

**Town of Ticonderoga Special Informational Meeting held on August 18, 2015
commencing at 6:00 p.m. regarding the relocation of the
Ticonderoga Police Department to the Armory Maintenance Building**

Present: R. William Grinnell, Supervisor
David Iuliano, Councilman
Wayne Taylor, Councilman
Fred Hunsdon, Councilman
Chattie Van Wert, Councilwoman
Matthew Fuller, Town Attorney
Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk

Others: Darlene....., Marianne, Fred Hammann, Nate Charboneau, Joyce Barry, Joyce & Jerry Cooper, Bev Hudak, Gene Lobdell, Marge Hurlburt, Holly & Paul Dixon, Stu Baker, Lucy & Les Bilow, Bill Barnhart, Ann Dolback, Dave Woods, Jim Major, Dick & Mary Holroyd, Doug Baker, Lynn Sawyer, Joe Giordano, Bob & Carol Fogg, Marge Cross, Sandy McIntyre, Sue Allen, Nate Bull (AES Engineering), Rich Strum, Christopher Pratt, John Sharkey and a few others.

Supervisor Grinnell opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and then announced the purpose of the meeting.

There will be information given and taken on the proposal to move the Police Department to the maintenance building on the Armory Property. This project to move the police department has been under discussion for a number of years in Ticonderoga. For those of you that are not aware, we have our police department presently in a building that is structurally compromised at best and the Town has been searching for another location for them, we have investigated a number of buildings over the past few years and have come to a conclusion that the alternative that we are going to investigate more thoroughly at this time is the Armory maintenance building. We understand that there are people that have concerns about the location, there are concerns that we have tried to address with the layout and design of the property if we do go forward with it. There is a covenant in the deed in which we have requested an interpretation of what the exact explanation of that covenant is from OGS, at the last board meeting he stated that he would be in contact with OGS; they did call this past Friday and he spoke with Mr. Pohl and he assured me that we would have an answer from OGS not later than yesterday afternoon. He has been unable to contact Mr. Pohl again, and we have not received any information from OGS since that initial discussion last Friday. We are going to continue with this meeting tonight, we will take your information and if OGS does make a decision, depending on what they say the board will take it all into consideration and make a determination on whether to go forward with the project or not. This board has worked long and hard to try to resolve this issue and it not a lightly regarded undertaking. We understand the concerns from the neighbors and, in a perfect world, he does not know that it is the exact placement that we would chose for the use of this building; however, we don't live in a perfect world. We have to be resolute in our concerns of spending the tax dollars as wisely as possible and as frugally as possible. This project is by far the most cost effective option that the Town has investigated over the last several years. We have voted several times as a board unanimously to move this issue forward. We have made provisions in our plans to try to cover the concerns such as increase in traffic, which we and the experts feel that a gate on Amherst Avenue will accomplish that very

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issue. The re-routing of bus traffic to the front side (Champlain Avenue) of the Armory, which is a major concern we found regardless of whether the maintenance building is utilized or not. This will still take place, we feel it is something that we need to do for a safety stand point of the kids involved. They are supposed to be under an adults watch from the time they get off the bus to the end of the program, that is not happening right now and that is why we are going to re-direct that traffic. We are extending the driveways of the Armory to accommodate the heavier traffic flow that will take place, it will increase somewhat, it is not going to increase by leaps and bounds as shown by the numbers in the feasibility study. We are not going to see the police vehicles 24/7 streaming out the driveway with lights and sirens blaring, that rarely happens now. There is no reason to believe that it will increase in the future. Most calls are answered by a unit that is already out on patrol, they don't even originate at the police station. More than 50% of all responses are done without lights and sirens, so to think that there is going to be a huge increase of that is simply wrong. We are going to increase parking for the seniors, they have none - no designated off street parking at the Armory right now. That is going to be corrected. There is a concern about undesirable people that need to register at the Armory to maintain their positions, right now there is already a facility on the South end of Amherst Avenue that (not sure if you folks know it) these same individuals are utilizing the services. There is a paroled felon that already lives on Amherst Avenue. These same people that you are concerned about go to church, they go to Walmart shopping, they go to the banks, they vote in our Elementary/Middle School. These are some of the concerns that we've tried to correct with our plans. That is why we have planned to use cedar hedges to screen the view of people in the area. We have tried to realize these problems and control the situations as much as possible and keep the best interests of the whole town. We have spent a great deal of time reviewing this and hope that it is not a loss, because there are individuals here that don't necessarily agree with the facts as proof on this project. With that being said, we have voted as a board, as mentioned, several times unanimously and he feels that it is very important that people understand why we have made these decisions. His reasoning is the cost and the integrity of the building, the quality of it, the fact that we own it..... he would like every board member here to have a couple of minutes to explain their reasons, he is only one. We all have a say.

Councilman Iuliano noted that the Supervisor has spoken about the building itself and he will speak on the building itself. As he has gone through looking at this particular facility, he is also involved in other aspects of the town as are the other board members so when we look at what these different things cost and we've spoke about costs a couple of times and sometimes we've related just to this building. We have a lot going on with our water system that is going to be a financial burden on the tax payers. It is going to have to be fixed. We also have the DEC coming from the other end, so our sewer and water departments are going to need some major upgrades, these are fixing to hit our taxpayers. What I can afford and what different people in this room can afford, he doesn't know. Some of us, he is sure, would be no problem at all, but he is looking at the tax payer that might have trouble with something like this. It might be burdensome, and he is trying to see what he can do to reduce the overall impact to these tax payers that are out there having to struggle to make ends meet. He is looking at a lot of things coming down in

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this Town that we will have no control over with what we will have to do and this burden will have to be on our tax payers. He saw this building as maybe not having to put as much as a burden on the tax payers. So that is where he was coming from with a lot of this and still is. Right, wrong or indifferent that is what he is looking at and as you people speak he will learn more about what you are thinking about personally and what you are looking at. Stepping away from the building and looking at the whole community, which is what we have to do as board members, he sees a lot of things hitting our people and he is trying to reduce that impact as best he can.

