

**Gilford Police Station Expansion/Renovation
Rarely Asked Questions
1/10/09**

Q. Will there be a weight room in the expanded police station?

No.

Q: Are you *sure* there won't be a weight room in the new facility?

A: Absolutely. However, there may be a *waiting* room. Are you sure that isn't that what you mean?

Q. The question about a weight room in the new police station was asked twice. Why won't there be such a training room for the members of the department?

A. For some reason there was opposition from some members of the public, apparently based upon the misconception that if an officer was hurt while working out in such a room the town would be liable for any workmen's compensation, while if they worked out someplace else, they wouldn't. In fact, because a police officer's job requires them to maintain a minimum level of fitness in order to remain on the job, it would make no difference where they worked out. If injured working out at a health club or in a room at the police station, the town would still be obligated to pay workman's compensation. So the question about a weight room is moot.

Q. Chief John Markland looks like a big tough guy. Is he really like that?

A. No. He's really a teddy bear...with a 9mm semiautomatic pistol, a nightstick, and handcuffs.

Q. There was mention about the upgraded police radio systems in the FAQ. What exactly does that mean?

A. The old analog radio systems were replaced by new digital capable radio systems, also known as APCO P-25 radio. The new digital radio systems are more efficient than the older analog systems, allowing more users in a given radio band. Radio spectrum is a finite resource and the new digital radio systems are far more efficient, in effect making more 'space' available. The new radio systems also make it possible for better inter-department and inter-agency voice and data communications as they have the capability of being programmed with all of the required frequency and digital 'address' information that make such communications possible. The push for these inter-operable radio systems came about due to 9/11.

One of the biggest problems at the World Trade Center on that horrible day was communications. Between the systems destroyed when the towers collapsed and the numerous city, state, federal, and military responders, each with their own radio systems and frequency assignments, interagency communications was extremely difficult at best. Radios that could be easily reprogrammed to allow ease of communications between agencies was seen as one of the better answers to the problem. This solution has been applied all across the US as part of a Homeland Security directive, so the Gilford Police Department is not unique in this regard.