


The Need For an Adequate Verona Police Headquarters



**COMPREHENSIVE
MASTER PLAN**

**Borough of Verona
Essex County, N. J.**

verona planning board

1978

Verona

VERONA MASTER PLAN 1978

community facilities

Review of existing buildings has indicated that Police and Borough facilities in the Municipal Building are presently inadequate, and it would be desirable to relocate the Police Department in other facilities. Other municipal facilities are satisfactory but should be reviewed frequently to assure proper levels of service.

School enrollments have declined significantly over the past several years, and facility use should be investigated in greater depth. The Board of Education is presently studying this problem to determine future facility plans.

circulation

Verona has a street circulation system which includes principal arterial, collector and local streets. Traffic volumes are especially heavy in the eastern section of the Borough, where traffic from Pompton Avenue joins and crosses traffic on Bloomfield Avenue.

County improvement plans include the intersections of Bloomfield Avenue with Pompton and Mt. Prospect, Lakeside, Fairview, and Pine. Bloomfield Avenue is also scheduled for resurfacing.

Bus transportation is provided on lines 29 and 114 of Transport of New Jersey (TNJ) as well as commuter service via No. 22 and No. 33 of DeCamp Bus Lines. Other transportation facilities include the two municipal parking lots located off Park Place and Grove Avenue which provide short-term and long-term parking.

utilities

Water, storm drainage, sanitary sewer and solid waste disposal facilities were reviewed as part of the background analysis. Facilities are generally adequate, although some upgrading of the Waste Water Treatment Plant may be necessary. Anticipated improvements can be accommodated on existing utility sites.

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NEW HEADQUARTERS. Det. Sgt. Doug Huber and Det. Joseph Petrillo are on the job at the new Verona Detective Bureau now located in the basement of the Municipal Building. The Township Detective offices for many years were on the first floor of the building. The move provides more space and a quieter work environment for investigators. Not shown is Det. John McClellan.

(Staff Photo by Michael Corey)

Missing

A call to establish a network of volunteers to help locate a person reported missing was made this week by a Verona resident.

Nancy Van Court of Lynwood Road, who frequently attends Verona Council meetings, cited a number of "horror" stories recently depicted in the media of missing people being harmed in part because of the failure of authorities to respond to the situation quickly enough.

Miss Van Court suggested that various civic organizations in Verona as well as local school parents' groups get involved

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mended for state approval until 1991. State monitoring of the Verona School system began early this year, and required an acceptable grade in ten different areas of the

(Continued on Page 13)

Public Safety Facility Proposal Being Studied

BY MARK BOLES

In January, the Verona Police and Fire Departments jointly proposed a feasibility study for new police and fire facilities.

In the proposal, Sanford Weinberg, chairman of the Firehouse Development Committee and Verona Police Captain Thomas O'Connor asked the Council to appropriate funds for retention of a planning and engineering expert to evaluate the needs of both departments with the aim of constructing a new Public Safety Building.

The Council responded favorably to the proposal. Mr. Weinberg at

the corner of Cambridge Avenue and Claridge Drive in Verona.

The governing body learned of the Appellate Division ruling in a case brought by the council on April 14, only several days after the sig-

nificant time told the Council the cost of the new facility could be in the area of \$2 million, with possible funding from the state.

The presentation to the governing body included an extensive list of the inadequate facilities of the departments, and the possible harmful ramifications of these conditions if allowed to continue.

Donald Paulson, architect, engineer, planner and Verona resident, was named to conduct the evaluation-feasibility study. Photographs on Page 5 in this issue depict some of the conditions outlined in the public safety proposal.

is "not entitled" to a hearing nor to requiring the state Department of Transportation (DOT) "to reach findings of fact." The Appellate Division, he went on, decided that installation of the signal and no left turn is within the "legislative discretion" of the DOT. It was indicated, too, that the DOT action invoked "regulatory precepts" promulgated by its rule-making authority. "It is not clear to me whether or not the Court is indicating the decision of the DOT is administrative or executive in nature, as opposed to legislative," Mr. Koenig states.