Councilman Taylor stated that initially he is in agreement on one thing and one thing only at this point and that is that we do need to do something to re-house the police department. He has seen a lot over the years of where they are moved from here to there, from bandaid to bandaid to bandaid. None of which have every been a permanent solution. They were moved from this building to the old Civic Center, which has been since demolished; they were moved from there to the town shed, problematic at best; and then they were moved to where they are now. He has put his toe in the water and has been asked if he would go along with exploring this and he said yes. He had no idea that there would be this sentiment and the public outcry over it, that has had a lot of influence on him. The prior administration spent a good sum of money and did a feasibility study on a multi-use facility at the town highway garage to include the highway department, the water, the sewer and the police and he is not exactly sure on the amount but he has heard roughly as high as eight to ten million dollars. In his tenure, he thought it amounted to pretty much wishful thinking and not much more than that given the financial constraints we are facing, the water system, the tax cap. He didn't really even think about it and it was never really presented to this board as a viable option. Couple other towns that he is acquainted with that have had contentious issues that they have felt wise to put on as a referendum question on the back side of the ballot. The Town of North Hudson, the Town of Westport have had a few issues that they felt was worthy of the voters weighing in on them. At this juncture, that is where he feels technically he is not against the police going there, but what he is looking at is the best solution. Not another bandaid, not something we are going to have to revisit in another 15 - 20 years. We are looking at \$600,000.00 to rehab this building, we have a highway garage that is just..... stands at ..being condemned, the building is not in good shape in terms of being code compliant and having employees housed there - diesel engine exhaust, the oil furnace burns 5 gallons on hour steadily all winter long, thinking the big picture, long term, interest rates are low, there is definitely a need there. The water department building, the concrete is all busted up on it, the building was built in the 70's with a 30 year life span and it is pretty much beyond that time, so is it time, he doesn't know, you people will have to tell him. He is hearing more in favor in that concept, than there are against in his thoughts.

Councilwoman Van Wert stated that certainly we need a new location for our police department, this matter has been kicked down the road and we are now at this point. Her thinking about this location is that there are a lot of pro's and con's. We need to go ahead and go through this process and really looking at the cost to see what it would be to put it here at the Armory location. So why spend the money? We needed to, the questions kept coming at us and we need to have a solution that was more definitive and

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that is what we did. She also has some agreement with Councilman Taylor that maybe we shouldn't stop here, a multi-purpose building was looked a number of years ago and it was a big number then, is that a realistic number, she doesn't know. She thinks there is a benefit to having these services together, does the cost of that out way the benefit of it, she does not know. We haven't really. She can't say that and does not believe that anyone else can say that either. We have to decide one way or another. If they say that we can't have it there, then we will have go in another direction, if they say that we can then she doesn't believe our are work is done, we still have to consider all the opinions. Some people want to say just do it and get it done, lots of times things don't get done so she can understand the enthusiasm of lets just get it done, make a decision. She does not want to be involved with some prolonged effort and then nothing gets done. This has been good work and we will hear your questions and input to help us decide the benefit of this and how we will proceed. Thank you all for being here tonight, she thinks this is a good example of people getting involved in the community in a very responsible way.

Councilman Hunsdon stated that first and foremost we know that the police department needs a different place, is this the place? That is a good question. He believes that the architect went way over board on the proposed multi-purpose building, tremendously, but that would have to be researched before we could actually make any decisions on that. There are a lot of pros and cons where they want to put this, he was against it and he believes that we can actually put a building up to house the police department, the water, the sewer and the highway department. That is his thought. He does not agree with everything but this is his position on it.

Invitation for the Public to Address the Board

Supervisor Grinnell explained that we will now entertain information from the public, there will be some ground rules. We have a list of speakers and you will be limited to two minutes a piece and after we have gone through the list of speakers we will see where we are on time and we may possibly allow you an opportunity to speak again. We ask that you conduct yourselves if you would formally, politely and keep your comments as factual as possible.

Supervisor Grinnell also introduce Nathan Bull, from AES Engineering if you have any technical questions about these plans.

Mrs. Bilow asked the board to please allow a little more time for the public to speak, she pointed out that each of the board members had much more than two minutes to speak on their opinions.

The board agreed to allow three (3) minutes per speaker.

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Mr. Baker (117 Champlain Avenue) would like to go over the site plans and share the concerns that have come up from discussions amongst the neighbors. His comments are going to hit three areas - traffic circulation, site distances, storm water management. Traffic circulation as you know - the proposal now has the police department entering and exiting solely through the downhill entrance on Champlain Avenue to the property. The access to Amherst Avenue will be closed off and gated and that means there will no longer be any public recreational access to this property from Amherst Avenue, that means bicyclists, that means pedestrians; no longer will that be allowed. As the Supervisor mentioned in his comments there are plans to expand the driveway as shown on the plan in blue; the driveway will technically be widened and that will also have the effect of reducing the sharpness of those curves. So in this distance of approximately 340', there are two 'S' curves going to and from the proposed police station, 'S' curves are a right hand turns followed by a left or left hand turns followed by a right, in this instance since the driveway is going to be widened it is actually going to have the affect of making it easier to go faster through here. Right now with the existing driveway and the existing curves it is safe to go through there at 10 - 15 mph. Police vehicles, with the suspension systems that they have tend to go 10- 15 mph faster than that. By his estimation, widening the road and reducing the curves here will increase those speeds by about 10-15 mph. That is problematic, because the road that goes in here is the primary entrance for the Ti Area Seniors, the ACAP programs, as well as the Youth Commission's after school program, you will have all of these pedestrians that will be dropped off and picked up and walking to the new parking across the driveway. Additionally, there are no pedestrian sidewalks proposed here, so if you are parked down the driveway you will be walking in this driveway to get to the center. Site distance, at Champlain Avenue you will notice that your plan does not have parked cars, when you have parked cars down Champlain the site distance is very limited..... (3 minutes have ended).

