

From: Jason Hoch jhoch@williamstownma.gov
Subject: Re: bank property
Date: February 05, 2018 at 4:33 PM America/New_York
To: Jim Kolesar jkolesar@williams.edu



Thanks. I've been noodling on this. See if what is below helps. If not, feel free to send me back to the drawing board. I have some spare hours traveling tomorrow to reflect further.

When we were considering sites, the bank building was not known or perceived to be "on the market". We we wary of pursuing options that would erode our limited commercial properties, especially one that houses an active business of significant size. Further, in that specific case, not only would it mean the loss of the commercial site generally, it would remove property current valued at just under \$1.4 million from the tax rolls permanently; our purchase of the Turner House was a fraction of that at \$300,000. In thinking about that site, which is a gateway to the campus on the east, it feels like an uneasy juxtaposition to have the Town's Police nestled within the edge the campus with dorms and academic buildings adjacent without even a road crossing. Our current facility has reasonable separation at the back of a building, with Route 7 as a secondary buffer to the edge of the Greylock Quad.

In general, the department operated as generally location neutral, other than a preference to be on one of the major arteries. Their view is that most emergency responses come from the field when they are dispatched. Officers are responding from throughout town. If the shift officers are in South Williamstown and an incident comes in on North Hoosac Road, the fact that the station is centrally located is irrelevant. Our department is small enough that we frequently have patrol and supervisors all out in the field for the majority of their shifts - meaning that most times two to four officers will be responding from various locations around town.