The attorney points out that the Administrative Procedures Act was amended five years ago to entitle a municipality to a hearing "in the event it is opposed to the adoption of a rule or regulation by an administrative agency." Mr. Koenig told the council if the DOT action is legislative, the Appellate Division verdict is "in error."

Although the Court committed an error, he cautions, "I am not entirely sure that the error is reversible. If the determination to put in the light is determined to be a legislative function, then the DOT should have been given a hearing. In that case, the error is reversible. However, if the action of the DOT is determined to be executive or administrative, Cedar Grove is not entitled to a hearing. The problem arises specifically with reference to the decision to install the traffic light and not the left-hand turn prohibition. The issue of the left turn," Mr. Koenig feels, is "distinguishable" from installation of the signal. "This is so, he points out

from bucket and, and the board's auditors will meet shortly on that matter.

In response to another question from Mrs. Bollhorst, the board president said exact wording of the referendum would be addressed by the board in the near future. Any deviations from what the petitioners asked for, board vice-president Neil Gerard noted, would be brought to the attention of the petitioners' representatives. The "intent" of the petitioners, board member Donald Dorflinger added, would not be changed.

Mrs. Bollhorst also told the board it is "sad" Cedar Grove has come to the point of the referendum. If citizens had been "treated differently," especially from the public relations angle, she said, "we would not be at this point." It was her contention, as well, that "somewhere along the line" the board had "lost touch with the people."

Heverly Road resident Joe Moroney disputed that, saying the board should not be so criticized. It was his position the board had done an "excellent job" in making pertinent information concerning closing of a school available to the public. He felt, too, that citizens had

second, Mr. DeCesare would begin work July 1.

Mr. Bechtold's successor was a high school principal for ten years. For that same length of time he was a classroom teacher, curriculum coordinator and assistant principal.

Pageant Tickets On

Tickets for the 1986 "Miss Essex County Scholarship Pageant", an official preliminary to the Miss America Pageant, will go on sale on Monday at two selected outlets in downtown Verona.

The pageant, which is sponsored by the Verona chamber of commerce, will be held at the Verona High School auditorium, Fairview Avenue, on Sunday, May 18, 2 p.m. A preliminary pageant record of more than 25 women have entered the contest. Auditions were held on April 27 and semi-finalists will be selected during the next few days to compete in the pageant.

The winner of the Miss Essex County pageant will win a cash scholarship, John Casablancas Professorship, and other prizes. Also will be awarded to the four runners up and

management.

He lives in West 1 wife, Cassandra, who executive with Cabot C two sons, John and students at the N.J. cine and Dentistry.

winners of the talent competitions. The will proceed to the Jersey pageant o summer.

Tickets are \$5 fo for children (age 12 will be sold at Terry macy, 560 Bloom Fred Astaire Dan Bloomfield Ave. Ti be ordered by calli at 673-1937.

Among the spon earnt are John Ca eling & Career C Beauty Mart, The & Harrington Tr tions, Paul Leath St Anne Robinson F Patricia La Terra New Jersey, will en

Golden Years Student's Gold M

BY ABIGAIL GREENRANK

Many a man looks forward to his later years with thoughts of rest, relaxation, and idle hours; George H. Christiansen is no such man. At age 78, Christiansen, a part-time student at Seton Hall University, is,

Mr. Christiansen, who is majoring in the subject; he will receive his bachelor's degree from the University's School of Secondary Education in 1987. However, it was not the love of mathematics that initially lured this energetic Cedar

explains, "I was archaeology. I was for."

When queried a of major course tiansen continued, to go off on digs to





Traffic Officer John McSevery in the Verona Traffic Bureau office, formerly a cell (note bars on window). The one-desk office is shared by three officers.



Verona Detectives Doug Haber and Ralph Turro at work in the Verona Detective Bureau. This office, shared by four officers, only recently had heat installed, lacks any windows, and uses a fan for ventilation.



The Police write-up room is used for the processing of arrests, statements, interviews, etc., which are often slowed because of the diversity of activity which must take place in a single room.



