

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
Tuesday, November 9, 2010 – 5:00pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Joe Byk, Barbara Miller

Also Present: Pamela Brenner, Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay

Chair Byk called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. He then said that since the tax rate for 2010 was set earlier in the day, the Board will be diverting from the agenda to hear an explanation from Ms. Brenner. **Ms. Brenner** said that everyone has worked diligently to control costs, and expenses are down \$80,000 below last year's budget. Open positions have been left vacant, there has been an increase to prescription co-pays, and no merit increases. In addition, money was transferred from the West Peterborough TIF District and the town's reserve to further offset any increases and keep the town's portion of the tax rate flat. She then reviewed the formula used to calculate the tax rate. However, because of the changes to the school funding formula which were not beneficial to Peterborough, the overall tax rate has increased. There was some further discussion of the school portion of the tax rate. The Board thanked Ms. Brenner for her explanation and her diligence.

North Crossing

Chair Byk explained that the Board will not be making a decision on either the Main Street Bridge intersection or the North Crossing; rather they would be hearing an update from Mr. Bartlett on the status of the North Crossing design. **Mr. Bartlett** said that one of the key factors that the design team has been working on since the public hearing is the viability of a design for a temporary crossing given the regulatory concerns expressed by DES, DOT and others. The primary hurdle is to identify what stage of flood a temporary bridge has to be designed to. DES requires that the construction meet a 100 year storm, but that they would "for a good cause" entertain proposals down to 50 years. The bridge that the design team now envisions would only pass a 50 year storm by one foot at AW Peters. The center crossing does not work at all. At the Strand Building, the higher the bridge has to be, the more impact there would be on the wetlands. At this time the design team is focused on determining exactly what the 50 year storm is today. Until that determination is made, there is no way to decide if a north crossing is viable. **Mr. Bartlett** then concluded by saying that he is not certain of the timeframe, and that there is a contract amendment in process with DOT to pay for the design work which has amounted to about \$15,000 so far.

August Waters said that it appeared that Option 3 was drawn over a pond, and said that he didn't understand how building in the wetlands is possible. **Mr. Bartlett** said that it can be done with mitigation, and that from a flat piece of paper standpoint, it is an option that could be permitted if all the requirements are met. **Andrew Dunbar** said that Mr. Bartlett has spoken about potential parcels, but not taking, and asked how the property owner would be compensated for the town using the property. **Chair Byk** said that speaking for himself, regarding time, money and the best possible bridge, the seventy-year solution, the Town is not out to do the cheapest, quickest bridge, we are out to get the best bridge. **Mr. Bartlett** said that there is a cost to do the investigation, and there is a contract which the DOT approves in segments. Mr. Dunbar asked if that could be quantified; **Mr. Bartlett** said that it can.

Jenny Dilly said that it makes good sense that viability would be based on flooding, and that building does cause flooding. She then asked if it was the homeowners responsibility to get flood insurance against the temporary bridge. **Mr. Bartlett** said that he has asked Town Attorney that question, and that he does not have an answer yet. **Nancy Horowitz** asked how someone can replace wetlands. **Mr.**

Bartlett said that at the wastewater treatment plant one of the lagoon sites has been identified as a place of valuable wetlands area within the same watershed, and that area will be restored.

Gil Duval said that there are already three access roads into downtown Peterborough, and there are ways to get into town without the Main Street Bridge. He said that there are bridges enough, and if the Main Street Bridge is shut down it can be rebuilt in one calendar year. In his opinion, now is the time to be determining how the traffic will be diverted and how it will flow during construction, and he can't understand all the time and money being spent on a temporary bridge. **Chair Byk** said that every merchant, service provider and property owner in downtown Peterborough signed a petition to build a temporary bridge. **Mr. Waters** said that a business owner (Craig Hicks) who said that he had originally supported the temporary bridge does not because he assumed that the south crossing wasn't an option, but that must still be on the table. There was no discussion of a south crossing, even though the environmental impacts would be much less. He said that the town needs to be willing to look at the pluses and minuses of both. He said that he spoke with two members of the Heritage Commission after the public hearing, and they both said that they would prefer that option, and said that they hadn't been aware of it. **Chair Byk** said that he tends to agree with Mr. Hicks that they shouldn't spend \$1 million on a structure that will be torn down. **Mr. Bartlett** said that for clarity, the south crossing has a greater environmental impact than the first north crossing. **Ms. Horowitz** said that most people are not well informed, and that those opinions should be discounted. **Chair Byk** said that this issue will be on the ballot, and that he did not see a reason to combine both bridges into one warrant article. He said that if it is technically feasible, the voters will have to decide at Town Meeting with 60% of the vote.

Minutes of October 12, 26 and 27, 2010

Motion:

Ms. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes as written; **Chair Byk** seconded.

Vote:

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

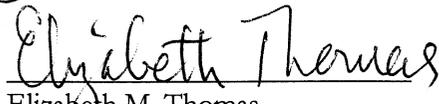
As there was no further business, **Ms. Miller** made a motion to adjourn; **Chair Byk** seconded. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 5:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole MacStay, Assistant to the Town Administrator

PETERBOROUGH
SELECT BOARD:

Joe Byk, Chair


Barbara A. Miller


Elizabeth M. Thomas

ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST

- 1.

