Pembroke Police Station

A quick tour for the residents of Pembroke
Requirements for a safe and functional police facility

• The Pembroke Police Station is a fulltime PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY. Our police station is in operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to provide services to the residents of Pembroke.

• A good facility must serve the needs of the residents by being a secure, professional and user friendly environment. The parking areas must be open and safe. The lobby must be accessible to all and include areas for waiting, information boards, drug take back boxes and have a public restroom. There must also be designated secure quiet areas within the facility where residents can be assured that their privacy will be respected when discussing personal matters with our officers.

• A good facility must serve the needs of the incarcerated by being a safe and secure building with efficient and humane booking and lock-up areas. Adults held in custody must be out of sight and sound from all juveniles within the facility and non criminal juveniles need a safe non locked area in which to wait for their parents, guardians or service providers.

• A good facility must also serve needs of the police officers and administrative staff by providing them a safe and efficient work environment. Secure and private interview rooms with adequate report writing areas are a necessity. In addition, the facility must have secure and adequate rooms to safeguard evidence, property and records and there must be secure parking for the department vehicles, police equipment and seized vehicles and other large property. The facility must provide ample equipment lockers and changing areas along with a private place for the officers to grab a meal or take a break.

Pembroke Police Station was opened in 1978 for a department of 21 officers and 1 civilian to serve a population of 12,000 residents.
Current Public Parking Area

- Presently we share 5 parking spaces and 1 handicap accessible parking space in the side lot with the Town Hall. The number of available parking is not adequate for the day to day police station activities.
- The Police station generates a great deal of walk-ins requesting and/or delivering reports, reporting crimes or wanting to discuss their problems or concerns with an officer.
- The parking lot is often designated by the courts in custody orders as a mandated spot for parents to exchange children.
- There needs to be space available to offer our residents a secure area in which they can make on-line exchanges such as Craigslist or Offer-Up in public under the watchful eye of the police to help prevent them from becoming victims of criminal activities.
Police Station Lobby

Walk-ins, people waiting for information & reports, residents waiting to get their LTC or FID cards or to drop off unwanted prescription drugs, victims and families all share this tiny space.

Lobby – Waiting Area and Drug Drop Off

Lobby – Public Service Window
This is our “Conference Room”

This room currently serves many purposes

- Shift Roll Call Room
- Briefing Room
- Victim / Witness Interview Room and waiting area
- Non-Status Offender Juvenile holding room
- Bail Room
- Evidence processing area
- Employee Lunch and Break Room

The Conference room is not soundproof or secure and is within hearing distance of the Dispatch and Booking areas.
The E-911 Dispatch Center and front desk is run by a single police officer.

- Desk Officer is responsible for:
  - Walk-ins to Service Window & Lobby Security
  - Radio – Dispatch
    - Pembroke Police Department
    - Surrounding Departments monitoring
    - Plymouth County Radio Broadcasts
    - BAPERN Statewide Radio Broadcasts
  - E-911 Emergency Medical Dispatch
  - Business / Non-Emergency Telephone Calls
  - Station Security
  - Prisoner Watch and Security
  - No bathroom or breakroom area. Officers must leave dispatch area unattended to use facilities down the hall.

Original dispatch area was designed for a typewriter, a radio and a Registry teletype machine. Dispatch now holds two dispatch consoles with NextGen 911 multi-screen computers, our in-house IMC Records Management system, a DCJIS computer, 2 radio consoles, station surveillance system and printers.
The garage is the station’s main storage. It houses the patrol motorcycle, 4 patrol bicycles, bike racks, tires, cruiser equipment, boat gear, a gun cleaning table, soda machine, snow blower, gas cans and more.

Vehicles awaiting crime scene processing are stored here.

In addition, the garage also serves as the “Sally Port” and is the first stop when a prisoner is brought to the station.