Verona dispatcher Linda Grai in the supply room, formerly the police darkroom. All darkroom work must now be sent out. Files also are kept in this area.



Assistant Fire Chief Paul Sonntag and firemen Bill Frazee, Al Cullins, and Sandy Weinberg in the makeshift meeting room converted from garage space. The room, which lacks proper heat and ventilation, holds 16 to 18 persons. The average crew on a shift at the Fire House is 28.



Detective Ralph Turro in the Crime Prevention Bureau, formerly a closet. According to the Police captain, the Bureau, which educates citizens on crime prevention, lacks proper space to disseminate such information.



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Treffinger To Seek 2nd Term

BY WARD MIELE

As expected, Essex County Executive James Treffinger announced yesterday he will seek a second term.

The former Verona mayor and county boardholder made the formal announcement before his opponent at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

Asked why he wants to continue in the job, the first Republican to hold the post in more than 100 years said the Times "I have worked too hard at reform. It would be detrimental to me to allow Essex County to return to the days of bloat and bureaucracy."

Looking back on his first term, Treffinger told the anti-counter crowd it was a time of "reform and progress." He specifically cited the restoration of "fiscal stability and public confidence in county government."

In apparent reference to his earlier position on zoning, Treffinger explained, "there was a time in the past when I thought, and said, that if we could reach this point and lay the foundation for future growth and progress in our county, then I would have accomplished my goal and could have public office knowing that I kept my promises to the citizens and would return to the private sector I loved, the private sector where I had spent my entire career, where I could engage in public service as an advocate as a part-time citizen-legislator but as a full-time citizen. But, so important and satisfying as our accomplishments may be, especially in contrast to what we inherited, the contrast to the times from which we came... I cannot ignore the fact that these gains are still only the first steps."

Treffinger reviewed his first term "successes" including "overcoming an unprecedented budget deficit of \$160 million which his administration inherited in 1995. He underlined the fact that he was able to eliminate the deficit while producing four consecutive county budgets that called for no tax increases."

Three years ago Essex County government was in crisis. Our county finances were in ruins, our bond ratings were almost at rock bottom and our citizens had lost faith in government that had come to symbolize both fiscal mismanagement and political corruption," he said his supporters.

The Verona resident went on to say that three years ago "I pledged to

(Continued On Page A15)



AMONG THE FIRST: As Cedar Grove Library Director Anne Laska looks on, Seymour Sobel becomes one of the first library patrons to access the Internet. Story on page 2.

VPD Expands Headquarters Communications Capability Improved



MEN AT WORK: Work on the new police console at seven hall continues. The console is expected to be fully operational, with an improved technology for two officers. The monitor will be used to record the cameras to police headquarters.

(Staff photo-Kelley Barnes)

Verona Petitioning Whitman On Hilltop

BY KELLEY BARNES

The Verona council, Monday night, passed a resolution asking Gov. Christine Whitman to follow through on her plan to give open space in New Jersey.

In her inaugural address Gov. Whitman declared that preserving 300,000 acres of open space throughout the state would be a priority in her administration. The council is asking that the governor include the 300 acres of the original Hilltop into her plan, a mere 1 percent of the governor's open space initiative.

"I think that every member of this council advocates the preservation of open space and I think this is one more indication that we do in fact mean it," explained Mayor Matthew Korman.

Mayor Korman added that although the council rarely likes to pass resolutions advocating action by the governor or legislature, it was important to take this action.

"We have a governor that openly states she wants to save 300,000 acres. She says she wants to do this and we should be free to do this," Korman declared.

In addition to the resolution, the governing body also backed the "Treffinger Plan," which includes the Hilltop's original 300 acres plus an equal amount of county-owned land surrounding the Hilltop. The plan would keep 85 percent of the entire tract green.

Treffinger's plan seeks state Green Acres grant dollars to purchase 250 of the original 300 acres that straddle Verona, Cedar Grove and North Caldwell.

In addition to the grant, a portion of the adjoining acre would be developed. The plan annexes three management parcels and the Essex County Hospital Center are on the land.