Supervisor Grinnell noted that as a result of Mr. Baker's comments he has a question for Mr. Bull, AES Engineering. Are these site distances and speed rates and what not any where near accurate as far as our design?

Mr. Bull does not believe that we have posted any speed limit signs in the preliminary drawings.

Supervisor Grinnell wanted to mention that last week the seniors had a picnic at which time there was a lady at the picnic that brought up the very fact that pedestrian traffic would be ending through the Amherst Avenue gate. That is a concern and a legitimate one and we have a system at the Airport where there is a vehicle gate and also an electronically controlled pedestrian gate. We don't want to limit pedestrian traffic so that seniors or adults coming to the Amherst Avenue side will not be able to access the senior center from that location. We don't want to make them walk all the way around to Champlain Avenue and we are going to change the design as a result of that so that there would be a pedestrian gate that would be controlled by the police, they will open it in the morning and close it at the close of the last event of the Armory that includes the seniors. That way, people will have access to the senior center through the Amherst Avenue gate.

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We are not trying to pull the wool over anybody's eyes, it just did not come up until last Friday and it was a good and valid concern and that can and will be dealt with.

Mrs. Dixon wanted to bring up the status of the Town's ownership of the parcel, this parcel is generally known as the Armory parcel and was deeded to the Town under the NYS Public Lands Law Section 34. Section 34 specifies very specifically how properties deeded from the State to a Municipality such as Ticonderoga. Section 34 specifies how those properties can be used and it is very narrow only about seven possible uses, police is NOT among those uses. In 2003 the Town of Ticonderoga in Resolution requested that the property be conveyed to the Town for a consideration of \$1.00 for purposes of recreation. NYS and the Office of General Services agreed recreation is a permissible use and the property was then deeded to the Town for recreation and she is going to read briefly from the deed on the Armory parcel to the Town. In the event that the premises are not used for such purposes, for recreational purposes, the title hereby conveyed shall revert to the People of the State of New York. The Attorney General may institute an action in the supreme court for a judgment declaring the re-vesting of such conveyance back to the State. Now that is what our Town Board and our Supervisor are risking at this point. The Town Board itself has agreed that the police are not recreation. You cannot fit police under the aspect of recreation. They know that; they did not apply to OGS for some kind of an exception to the deed, which we don't think is possible. Nothing can be clearer than this deed which says that this property is for recreational purposes. This Town has moved forward, has spent Town money prior to finding out what the OGS says about this. The OGS is most likely never going to agree to this kind of proposal, it is not recreation and that is a huge problem. It is a problem for the Town, it is a problem for the deed, it is a problem for the residents around here. So far this action has no legal authority, sorry folks.

Mr. Barnhart (49 Amherst Avenue) would like to address one aspect of this plan. In his July 14 letter to OGS, the Supervisor stated "to help mitigate concerns of the neighbors, the Town is proposing to plant cedar hedges for appropriate screening and install a gate system with fence to eliminate traffic off Amherst Avenue". What he would like to talk about is the Sally Port, we were led to believe that one of the existing garage doors would be used as a Sally Port so that detainees would be taken into police station so that the general public would not have to view that. A Sally port is a secure, controlled entryway into a secured building. The entrance is usually protected by some means such as a fixed wall on the outside, parallel to the door which must be circumvented which prevents direct enemy attack or entry from either near or from a distance. It may include two sets of doors that can operate independently to further prevent enemy penetration. The current plans show an outdoor Sally Port, this cannot correctly be called a Sally Port. It will be just be a slab of concrete with some cedar hedging around it. It is to be located on the Amherst Avenue side of the proposed police station. This is an outside area that will allow residents to hear and see all that happens when taking in an uncooperative detainee. The design does not work to prevent detainees from escaping. PLEASE understand there is a family with small children that is literally less than 20 feet from where this will be taking place. The site plan indicates that the Sally Port is to be situated next to a door that is clearly marked an exit only. This begs the question, how you will get the detainee into

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the building? Will additional police staff be required on site to get detainees into the station without endangering the staff or the detainee. Why is there no true Sally Port on the plans, the answer is because this building has inadequate size to permit one. The proposed cedar hedges will do little to mitigate the serious safety concerns. This is evidence of a lack of regard of residents located in the area. Many people, young and old, walk on Amherst to go to church, to go to school, to go to the senior center, for a number of other reasons. They will be able to hear and see the spectacle of taking in an uncooperative detainee. No amount of hedges will ever block out the site or sound of an uncooperative detainee.

Mrs. Cooper would like to talk about the children, she is a retired teacher as some of the others here and they are very close to her heart. She would like to start by quoting Hubert Humphrey in his last speech, "the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children, and those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly. With this in mind, it appears that our town government is considering making a decision that is morally wrong for our local students (our children) and for our senior citizens: relocating the police department to the maintenance building in the rear of the Armory property. Let me tell you why: This project would devote about 1/4 of the total property to the police use and potentially make the Armory driveway unsafe for our seniors and students who, because there are no sidewalks along the north side of the Armory, would have to share the driveway with police vehicles. This project would also take away the play area used by the town's after school elementary program for use as a parking lot. Having been an elementary teacher for 37 years, I know how important it is for children of this age to get outdoors and play after spending the day at school. Where would they play? Town government has suggested they could cross the "Champlain Speedway", better known as Champlain Avenue, to play in the old Central School Park, or better yet, walk down Champlain to Father Jogues to play at St. Mary's playground. Perhaps my biggest concern, however, is how the relocation of the police department to this property will impact our students attending the Silver Bay Teen Center. Let me share some figures that Silver Bay has shared with us:

Silver Bay's Mission Driven Youth Programs

The result of your support in 2014

- ❖ Over 180 local youth experienced homework enrichment, mentorship, and healthy social interaction at the Teen Center. A total of 684 local youth have enjoyed the Teen Center since opening in the fall of 2012.
- ❖ Participants in the Teen Center program enjoy an average of two events per month, including glow in the dark basketball & volleyball, healthy kid's day, and overnight lock-ins.

