

## Letters to the editor for the week of May 10

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MAYNARD/STOW

Maynard Support station  
renovation

The year is 1955. Maynard has 7,253 residents, 1,725 housing units, two police cars, 2,646 vehicles, the fire department went out on 177 calls and Town Meeting had recently approved \$144,000 for a new Police/Fire station, all according to the town reports for those early years.

Fast forward to 2005-06 and Maynard, again according to the town reports for those years, now has 10,333 residents, 4,406 housing units, six police cars, 11,007 vehicles and the fire department went out on 773 calls while the EMTs responded to 873 calls for assistance. There are, of course, many more examples of how Maynard has changed in the past 52 years. And there are now many state and federal initiatives and mandates for the police and fire departments such as enhanced 911, ADA requirements, fire permits and other post Sept. 11 requirements.

As Maynard has changed and requirements have been added, so also residents have come to expect a certain level of service from the public safety departments which are here for us all 24/7. However, the building which houses these departments has become too small, is inadequate and unsafe in many ways. Several attempts in the past to provide new or rehabilitated space for these two departments have failed. However, today, Maynard has a wonderful opportunity to provide its residents with a new police station and to update the Town Building at the same time. With the move of the library to its new home, its old space in the Town Building is now available for a new police station which will serve the town for, at least, the next 30 years. The current police/fire station is over 50 years old with the original boiler, electrical and plumbing systems. A recent engineering study has determined many deficiencies which will be costly to correct to bring this building into compliance and up to code.

The recently appointed Public Safety Building Committee with the assistance of the Cahill Group (an architectural firm specializing in public safety buildings) has been studying the options available with regard to the reuse of the space available in the town building, the condition of the existing police/fire station and the town's ability to provide for 21st century fire/ EMT/fire station and the town's ability to provide for 21st century fire/EMT/police department requirements.

After a thorough review of all the information, finances, and other facts and in consideration of the town's financial concerns and its overall needs, now and in the future, the PSBC unanimously recommends that Maynard support the warrant article which provides funding for both critical school and public safety projects.

The year is 2007. Maynard is being asked to support an article with money for a new police station, the first public safety building in over 50 years. Attend TM to make your voice heard on this important public safety issue as well as other very important town issues. Feel free to contact members of the Public Safety Building Committee and visit [www.MaynardPublicSafety.com](http://www.MaynardPublicSafety.com) for more information.

Public Safety Building Committee Park Street

**Ellen C. Duggan** For The