

DPW Design — Funding by Passing Ballot Question 2

Friends have asked me about Question 2, and so I thought I'd share some background about it and why I believe it's important that this measure passes.

As we know, Truro voters overwhelmingly voted at Annual Town Meeting on May 5th to fund the design of a new DPW on Town Hall Hill; the Select Board also voted unanimously for this. Select Board chair Sue Areson said at the recent Select Board meeting, "I want to see this [Question 2] pass so we can get some design work done."

Since this is a "money article" that involves borrowing, it is required that voters also exempt this borrowing from the limit imposed by the state law known as Proposition 2½. So, that's why it appears on the ballot of the [Special Town Election](#) on June 27th.

Design of this project is going to come in two phases:

1. A **Schematic Design** which provides: enough detail to outline the use of the site, a detailed schematic cost estimate which will be within 10% of the actual cost, and assuring that the operational requirements are met. We get a chance to review the project at that time, before committing to the detailed design phase.
2. A **Detailed Design**, suitable for bidding the construction phase.

Some have asked, "What it is going to cost to design the new DPW?" We can estimate that, but we won't really know for sure until we get bids for the detailed design. We do have a sense for the Schematic Design phase, since there was a citizen petition (article 42) that had an estimate by knowledgeable building experts of \$1 million or less for two conceptual designs, or \$500,000 or less per design.

Another question I've been asked is "How do we control the costs?" The good news is that the Ad Hoc Building Committee has shown strong skills in reducing costs already, and as fellow taxpayers they are keen to minimize costs while meeting operational requirements. The senior architect on the Committee, Anthony Garrett, has been working to reduce costs at Town Hall Hill for over a year.

And finally, the state requires towns with projects of this scale to retain an Owner's Project Manager or OPM. An OPM oversees construction projects on behalf of the owner (we, the Town of Truro), ensuring they are completed on time, within budget, and to specifications. They coordinate between the owner, contractors, and stakeholders, manage contracts, monitor progress, and address issues promptly. We benefit as the OPM provides expert oversight, manages costs and risks, ensures compliance with regulations, and facilitates effective communication, leading to a smoother, more efficient project execution.

Since further delay in the needed DPW project is costly, passing Question 2 now provides funding needed to sustain the momentum of the project and support the team we now have in place to accomplish it responsibly and cost-effectively.

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Truro