

**MINUTES**  
**SELECT BOARD**  
**TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH**  
Tuesday, July 12, 2011 – 7:00pm  
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

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

**Also Present:** Pamela Brenner, Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay

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

**7:00pm – Assignment of Raymond Conservation Easement at Otter Brook Farm Public Hearing**

**Susan Stanbury**, member of the Conservation Commission, explained that this is a 14 acre easement which runs as a buffer along Otter Brook. The original intent in 1076 was protection of the stream corridor. This past month the Harris center has taken over the abutting 470 acre easement. Both the Harris Center and the Conservation Commission thought it would make good sense to allow the Harris Center to take charge of this small strip of an easement. **Chair Miller** asked if it was currently the town's responsibility to monitor. **Ms. Stanbury** said that it is. She added that the Harris Center does not expect the town to make any contribution other than paying the fee to the registry of deeds. Last month the Conservation Commission voted to convey the easement to the Harris Center, and the deed does allow this transfer. **Ms. Stanbury** then read from that section of the deed. **Ms. Thomas** asked if it is correct to say that the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests backs the Harris Center. **Ms. Stanbury** said that is correct, they have been notified of this transaction and they have no problem. As there was no further question, the Board closed the public hearing. **Ms. Brenner** said that the second public hearing will be scheduled for August 2, 2011.

**David Chesley – Representative Charlie Bass' Office**

**Mr. Chesley** explained that he works in Rep. Bass' Nashua office and handles the outreach to governments, non-profits and interest groups in Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties. He has been holding public office hours, attending Select Board meetings and Economic Development meetings. Working with Mr. Bartlett he has made phone calls to Federal Department of Transportation, and miraculously Mr. Bartlett has received a call back. In addition to facilitating grants, coordinating efforts between local entities and federal agencies, he also helps to keep Rep. Bass informed with what is happening in town, though obviously he is very familiar with what is happening in Peterborough.

**Mr. Byk** asked if this would be an appropriate time to ask about the congressman's policy decisions; **Mr. Chesley** said that it would be. **Mr. Byk** said that he reads many of the state's papers every day, and asked if the congressman voted to defund NPR or Planned Parenthood. **Mr. Chesley** said that he did vote to defund NPR, which was a difficult vote for him, and so he immediately contributed to them as a private citizen. He then explained that the Planned Parenthood vote is Title 10 funding, which he did not vote for because it would have also defunded rural health clinics, which are very important, particularly the further north you go. **Mr. Byk** then asked **Mr. Chesley** to speak to the debt ceiling and how it has been coupled with deficit reduction and the plan put forward by President Obama. **Mr. Chesley** said that right now that is the only issue being talked about. **Rep. Bass** is not directly involved in the conversation, and is waiting to see what comes out. He voted on

a previous package which included closing loopholes coupled with cuts to offset the increased debt ceiling, but he is taking a wait-and-see approach.

**Ms. Thomas** said that regarding Medicare Rep. Bass said previously that people would be better off with a voucher. **Mr. Chesley** said that Rep. Bass did vote for the Ryan budget, which did include an overhaul of Medicare, which he considered a starting point. Medicare will run out in 2022-24, and Social Security is also in a dangerous situation, though not a precarious. The budget he did vote for is not binding, it is not signed by the president, it is simply to set a direction for discussions. **Ms. Brenner** said that Congress passed the defense budget – we continue to fight a war in Afghanistan and Iraq, building infrastructure there, while the infrastructure here is suffering. **Mr. Chesley** said that both the House and Senate have passed resolutions to draw down now just troops but also resources, to Afghanistan specifically. They will be meeting with the Defense Secretary to review those options. Rep. Bass voted for those.

