

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
Tuesday, March 9, 2010 – 7:00pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Joe Byk, Barbara Miller, Gordon Kemp, Robert Lambert, Steve Jones, Suzy Mansfield, Bertha Harris, Jennifer Duffy, Roland Patten

Also Present: Pamela Brenner, Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay

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

7:00pm – Public Hearing – Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2011

Chair Miller explained that the budget process was difficult this year due to increased commodities costs and decreased revenues, particularly from the State. Department Heads were asked to maintain the same basic level of service that residents have come to expect, while maintaining a flat budget. The Board thanked all the hard work done by Ms. Brenner, Ms. Vaihinger, all the department heads and the Budget Committee. **Chair Miller** then turned the meeting over to **Chair Kemp**.

Fran Chapman asked if those in attendance would be presented with a budget that has the unanimous support of both the Budget Committee and the Select Board; **Chair Kemp** said that would be the case. **Mr. Chapman** asked if there would be any possibility of swaying either the Budget Committee or the Select Board; **Chair Kemp** said that it was all open to discussion.

Chair Kemp began by saying that the majority of the budgets are down or flat. He said that he would ask Ms. Brenner to explain the new Landfill Maintenance line. **Ms. Brenner** said that encompasses the ongoing pollution abatement at the Scott Mitchell Landfill. **Mr. Kemp** noted that overall the subtotal of the budgets shows a 4.3% increase; the special articles are down 2.4%, department-generated revenues are mostly stable. **Mr. Kemp** then reviewed the capital revenues, including bond revenues.

Ms. Harris asked why Human Services has increase \$15,000; **Ms. Brenner** explained that there has been an increased demand from residents because of the economy. She added that the Human Services Fund which runs the Food Pantry have also been of great assistance. **Mr. Kemp** added that it must be kept in mind that if a person qualifies for aid, it must be given to them regardless of the budget.

Mr. Duval asked why the Water and Sewer Department were included in the General Operating Budget. **Mr. Kemp** said that it was required by law, regardless of the fact that those budgets are offset by fees. **Mr. Byk** added that other revolving funds, such as the Recreation Revolving fund are subject to the same Gross Budgeting law. **Ms. Brenner** showed how that is reflected in the expenses and the revenues sections of the Budget Summary. There were no further questions on the summary page.

Town Clerk

Chair Kemp noted that this budget was almost flat. **Mr. Chapman** asked regarding motor vehicle fees, he understood the fees went up. **Chair Kemp** explained that the State fees went up, and all

that money went to the State. **Ms. Brenner** explained that all that money went to the State's account, and does not pass through the Town's budget.

Mr. Chapman asked about health insurance. **Ms. Brenner** said that health insurance has increased. She explained that town employees pay 20% of their premiums; there was an approximately 18% in premiums, which was reduced by increasing co-pays.

Financial Administration

Chair Kemp noted that the budget is virtually flat; **Ms. Vaihinger** said that an employee who had previously waived insurance is not taking it. She noted that the Revenue Sharing which the State cut is reflected in the Finance Administration's revenues. **Mr. Chapman** said that there is a budget of \$16,000 in Printing, but is not fully expended. **Ms. Vaihinger** said that payroll checks will be ordered towards the end of the year, and also includes the Town Report, which has not yet been published. **Mr. Chapman** asked how much it costs; **Ms. MacStay** said that the 2008 report cost \$4,730 to publish. **Mr. Duval** asked what was included in the Other Professional Services line; **Ms. Brenner** said that is mostly the cost of the contracted Assessor.

Technology

Chair Kemp said that this budget covers the town's computers and networks. **Mr. Farashahi** said that the budget is down 13% due to cost accounting to the revolving funds. **Ms. Mansfield** asked about the money that the town would not be spending on Downtown Wi-Fi would have come out of this budget; **Ms. Brenner** that the maintenance costs would have been budgeted here. **Ms. Brenner** added that the town has come a long way since she joined the town fifteen years ago. She added that as **Mr. Byk** has said for years, the way the town will weather the economic downturn will be to rely more on technology. There was a brief discussion regarding the expenses averted by increased technology usage.