The entire Hilltop area was sold by Treffinger to the Essex County

Improvement Authority (ECIA) to help plug a \$160 million budget deficit he inherited. The ECIA must soon pay off the bonds it issued to purchase the original Hilltop.

According to Mayor Korman, Verona holds approximately 116 acres of the Hilltop.

In other business the council passed a resolution placing four properties for sale at public auction.

The properties are located at 69 Duane Road, 26A Franklin Street, 30 Brookside Terrace and 50 Derrill Street. They are being sold in an "as is" condition without any representations or warranties.

According to Councilman Robert DeToro the idea to sell the property came six months ago as a part of an effort to look at "unhappy owners' property," and determine what property could be open for sale.

"I am pleased to announce that this provision will give us the opportunity to sell property that is of no need to Verona," DeToro noted.

He added that neighbors who own property or plan to build need to those that are for sale could benefit.

The township would also benefit from the sale of these properties by

(Continued On Page A15)

BY KELLEY BARNES

The new main entrance to the Verona Police Department is about ready to open to the public on Feb. 18, this time facing Bloomfield Avenue instead of Gould St.

Reservations to make the former fire house an expanded and updated police department began in October after Fire Company #1 moved to the new Chubb City Center.

Aside from a new entrance and police console, the much needed \$280,000 expansion project will increase office space, update the cells to meet state standards and allow the detective bureau to move an office out of the over-bell basement.

Once the garage area of the project is completed, officers will move into what will be the detective bureau so that renovations to the existing police department can be made. These renovations are expected to take place over the next six to eight months.

"We are really pleased that this is happening... It is good for three reasons, access is easier for the public with the new entrance, the detective bureau will move upstairs and the new command center desk," explained Mayor Matthew Korman.

"The best and worst are here, we are just trying to knock down a few walls to make it better," added Doug Huber, township engineer.

The new police console, with updated technology for two officers if needed, highlights the changes.

At it's planned opening, the new headquarters will be equipped with two monitors showing live different entrances to the department. If an officer at the desk wants to record any of what is seen, it can be done by hitting a mouse.

"The new communications link is the centerpiece of what we're trying to do," explained Mayor Korman.

According to Huber, the new communications system in the police desk will be online by May. It will place all of Verona's emergency services: the police, fire department, crossing, guards and public works on the same radio frequency using a new tower.

The tower will rid the current communication system of weak signals problems. It will also allow officers from different emergency services to talk directly with each other.

The system new screen, for example, a police officer to go

(Continued On Page A16)

Police Academy Sale Piques Council Interest

BY WARD MIELE

The Cedar Grove Council wants to know details of plans to sell the Essex County Police Academy on Grove Avenue to Essex County College for \$4 million.

At Monday night's meeting, a surprised governing body director Township Manager Thomas Trece took into the matter. Councilwoman Ellen Blumkin put the police academy up for sale in the public domain. She said she was referring to published reports of the sale.

place, the county executive went on, the college and academy will be able to expand their curriculum to include on-the-job training, criminal justice instruction and police work courses. Treffinger viewed the sale as an "enhancement and expansion of the police academy's mission."

Saying the council was "quite surprised" by the news and lamenting that it is "typical of how we find these things out," Mayor E. Antonio Longo told the Times

Essex County Utilities Authority (ECUA) for \$11.2 million. Presumably, if the system is located on the hospital center grounds. He said he believed that in the case and expressed the opinion that there is an attempt to take in the water rights to the sewage. He commented too that "Cedar Grove was out-ford and it is a damn shame."

The Five-Minute Rule

The council continued in their complaints about its five minute speaking rule. Expressing



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MOVING OUT. The current police console will be closed once the new console, with improved equipment, is operational.

(Staff photo-Kelley Burton)



MOVING UP. Verona's detective bureau is currently located in the basement of town hall. The renovations include moving the bureau upstairs to new offices within the police headquarters.

(Staff photo-Kelley Burton)

VPD Headquarters

(Continued From Page One)

through the communications desk to dispatch a message to a visiting guard or the fire department. The new system will allow the guard and officer to talk directly.

