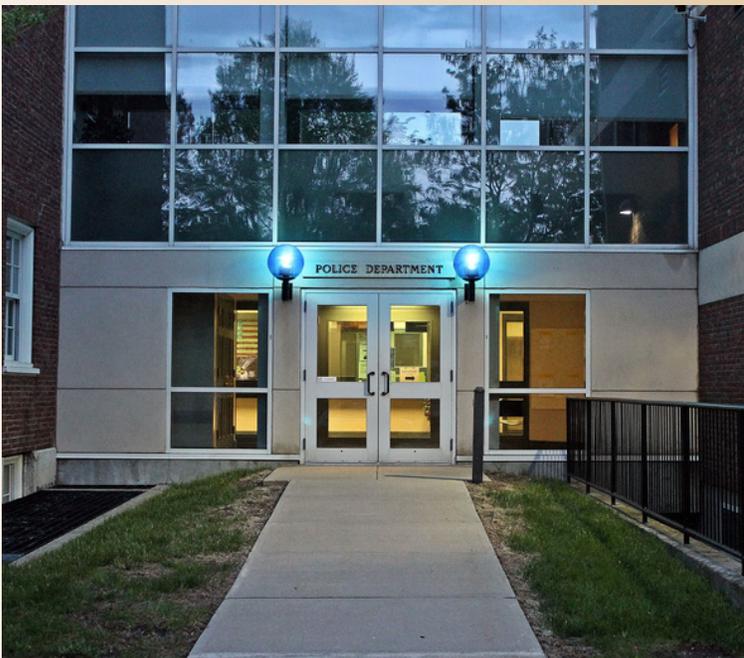


SPECIAL TOWN MEETING QUESTION OF THE WEEK



**Week 2:
What are the Deficiencies of the
Current Police & Fire Stations?**

The Hingham North Fire Station and the Hingham Police Department headquarters have significant deficiencies that impair efficient and reliable delivery of police, fire, and emergency medical services.



Current Hingham Police Station



Current Hingham North Fire Station

North Fire Station

Built in 1941 and located at 230 North Street, this facility is no longer suitable for modern fire and emergency medical services, as it lacks the amenities and space firefighters rely on every day.

Safety concerns: Today's firefighters face a number of safety risks that were not contemplated in 1941 era design standards. These include exposure to cancer causing chemicals, increased risk of cardiac problems, trip hazards and proper aisle space between modern fire engines.

Equipment deficiencies: The facility's boiler, installed in 1942, is inefficient. The station's electrical system dates to the 1940s. The station has a turnout gear washer located in the boiler room, but no dryer, forcing gear to hang dry over the buildings mechanical equipment.

Lack of space & storage: Small bays prevent indoor storage of two fire trucks and two ambulances, the ideal apparatus setup for fire response from this station. Limited driveway space prevents outdoor maintenance without disrupting the street and sidewalk. Space for storing emergency medical supplies is extremely limited. Exercise equipment is crowded into a former janitorial utility space.

Additionally: No separate facilities for male & female firefighters; Lack of separate sleeping quarters and inadequate bathroom facilities denies privacy to all firefighters living in this facility during their 24-hour shifts; Location not optimized to support Hingham's current needs; Given the district overlap the current location shares with Central Station, operations in North Hingham are not optimized especially given the recent growth along 3A corridor.

Hingham Police Station

Remodeled from a middle school in 1998 and located at 212 Central Street, this facility is too small and outdated to accommodate modern police services, equipment, and staff.

Inadequate entry area: The Police Station lobby, as a public space, serves many functions. Inside the Headquarters, released suspects exit from the same single door/lobby that victims, family members, and witnesses use to enter. The resulting close proximity creates safety risks for officers and civilians and provides no privacy to members of the public wishing to discuss sensitive issues with officers.

Lack of sufficient meeting rooms: All Police Headquarters rooms and offices serve several functions. There is no dedicated space for officers to interview suspects, victims, or family members. As such, it is difficult to conduct office operations and find private space for confidential interviews with detectives, officers, mental health professionals, or the domestic violence advocate.

No training spaces: A single, small room serves inadequately as a training space, roll call room, break room space, community event space, and private interview space. Officers must conduct hands-on training offsite in other agencies' facilities as Hingham's Police Station lacks appropriate space. There is no dedicated space supporting officers' undistracted learning and professional development.

Hingham Police Station, cont.

Inadequate storage: Most rooms perform several functions, leaving little space to store gear, uniforms, and supplies. These items are crowded into hallways, stairwells, cells, and service bays throughout the station. When the 911 dispatch center moved into Town Hall in 2012, the Station lost 1,500 s.f. of space, further exacerbating storage and space needs

Inadequate traffic circulation: Externally, a single driveway provides access to the building's rear, which hosts cramped police vehicle parking and prisoner transfer. There is no alternate path for ingress and egress, creating operational and safety risks.

Antiquated facility restricts achievement of formal accreditation: Formal accreditation is a process that police departments use to meet modern standards in policing and are followed to ensure public confidence. The current facility does not meet accreditation standards for transportation and holding facilities, evidence control, records storage, victim/witness assistance and training facilities.

Additionally: Inability to accommodate the needs of male & female officers; Locker room space and lockers are inadequate to meet professional and personal needs; The rooms offer inadequate storage space for officer uniforms and gear; Available lockers are too small, allowing no space allowing for drying officer gear, charging officer electronics and lights, or securing duty bags; As the number of female officers in Hingham has grown, our current female locker room space has become insufficient.