

# Tiverton Municipal Buildings Feasibility Advisory Committee Consolidation Survey Report

**Background:** In late spring 2010 the Committee decided to use the Financial Town Meeting and subsequent tax bill mailing as an opportunity to reach out to the community via a survey.

**Objective:** The primary goals of the survey were to increase community awareness of the Committee's task and gain a general sense of the community's opinions regarding consolidating Municipal services into one building. Secondly, the Committee wanted to solicit input for using or selling the buildings.

**Distribution & Returns:** Survey forms were distributed and collected at the May 2010 Financial Town Meeting (at no cost to the Town) and, with the approval of the Town Council, mailed out with the subsequent Real Estate tax bills. Survey forms were also available in the Town Hall Lobby. Completed surveys were returned by mail to the Town Clerk's office or placed in drop-off boxes located with the Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Town Hall Lobby and Essex Library.

Number of Surveys Mailed Out:	7,640
Approx. Number Distributed at FTM:	500
<i>Total # of Surveys Distributed:</i>	<i>8,140</i>
Total # of Responses:	292 4%

**Note:** This was not a scientific survey. The Committee does not recommend using the findings of the survey to draw absolute conclusions about what the community may or may not support, but rather as potential indicators of general opinions.

## Findings:

1. *There is considerable interest in what happens to these buildings.* Nearly 300 people took the time to fill out and return the survey (about a 4% return rate) and almost 90 respondents indicated an interest in participating in a facilitated discussion (Page 2 Exhibit 1). The vast majority of surveys contained thoughtful, helpful ideas.
2. *Interest in consolidation outweighs keeping the status quo.* 64% of respondents indicated interest in consolidating some or all Municipal services vs. 26% who did not favor consolidation (Page 2 Exhibit 1; Sections I and II).
3. *Re-purposing Old Ranger School for Municipal use should be researched.* 22% of respondents suggested a Municipal use for Old Ranger with 14% indicating that all Municipal services should be consolidated at Old Ranger (Page 2 Exhibit 1; A).
4. *There is some indication that the community may support constructing a new building to house Municipal services.* 15% of respondents were explicitly in favor of building a new Town Hall with an additional 7% implying support for a new building (Page 2 Exhibit 1; B1+C1, B2).
5. *Library services should be kept in mind when considering consolidation of Municipal services.* Many responses had library-related comments including how the possible new Library might fit with consolidation in terms of services offered and location (Page 3 Exhibit 3).

A binder containing all completed surveys is available for review at the Town Clerk's office.

**Exhibit 1: Consolidation Comments** - Summarized by building-specific consolidation related comments.

	Count	% of Total	Consolidate All Services in One Building?		Want to Discuss?
			Yes	No	Yes
<b>I. Interested in Consolidation</b>					
<b>A. Keep Old Ranger for Municipal Services</b>					
1. Consolidate All Services at Ranger School	41	14%	34		9
2. Move Town Hall to Ranger but Keep Some Services Separate	15	5%	13	2	8
3. Move Community/Senior Ctrs. to Ranger	7	2%	4	3	1
<i>SubTotal:</i>	<b>63</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>B. Consolidate All Services in One Building</b>					
1. Consolidate all in New Building - explicit	35	12%	34		11
2. Consolidate all in New Bldg - implied	21	7%	20		4
3. Consolidate all in Existing Building (any)	12	4%	12		8
4. Consolidate all in Existing Town Hall	10	3%	10		3
5. Consolidate all in Nonquit	4	1%	4		0
6. Consolidate all in Existing Community Ctr.	3	1%	3		2
<i>SubTotal:</i>	<b>85</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>C. Consolidate Most Services</b>					
1. All Services except Senior Ctr in New Bldg	10	3%	10		2
2. Combine Comm & Senior Ctr in Either Bldg	19	7%	17	1	9
<i>SubTotal:</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>D. Consolidate Yes - Other</b>					
	9	3%	8		3
<b>Total Interested in Consolidation:</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>II. Not Interested in Consolidation</b>					
<b>E. Keep Current Configuration(?) and:</b>					
1. Sell Ranger & Nonquit	17	6%		16	5
2. Keep Ranger & Nonquit (no explicit Sell)	7	2%	1	6	3
3. Sell Ranger, Nonquit & Community Ctr	5	2%	2	3	1
4. Sell Ranger, Nonquit, Comm & Senior Ctrs	7	2%		3	2
<i>SubTotal:</i>	<b>36</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>F. Do Not Consolidate</b>					
1. Won't save\$\$/Separate Bldgs=Character	2	1%		1	1
2. Strongly Opposed/No New Taxes	15	5%		6	2
3. Other	23	8%		23	4
<i>SubTotal:</i>	<b>40</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total Not Interested in Consolidation:</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>G. Consolidate? Maybe (not yet/need \$\$)</b>					
	3	1%		2	1
<b>H. Consolidate? Not Sure/Need More Info</b>					
	19	7%			7
<b>I. Answers Not Related to Municipal Buildings</b>					
	8	3%			2
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>88</b>
			59%	23%	30%

Note: Number answering may not equal the Count because some respondents did not answer or the answer conflicts with building specific comments.

**Exhibit 2: Preferred Location** – Responses to the survey question of what general area of town is preferred for consolidating services. Note: Excludes building-specific responses (e.g., Old Ranger School).

<u>General Area</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>General Area</u>	<u>Count</u>
Fish Rd & 24/Industrial Park	17	Stafford Rd./Bliss 4 Corners	16
"Central Location"	14	Stone Bridge	12
North Tiverton	6	Near P.O./Brooks/BankOfAm	2
East Tiverton	3	Souza Road	3
South Tiverton	3	Northeast	1

**Exhibit 3: Non-Consolidation Ideas** – Ideas or proposed uses for Municipal buildings with the number of times the idea occurred.

General Comments (not building specific)

New Library - Consolidate with Town services/coordinate with consolidation efforts	8
Meeting/Gathering Space needed for Town Committees & Non-Profit groups	3
Recreation/teen activity centers needed for children	2

Community Center

Teen Center	4
Library	3
Apartment Building/Condo	1
Arts	1
Dog Park	1
Lease for Events/Speakers	1
Lease for Music/Dance School	1
Low Income Day Care	1
Sell to Church for Parking	1

Senior Center

Arts Center	1
Community Rec/Teen Center	1
<u>Town Hall</u>	
Arts Center	3
Historical Society Bldg/Lecture Hall	3
Info/Rest Center - Ft. Barton, EDC, Beach	3
Adult Ed/Retraining Center	1
Apartment Building	1
Special Ed/Gifted Talented	1
Youth Center/Scouts/After School Programs	1

Old Ranger School

Library	7
Senior/Affordable Housing	4
Adult Education/URI Extension	2
Business Development	2
Day Care	2
Teen Center	2
Fire/Safety Complex	1
Food Pantry	1
Grocery Store	1
Playground	1
Private School	1
Reopen as School	1
Restaurant	1
School Administration Building	1

Nonquit School

Museum/Arts/Historical/Environmental Center	8
Community Rec/Teen Center	6
Adult/Alternative Education	3
Library	3
Residential Condos	2
Senior/Retirement Housing	2
Day Care	1
Gym/Health Club/YMCA	1
Lease for Conference Center	1
Office/Retail Space	1
Open Space	1
Rentable Artist Studios w/ Community Garden	1
Reopen as School	1
Restaurant	1
School Administration Building	1

Tiverton Municipal Buildings Feasibility Advisory Committee  
Consolidation Surveys

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