

BALLOT QUESTION FACT SHEET PARKS DEPARTMENT STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE BUILDING

Ayer Parks Department

Project Description

The Ayer Parks Department is proposing to build a three bay garage and office building at Pirone Park. The three bays will house Parks Department vehicles and equipment, such as trucks, tractors, trailers and various implements that are required for day to day operations of the parks at Pirone and Sandy Pond, as well as maintenance on school athletic fields and various other locations in town. The office will become the main center of operations for the Parks Department and allow for a presence to be there on a more regular basis. This will also free up much needed office space at Town Hall.

Why Does the Building Need to be Built?

The Parks Department has been increasing its scope of work over the last two decades, requiring more vehicles and equipment to perform the duties necessary to maintain the grounds of Pirone Park, Sandy Pond Beach and other locations in town. There has also been a significant expansion to recreational programs that has increased the inventory of uniforms and equipment, without having any additional storage facilities added. In 2007, The Parks Department began using the old firehouse on Washington Street for storage and performing maintenance on vehicles, but that option will no longer exist once the final sale of that building goes through, as expected sometime this year. The current storage spaces at Pirone Park and Sandy Pond Beach are packed to capacity and are only available for three seasons of the year. By having a new storage facility, space can be created to expand the Park Department's ability to better maintain the grounds of Pirone and Sandy Pond Beach, as well as providing other services to the town.

What Happens If We Don't Approve The Funding For Building?

Storage for vehicles and equipment that cannot fit into the current storage building at Pirone Park will need to be kept outside under tarps, subjecting them to excessive wear and potential vandalism, as well as leaving an unkempt look about the facility. Recreational program equipment will need to be tightly packed into mobile storage units, most likely rentals, creating difficulty of access and numerous other issues. There is no space in existing town owned buildings to add the contents that are currently stored in the old firehouse. This includes, among other items, a landscape trailer, tractor, leaf mulcher/trailer, truck and removable cap, ice rink supplies, and various seasonal equipment and tractor implements. There are also dozens of bins and carts with uniforms and equipment for a variety of youth recreational programs that require a dry, well ventilated area to prevent mold.

What Is This Going To Cost And How Much Will It Impact My Taxes?

The estimated cost to build the storage and maintenance building is **\$485,000**. Including a 25% contingency in case of run over costs, the amount being asked for the project is **\$600,000**, with any leftover funding being returned to the town's general fund. This amount would add **\$8** to the average **FY2018 residential** tax bill in Ayer.