**Chair Miller** said the town applies often for Federal grants, and asked what can we expect for help from Rep. Bass. **Mr. Chesley** said we would be more than happy to write a letter, I have made phone calls to find out about where grants are, what the timeline is, our office is willing to bring in the Economic Development Administrator; we facilitated that meeting in another town for a small business development. We are more than happy to assist. I called the state DOT on behalf of Peterborough to get a definitive “yes” on if the Route 202 project is moving to the Federal DOT project list. They have indicated yes, but now I will go to Federal Highway and find out if they have control yet. **Mr. Byk** said any nudge is appreciated; we are 29-30 months into planning. **Mr. Chesley** said that he has found it to be a frustrating process; it has taken more than a month to get a call back from NH DOT. The problem with the specific project is that it was on NH DOT list as starting on a specific date, but then it was removed – it is in some sort of limbo, as partially already started, and partially not started. **Ms. Brenner** said that she and Mr. Bartlett have a meeting with Sen. Bragdon and Sen. Morse to talk about this issue. **Mr. Chesley** said that the state officials really control the purse strings, and Sen. Bragdon can bring the DOT before the Senate anytime he wants, which should be a significant deterrent for them. But you are not alone.

**James Callihan** said that I has a request for you to convey to Rep. Bass – as a man who is in his 13<sup>th</sup> year, all we hear are fights – if he truly is a moderate republican, it would be nice if he would let us know how he really feels, rather than waiting – this is an important thing to get done now. **Mr. Chesley** said he has had six town hall meetings – tonight he is having a tele-town hall meeting, specifically on this issue. He has heard every side of the issue, and he is getting the message, and he has conveyed the message back.

### **Boat Registration**

**Town Clerk Linda Guyette** said that we have been waiting for more than two years for the state to reinstate Peterborough as a boat agent to register boats for people in and around people. Since 2005 we could, and for a short period of time no one in the office had the proper credentials so the State took away that ability. The first thing she did in May 2009 was to start that process. At that time the state was revamping the process. She was told that I had to sit tight until the new system was in place, so she did. That fall she asked where we were in that process, they said that we had to be put on a list. She has asked everyone from the people at the MA desk, the people in charge of boat registrations for the state, and last December I sent a letter to Richard Bailey. He had indicated previously that they were in favor of getting towns back into registering boats, but nothing has happened. They always respond, but they do not respond honestly. She has been told that there has been an issue with towns who use a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor to do registrations. Other towns have been put

on as a pilot town using the MAT system – the state implied that there was a problem printing registrations, but Ware said that they had no trouble. She did want to say that they are lying, but they are not giving the full story.

**Chair Miller** asked where was it left. **Ms. Guyette** said that the last email from Karen was regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> party software/printing issue. They said that they would be in touch when a solution is found – I already responded, and asked why they are not facilitating Peterborough's registration. **Ms. Thomas** asked what she thought the Select Board can do to assist. **Ms. Brenner** said that we can go to Sen. Bragdon again. **Mr. Byk** asked if legal counsel could write a letter, which **Chair Miller** supported.

### **Agriculture Commission**

#### **Motion:**

**Mr. Byk** made a motion to appoint Anne Aasgaard, Jonathan Hampson, Mary Duffy Monahan, Dan Holmes, Ruth Holmes and Emily Drury as regular members and Abby Holmes as an alternate member of the Agriculture Commission for one year; **Ms. Thomas** seconded.

#### **Vote:**

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

#### **Motion:**

**Mr. Byk** made a motion to reappoint Cyrus Gregg and Hope Taylor to the Economic Development Authority; Rick Monahan and Craig Hicks to the Downtown TIF Advisory Board; Swift Corwin to the Master Plan Steering Committee and Sharon Monahan to the Water Resources Advisory Committee; **Ms. Thomas** seconded.

#### **Vote:**

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

### **Employee Handbook for Temporary and Seasonal Employees**

**Nancie Vaihinger**, Finance Director, said that the Board has already approved the regular employee handbook. This has made the document a lot shorter by removing anything that does not apply to them. There are those that are the same, and those who are different. There were a couple of things that had to be updated because of changes to laws. I will also have to update the regular employee handbook as well.

