

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
Tuesday, February 23, 2010 – 6:45pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Joe Byk, Barbara Miller, Elizabeth Thomas

Dick Adler, Roland Patten, Gordon Kemp, Steve Jones, Suzy Mansfield

Also Present: Pamela Brenner, Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:45pm. She then announced that when Representatives Leishman and Irwin and later Senator Bragdon came to update the Board on the State's budget the Board asked them to fight on the Town's behalf to preserve the Meals and Rooms revenue. Recently the House passed a bill to increase the municipal share of Meals and Rooms, and said that the Board will be following that bill closely.

Craig Hicks – School Board Budget and Bond

Mr. Hicks presented the School Board's proposed building bond which put together a number of building improvements needed at ConVal High School. These improvements would address ADA accessibility to the gym and the theater, as well as energy efficiency upgrades. He emphasized that it is important to get the bond passed on this ballot because there is a question as to whether the State's school building aid program will continue to exist after July 1. The district is qualified to get 55% reimbursement from the building aid program if the bond passes. **Chair Miller** said that the Selectmen Advisory Committee voted to support both the bond and the budget. **Mr. Hicks** said that he thinks that vote speaks well of this plan since last year the SAC and the School Board had a difference of opinion.

Joint Select Board/Budget Committee Meeting – Overall Analysis

Mr. Kemp said that since the committee has had these budgets for over a week, instead of going line by line he would rather address any direct questions the Board or Committee may have. **Ms. Mansfield** asked why the Heritage Commission's budget is down \$500.00; **Ms. Brenner** responded that she met with **Ms. Kirkpatrick** and **Ms. Monahon** who agreed to reduce their expenses. **Ms. Kirkpatrick** and **Ms. Monahon** reviewed their plans for the ensuing year.

Ms. Brenner reviewed the West Peterborough and Downtown Tax Increment Finance District expenses, explaining that WPTIF is to cover bond payments and the remainder for the reconstruction of the Union Street Bridge. There was some discussion about the structure of the bond payments. Regarding the Downtown TIF, **Ms. Brenner** said that this is for continued work on the sidewalks.

Mr. Lambert asked when will the School Union decided if they are going to change their health insurance provider to Primex or stay with NHLGC. **Ms. Vaihinger** said that they will take up that question after the contract is voted in by the taxpayers, and until such time the town will stay with NHLGC. **Chair Miller** asked about Workers Compensation and Unemployment; **Ms. Vaihinger** said that the town has switched to Primex. **Mr. Kemp** noted that the biggest change in the budget is on the revenue side where the Shared Revenue Block Grant from the state is missing.

Adams Pool – What’s Next?

Mr. King said that he and the Recreation Committee have been looking at this issue for a number of years now and have been doing the best they can to maintain the pool to ensure its continued use for the town. In 2007 they hired engineers to conduct a needs assessment which concluded that renovations needed to be done. They provided the town with three options with varying levels of improvements. Of those, Option Two provide the biggest bang for the buck – at the time it was estimated to cost \$693,000 and it was assumed that the cost would increase by 8% a year that the project was not done. Based on those numbers, the Recreation Committee requested \$200,000 be placed in a capital reserve account yearly from 2011 to 2016, but that would bring the balance to \$1.18 million, which will not be enough.

Mr. King said that he is fully aware that this economic climate is not the best in which to ask for a large bond, however the Recreation Committee feels that there are some advantages; if the project is bonded then the work gets done right away and the maintenance costs are eliminated. The bond payments would be less than what was intended for the capital reserve fund. The Recreation Committee would also like to keep a small capital reserve so that this situation does not arise next time the Town is looking at doing major repairs to the pool. The new pool would meet all the current codes, and a municipal bond may be attractive to a local resident looking for a safe investment. While this may be the worst time to ask for a bond, it is the best time to do this kind of construction.

Mr. Lambert asked if the new pool would be handicapped accessible; **Mr. King** said that the work would enable deck area accessibility. **Chair Miller** asked if the Isabel Miller funds can be used for this project. **Mr. King** replied that at present there is only \$150,000 in the fund, and some of that money is earmarked for the Armory. **Mr. Lambert** asked what the effect of an \$88,000 bond payment would have on the tax rate; **Mr. Kemp** said that it would add approximately eleven or twelve cents. **Tina Kriebel**, Recreation Committee Chair, said that the Recreation budget is down 10%, and that they have made every cut that they could. They are trying to manage the pool to the best of their ability and keep up with necessary repairs. **Ms. Brenner** added that Administration and the Department of Public Works are supportive, and will do what needs to be done to keep the pool open. She then recommended postponing the pool renovations for two to five years. There was further discussion about the cost of repairs versus the difficulty of a bond issue. The Board and Budget Committee agreed that what **Mr. King** and **Ms. Kriebel** have proposed is a good idea, however it should wait until next year.

Overall Analysis

Mr. Kemp suggested that rather than go line by line through the budget, that if there are any specific suggestions or questions from the Board or Committee that they be asked. Hearing none, **Mr. Kemp** asked **Ms. Brenner** if she had gotten an update from Chief Guinard; she reported that his suggestion is that the funds for renovation be taken from the budget, and that they would triage the storage space and eliminate any stored items they do not need. She said that she has also spoken with Chief Lenox, who is not opposed to forgoing a new command vehicle. She added that this has been the most difficult budget she has ever put together, and credited the department directors for making difficult decisions. **Mr. Lambert** asked if a merit increase was budgeted; **Ms. Brenner** said that there is 2%, however there had been a 2% merit increase last year which was not distributed.

Motion:

Mr. Byk made a motion to accept the budget less the funds allocated for Police renovations and Fire Command Vehicle; **Chair Miller** seconded.

Vote:

Mr. Byk, Chair Miller, Ms. Thomas, Mr. Kemp, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Adler, Mr. Jones, Ms. Mansfield and **Mr. Patten** voted in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

Union Contract Side Letter of Agreement

Mr. Kemp explained that **Ms. Mansfield** has done some work investigating the overtime costs at Recycling. He explained that every time there is a holiday on Monday, they get paid for a holiday, even though they wouldn't have worked that day. They then work their regular week, and ultimately get paid for overtime. The problem is that the union contract spells out the work week for the public works employees, and separately for the recycling employees creating an unfair situation where the other public works employees get paid for eight hours, and recycling employees are paid for twelve, however when a holiday falls on a Wednesday they are only paid for eight hours, losing two hours of their regular ten hour workday. **Mr. Kemp** then read the language of the Letter of Agreement he has proposed.

Ms. Brenner said that the next scheduled Select Board meeting will be held March 9th at 7:00pm.

Minutes of December 1st and 15th 2009

Motion:

Mr. Byk made a motion to approve the minutes of December 1st and 15th, 2009; **Ms. Thomas** seconded.

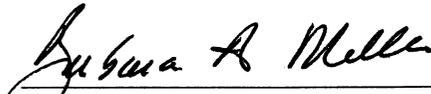
Vote:

Mr. Byk, Ms. Thomas and **Chair Miller** voted in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

As there was no further business, **Mr. Byk** made a motion to adjourn; **Ms. Thomas** seconded. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole MacStay, Assistant to the Town Administrator

PETERBOROUGH
SELECT BOARD:


Barbara A. Miler, Chair


Joe Byk


Elizabeth M. Thomas

ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST

- 1.