

**MINUTES**  
**SELECT BOARD**  
**TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH**  
Tuesday, January 4, 2011 – 6:00pm  
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

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

Gordon Kemp, Bertha Harris, Leslie Lewis, Steve Jones, Roland Patten, Jennifer Duffy

**Also Present:** Pamela Brenner, Nancie Vaihinger, Carol Ogilvie, Fash Farashahi, Michael Price, Linda Guyette, Nicole MacStay

---

**Chair Byk** welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

### **Craig Hicks – School Board Update**

**Mr. Hicks** gave the Board a brief summary of the District's proposed budget. He noted in particular that there has been a 16.1% increase in healthcare and another large increase in retirement. All together there were \$1.25 million in increases before they even began looking at the budget. The School Board reduced 21.5 staff members, and the maintenance has been outsourced. The School Board also looked at outsourcing the food service, but for the time being that will not change. The teachers union did vote to support the proposed contract, and the School Board will vote the same at the meeting being held concurrently.

Regarding building maintenance, **Mr. Hicks** said that in June 2010 the high school qualified for \$5.1m in state building aid, which means that the tax payers will only be asked to pay \$0.45 on each dollar spent. **Mr. Hicks** said that he will not postpone any maintenance that qualifies for the state aid, but will postpone the parking lot until 2012 or 2013 after the end of the bond. He added that while the package which received the aid in June included the alternative education building the Board may still consider repairs to the gym.

**Ms. Miller** asked if there will be another \$1.1 million bond issue on the March ballot. **Mr. Hicks** said that it will be in the operating budget. **Chair. Byk** asked why it was being included in the budget when it has been proposed as a bond for the last two years. **Mr. Hicks** said that the items are general maintenance such as roofing which he had hoped to spread out over five years at an interest rate of 3%, however it did not pass and Peterborough has been forced to absorb the cost. **Chair Byk** said that prior to the March 2010 meeting the School Board presented the voters with a budget and said that our tax bill would be a certain amount, but then when the bill came in the summer had increased by almost \$900,000 – a huge hit that Peterborough did not anticipate. **Mr. Hicks** responded by saying that the School Board brought what they understood to be the anticipated tax bill to the taxpayers given the data they had at that time. However when the valuations were released later in the spring all the other towns values went down while Peterborough's stayed relatively level, shifting a greater portion of the burden to Peterborough. **Chair Byk** asked if there was a way to sync the data with the budget. **Mr. Hicks** said that there really isn't; the budget is set in December, voted on in March, and then the tax rate is set nine months after that. **Ms. Miller** said that the SAC looked into rolling averages to avoid these spikes, but it is prohibited by law. There was further discussion about how the valuation of the district towns.

**Ms. Brenner** said that Peterborough has supported the school district over and over, and have only asked for one thing - \$47,000 for a school resource officer, but kept out of the budget and put on as

a special warrant article. **Mr. Hicks** said that the School Board voted in favor of the SRO but they wanted the voters to decide. He said that he wanted to bring something about the small schools, but the School Board did not do that. Francestown has 40 students with three teachers; it is unsustainable. Given the current economy the District should be able to mothball the building, but the School Board does not have that authority. The Board thanked **Mr. Hicks** for his years of supporting Peterborough.

### **Senator Peter Bragdon**

**Chair Byk** said that when three of the new State Representatives visited the Board the one concern expressed by the Select Board was downshifting. The Town has lost \$300,000 and the School District has lost about the same, and while both bodies are keeping their budgets flat the downshifting has had a profound effect on the tax payers. **Ms. Miller** asked **Senator Bragdon** supported the constitutional amendment to remove the state's education obligation. **Sen. Bragdon** said that as the Board is aware, the state is in a terrible financial situation. Much of the budget balancing in the last two years has been done by downshifting the shortfall, and to the best of his ability **Sen. Bragdon** intends to stop that. He said that he cannot guarantee that the shared revenue will come back; he said that he is not sure that the state should be in the business of subsidizing, but he does recognize that a lot was downshifted rather than deal with the State's core spending issues. He said that he does support the amendment because he believes that decisions are best made at the local level, and funding is best at the local level with state funding as necessary. **Ms. Brenner** said that her concern is how the aid gets targeted. **Sen. Bragdon** said that there is still a funding formula based on a certain amount per pupil and the wealth of the community. **Ms. Brenner** said that Peterborough is very middle class, and that in her opinion if they do not have the state contributing as it currently is, Peterborough will lose out. **Sen. Bragdon** replied by saying that as the system is currently the State cannot afford to pay its obligations.