Will this success continue with the police department on site? Probably not, with many parents opting not to allow their children to participate in a program on a property where sex offenders could potentially mingle with their children as these offenders report. (3 minutes have passed)

Mr. Strum read the following letter:

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My name is Rich Strum. I live on ³⁴Amherst Avenue and my children participate in programs run at the Armory.

The Ticonderoga Armory has been a wonderful asset to the Town of Ticonderoga since it was received from the State of New York. It is a thriving hub of activity for all members of the Ticonderoga community, particularly for our youth and seniors. Hundreds of children take advantage of the wonderful programs offered through the Silver Bay Association after school program and the Ticonderoga Recreational Department. Any parent who has dropped off or picked up their children at the Armory knows that it is a very busy place until 9 o'clock at night or later. And the Ticonderoga Senior Center, also housed in the Armory, provides an essential service to another slice of the Ticonderoga community.

I'm concerned about adding police cars responding to emergency calls to an already heavily used, confined space populated by our most vulnerable citizens—seniors and children, including my own children. For those parents dropping off their children for an evening dance or other event ^Sthe Board's plan that access to the complex would be from Champlain Avenue hardly makes them feel any more at ease about this dangerous mix of children, seniors, and speeding police cars.

And it's not just police cars responding to emergencies that concerns me. A police station, like any municipal center, brings with it regular traffic—lots of traffic; traffic that will forever change the nature of the Armory property and negatively impact the public use of

the property. This plan could potentially add up to 100 vehicles a day in and out of the property to the mix of children and seniors coming and going throughout the day and into the evening. Not only do my children take part in the programs at the Armory, but like dozens and dozens of other neighbor children, the Armory property has been a safe place to learn to ride a bike, to meet up with friends, and a safe alternative when walking to dance lessons on The Portage or to visit with friends on Champlain Avenue.

Granted, the Town isn't in the business of providing a shortcut for neighborhood children, but closing off access to the Armory property from the Amherst Avenue end just further diminishes its value as a recreational asset. What has been an integral part of the neighborhood will become a gated, inaccessible no-mans land, a place no longer a part of the community but a place to be avoided—hardly what the State of New York had in mind when the Armory property was deeded to the Town.

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Mr. Major would like to state that change comes hard and there are always a lot of fears involved with changes. When Ti EMS went in there was a lot of fear expressed around that and he doesn't think that since it has been there we have had any problems. As far as you making a decision on the police department in a residential area, he would suggest that no matter where you put that police department it is somebody's residential area. Ideally, he supposes it should be downtown, but there is nothing available in down town and down town has residents, as many as would be affected as you folks. The complaint is that it is a residence, you will have a residence anywhere you will be put the police. He would also suggest that it is time you make a decision, this has been going on for many years. He made an offer to the Town about six years ago to give them 4,000 square feet down town for 20 years and he was turned down. Now it is time, that building is a disgrace to put human beings in there. Imagine you have somebody handcuffed in there and that building collapses, what kind of lawsuit are you going to have. Do it here or have a recommendation of another place and it will always be in a residential area. He has stood by that police department and it is the quietest place in town. There ain't nothing going on over there because the cars are out patrolling. He knows this is tough, everybody has fears, but from his perspective you couldn't have picked a better place.

Mr. Dixon utilized the plan shown tonight to show where he lived (right next to this maintenance building). He would like to talk about the fact that this presentation here shows you exactly how the plan repurposes the entire Armory parcel for police use. Recreation is secondary now, not primary. You've gated this - people can't even get through here now, you can't walk through here. They don't want anybody walking in here. As a result you of proposing an entire back lot the children won't play here because they don't want to be back here next to the police. You are taking a playground for children and turning it into a parking lot, right. The main traffic pattern will change, where people have been parking, where the senior bus has been running through here all gone, all of that has been altered and the reason is simply to put the police here. Everything else is repurposed because of that one action. That is called a total repurposing of the armory parcel, it is not incidental use, it is not temporary use, it is permanent and it violates the law and the deed as it stands.

(Mr. Woods was next but had left the auditorium)

Mr. Bilow stated that he lives on Lake George Avenue, he has lived in Ticonderoga for 55 years and he has seen a lot of changes. He is going to look at this in a little different way, each morning he likes to take a trip. He gets in his car and goes over Algonkin, then drives up to go over Father Jogues, the next one is Iroquois Street, the next is Calkins Place, when you look across Calkins you see families and a beautiful school system before you go to Champlain you go down Amherst, there are families, families on both sides of the streets. Down Amherst you see a fence, what to do to cover up that fence, well just down from there is a school down at the corner you see a law office and a judges office and a dentist office and sitting there is a big church, drive down to the end and take the right onto Champlain Avenue another two churches, come up to the Armory building - beautiful building given to this town for a dollar, a teen program, further up all the way up Calkins and Champlain it is all residences, residences are important don't

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throw that away. Get up in the morning and take a walk, beautiful. Not just this area, but many others in Ticonderoga. It just doesn't make any sense to do this. The police department has been a big thing, not just this year but last year and a few years ago. We need a police department, but don't say there is no other property in Ticonderoga that can house a police department. It certainly doesn't need to be stuck in a residential area, he is all for the police department.

