

**MINUTES**  
**SELECT BOARD**  
**TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH**  
Tuesday, June 19, 2012 – 6:30pm  
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

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

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

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**Chair Miller** called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**State Representative Ken Hawkins**

**Rep. Hawkins** thanked the Board for allowing him to introduce himself. He said that he is a five-term representative from Bedford. He is a member of the American Legion, and a veteran of the Marine Corps. He said that he served under Anne-Marie Irwin in the Executive Departments and Administration Committee, and is now the vice-chair of the same. This term he sat on the Special Committee for Public Employee Pensions Reform where he feels they finally made some progress. He then reviewed some of the provisions of what was ultimately passed as SB 3.

**Rep. Hawkins** then addressed his key issues: he said that there are too many rules, mandates and commissions to go through to do anything. He cited the Judiciary Branch which had four offices handling accounts payable and receivable, which were consolidated at a savings of over \$1 million. He said that the State cut back on revenue sharing, and rooms and meals hasn't been increased in three years. He said that he would like to see those go back to the local communities. And lastly, he said that something needs to be done about the business taxes.

**Ms. Thomas** asked if there any chance of getting the cigarette tax back. She said that when the State repealed the tax, the cigarette companies increased the cost of cigarettes by the same amount. **Mr. Hawkins** said that the revenues from the tax were coming in above projections; **Mr. Byk** said that he had just read something to the contrary.

**Chair Miller** said that Peterborough's new wastewater treatment plant is opening on Friday, despite the fact that it was one of 93 projects that had been entitled to state aid – aid which was deferred. As a result, Peterborough lost \$3.5 million in grant funds. **Mr. Hawkins** asked for more details about what happened, and said that he would follow up.

**Mr. Byk** asked what his view is regarding the proper role of government on the social issues, such as a woman's right to choose, prayer in schools and guns in public places. **Mr. Hawkins** said that he voted for some of those bills, and voted against others, but he didn't introduce any of them. He said that every bill gets a hearing, and they all go to the floor. With over 400 members, there are a wide variety of bills introduced. **Mr. Byk** then said that Sen. Bragdon reported a while back that the state did not have software that could report what had been expended. **Rep. Hawkins** said that is being addressed. He said that the State checkbook is now online, and they are now working on posting all winning contracts.

**Ms. Brenner** said that in regards to the proposed constitutional amendment for education funding, Peterborough and Bedford are very similar. Both are breadbasket communities, and should the amendment pass, both communities would lose all state funding, which would add \$3.00 to Peterborough's tax rate. There are towns in the Monadnock Region whose tax rates already exceed

\$30.00 per \$1,000.00 of value. She then asked when does it become cost prohibitive for families to move to our towns. **Rep. Hawkins** said that he can't answer the Bedford/Peterborough question because he was not sure what would happen should the amendment pass. He said his concern was to take education funding away from the courts. He said that one thing that has to happen is to get the State Department of Education out of the requirements – they tell how many principals, how many guidance counselors a school has to have. And Federal mandates tell us what to do, but do not give any money.

**Ms. MacStay** said that as the Human Services Director, she is concerned that the State has been focused too much on cutting costs and finding and prosecuting welfare fraud. Currently, because there are so few caseworkers, welfare administrators are unable to consult with anyone at the state level regarding shared clients, which prevents the sharing of information which may prevent welfare fraud from occurring. She said that the Police Department has a computer system called SPOTS which allows them to access information from the State Police, and said that a similar system for welfare administrators would be very useful. **Mr. Hawkins** said that he would follow-up.

**Anne Marie Irwin** said that she and Rep. Hawkins worked together for a long time, and though they have opposite views on many issues, Ken is very hard working, and has a decency and work ethic that is very striking. She said that he is never unpleasant or hostile, and that in view of what is happening, the ability to listen and compromise and be decent are attributes that are in great need. **Rep. Hawkins** thanked the Board for allowing him time to come and speak with them.