An air added safety feature, an identical console to the new one at the police station has been constructed at the Community Center fire house in case a situation arises that prohibits the use of the console in town hall.

Holzer added that a gas leak on Bloomfield Avenue three or four years ago put an officer in danger because he had to remain at the desk; this type of situation can now be avoided.

"We have a back up right there. Most small towns don't have that backup, we would be able to keep right on going," Holzer explained.

Another feature in the new police headquarters puts the shift command officer in direct sight of both the desk and the side entrance where police officers bring in suspects. A holding bench, with traps in the wall for handcuffs to be attached to, will also be in the commanding officers sight.



"These changes are long overdue," said Captain Paul Noullet. "They will make the operation more effective and efficient." Noullet added that the department's effectiveness comes from the officers who are on the street and doing the work as well as the new office space.

The transition to the new offices is expected to be smooth, said Noullet. "We had input into the planning and design of the new office space and the officers are good at adapting."

Site Selected For State Korean War Veterans Memorial

The New Jersey Korean War Veterans Memorial Committee announced this week that a memorial "honoring the memory and service of New Jersey's Korean War veterans" will be constructed in Atlantic City's Boardwalk Park, at the corner of Park Place and the Boardwalk.

Angels Network Dropoff Site

Cedar Grove Family Chiropractic, 411 Pompton Ave., is a dropoff site for Opus Webby's Angels Network. A piggy bank will be the office for donations from the public. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday 3-7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to noon and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For additional information call 294-7222.

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OPENING DOORS. The Bloomfield Avenue entrance to the Verona Police Department is expected to open in February. A sidewalk will be added when weather permits.

(Staff photo-Kelley Burton)

Colorado Trip Planned

A seven-day air-bus vacation to Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region-one of the most scenic and beautiful areas of the United States-will be co-sponsored by the Cedar Grove and Verona Recreation Departments from June 2-8.

Round trip, non-stop air from Newark to Denver and deluxe monorail travel within Colorado will be provided. All six nights will be spent at the Embassy Suites in

Auto Theft Attempted

A Moonster woman reported an attempted theft of her vehicle from a Verona parking lot last Monday, according to police reports.

The victim reported that, at approximately 3:59 p.m., an unknown person attempted to enter her 1991 gold, two-door Acura from the rear lot of Claridge House #1. The perpetrator allegedly damaged the driver's door with a screwdriver. Although every window was intact, the car's alarm was set off.

The value of damage to the vehicle is unknown.

Colorado Springs. Buffet breakfasts will be provided each morning and complimentary beverages will be available each evening at manager's reception.

All admission, guide service and transportation will be included in the Pikes Peak City Railway, Cripple Creek (gambling and scenic sights), Denver, Royal Gorge, Air Force Academy and Garden of the Gods.

The Pikes Peak road includes the world's highest cog railway on the top of America's best-known mountain, 14,110 feet tall.

Three lunches and four dinners are included with the tour.

Costs for the vacation are \$1,095 per person for double occupancy, \$1,495 per person for single occupancy, \$981 per person for a triple occupancy and \$990 per person for a quad occupancy.

Deposit checks of \$150 per person, payable to "Travel-More Tours," should be forwarded to Cedar Grove Recreation Department, 525 Pompton Ave., Cedar Grove, N.J. 07009. The trip is limited to 44 persons.

Free Income Tax Help Available

Free income tax preparation or assistance for federal and state income returns will be available at the Cedar Grove Public Library through April 15. Appointments are necessary.

The New Jersey Homestead Property Tax Rebate and Credit can also be filed. The rebate and credit are available to homeowners and tenants who live in dwellings that pay real estate taxes to their municipality. The rebate can reach a maximum of \$500 and the credit can reach a maximum of \$77.50 for those who qualify.

To make an appointment call Joan Ridings at 294-5542.