**Sen. Bragdon** said that some downshifting came from the retirement system, which is in bad shape. The new legislature will pass significant reforms that may only apply to new hires, and changes to the Board, half of whom are recipients of the pension. **Chair Byk** asked if the Senate had the will to make those changes. **Sen. Bragdon** said that they will, and added that he tips his hat to Anne Marie Irwin who worked very hard on this issue before resigning. He said that the Senate has twelve new members, eight of whom run small businesses. **Chair Byk** said that one of his pet peeves is that while everyone should be entitled to retirement, twenty years is very generous, and the spiking issue needs to be resolved. **Sen. Bragdon** agreed, and said that one of the structural changes is to base retirement compensation on base salary only. All nineteen members of the Republican caucus agrees with applying those changes to all new hires, but balk at applying changes to vested employees. He said that **Ms. Brenner** has been a trooper on this issue, and while there is no number for the bill yet, Jeb Bradley is the sponsor. **Ms. Lewis** asked if he knows what kinds of savings will be made with these reforms. **Sen. Bragdon** he does not have an estimate yet because it a number of different reforms, but they have asked the retirement system to provide some numbers. He added that the first bill that the Senate will act on is the repeal of the evergreen language. He said that over 80% of union negotiations are at an impasse because of that language.

**Ms. Brenner** asked how **Sen. Bragdon** will solve the state's problems. **Sen. Bragdon** said that in the budget address the Governor will present a number of bold initiatives that will change the way the state looks at things. He said that the Senate will lead by example; they have cut \$250,000 off of their \$2 million budget just by making some changes to how things are done. **Chair Byk** asked about the relationship between the Senate leadership and the Governor. **Sen. Bragdon** said that the Governor comes from a business background, and so they are often on the same page. **Chair Byk**

asked if the State is now able to track revenues and expenditures. Sen. Bragdon said that they do finally have an expense report, and the next step is to move that into the human resources module. The Board thanked **Sen. Bragdon** for taking the time to visit.

### Comcast Tourism Advertisement

At this time **Ms. MacStay** played the tourism advertisement that Comcast produced for Peterborough as a thank you for assisting with an upcoming project. She explained that Comcast will be working with Peterborough on a project to help them better understand how their customers are using cable and internet services. Five communities were chosen around the country for this project; Peterborough was chosen to represent small towns outside of large media markets because the town has had such a good working relationship with Comcast. **Ms. Miller** asked where the advertisement would be shown. **Ms. MacStay** said that it would be shown in all Comcast towns in the Greater Boston Media Market which stretches from Portland ME to Providence RI and west to Worcester MA and most of southern NH. The Board was very happy with the advertisement.

As there was no further business, **Chair Byk** made a motion to adjourn the Select Board meeting; **Ms. Miller** seconded. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.

### Joint Select Board and Budget Committee Meeting

**Chair Kemp** called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

#### Town Clerk Proposed Budget

|                               | FY 2011    | FY 2012    | % Inc. or Dec. |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| Net Operating                 | \$-765,094 | \$-776,828 | -1.5%          |
| Net Capital                   | 0          | 0          | NA             |
| To be raised through taxation | \$-765,094 | \$-776,828 | -1.5%          |

**Linda Guyette**, Town Clerk, said that her budget is pretty flat. There is a small increase in revenues, but it cannot be guaranteed to hold next year. There was also a small decrease in expenditures because there will not be a November election in 2011. This year the Supervisors of the Checklist will purge the voters checklist of all non-residents. **Ms. Thomas** asked if she is able to register boats yet. **Ms. Guyette** said that she has not yet gotten a response, but she is not giving up. It is lost revenue for the town.

#### Library Proposed Budget

|                               | FY 2011   | FY 2012   | % Inc. or Dec. |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Net Operating                 | \$504,716 | \$516,286 | 2.3%           |
| Net Capital                   | 0         | 0         | 0              |
| To be raised through taxation | \$504,716 | \$516,286 | 2.3%           |

**Michael Price**, Library Director, began by stating that in 2012 personnel will account for 75% of library costs. The three biggest increases were in health insurance, workers compensation and retirement. All other costs are down between 1 and 2%. He said that the only major expenditure is the estimated \$6,600 it will cost to replace the failing ductwork. **Chair Kemp** said that it appeared to be a reasonable budget.