#### **Motion:**

**Mr. Byk** made a motion to accept the Handbook for Temporary and Seasonal Employees; **Ms. Thomas** seconded.

#### **Vote:**

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

**Ms. Brenner** said that she and **Ms. Vaihinger** are now grappling with the Healthcare Reform legislation, specifically with a requirement due to go into effect in 2014 which states that any employer over a certain size will have to offer insurance of some kind. There will be budget impacts in the future. **Ms. Vaihinger** said that we are not sure what essential health benefits means – we will have to work on this next summer. **Ms. Brenner** added that there has already been some impact

from healthcare reform anyone with a child between 18-26 must be covered. We have always allowed the employee to continue that coverage, but they had to pay for it. Now the town needs to pay for that continued coverage. We are also grappling with the reforms to the NH retirement system it will hopefully stop the escalation of what the town pays, but it has become very complicated.

### **Road Repaving Bond Award**

**Ms. Vaihinger** said that in May 2010 Town Meeting passed an article for a \$250,000 bond to cover roadwork, which was completed in 2010. She said that she received two responses to her RFP, one from Lake Sunapee Bank and the other from Northway Bank. **Ms. Vaihinger** then reviewed the details of those responses, and recommended that the Select Board award the bond to Northway Bank.

#### **Motion:**

**Mr. Byk** made a motion to award the financing of the Road Repaving Project in the amount of \$250,000 to Northway Bank for a five year term at a fixed interest rate of 2.17%; **Ms. Thomas** seconded.

#### **Vote:**

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

### **Accounting and Auditing Services**

**Ms. Vaihinger** explained that Mason and Rich has been our auditing firm – they say that because of the new rules, they are supposed to be given the completed audit by the town, which they would review, and then write the management letter. I do not have the time or the staff to do this. Mason and Rich suggested that they continue to do this, but we hire a separate auditing firm. **Mr. Byk** asked if this is the auditing of the auditor; **Ms. Vaihinger** said that yes, that is the joke. I have the engagement letter from Mason and Rich for \$8,500, and two bids from two auditing firms. She then reviewed the details of the bids, and recommended that we sign the engagement letter with Mason and Rich, and award to Roberts, Green, Drolet, PLLC for \$12,264. **Ms. Brenner** said that we did a cost/benefit analysis of bringing in temporary staff, but this is cheaper in the long run. **Ms. Vaihinger** added that she has done a few things to cut down on those costs.

#### **Motion:**

**Mr. Byk** made a motion to proceed with the engagement of auditing services as recommended by **Ms. Vaihinger**; **Ms. Thomas** seconded.

#### **Vote:**

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

### **Downtown TIF Expenditure Request**

**Ms. Brenner** explained that she, **Ms. Ogilvie** and **Mr. Bartlett** are working on a conceptual parking plan for the municipal parking lot on Wall Street in light of the development of the Granite Block. This will cost \$5,500 from the Greater Downtown TIF fund.

#### **Motion:**

**Mr. Byk** made a motion to approve the expenditure; **Ms. Thomas** seconded.

**Vote:**

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

**Review and Approval of Minutes of June 7<sup>th</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2011**

**Motion:**

**Ms. Thomas** made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; **Mr. Byk** seconded.

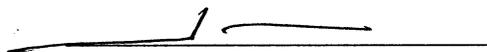
**Vote:**

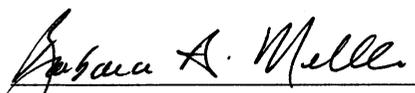
**Ms. Thomas, Mr. Byk and Chair Miller** voted in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

As there was no further business, **Ms. Thomas** made a motion to adjourn; **Chair Miller** seconded. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nicole MacStay, Assistant to the Town Administrator

PETERBOROUGH  
SELECT BOARD:

  
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Joe Byk,

  
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Barbara A. Miler

  
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Elizabeth M. Thomas

**ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST**

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