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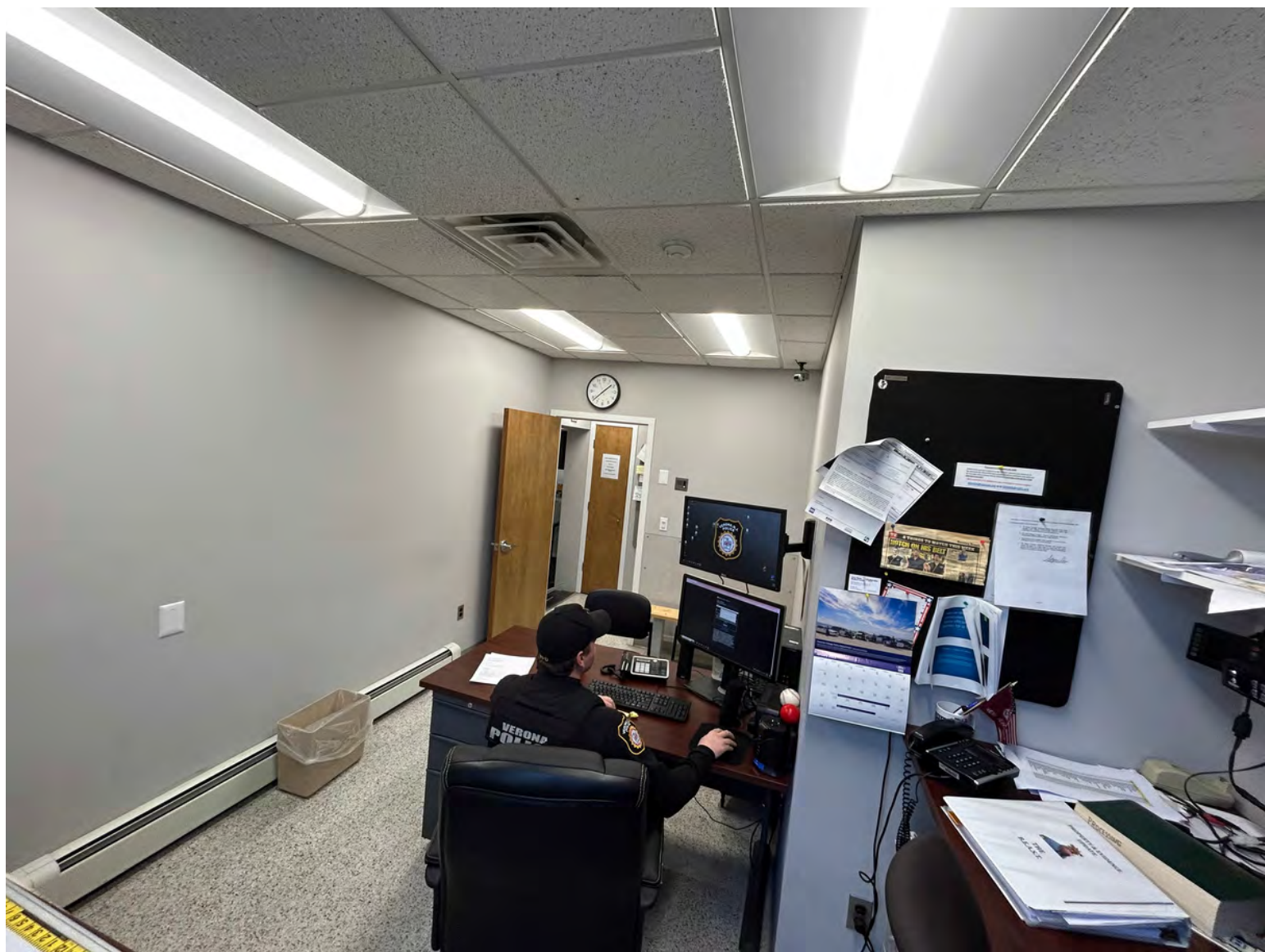




















