Library Trustee **David Simpson** distributed charts illustrating the library activities. He said that thanks to a grant the Trustees were able to install people counters at the doors. He said that there

was greater activity in the summer, which reflected the children's programs. There were also fourteen special programs which were supported through the Friends of the Library program. Inter Library Loans and computer and internet usage has increased tremendously. **Ms. Thomas** asked how many people have used the library. **Mr. Simpson** said that between March when the counters were installed and December there were 59,000 visits to the library.

### IMS Proposed Budget

|                               | FY2011      | FY 2012     | % Inc. or Dec. |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Net Operating                 | \$100,518   | \$100,519   | 0%             |
| Net Capital                   | \$53,100    | \$52,600    | -0.3%          |
| To be raised through taxation | \$1,248,377 | \$1,320,248 | -0.3%          |

**Fash Farashahi**, IMS Coordinator, said that overall the budget is flat. Computer Services went down because with two staff members the consultant is only called in for catastrophic repairs or security issues. Licenses, Support and Upgrades is up slightly because many licenses are due for renewal this year, telephone is up to reflect the two cell phones. **Chair Kemp** asked if they intend to buy more desktops this year than before. **Mr. Farashahi** said that the increase is due to two high-end printers which are purchased out of that line.

**Chair Byk** asked if instead of buying mapping photos for the Geographic Information System (GIS) the town could use Google Maps or Bing. **Mr. Farashahi** explained that five years ago when the Town did its last flyover he traded those photos to Google. This year the town was included in the state program, and we will receive updated high resolution photos at no cost. In four years when the town does its flyover again, they will also do topographic updates at the same time.

### Office of Community Development

|                               | FY2011    | FY 2012   | % Inc. or Dec. |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Net Operating                 | \$237,987 | \$252,470 | 6.1%           |
| Net Special Articles          | \$10,000  | \$20,000  | 100%           |
| To be raised through taxation | \$247,987 | \$272,470 | 9.9%           |

**Carol Ogilvie**, Director of the Office of Community Development, explained that the reason for the increase is the increase cost of health insurance. When **Tom Weeks** retired last year it took a sizeable chunk out of the budget, and by making **Dario Carrara** full time next year, that cost is being added back in.

The second large increase is the request for \$20,000 to fund the GIS system. OCD has not asked for that money for the last two years, but this year they would like to bring it back so that they can save up for the next data update and the paper match for aerial photos. **Chair Kemp** asked if that money wasn't appropriated what would happen; those maps are available for use by developers and anyone who has a dispute, are there any other uses? **Ms. Ogilvie** said that it is available for all those uses and then some. She explained that at this time almost every committee uses that information. Google Maps doesn't have all of the property lines or other data layers that the town pays for. **Mr. Farashahi** added that he and **Mr. Bartlett** traced the money they saved on the North Crossing project, and just for that effort the GIS system saved the town between \$10,000 and \$15,000. **Ms. Miller** said that she is very supportive of the expenditure, and said that she can't say how many times that the Board has used GIS data. **Chair Kemp** said that he is also supportive, and if someone asks why we are spending money to maintain the system, that is why.

**Conservation Commission**

|                               | FY2011  | FY 2012 | % Inc. or Dec. |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|----------------|
| Net Operating                 | \$2,000 | \$2,000 | 0%             |
| Net Capital                   | 0       | 0       | 0              |
| To be raised through taxation | \$2,000 | \$2,000 | 0%             |

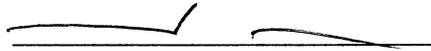
**Ms. Brenner** stated that the Conservation Commission’s request is identical to FY 2011.

**Mr. Lambert** asked **Ms. Brenner** if she could see the budget coming in flat with some of the costs such as retirement going up. **Ms. Brenner** said that the Committee needs to keep in mind that the CIP is down, and their goal is to bring the budget in flat, and while she does not think that the budget will be flat, she does believe that it will be close; there just isn’t much to cut at. **Mr. Lambert** said that there is a new position in the Library budget for six hours a week. **Ms. Vaihinger** said that they reduced the book line to pay for that position.

As there was no further business, **Chair Kemp** adjourned the meeting at 7:29pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Nicole MacStay, Assistant to the Town Administrator

PETERBOROUGH  
 SELECT BOARD:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Joe Byk, Chair

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Barbara A. Miler

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elizabeth M. Thomas

**ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST**

- 1.