Mr. Giordano (19 Amherst Avenue) would like to first say that it is nice to hear each of the board members speak, we haven't heard any of your opinions in the last five months that he has attended board meetings. Most notably he would like to say thank you to Councilwoman Van Wert, Councilman Hunsdon, and Councilman Taylor, you seem to be the most open minded about exploring all the criteria that all of these individuals have spoken about. Cost certainly is an important part, but cost really hasn't been proven factually to any of us. It hasn't been proven factually to any of the board members either; we have one narrow minded feasibility study in which to go on. The previous administration had funded a study that was not to the same caliber as this, and their two found recommendations were combining a shared services at the department of highway and as well as utilizing this building itself. None of those particular ideas have been evaluated to the same extent as this has. That is pretty sad in his view, that the Town Board has not even considered that and it has taken a group of as many as 200 people to sign a petition saying look this is wrong. As for the Supervisor's comments about facts, facts are kind of a funny thing because you can interpret facts however you wish, but it was our group that brought it to OGS's attention that the Town Board was trying to pull a 'fast one' on them. Mr. Grinnell and I had a private conversation and he told me that the first time he had spoken to Mr. Pohl was June 1st. The second thing has to do with these qualifying these other sites, the making a department of highway and a police department or here. Mr. Grinnell has stated that they have been cost prohibitive, but none of us has seen any actual information that have shown that. Mr. Iuliano has stated also that the cost to the tax payers will be increased but there is no evidence about that. All we have is one figure of 3.2 million dollars to go on and that is not really sufficient enough to make a comparison with what we have here. That is pretty narrow minded in his view point as to doing an actual due diligence of all the different possible locations. Thirdly, public safety, Mr. Grinnell has also mentioned in the paper that public safety would be improved. He doesn't know where you get your facts an information, he has talked to two professors in the Department of Criminal Justice at SUNY and he has asked to be provided resources and they have yet to find anything to substantiate the claim for or against the Town's notion of improved safety. Of course this is an opinion, not a fact that public safety would be improved. In addition to that, crime prevention..... (3 minutes have passed)

Supervisor Grinnell would like to mention before we go any farther, that he wants to make it clear that this board tries their damndest to be responsible to the tax payer, that does not include trying to pull a 'fast one'.

Mrs. Bilow stated that she is a mother/ a grandmother/ a teacher / and a senior and proud of it. She takes an arthritis exercise class at the Armory on Wednesday and she has

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concerns about the seniors and herself because of our age and that makes us more vulnerable. The roadway curves at the Armory will be straightened, this will be a temptation to drive faster, perhaps even up to 40 mph to respond to a call. There will be approximately 100 trips a day made by the police officers alone. The roadways will be widened to allow two way traffic, there will be no sidewalks. This will make it more dangerous for pedestrians. The neighborhoods are too densely populated, schools are too close, churches are too well attended, parking spaces are too full, streets are too narrow, children are too fast, seniors are too slow. Inconveniences for everyone are too plentiful. Accidents are too possible. You folks of the board have a decision to make, you must decide whether to relocate the police station at the Armory or not. Ask yourselves, is cramming a police station into the Armory location worth causing a serious accident? If so, my question to you is what will you do to alleviate the multitude of traffic problems? She rests her case.

Supervisor Grinnell wanted to answer a couple of the Mrs. Bilow's questions. (To Mr. Bull) Is part of that feasibility study a survey on the amount of trips the police department takes during a given day.

Mr. Bull answered yes, it was approximately 50 trips a day 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Supervisor Grinnell inquired of Sergeant Hurlburt if there was not already significant traffic issues every time staff attempts to get on Montcalm Street, isn't this cause for concern.

Sergeant Hurlburt stated absolutely, he continued by explaining part of their procedure in responding to calls, when they do or do not use sirens. They use caution responding to every call.

Mr. Barry stated that she represents the seniors that are slow. There will be no sidewalks. Also, to pull out on Champlain if there are cars parked on the side you have to pull all the way out in order to see. She was also appalled at the amount of money it was going to cost to renovate this building and she was told to build a building of that caliber it would cost more than that amount, but do we need a building of that caliber?

Mr. Holroyd read the following:

At the beginning of the police station relocation talks, the oppositions main theme was the reduction in property values. That fact was restated in the Aug 15th issue of the Times of Ti. To the best of my knowledge, no one has contacted the assessor about this issue. The relocation to the armory property could possibly increase property values.

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Mr Bilow's letter stated some parents might not want their children to attend youth events at the armory because of the police. Not long ago, parents wanted a police presence in schools. I think the only teenagers who would not want to attend events are those who might be engaged in inappropriate activities.

As far as senior citizens not wanting the police around, I don't feel that is true. When sneakers were being thrown over power lines and vandalism seemed to be increasing, some seniors said they were afraid to leave their homes at night.

The Episcopal church has experienced a break in and vandalism. St Mary's school was severely damaged by an arsonist. One can only wonder, if these events could have been prevented if the police were already stationed at the armory property.

There are approximately 10 houses within direct sight & sound of the station. The property proposal offers ways to lessen the physical impact of the facility on the neighborhood.

I would like to thank Mr Giordano for reminding the town board to do their due diligence in this matter. There are 3,007 property taxpayers in Ticonderoga. If there are 200 signatures on the petition against this project, then the other 2807 want the board to keep our property taxes as low as possible.

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The police certainly need a safe place to work.
Recently you allowed the emergency squad to
relocate into this neighborhood. I don't think
the police will harm citizens anymore than the
comings & goings at the emergency squad 🚒.

8/19/15
Richard Foggy

Mrs. Cross (176 The Portage) stated that her concern with the Police station being placed at the Armory is with the safety of the children. She has listed very carefully about the suggestions of the road being widened and as she sat there she wanted to say are you crazy..... three years ago her granddaughter was hit by a car right in front of her house, on The Portage. She knows how quickly accidents can happen. She knows that when the police are called to a domestic or an injury in a car accident, she knows that those police officers are going to be watching where they are going, but all of those children that are there for after school activities they are not going to be watching where the police are going and she knows that first hand. She sat in the middle of the road and held her granddaughters head together, have any of you had to do that? Maybe a police officer has. She knows what it is like to have an accident like that happen, and she thinks it is absolutely ridiculous to think about putting the police station this close to a place that hold activities for our students. She doesn't feel that this area is the answer. She thinks that if we used a little creativity and a little ingenuity and a little input from the people of our town she thinks there are better answers. She would like to end by asking a question, why was the community building set aside as not a good choice, she is not clear on that?

Councilman Taylor believes that they discussed being under ground, there were no windows, exits.....