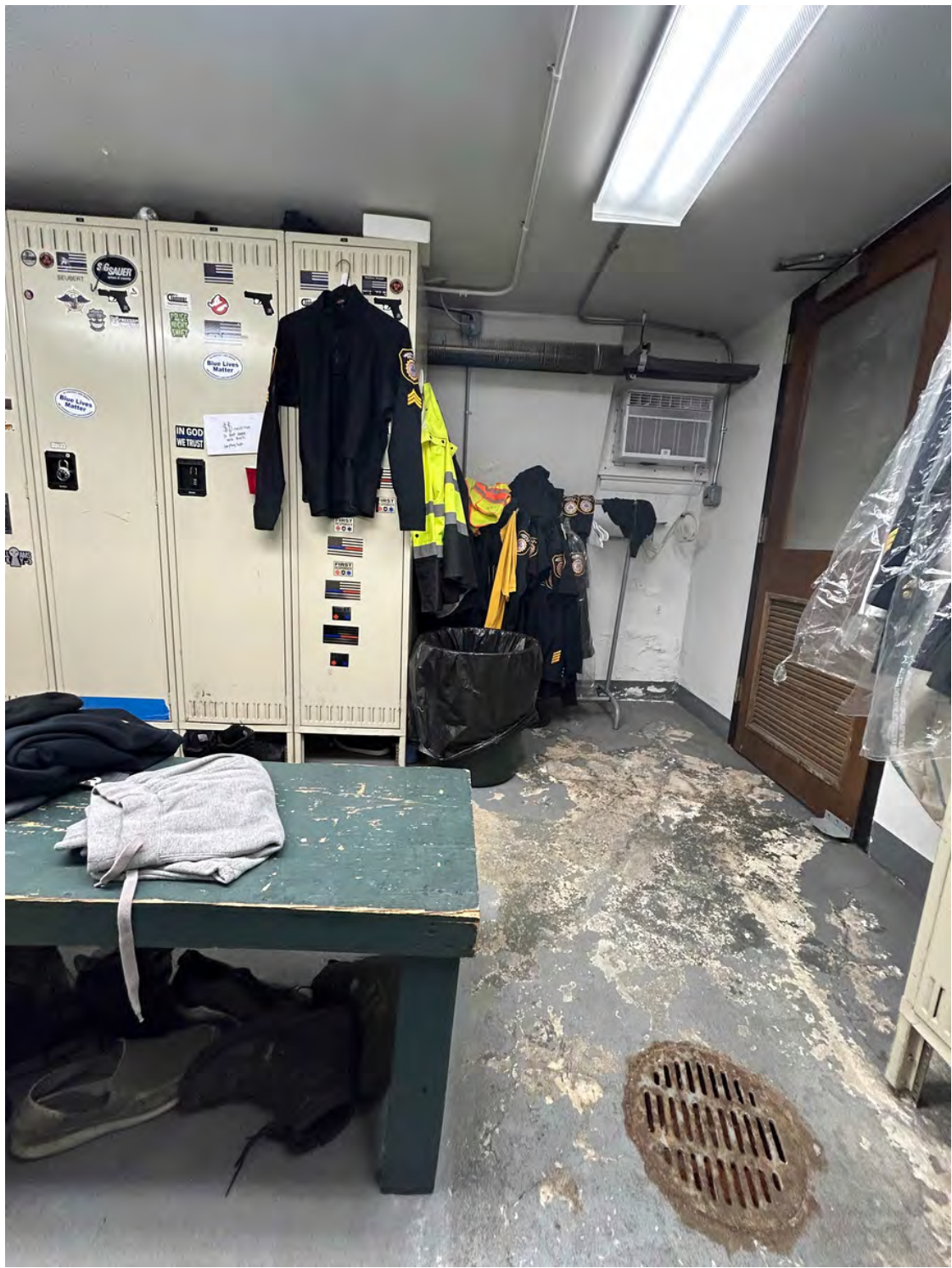






































**Where do we go from
here?**





STREET

EXISTING PARKING LOT

POLICE ENTRY

PROPOSED 2 STORY POLICE HEADQUARTERS
AND BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICES
8,100 SQ. FT. 2nd FLOOR

BUS SURFACE PARKING

BOE ENTRY

LEASE AREA
1 ACRE

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GATE

SMART TRUCK - EMERGENCY RESPONSE
INFLUENCE AREA

LEASE LINE

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