

# SPECIAL TOWN MEETING QUESTION OF THE WEEK



**Week 3:**

**How Would a New Public Safety Facility  
Improve Services to the Community?**

---

**The Public Safety Facility (PSF), proposed for construction at 335 Lincoln Street, will greatly improve the delivery of fire, emergency medical, police, and public safety services.**



# Fire and Emergency Medical Services

A new Public Safety Facility would greatly enhance the Hingham Fire Department's ability to provide modern fire and emergency medical services to our community. The PSF design elements will help:

- **Improve service delivery.** A modern facility would have sufficient space in the apparatus bay to store two fire engines and two ambulances, which is one more engine than can fit in the current North Fire Station. The additional fire engine will ensure greater flexibility and capability to respond to service calls in north Hingham.
- **Improve response times.** Due to the overlap of districts with the Central Station, moving the location of the North Station will allow response times to improve for all of North Hingham, including the Route 3A corridor, a district that has experienced tremendous commercial and residential growth in recent years.
- **Improve firefighter working conditions.** The new facility is designed to:
  - Improve bay safety by providing the aisle space needed to move and maintain modern fire apparatus. Additional storage space will also help firefighters organize work to minimize trip hazards.
  - Reduce hazardous chemical exposure through design separating operational areas from administration and living quarters, dedicated turnout gear washer and dryer facilities and a turnout gear room designed to minimize cross-contamination.
  - Boost firefighter quality of life through providing dedicated private spaces for male and female firefighters, a modern exercise room separated from janitorial closets, and sufficient kitchen facilities.

# Police and Public Safety

A new Public Safety Facility is also critical to allowing the Hingham Police Department to deliver better services to the community. The PSF design elements correct many shortfalls. In doing so, those elements:

- Meet industry and accreditation standards for evidence storage, records management, detainee processing, as well as address critical safety concerns with our current facility.
- Ensure safe movement of detainees, victims, witnesses, and family members inside the facility. The PSF design eliminates hazards by ensuring the separation that's impossible in the current police headquarters.
- Provide the privacy needed to discuss sensitive law-enforcement related issues. The new facility includes dedicated private rooms to meet with an officer, detective, or one of our victim advocates or mental health clinicians. Safety and discretion will foster the candid conversations our police need to investigate complaints and protect the community.
- Provide dedicated training space. The PSF provides a dedicated training room that will allow officers to participate in training. The space will also allow for us to host trainings with – and learn from – professionals serving other departments and training agencies.
- Provide sufficient traffic circulation. Police vehicle flow and parking will be sufficient to support routine operations and detainee transfer. Also, design eliminates the operational risk and safety risk of a single, narrow driveway.

## Police and Public Safety, cont.

- Provide sufficient storage space. The PSF will provide secure storage space sufficient to support the mission – and prevent encroachment. The current police headquarters lacks space needed to store equipment and supplies, resulting in a holding cell and booking room, along with a large portion of the single garage bay, repurposed for storage purposes.
- Support safe and sufficient garage operations. The new facility will provide sufficient space for cruiser maintenance. Sufficient storage will also help ensure garage space is available to store vehicles and large evidence items. The PSF garage will also be free of foreign objects, enhancing officer safety. The PSF garage allows for an ambulance to fit securely inside to provide emergency medical services to detainees and staff if needed.
- Improve officer quality of life by:
  - Providing locker room space and lockers that meet the professional and personal needs of male and female officers. The rooms will be large enough to offer adequate storage space for officer uniforms and gear. Lockers will be larger and modern, allowing space for drying officer gear, charging officer electronics and lights, or securing duty bags.
  - Providing a wellness and exercise center, which does not exist in the current police headquarters.