Buildings and Grounds

Chair Kemp noted that the budget is down. **Mr. Bartlett** said that the only increase in the budget is in employee insurance. **Mr. Chapman** asked where the new boiler is in the budget. **Mr. Bartlett** said that in fact he was going to ask the Board and Budget Committee to include a \$100,000 expenditure from the capital reserve fund established for that purpose. He added that there are two grants applications being reviewed which would help to offset the cost of the new boiler. **Mr. Duval** asked what type of boiler was being considered; **Mr. Bartlett** said that it depended on whether or not the town is successful in securing the grants; it may be wood pellet, or it may be propane, which are more efficient.

Conservation Commission

Chair Kemp asked what the increase in the Other Professional Services included; **Ms. Brenner** explained that those reflect the fees that Charter Trust assess for managing their accounts.

Police

Chief Guinard reviewed the increases in the budget, the bulk of which were reflected in increased maintenance costs and price of goods. However overall the expenditure budget is down slightly. Revenues were down 4.44%. There was a discussion about the revenue from the Town of Sharon,

which was being voted on at their Town Meeting being held concurrently to this hearing. **Mr. Chapman** asked for an update on the responses to the high school and how it affects the budget. **Chief Guinard** said that it is hard to quantify that; the Department's responses to the high school this year are roughly the same as last year. **Mr. Duval** asked about the mileage line. **Chief Guinard** replied that if he requires an officer to do a take on a day which they would normally not be working and they must drive their personal vehicle, that line reimburses that cost. **Mr. Duval** asked the Budget Committee to increase the maintenance for the Police Department to repair the upper windows and to insulate the roof. **Ms. Mansfield** asked if police from other towns ever responded to the high school; **Chief Guinard** said that they do not have the authority to do so, unless authority is relayed to them. There was a discussion about the cost of policing regional services such as the high school and the possible School Resource Officer paid for by both the school district and the town. **Mr. Patten** asked if \$3,000 would be enough for the building maintenance costs. **Chief Guinard** said that it has been in the past, and most of the repairs are done by the Buildings and Grounds staff. There was a discussion about the insulation of the Police Department. **Mr. Duval** said that in his opinion Peterborough has one of the finest police departments in the state, and that was thanks largely to Chief Guinard.

Fire Department

Chief Lenox reviewed the increases in expenditures due primarily to overtime, dispatching and other professional services. Other increases have been offset by transfers from trust funds. **Chief Lenox** then spoke to the Pumper truck which has been proposed as a special warrant article. **Mr. Chapman** asked about the protective clothing. **Chief Lenox** said that ten to fifteen sets of clothing are replaced every year. There was a brief discussion regarding the maintenance of the fire hydrants.

At this time, **Chair Miller** read the results of the school district ballot, noting that the Peterborough voters voted 'yes' on all warrant articles.

Emergency Management

Chief Lenox said that there was a slight increase in insurance and retirement; the rest remained the same.

Human Services

Ms. Brenner stated that as she said before, the increase is primarily in direct relief.

Community Development

Mr. Farashahi explained that the revenues are down due to the lack of construction. The expenditures are also down, reflecting the change to the Code Officer's status from full-time to part-time. **Chair Kemp** noted that is down almost 10% overall.

Highways

Mr. Chapman asked what was included in Sidewalks; **Mr. Bartlett** said that it includes expenditures related to the maintenance of sidewalks. There was discussion about the sidewalk tractor that will be purchased to augment the trackless. **Dick Freeman** asked how many miles of streets will be maintained next year; **Mr. Bartlett** said that typically they repair five miles each year.

Recycling

Mr. Bartlett said that there are funds for repairs to the Mini Mall and storage buildings. **Mr. Lambert** asked if the Food Pantry and Mini Mall will be paid out of the Recreation Budget. **Ms. Brenner** said that the heating costs of the Food Pantry will continue to come out of the general fund.

Pay as You Throw

There were no questions.