A good Sally Port should:
- Be drive through to avoid accidents while backing
- Be free of objects that can be used as weapons
- Be free of sharp edged concrete corners
- Have direct access to a holding cell for combative prisoners
The photo on the left was the original booking room. With the addition of computers, printers, breath test machine, evidence and property processing and prisoner property lockers, the arrestees are now secured to a bar in the hallway for processing.
The standards for cells in 1978 allowed for the open bar design. The cells have been covered in plexi-glass as an anti-suicide measure. A heat and air conditioning unit is located in the attic to service the cells. Toilets, plumbing and masonry are out dated and do not meet today’s standards.
Juvenile & Female Cells

Today’s standards require the juvenile cell to be out of sight and sound from adults. The photo on left shows the close proximity of the juvenile cell to booking. All toilet and sink units do not meet code.
Work Areas

The Court Prosecutor and the Detectives use the Conference Room to interview people due to the lack of office space.

Court Prosecutor’s Office

Detective’s Office - Upstairs
In 1978 the civilian staff was one person. Today we have the Secretary and Assistant to the Chief sharing a single office.
Work Areas

The Five (5) Sergeants share a single desk and computer. Sergeant’s lockers were moved due to lack of basement space. The reports writing room was the former records storage area. Work benches and stools were installed to allow for 2 work stations.
Work Areas

Every usable space is in service. SWAT members must secure their protective gear and weapons as well as their training materials. SWAT members are also the Department Firearms Instructors and Armorers.
Storage Areas

Police Departments are responsible to maintain and store many thousands of records each year in addition to legacy records. Safekeeping personal properties requires additional space which is presently unavailable.

Basement - Records Storage and E-911 Server

Attic – Property Storage (unheated)
In the 1980’s parts of the basement were built out to create the Pembroke Emergency Management Operations Center. This area includes a small office, radio room, and a shelter area with a sink and refrigerator. The office is now used for storage and the other areas are used for classroom training.
The male locker room was added in the 1980’s with some new lockers added in the past 4 years. There is not enough space for every officer to have a locker and the lockers are not sufficient to store an officer’s duty gear.

Shower is inoperable - no benches

Not enough lockers for employees
Several Officers have lockers in the boiler room area of the basement as shown on the left. The photo on the right shows the door that officers use to enter the basement from the rear parking lot.
The rear parking lot was reconfigured to allow for 36 parking spaces. The Police Department has 27 vehicles and trailers. This does not include police employees personal vehicles. On Monday nights we often find overflow cars from Town Hall parked amongst the marked cruisers.
Why do we need a new police station?

- While this building is in good shape it simply does not meet the needs of the public or the needs of the police department.
- Pembroke Police strives to deliver professional services to the public and this is hard to achieve in our current facility.
- Expansion and modernization of the present Police Station would be cost prohibitive and also not feasible at the current site due to inadequate lot size.
- Engineers and common sense dictate that any new or improved facility must sustain 40 years worth of growth and wear and tear.

Why not one combined Police and Fire Public Safety Building project?

- The Police Station needs to be centrally located, easily recognized and totally accessible to pedestrians and vehicles.
- Police and Fire Stations require unique layouts and configurations. The only common areas would be parking, training rooms, fitness areas and lobby.
- The Fire Station Run Time Survey indicates the most effective response time for Fire/EMS services would be from a Fire Headquarters located on Washington Street and a manned sub-station on Rt. 27 & Monroe Street. Police cruiser response times are based upon their assigned patrol areas.
Where is the suggested location for the “New Police Station”?

- The most central and visible location would be on the site of the present Fire Station Headquarters, 172 Center Street.
- It is important that the building design will be in keeping with the general size and texture of the current Fire Station while also incorporating features that tie it to the historic look of the Center.
- The Town has already acquired a large parcel of land on Washington Street with the intent of building a new Fire Headquarters.
- The Town already owns a parcel of land at Rt. 27 and Monroe Street where a proposed Fire-Sub station will be located.

What is the projected timeline and what will happen to the “Old Police Station”?

- Make a presentation to the residents at the October 24th 2017 Fall Town Meeting to explain the ideas and concepts behind this project.
- Over the winter, work with the Town Administrator, Accountant, Treasurer, Advisory Board and the State to look for sources and methods of funding.
- Hold a public forum(s).
- Present a finalized plan with projected costs to the Board of Selectmen and the residents at the Spring 2018 Town Meeting.
- The old station has great office space and would be available to the Town as a possible annex to the Town Hall to relieve their lack of office space issues.