

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
Tuesday, March 16, 2010 – 7:00pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Joe Byk, Barbara Miller, Elizabeth Thomas

Also Present: Pamela Brenner, Rodney Bartlett, Chief Joseph Lenox III, Nicole MacStay

Chair Miller welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Public Hearing – Infrastructure Improvements Bond - \$1,010,000.00

Mr. Bartlett gave the presentation on the infrastructure improvements. The first is \$460,000 for sidewalks in conjunction with the Main Street Bridge/Route 202 retaining wall reconstruction. The cost presented is a preliminary estimate, and will be refined as the design of the bridge and retain wall moves further along. The second project is for the Transcript Dam, \$300,000 for maintenance and stability work for the spillway and abutments, as well as the downstream face of the dam. This work is planned to coordinate with the Main Street Bridge/Route 202 retaining wall project. The third piece is roadway repairs in the Cheney Avenue, Lookout Hill and Orchard Hill neighborhood. All three projects were discussed during the CIP process and ultimately bundled into a single bond warrant article. The bond issue is anticipated to be less than ten years with an interest rate of 4% or less. The overall tax rate impact is estimated at \$0.21 per \$1,000.

There was some discussion about the sidewalk portion of the proposal. A resident said that the sidewalk serves as a conduit for the neighborhoods on Pine Street and above, and asked what would be the impact if the bond was not funded. **Mr. Bartlett** replied that when the reconstruction of Route 202 and the retaining wall was completed there would be no sidewalk. He went on to say that the funding in place was directed primarily at the retaining wall, and that there was no money for sidewalks. **Mr. Parkhurst** asked if without the bond, would it be possible to construct the sidewalk later. **Mr. Bartlett** said that even if there is no money for the sidewalk, the Town and the engineers for the project would be remiss not to plan for a sidewalk; the project will be designed with an application for a sidewalk, whether that sidewalk is constructed now or later.

Mr. Smith asked if the \$250,000 is to get caught-up on road repaving, or is it ongoing. **Mr. Bartlett** said that the money will allow the town to catch up on some work that has not been done, and not done since he has been employed by the town. Since he came to Peterborough in 2006 there have been three FEMA declarations, and emergency funds have always been diverted from the highway department.

Public Hearing – Fire Department Pumper Truck - \$550,000

Chief Lenox gave the presentation on the Pumper Truck article. He explained that Engine 1, the engine to be replaced, is a 1985 pumper built by Emergency One. It has a 1250 GPM pump and a 750 gallon water tank. The cab is an open canopy style that carries four firefighters. In 1995 with the purchase of Engine 2, Engine 1 was placed in-service as our water supply pump. This unit pumps to the main company from a water source, and also serves as the mutual aid company.

Engine 1 has a number of deficiencies. The open canopy provides no protection for firefighters responding to alarms. The NFPA has added a number of safety features over the last 25 years.

Engine 1 will be 25 years old in 2010, whereas the average age of a fire engine in service is ten years on the front line and ten years in reserve. The need to take the engine out of service for maintenance has increased, as well as the cost of maintaining the engine. **Chief Lenox** then reviewed samples of maintenance work done on the vehicle and their associated costs.

Mr. Chapman asked Chief Lenox to review the vehicles the Fire and Rescue Department currently has. He then asked if the equipment is applicable to the town's needs. **Chief Lenox** listed the vehicles, and said that as the vehicles are purchased the Department is doing their best to make them applicable. He went on to say that the new pumper will have space for the equipment that the Department needs, which will also help the department's ISO rating. A resident said that there is no question that having the proper equipment is a good thing, and asked how often a vehicle like this is likely to be deployed. **Chief Lenox** replied that fire equipment goes out about 500 times a year, and added that this vehicle will also serve as a medical response vehicle when both ambulances are out.

Mr. Smith asked if the lease/purchase agreement will be made with the equipment manufacturer. **Chief Lenox** said that he has spoken with the manufacturer and the local banks, and will be going out to bid. **Ms. Graham** asked if two ambulances are enough. **Chief Lenox** said that the department could use another, however there is only room for two at the station. Mr. Smith asked if there is any resale value for the 1985 vehicle. **Chief Lenox** said that the department will put it out on the open market, and **Ms. Brenner** added that the town will market it aggressively in local publications and on eBay. **Chief Lenox** said that the town was successful selling an old ladder truck on eBay.

Minutes of January 5 and February 10, 2010

Motion:

Mr. Byk made a motion to approve the minutes of January 5th and February 10th, 2010; **Ms. Thomas** seconded.

Vote:

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

Review and Finalization of 2010 Town Meeting Warrant

Chair Miller explained that the Alternative Energy Committee has been unable to decide on a warrant article, so they have presented the Select Board with three options, which Chair Miller presented as a matrix to the meeting:

Option	Provisions	Concern
1. Such property tax exemption shall be an amount equal to the cost of such energy system not to exceed \$10,000 for each system and not to exceed \$20,000 per total exemption	Based on receipts COST	File letter yearly indicating system(s) is working
2. If any energy system adds to the assessed value of the property, the exemption would be equal to 100% of the amount of such added assessed value, not to exceed \$20,000.	Easiest for our Assessor to administer ASSESSED VALUE	Will the assessed value of the property increase?
3. Rescind the adoption of the provisions of NH RSA 72:61 through RSA 72:72 as voted in 1976 and in 2009.	NO EXEMPTION	What about people already receiving a tax exemption for solar energy?

After the Board had reviewed the three options, **Mr. Byk** asked Ms. Blake for her thoughts on the options. **Ms. Blake** explained that in general the Committee found that the statute is impossible to comply with as currently written. These three options are the best ways to handle the situation, however there is some doubt that options 1 and 2 are legal. She explained that assessments are based on market value, and in order to exempt these systems, they would have to add value first. What Peterborough did in the past was essentially option 1, which has been implemented by the assessors by not assessing the value of the systems; an increased value to the home was assumed, even though there is no proof of that in the market data, and an exemption was given. Ultimately the Committee was conflicted when it came to recommending an option to the Board.

Mr. Lambert asked if given that Options 1 and 2 may not be legal, why are they being discussed. Ms. Blake responded that there are 66 communities in New Hampshire that have adopted these provisions, and there is a split in how they are handled. The burden would be on the bringer of the suit to prove market value, and so they would be in the same boat as the town. **Ms. Brenner** said that she asked the town attorney to have the proposed articles reviewed by DRA; they did not have any problem with any of the three options. There was an extended discussion about the merits of each of the options.

Motion:

Mr. Byk made a motion to place Option 3 on the 2010 May Town Meeting Warrant; **Ms. Thomas** seconded.

Vote:

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

The Board then reviewed the warrant and determined the placement of warrant articles without statutory requirements. They then determined which Board member would move and second each article at both the Deliberative and Open Sessions.

As there was no further business, **Mr. Byk** made a motion to adjourn; **Ms. Thomas** seconded. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

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.