

Charge for the Public Safety Facilities Committee Regarding Public Safety Facilities:

The purpose of the **Public Safety Facilities Committee** (“the Committee”) is to evaluate and recommend the most effective, fiscally responsible, and community-supported path forward for meeting the long-term facility needs of the Ridgefield Fire, Police, EMS, Volunteer Fire and central dispatch Departments.

Scope of Work

1. Comprehensive Review of Options:

The Committee shall undertake a thorough assessment of all viable options for addressing the facility needs of all departments, including but not limited to:

- a. New buildings, utilizing and renovating existing facilities if appropriate;
- b. Two new or substantially renovated buildings, one for each department;
- c. A single combined public safety building, if such consolidation provides operational, financial, or community benefits.

2. Targeted Timeline: Public Safety Facilities Committee Meetings, BOS, Police Commission, Fire Commission, RPD brass, RFD brass, Jake Muller should be the presentees.

- a. ASAP: Swearing in of committee, meeting schedule, choose Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary Kickoff/organizational meeting where BOS presents the charge, below deadlines, etc.
- b. March 31: Provide an update on the committee’s progress to date: officers, operating procedures, communication strategy, site(s)-selection process.
- c. June 30: Present 3 to 5 site locations that are actively being considered... include pros and cons of each, next steps, timeline and steps to finalize selection.
- d. September 15: Present details of final recommended site(s), building details, cost estimates. Time will determine if it’s possible to have an accurate enough estimate for referendum language, which may or may not have to come after this date.

3. Needs Assessment: The Committee shall review operational requirements, future staffing projections, response-time considerations, safety standards, and regulatory obligations of all departments to ensure any recommended solution meets both current and future public safety needs.

4. Site Evaluation: The Committee shall identify and evaluate potential sites, including existing municipal properties and alternative locations without prejudice. This evaluation should address suitability, environmental impacts, traffic and access, neighborhood compatibility, and long-term sustainability.

5. Financial Analysis: The Committee shall analyze capital costs, long-term operating costs, and the overall tax impact of each option. Clear, transparent cost comparisons must be included in the final recommendations.

6. Community Engagement: The committee is a citizen committee, and because these facilities are being created for the benefit of the people of Ridgefield and because these facilities are largely being paid for by the taxpayers of Ridgefield, the Committee shall actively seek public input, provide opportunities for dialogue and share information openly throughout the process. Community priorities, concerns, and expectations should meaningfully inform the Committee’s recommendations.

7. Recommendation and Rationale: At the conclusion of its work, the Committee shall present to the Board of Selectpersons as Fire Commission and the Police Commission a set of clear, well-supported recommendations that represent: The best balance of operational

effectiveness, fiscal responsibility, and community preference; A proposal that Ridgefield voters are likely to understand, support, and approve. The recommendations should include reasoning, comparative analyses, and any minority or alternative viewpoints the Committee deems important to highlight.

8. Charge Summary:

The Committee is charged with keeping all options on the table, approaching the challenge with open minds and rigorous analysis, and ultimately delivering a plan that serves Ridgefield's public safety needs while reflecting the will and values of the community.