

**MINUTES**  
**SELECT BOARD**  
**TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH**  
Tuesday, December 7, 2010 – 6:00pm  
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

**Present:** Joe Byk, Barbara Miller, Elizabeth Thomas

**Also Present:** Pamela Brenner, Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay

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**Chair Byk** called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

### **Main Street Bridge and North Crossing**

**Mr. Bartlett** began by saying that as the Board is aware, one of the biggest concerns has been the impact of a temporary bridge on the waters of the Contoocook River. Because of that, the design team has gone through a fairly extensive evaluation of the flow information with Stephen Associates. The conclusion is that there is not a significant change in the 50-year storm. The April 2007 flood had one of the highest levels since 1946, and that qualifies as a 50-year storm. Since then there have been two other storms at just below that level, and we may be in a cycle where that happens more frequently; it seems that these storms do come in a group or a bunch. Matt Lowe of HTA wrote a review of the Stephen Associates report, which says that we would put ourselves and the residents of Summer Street and Concord Street under unnecessary risk in the two years that the bridge would be up. Our recommendation is that the Town not pursue a north crossing, and return to the priorities that the Board set in June. **Ms. Miller** asked if **Mr. Bartlett** had heard from Attorney Ratigan about the town's responsibility. **Mr. Bartlett** said that Attorney Ratigan's initial response was "good question" and is working with another associate on that answer. With all of the aspects that have been looked at, we have to go back and look at our prioritization, and find ways to shorten the construction process. Rigid frame cast in place construction is the most expensive and longest duration method. **Ms. Miller** asked if there is a plan to make sure that construction vehicles will not be in traffic. **Mr. Bartlett** said that the vehicles will not be in the lane of traffic, and said that there has even been discussion of a temporary island in the river for the crane.

**John Texiera** said that in the mid to late 1980's the water was higher than in 2005 or 2007. **Mr. Bartlett** said that the gauging station used to do the calculation is up river at Noone Falls, however much of what happens on Summer Street is due to what the Army Corps does at MacDowell Dam, and the length of the event effects what happens with the water. **Bob Boyd** asked how phased construction affects the retaining wall, and can both be done at the same time. **Mr. Bartlett** said that the design team has not gotten far enough in the construction phasing to determine that. The hope is that the Main Street bridge can be straightened out away from the library and the row houses, and then start the retaining wall construction. **Mr. Boyd** said that he worries when he hears that Route 202 will always be open. His experience has been that construction companies don't care, and they will block traffic to move a crane, and there is also the cost of having an officer on location to keep the traffic moving. He then asked if there were plans to have an officer there full time during the day. **Mr. Bartlett** said that Route 202 is a federal route, and DOT has said that they will require that Route 202 is kept open, and the contractor will plan for that. Any officer will be paid for by the construction costs. Ms. Thomas added that there is no way to rebuild the bridge without trucks and cranes; it has to be done.

**Mr. Bartlett** said that if the Board concurs with the design team's recommendation, they will refocus on the bridge and retaining wall, and he will return to the Board in a month to report on

their progress. **Mr. Duval** asked if they will consider a complete closure of the Main Street Bridge and have it replaced in a year. **Mr. Bartlett** said that the answer to that is, can the design team come up with a way to get the bridge open in a year, no matter how the construction is done; that is where we want to be, to have travel lanes over the new bridge open in a year, and then the stonework would be done after that. **Mr. Duval** asked if the bridge will be done in one phase and the retaining wall will be done in another. **Mr. Bartlett** said that is the most likely scenario. The repairs to the retaining wall have yet to be determined. The focus will be to stabilize the wall and the ground, and if that can be done it will allow construction to occur with the least amount of impact possible to traffic. **Chair Byk** said that the Board appreciates everyone's comments and questions. The Board then accepted Mr. Bartlett's recommendation.

### **Proposed Customer Satisfaction Survey**

**Ms. Brenner** explained that about ten years ago the town did a survey of all residents asking how they felt about their services and asking what is most important to them. It was not a scientific survey, but it was done in conjunction with UNH who calculated everything and produced a report. The biggest thing to come out of that survey was how important Open Space is to Peterborough residents. There has not been another survey since then because of the cost and the amount of work involved. This program would cost \$1,500, and would come out of the professional services budget. 10% of the town's population would be chosen at random and asked to go online to complete the survey. From that 10% they will be looking for at least 10% to 20% to complete the survey. They will then compare our results to those of other communities. **Ms. Miller** asked if the data from ten years ago is still available for comparison; **Ms. Brenner** said that it is. **Ms. MacStay** added that there is a level of customization allowed; there are a certain number of questions that are asked of all communities, and there are a certain number that are developed by each town. **Ms. Miller** asked if questions about recreation programs could be added. There was further discussion about possible survey questions, and the Board instructed **Ms. Brenner** to go forward with the survey.

### **Resignation of David Enos**

**Chair Byk** said that he noted with regret that David Enos is resigning from the Planning Board; Mr. Enos had an insightful and knowledgeable impact on the many boards and committees he served on.

### **School Resource Officer**

**Chair Byk** noted that **Ms. Brenner** circulated a letter to be signed by the Board addressed to the School Board asking that they consider putting an SRO position in next year's budget. **Ms. Miller** said that she strongly feels that we need one.

### **Proposed Interest Abatement**

**Ms. Brenner** asked the Board to consider allowing a penalty-free period until April 1, 2011 if a taxpayer's bill has gone up at least 25%. She explained that what she is proposing is not precedence setting; an interest abatement was given during the 18-month budget, and as a result of the 2008 ice storm the Board allowed an interest free period. Because of current economic conditions, sales and assessor's updates some home values have gone up considerably. **Chair Byk** recused himself due to conflict of interest, noting that though he did not intend to avail himself of this remedy, his assessment went up 40%. **Ms. Thomas** said that she thought this was a very good idea. **Ms.**

**Brenner** stated for the record that **Chair Byk** did not ask her to do this, and had nothing to do with crafting this proposal. Ms. Thomas asked how many people would it affect; **Ms. Brenner** said about 100 taxpayers. **Ms. Miller** said that anything that can be done to help people with a hardship in this economy the Board should do.

**Motion:**

**Ms. Miller** made a motion to accept the abatement proposal as presented; **Ms. Thomas** seconded.

**Vote:**

**Ms. Miller** and **Ms. Thomas** voted in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

**Ms. Miller** asked if the Board should standardize the time at which they meet. **Ms. Brenner** said that until budgets are done in March, the Board will be meeting at 6:00pm every first and third Tuesday, which has worked well in the past. **Chair Byk** said that this can be discussed after budgets.

**State Representatives**

**Ms. Brenner** said that the new state representatives will be at the next Select Board meeting. The Board asked if Senator Bragdon and Executive Councilor Wheeler could also be invited.

As there was no further business, **Chair Byk** made a motion to adjourn; **Ms. Miller** seconded. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 6:49pm.

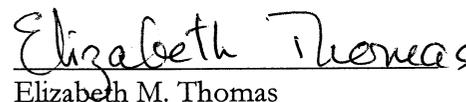
Respectfully Submitted,  
Nicole MacStay, Assistant to the Town Administrator

PETERBOROUGH  
SELECT BOARD:

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Joe Byk, Chair

  
Barbara A. Miler

  
Elizabeth M. Thomas

**ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST**

1. Customer Satisfaction Survey
2. Invite Senator Bragdon and Executive Councilor Wheeler to upcoming Select Board meetings.

