

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
Tuesday, August 16, 2016 – 5:00pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Barbara Miller, Ed Juengst, Tyler Ward

Also Present: Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay, Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla, Dan Weeks, Rob Werner, Ron McIntyre, Linda Guyette

Chair Juengst called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

League of Conservation Voters recognition of renewable energy achievements

Mr. Rob Werner, State Director of the League of Conservation Voters presented Mr. Bartlett with a plaque to recognize Peterborough's accomplishments within the realm of renewable energy achievement of the largest solar array in NH at the Wastewater Treatment plant.

Discussion of moving voting to Community Center

Ms. Macstay presented concerns about holding voting in the Upper Hall, with crowds, long lines, and accessibility issues. It had been discussed in the past about moving the voting process to the Community Center. Ms. Guyette explained that parking is an issue, and accessibility is a large part of wanting to move the voting location. Our residents are getting older, the election will be in November and icy conditions are a consideration. The space at the Community Center would be more conducive to the voting procedure. Ms. Miller expressed that she has thought about this issue, with the increase in voter participation because of a presidential election and considering people's safety, could move the venue on a trial basis. She also expressed the need for getting the word out on absentee ballots. Ms. Miller also expressed that it was a good way to familiarize people with the community center and make it more of a social event. Mr. Ward expressed his concern with making sure that the community is well aware of the change of venue, using adequate signage and publicity. Mr. Juengst was concerned with consistency of the choice of venue. Ms. Miller suggested exit polling as people leave the building. Mr. Juengst also brought up the food pantry hours of operation as it is in the same building during voting hours and the sensitivity of those who use the pantry.

Motion: Ms. Miller made a motion to change the location for voting to the Community Center on a trial basis for the upcoming Presidential election in November.

Vote: Mr. Ward seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Water and Sewer Rates

Mr. Bartlett explained that since the budget was approved, our rate model allows for calculation of the water and sewer rate and make a projection for revenues to accommodate the upcoming budget. The last rate increase was FY 2012. After running the rate model, a 3-5% rate increase would support balancing the budget. He suggested a 5% rate increase; the anticipated yearly cost \$541.41 for a household with an average of 9000 cu ft of water per year. State average is \$473.60 so this would be slightly above the state average. Ms. Miller asked why he chose the upper level of increase. Mr. Bartlett explained that we have no unreserved fund balance. In the event that there is an expenditure necessary, it is not recommended business practice to borrow from general funds to be paid back the following year. Having a reserve balance is the more prudent financial choice. Mr. Juengst commented on the credibility of the models and supported the increase and business practice. Mr. Bartlett explained that the wastewater budget is more complex than water budget and is a larger percentage of the operating cost with disposal and energy demand. NH State Aid grant is \$200,000 per year, subject to funding availability. If there were a loss of that funding, it would require a 17% increase in our rate to balance the operating costs. He suggested an increase to help create an unreserved fund balance by increasing the rates in the event that

the grant becomes unavailable. 15% percent increase is recommended. The state average is \$593. Taking this increase into consideration, our rate would be \$685 per year average. The solar array is saving \$25,000 per year to help deflect these costs. This would go into effect next billing cycle. Miller asked that if towns are able to generate their own unreserved fund balances, would the state then recognize that towns are not in need of these funds and therefore not make them available. Mr. Bartlett answered that the water/wastewater department does not have an unreserved fund balance, which would be a good business practice. Mr. Bartlett explained that the current legislature which provides these funds recognizes the importance of water quality in the area.

Motion: Mr. Juengst made a motion to increase water rates and fees by 5% and sewer rates and fees by 15% to be billed in the next billing cycle in October.

Vote: Ms. Miller seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Letter of Support – TAP grant application

Mr. Bartlett reviewed the Transportation Alternatives Program to improve pedestrian and bicycle transportation and to promote pedestrian attractiveness through the center of town connecting Summer Street and the Rail Trail. He asked for a letter of recommendation from the Select Board of which the Select Board agreed to sign.

Letter of Support – Community Hydro

Laurie Barge will be applying to the PUC for a grant to make the hydro station functional and is requesting a letter support for this grant. The Select Board approved of this letter of support.

Appointment of Matt Lundstead to Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee.

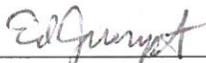
Motion: Mr. Ward made a motion to appoint Mr. Lundstead to the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee.

Vote: Ms. Miller seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

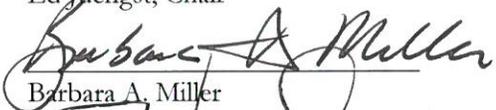
As there was no more business to discuss at 6:04 pm Mr. Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Miller seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla, Department Assistant

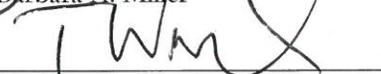
PETERBOROUGH
SELECT BOARD:



Ed Juengst, Chair



Barbara A. Miller



Tyler Ward