Landfill Maintenance

Chair Kemp said that this money goes to the monitoring and cleanup of the EMS and Scott Mitchell landfill sites. The money comes from the insurance settlements. These revenues and expenses must be tracked in the operating budget. **Mr. Bartlett** said that there are three pieces that make up the expenditures; under DES regulations those sites must be monitored. There are also cleanup costs stemming from the dumping of solvents at the Scott Mitchell landfill. The town works with New Hampshire Ball Bearing on that. **Mr. Chapman** asked if there was any risk to our aquifers due to this contamination; **Mr. Bartlett** said that the flows from the sites are away from our water supply, and the wells have been recently tested. **Ms. Mansfield** asked about testing at the river. **Mr. Bartlett** said that this is the first year that the river has shown a reduction in contamination. **Mr. Duval** asked if there was any way this testing and remediation could be done in house; **Mr. Bartlett** said that it could not, and that the job requires a very high degree of technical skill and knowhow.

Parks

Ms. Mansfield asked about uniforms; **Chair Kemp** said that every public works employee is now required to wear a uniform.

Recreation

Chair Kemp noted that this budget is down 4%. **Mr. King** reviewed the reductions in revenues from trust funds and private donations. Expenditures are down almost 14%.

Recreation Revolving Fund

Chair Kemp noted that this budget is entirely self-supporting. **Mr. Chapman** asked if since there is a decline in school enrollment was there also a decline in recreation department usage. **Mr. King** said that in fact demand has gone up. He said that the Recreation Department also offers programming for adults as well as children.

Ambulance

Chief Lenox first thanked the PFRA for their donation of a \$25,000 cardiac monitor. He then noted the increases to the expenditure budget, primarily in Overtime, Dispatch and Vehicle Maintenance. **Mr. Duval** asked if there were any full time ambulance staff; **Chief Lenox** said that he is the only full-time PFR employee, the rest are part-time staff.

Ambulance Tax Supported

Chair Kemp explained that this budget shows the repayment for the purchase of the ambulance. **Ms. Brenner** said that this will be the last year of revenue for the purchase of the last ambulance.

Cemetery

Mr. Chapman asked why the Cemetery needs postage. **Mr. Lambert** said that they do need to mail out bills for the annual care of cemetery plots.

Library

Chair Kemp noted that the budget is up 2.6%. **Mr. Chapman** asked about the increase to building repairs; **Mr. Brown** explained that that expense is for work to the library steps, foundation, painting of the outside trim, reference room lights, floor mats at the doorways, carpet cleaning and bathroom ventilation.

Debt Service

There were no questions.

Heritage Commission

There were no questions.

PEG Station

Ms. MacStay explained that the PEG Station revolving fund is funded by a surcharge paid by Comcast subscribers and is used to support the PEG Station.

West Peterborough TIF

Mr. Bartlett explained that the expenditures represent the bond payments for the bond used to pay for infrastructure improvements in West Peterborough.

Downtown TIF

There were no questions.

MCHC TIF District

Ms. Mansfield asked where that revenue would be coming from; **Mr. Byk** explained that some of the new construction will be taxable.

Water and Wastewater

Mr. Lambert asked where the revenue besides the Fire Department's revenue comes from. **Ms. Vaihinger** said that there are some private hydrants, for instance the hydrant at Shaws. **Ms. Mansfield** questioned the necessity of the Water Week expenditures. **Mr. Bartlett** explained the

program and its costs, and added that the Water Department does have other printing costs, including the printing associated with the Consumer Confidence Report.

Ms. Brenner asked for a vote from the body to amend the budget to include \$100,000 for the replacement of the Town House boilers which would be offset by revenue from the Capital Reserve Fund established for that purpose.

Motion:

Mr. Byk made a motion to amend the budget to include an appropriation of \$100,000 for the replacement of the Town House boilers with offsetting revenue to come from the Town House Boiler Capital Reserve Fund; **Ms. Miller** seconded.

Vote:

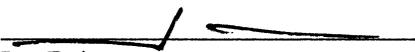
The motion passed with unanimous consent of both the Budget Committee and the Select Board.

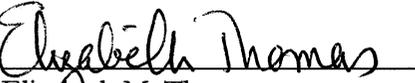
As there was no further business, **Chair Kemp** closed the public hearing and adjourned the meeting at 9:10pm.

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.