Mrs. Cross stated that she doesn't have the answers, but she can say that kids come first. She can ask though, how expensive would it be to put some windows in, how expensive would it be to put another exit in? Is it going to equal to what we are going to spend at the Armory, she is thinking no. She thinks you could probably find some volunteers to come and dig some ditches to get these things going, she thinks the people feel very strongly about this. She thinks this is a good option.

Mr. Foggy wanted to state that he is not for or against this. He is here representing the Church of the Cross, who share the property line. His concerns are the changes that will affect the Church's property, the first one being the parking spaces suggested along the north fence line which currently separates the buildings. It is now grass, there is an Oak tree that stands there - storm water management will be an issue. We still have water coming on our sidewalks throughout the winter time, so it is a problem in this area. If

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this is paved, he does not see any grading to deal with this storm water. It will end up in their stone foundation basement. The second point he will make is parking, our only parking is on the street. There is no mention in the plan about this parking, but as mentioned before there is a problem with the line of site if you come out of the Armory you have to pull out onto the street to see if anyone is coming. Will this parking lot still happen whether or not the Police station goes in (the senior parking lot).

Supervisor Grinnell agreed that this has been discussed, the oak tree has also been brought up. Nobody wants that oak tree damaged. As for the storm water, maybe we can put a gutter in to get that away from the church. More discussion will be held on this issue.

Mr. Sharkey wanted to start right off stating that he is not in favor this project, there should be other alternatives, some have already been looked at. The old Rite Aid building, that was turned down because of State Law, shut down completely. This site at the Armory was originally not considered, it was actually crossed of the list by some other group. They actually preferred the Community Building. If the State can cut Rite Aid right off the list, then why don't they cut this off because of the deed, which states it is only for recreational use? There are more options, the three-in-one building that can house more than one department, those should be looked at. He was very impressed with Donna Wadsworth at IP Co, saying that they always have a Plan B, (when it came to the natural gas pipeline) the town should also and he believes the Supervisor when he says that he does, but you can't just focus in on one thing and try to push it, push it, push it. He would like to end his comments by quoting St. Paul - 'let us reason together'; that is what we have done tonight, the board has stated their case, many of you have stated your case and you have done very well.

The board feels a brief intermission is needed and will allow those who have signed up to speak again when we return. (Intermission started at 7:17 p.m. and the meeting continued at 7:40 p.m.)

Mr. Baker (117 Champlain Avenue) would like to continue his presentation from earlier and move on to Site Distance pertaining to parking on Champlain Avenue. He has pictures of the parking taken on a Sunday and he thinks that they illustrate quite clearly of how limited the site distance actually is. These pictures are taken from a high of about three and a half feet, which is what DOT actually likes to use for site distance studies. These pictures were actually taken this past Sunday and there is more likely more cars parked down there. As stated earlier today, cars coming out the north driveway of the Armory have to stick their noses right out and he thinks these pictures illustrate that quite clearly. He strongly believes that in the future, while the board's position right now is that Champlain Avenue's on street parking will not be affected, his believe is that in the very near future should the Armory property be a posted police department, the on street parking will be adversely affected and indeed some of it removed. An additional comment on Storm Water, the issue of storm water management along the north property line as brought up by Mr. Fogg, the board needs to understand that until it is graded on that plan, with new parking here that storm water is going to be directed on adjacent

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Armory Maintenance Building looking east

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Amherst @ Father Jacques looking west

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Mrs. Dixon would like to mention two things, the board really does need to get on the stick and find a different location and do the cost comparisons and work this out, this is the kind of thing the board can do. The neighbors can help and we are happy to help, it is the responsibility of the board to work that out in much better detail than what it has done now. The other thing that she would like to put in the minutes that there were four armed policemen at the back of this room for the entire first half of this meeting, they are gone right now - maybe they are not gone but she doesn't see them. There are four armed policemen, those are all employees of the Town and one of them gave some testimony as an employee of the town, which might make a difference. The other thing is, she does not find it conducive of a peaceful town meeting to have four policemen armed and standing at the back of our speakers room. She thinks the people that have spoken tonight have done a wonderful job of keeping their cool despite that intimidation.

Mr. Barnhart (Amherst) would like to speak in regards to the gate, it sounds reasonable that the police won't use it only in an emergency. Common sense says that eventually the police will take the path of least resistance. After maneuvering through oncoming traffic of seniors at the senior center, the children and their parents walking or picking them up in a shared driveway and the troublesome exit onto Champlain Avenue, officers will quickly demand a safer way and there will be adjustments made to utilize an exit and entrance on Amherst Avenue and you are well aware of the issues that Amherst poses to our police staff. It was mentioned that a gate will be put in for our pedestrians as well, how will this work?

Supervisor Grinnell asked Mr. Bull to explain this process.

Mr. Bull explained that the gate can be a manually locked gate controlled by the police department during regular business hours or from dawn to dusk or it can be an operational gate controlled by key code system. The manual gate is simpler and being controlled by the police department makes it very secure.

Mr. Barnhart asked then that pedestrians would have access through this gate at specific times? (answer was yes) As a former educator, and knowing a little bit about kids, he is concerned that the kids are also going to use that gate and be going right through that area which once again puts them in some serious situations possibly with cars going in and out.

Mrs. Cooper would like to continue where she left off talking about the Silver Bay Teen Center. Will this success continue with the police department on site? Probably not, with many parents opting not to allow their children to participate in a program on a property where sex offenders could potentially mingle with their children as these offenders report to the police station on a regular basis, where the violence and/or offensive language could be heard or observed at or around the police station, where general safety would be an issue, and where safe access to the property from Amherst Ave. has been removed by the gate placed at this entrance. Because I live on Amherst Avenue (which by the way is presently one of the nicest, most historic, and safest streets in town) I am also most concerned about a special group of the students: those high

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school students I've seen who walk to the Teen Center almost daily. What will they do when they find the Amherst entrance blocked by a gate? Probably one of three things: 1. Walk down Amherst, to Father Jogues, and then up Champlain to the Armory, 2. Take a short cut and trespass through an Amherst property to get to the Armory or 3. (and most likely) keep on going and find something else, maybe less desirable, to do. Because these students are not involved in after school activities, it would appear that they are the teens that would benefit the most from Teen Center activities. Why get out the box of bandaids to fix the problems created by relocating the police to the Armory property? Our senior and youth programs at the Armory are popular and successful. Don't shut the gate on them! Just improve the parking for the senior (it's been under discussion for years!) and make the decision that it is **wrong, wrong, wrong** to negatively impact the youth and senior programs by placing our police department in the Armory Maintenance Building.

