

### **Why do this now?**

The town's bond rating is very high allowing us to take advantage of borrowing costs which are at historical lows.

Construction costs are starting to sky rocket.

The condition of the current station is declining to an unsafe level, requiring costly repairs.

### **The Existing Police Station**

No security for employees, lack of physical security and no separation between staff areas and inmate processing.

Jail cells have failed state requirements.

Numerous Technological deficiencies identified.

No public facilities/ handicap accessible.

### **The Existing Fire Station**

No showers, bathroom or locker room.

Does not meet state requirements for medical storage.

Firefighters prohibited from common areas during inmate processing.

No decontamination area exists.

### **Q. What else should I know about this project?**

**A.** There are several significant technology needs that require immediate attention. The New Building and Renovation project includes new technology and if passed, the technology issues will be resolved. Should the project fail, then the Police & Fire Department will need to address those needs within the existing facility which would ultimately be more costly. Those needs include: Records Management & Administrative software system (\$113,000), replacement of the existing IT Network (\$100,000), replacement of the current radio system (\$175,000), and phone system (\$12,000). That is a \$400,000 critical need that is being met by this project.

### **Q. What about Police Accreditation?**

**A.** Massachusetts Police Accreditation contains 257 mandatory standards with 159 identified as being mandatory to achieve the lesser professional standard of certification. The 159 certification standards contain 49 standards relating to the police facility. We currently have the ability to meet 10 of those standards. This proposed facility will meet all 49 standards.

### **Q. What if the Fire Department isn't renovated?**

**A.** The fire department would be in violation of state requirements mandating separation of infectious and hazardous materials from clean medical and personnel areas.

### **The New Millis Police & Fire Station Renovation**

**885 Main St**

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**Fire Chief: Rick Barrett    Police Chief: Keith Edison**



## **The New Millis Police Station And Fire Station Renovation**

### **What you should know before you vote.**



## The New Police Station FAQs

### Q. Why was Auburn Road chosen?

A. The comprehensive downtown development plan, done in 2000, determined that the new Police Station should be located within the downtown area on Main Street (on Town-owned land if possible). The current Library site is the only location that meets all of the established criteria, and it is the most cost effective solution available to the Town.

### Q. Why not use the former GAF facility location at 1073 Main Street?

A. That location was considered during the study phase and the Architect determined that the location was cost prohibitive for a combined facility. The building did not meet structural code requirements and would require significant improvements, driving project costs, including site acquisition, to an estimated \$21,000,000.00.

### Q. What about the former Church located next to the current police/fire station?

A. That option was also examined, and while the building is a beautiful facility, it could not be renovated for police purposes and would need to be razed; the resulting footprint would be insufficient to build a new police facility. For this site to work, the Town would need to purchase the two residential lots located behind the Church on Lavender Rd. The land acquisition and demolition costs would be approximately \$1,000,000.00.

### Q. Why not a combined facility?

A. Despite the perceived cost efficiencies of a combined facility, two architectural firms both confirmed that it is more costly to build a combined police and fire facility, especially given that the existing building can be renovated to accommodate the needs of the Fire Department.

In reality a combined facility, consists of two facilities that are connected to one another. As a result the facility's footprint is established by the independent needs of each program, and the ability to maximize spatial efficiency would be lost. Additionally, the functions of a police facility are primarily driven by security and access control concerns, while a fire facility is much more open.

### Q. What about grant money?

A. While there was a time when the Commonwealth would provide grants for public safety facilities, especially combined facilities, that is no longer an option and there are no current grant opportunities available for this project. We will continue to explore all future grants should they become available.

### Project Costs

Police Station	\$7,058,110.00
Fire Station	2,902,978.00
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$9,961,088.00</b>

Total costs will be financed as debt exclusion paid over 20 years. The average homeowner in Millis will incur a tax increase of \$253.00 in the first year (based on an average home value of \$339,000.00), reducing annually to \$175.00 in the 20<sup>th</sup> year.

## The New Fire Station FAQs

### Q. Why do the Fire Department renovations cost so much?

A. To comply with current building codes and requirements, the existing station would have to have all new wiring, heating and ventilation and enlarged doorways. Repairs to the Apparatus bay area would require fixing dangerous, unhealthy areas of flooring and ceiling.

### Q. How long before Fire Department needs a new building?

A. The proposed renovation will ensure that the fire station will last for at least 25 years.

### Q. Why does the fire department need showers?

A. Currently firefighters have to shower at their homes after serious medical calls and fire calls exposing their families to infectious and hazardous materials.