banks, two switch gears (one for the building operations including solar generation and one for electric fleet vehicle charging), automatic transfer switches, a room within the facility for the equipment necessary to support solar power generation, reinforced roof systems for rooftop solar and onsite battery storage. Work is continuing to find an appropriate solar design which is satisfactory to all stakeholders, including the Historic Districts Commission. The Select Board voted unanimously to support bringing whatever project is found to be satisfactory to the stakeholders to a future Town Meeting, with a goal to have the solar project constructed at the same time as the Police Station to maximize efficiencies with the site contractor.

The Select Board unanimously supports approval of this article.