Mr. Dixon stated that he has two points, 1. he has gotten so tired of doing this, if you put the police in a residential area it will be in someone's front yard... Well, the obvious point is it does not belong in a residential area, 20 feet from my house, 40 feet from his house, 60 feet from his house, 100 feet from..... don't put it there. You put it where it belongs, you don't put it where it causes that kind of infringement. Ordinary human beings want privacy, (inaudible) you just don't do it. The only argument that I've actually heard is financial, well I guess saying that you are going to spend \$600,000.00 and more and you are going to use town labor, that sounds a little strange to him. The other point has to do with the law, he has been told that there have been other uses of this area before that did not conform with the deed, but the only ones that were there were 'grandfathered' first and then they left and the only other serious one was with the school (the offices) and that was called incidental use. It was not permanent use and is allowed by the state but only because it was incidental, this will not be incidental. It will be a permanent use and in violation of the deed and the law.

Mr. Bilow talked earlier about residential areas, losing the residential areas, talked about putting a gate on Amherst Avenue, talked about a push button on the gate to walk through. No longer can someone drive their car down the street and pull in from Amherst, the grass will be gone around this beautiful building that was given to this Town. Let's not do this.

Mr. Giordano stated that he has four points and to him it is more of conversation points.

1. Think of all the businesses in town, with our Montcalm Street partnership we are trying to get all of our businesses down town and to him locating the police department on the back side of the Armory just doesn't even seem like a professional image for the police department - the back side of the Armory where it is going to be hidden, obscured from sight, visitors as well as residents coming into town will not even know it is there even though there will be a sign out front; it is just not the place you would typically put it, all the towns that he has been through and the town he lived in before here had them front and center in the open, most are mixed with Fire Departments.
2. He has talked with a lot of the organizations that are affected by this, there are seven organizations that he doesn't know if any of them have even been polled via survey,

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individual discussions as to how they feel this will impact their programs, from the Senior Center, the Senior Meal site, the Youth Commission, Silver Bay program, the Church of the Cross, St. Mary's School and Ticonderoga School, that to him seems that we have neglected the very completeness of this evaluation here and it needs to be part of it. We have had special interest groups that have pushed the police relocation in a particular direction and for various reasons it has not gone that way. This needs to be a community involvement, it cannot just be a board effort, it cannot be just a few selected individuals, it needs to be a community. He thinks we need to take a hold of that and in this particular juncture we need to really address that involve everyone to take note in all the different concerns there are and decide what is the best option. One option is not going to offer the best offer.

3. In conversation with Mr. Iuliano, he said we can't meet the income needs currently with our recreation, right now the income is not quite where the expenses are, you are not quite balanced in terms of Silver Bay and ACAP and that is fine, my question to the board is how come we are not trying to promote more uses recreationally in that area. That is a prime location to try to really beef up, maybe not everybody would have an interest and participate in that but certainly there are a lot of members in the community to keep this and make it more worth while to meet the deficit.

4. He delved into the old issue of public safety and he had some conversations one with a SUNY Professor of Criminal Justice and he made the conversation that there is more to this than just enforcement, crime prevention is also an aspect and this really needs to be addressed and he doesn't know if this has been addressed in anything in terms of the work that the engineer did and that certainly is community involvement and that needs to be looked at - In conclusion, he would like to see a positive approach of where we go from here and (3 minutes have passed)

Mrs. Bilow asked a question - if you put the police station at the Armory what would you do to alleviate the multitude of traffic problems?

Supervisor Grinnell thinks this question is a result of your perception that there will be traffic problems. Our police officers, each and every one of them spend a good deal of training time in driving classes for their jobs on the driving skills it takes to be a police officer. We have traffic issues everywhere in Ticonderoga where ever you go, you have Montcalm Street on a summer day at 8:00 in the morning, 4:00 in the afternoon, and 10:00 at night, you have traffic problems. They navigate that on a regular basis, you go through town in the winter time with snow banks and navigate that situation with no issue, so he really doesn't believe that the perception that you have a major traffic problem because the police cars will be going in and out of the Armory driveway is any different than the seniors going in and out or any other, the sewer department go in and out, the maintenance people go in and out and we don't see that as being an issue.

Mrs. Bilow thanked Supervisor Grinnell for his point of view - it is NOT hers, but thank you.

Mr. Holroyd noted that the gentleman mentioned that the police cars are built typically to go faster, it doesn't mean that they are going to go faster. He thinks the police know how

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to drive a car. There are people here tonight that are having personal problems with the Town of Ticonderoga and they come to him because they know he goes to meetings, he goes to many different meetings and that is because he has an interest in Ti, he loves this Town, he lives in this town and he wants to die in this Town, but he won't be able to if he can't pay his taxes. How many of you people have gone to a town board meeting outside of this issue in the last year? Not many of you, that is a great turnout and it probably would be more if something in them had something to do with you personally. Not for the Town of Ticonderoga, not to possibly help these guys do their jobs or give them some input that they can work with and maybe help you. Just want to say, I think you guys are doing the best that you can with the information that you have and that is all that you can do, but just remember that there are 3,007 tax payers that are paying taxes in the Town of Ticonderoga and if you have 200 that don't like what you are doing then you have 2,800 that do like what you are doing. Keep up the good work and keep the taxes down, the people will help you, you were elected to speak to all of them. It is your decision.