#### **7:00pm – GAR Hall Sale of Building Pursuant to RSA 41:14 Public Hearing**

**Chair Miller** explained that this is the second of two public hearings on the sale of the GAR Hall. She then reviewed the history of the property, and the process the Board undertook towards the sale of the building. The Board then reviewed the draft Purchase and Sales agreement, and the draft Historic Preservation agreement. **Mr. Hackler** reviewed his reasons for wanting to do the project. There followed a brief discussion of the monument and cannons. **Duffy Monahan**, Acting Chair of the Heritage Commission, said that the Heritage Commission would like those pieces to stay at the GAR Hall. She said that they have no objection to taking down the addition in the back, but the driveway will be tricky. She said that the Heritage Commission would support the variance for the driveway.

**Bruce Hunter** said that he is familiar with the GAR Hall and the Goyette building, and said that he has total confidence in Mr. Hacker's ability to do the job well.

**Mr. Byk**, speaking to Mr. Hackler, said that he wanted to apologize for how he was treated at the Heritage Commission meeting by one person. He said that was not how we do things here, and when he heard about the incident he was very sad.

As there were no further comments, **Chair Miller** closed the public hearing.

#### **Hoyle Tanner Associates – Union Street Bridge**

**Matt Low** and **Jason Lodge** reviewed a PowerPoint presentation which reviewed the assessment of the Union Street Bridge and the options for reconstruction or replacement going forward. They said that they strongly recommend reconstructing the bridge.

#### **Bruce Hunter – Future of the Peterborough Community Theatre**

**Mr. Hunter** explained that the industry is going digital, which requires an outlay of about \$60,000. Roy Mills, who runs the theater has been working on this, but for the time being, all film production has been moved to Mexico, which has made getting movies a challenge. It has been suggested that after 2013 there will be no more film. This is a small theater – it only seats 95 patrons. The business is very tight. If the theater becomes a non-profit and the theater was made a condominium the expenses would be reduced, however the theater would lose access to first run movies. Mr. Hunter said that his thought is to open the theater to a non-profit organization during the day, and then in the evening, rent the theater to Mr. Mills. He said that he is having some preliminary discussions with some organizations, but he wanted to come to the Select Board meeting to get the Board's thoughts. There was some discussion about the challenges of operating a small theater; **Mr. Mills** explained the process of selecting, requesting and playing a first run movie, including the reporting to the studio.

### **Appointment of Jennifer Hall as Deputy Treasurer**

**Jane Bowman**, Treasurer, introduced her daughter, Jennifer Hall to the Board.

#### **Motion:**

**Mr. Byk** made a motion to appoint Ms. Hall as Deputy Treasurer; **Ms. Thomas** seconded.

#### **Vote:**

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

### **Police Department Siding Proposal**

#### **Motion:**

**Chair Miller** made a motion to accept the proposal submitted by Avis Construction; **Ms. Thomas** seconded.

#### **Vote:**

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

### **Minutes of June 5, 2012**

#### **Motion:**

**Chair Miller** made a motion to accept the meeting minutes and non-public minutes of June 5, 2012; **Ms. Thomas** seconded.

#### **Vote:**

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

### **Non-Public Session**

#### **Motion:**

**Chair Miller** made a motion to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3II(d) - Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community; **Ms. Thomas** seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Barbara Miller	Yes
Elizabeth Thomas	Yes
Joe Byk	Yes

The Board entered non-public session at 8:45pm.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Byk** made a motion to reconvene the public session; **Chair Miller** seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Barbara Miller	Yes
Elizabeth Thomas	Yes
Joe Byk	Yes

As there was no further business, **Mr. Byk** made a motion to adjourn; **Ms. Thomas** seconded. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 9:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nicole MacStay, Assistant to the Town Administrator

PETERBOROUGH  
SELECT BOARD:

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Barbara A. Miller, Chair

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Joe Byk

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Elizabeth M. Thomas

**ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST**

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