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Station ready for next step

By Meghan Kelly

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MAYNARD -

Now that the voters have granted their overwhelming support for Question 1 at the special election, construction on the new police station can begin.

Mike Smith, chairman of the Maynard Public Safety Building Committee, said the next step is for the architect, Greg Carell of the Carell Group, to finalize the plan with the police department and the public safety committee.

The Hopkinton-based Carell Group has designed police and fire stations as well as office facilities for surrounding towns including Acton and Sudbury.

The new police station will be built in the old library at 197 Main St. just outside Town Hall, where it will be renovated and modernized. According to the public safety committee, the cost of the project is \$3.9 million.

“There’s some final design things that have to be squared away,” said Selectmen Bob Nadeau.

Once the plans are finalized, then, Smith said, the bidding process can begin. The bidding is open to the public and will be posted in newspapers and in the Central Register, which is published by the state once a week for all contractors and sub-contractors, said Smith.

“The bidding process usually takes a few months,” said Nadeau.

Nadeau said he estimates that construction on the new police station will begin sometime in the fall.

What to do with the fire department will be next, said Smith.

For the short term, the department will remain in the public safety building, but the committee plans to discuss all the options — renovating the building, tearing it down and building a new one in the same spot or relocating the fire department to a different building.

“The building is very old and in disrepair,” he said. “[It’s] on its last legs.”

Nadeau said he would like to start putting out bids for the station’s boiler repair to ensure the work is finished by the time cold weather rolls around.

The public safety committee will be at the Board of Selectmen meeting on June 26 to discuss the next steps for the police and fire departments.

On June 12, 1,949 people cast ballots in the special election. At stake: a \$4,82 million override, with the bulk of that money earmarked for the police station and the rest work at the fire station, the high school and Green Meadow School. The override passed 1,432-517.