Mrs. Cross stated that she would like to ask a question because she is not clear on it, she did bring up the Community Building as a possibility if we need to look elsewhere - is this a residential area or is this a residential area (the Community Building property) (answer was commercial), She thanked the board as she just wanted to verify that this was commercial and she stated that she strongly feels that commercial is where the police department should be. Second of all she would like to say that everyone here has raised their opinions and she has respected everyone's opinion as well. She also wants to say that she doesn't think that any of us here are anti our board, but we all want to work together for the better of the community, not to be against the board, not to be against the police department, but the seniors, certainly the children and the churches - we are not against the board and certainly nothing to take personally; many of us feel that there are other avenues to be looked into and that is ok, because that is what this is all about. She agrees we should work together as one and we will get along.

Supervisor Grinnell stated that we don't feel we need further discussion any longer tonight, he does not feel that there is any changes in the opinions being said or in the facts being presented.

Mr. Baker asked about the pedestrian gate on Amherst, when you first brought that up you stated that the pedestrian gate would be for the Seniors only, if that is the case then.....

Supervisor Grinnell misspoke, he would think it would be used primarily by the seniors, they were the ones that brought it up so that is why he got it in his head that it would be used by the seniors. It would be open only during the day time and only until the last senior event at the Armory. The Police will be there to secure that gate.

Mrs. Dixon stated that we have now had this meeting but we have not heard from OGS- what is the status of this meeting and what are you going to do, have you any findings, what is going to happen, what is the outcome?

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Supervisor Grinnell stated that the board is going to take all of the opinions from tonight and they are going to take the opinions of OGS. We wanted to give the public the opportunity to present their views. That is what this meeting was for. The views from the meeting tonight will be reviewed by the board and along with the determination from OGS and whatever else comes in between now and the board meeting to make a decision to either stop or go forward with this project.

Mrs. Dixon asked how the board will make this decision, by board resolution?

Supervisor Grinnell stated yes, it will be by board resolution at a town board meeting.

Mrs. Dixon stated that tonight she counted 13 speakers opposed and maybe 3 in favor and one was a town employee....

Supervisor Grinnell stated that they are going to review everyone's input, not just from tonight...

Mr. Dixon stated that we do not have your telephone in our hand, how will we know, you tell us that people call you and say that I'm for it, you just tell us.....when you talk to me, it is you talking, not GOD.....

Supervisor Grinnell stated exactly and there is a way fix that and it is called a ballot, if you don't have any confidence in your elected representatives then to be honest with you, it insulting and you are not going to do that in this meeting or any other.... Thank you very much for your comments and he would like to keep this much more civil.....

Mrs. Dixon stated that besides the ones was expressed here tonight, it would be very

Supervisor Grinnell stated that he will read and put in the minutes the following letter:

Al Baker, 345 Baldwin Road, Ticonderoga, NY; 518-585-3232

August 9, 2015

To the Sun editor, Re: Letter to Editor: "Police relocation....." dated 8/8/15 page 7.

The so-called public safety concerns of the writer are without merit, as they completely mis-interpret the essential mission of law enforcement; which is simple, yet difficult;

"The protection of life and property."

1. To conclude that the Ticonderoga police will bring sex offenders into close contact with our children is ludicrous at best. These law enforcement officers dedicate their very lives to secure sexual predators along with a legion of their ilk – the last thing they want is to endanger children or anybody for that matter. Let's see these animals in bracelets in police custody and then let's all take a mental 8" x 10" of their low-life faces - maybe next time somebody will guard their young that much better. Public view and sunlight does a lot to expose the truth.
2. There's a long held concept among criminology experts for law enforcement's effect on reducing the means and opportunity for crime. It's called "omnipresence." It is defined as the belief that the police are everywhere in a community and it is considered a prime element in prevention. To suggest that these same officers are contributing to some form of a traffic jam would be like wishing we would only have rainy days at night.

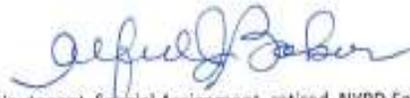
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3. As for the notion that responding to emergency calls within areas of higher pedestrian, vehicular and other forms of human activity should be eliminated, here's a news flash: that's exactly where the most calls for services are centered. It's like when they asked the notorious robber Willie Sutton why he robbed banks, he replied: 'Cause that's where the money is!'
Areas of higher activity are typically where police are needed most – plus I'd bet these cops took an occasional emergency driving class – not to mention that 12 hours a day of driving practice the writer referred to.
4. OK, let's restrict the police to use certain streets but not others as the writer proffers. Hey, maybe we could let those same bad-guys know the routes too? Wasn't that why the job of "lookout" was invented? So this point negates that job on certain streets. I think it's a bad idea for civilians to start dictating where our police force may appear. I don't know about the rest of you, but whenever I'm out in public I feel safer and more secure when I see the police – we used to teach our kids: "The police are your friend." Is that no longer valid?

In these days of spontaneous mass killing in every corner of our great and free nation, high police presence is needed more than ever. These cowards never target the back streets, they go where they can terrorize the most innocents gathered in the places there are the least first responders present.

As a final note, how about asking the Ticonderoga Police Department what works best for their crime fighting and public safety strategies? They just might have a clue.

Respectfully,



Alfred J. Baker, Lieutenant, Special Assignment, retired, NYPD Emergency Service Unit; Ticonderoga, NY

Mrs. Dixon asked for more specific info on this person. (on file in these minutes) She asked why this letter was not published.

Supervisor Grinnell stated that is a good question and he doesn't know why it wasn't published.

Mr. Fogg asked if this parking lot goes in regardless of the Police Department, do you have a time frame as to when it will start.

Supervisor Grinnell stated that the parking lot will probably go in, but it probably won't be until next spring. If we don't go through with this police project, we will have to go through the budget to find the money to put it in.

Supervisor Grinnell thanked everyone for coming tonight, and stated that we will take everything brought forward tonight under advisement and at a future board meeting we will consider a resolution to go forward or abandon this project.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk