

**MINUTES**  
**SELECT BOARD**  
**TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH**  
Tuesday, January 15, 2014 – 5:00pm  
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

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

**Also Present:** Pamela Brenner

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**Chair Byk** called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

**Caroline Hollister - The Park Theatre Project**

**Ms. Hollister** thanked the Board for allowing her to make her presentation and introduced several members of the Park Theatre Board. **Ms. Hollister** then began her presentation by stating that they envision the theatre as a regional facility serving the Monadnock Region as well as northern Massachusetts. She stated that they had completed a study which shows that the theatre will bring \$480,000 into the community. In reference to the Our Town study **Ms. Hollister** said that she had worked with Duncan Webb when he was commissioned by Arts Alive. His observation at that time was that the Park Theatre Project was not far enough along to be considered an option, however since then they have building plans, hired a contractor, met the CDFA's challenge grant, demolished the theater and prepared the site. The USDA has approved a \$2 million loan for the construction.

**Ms. Hollister** then reviewed the architect's concept drawings, and noted that they have spent considerable time designing this facility for maximum flexibility. None of the schools in Jaffrey have a performing space, and the Actors Circle Theater, Branch Theater and Raylynmor Opera have no permanent home. **Ms. Hollister** noted that the theater will have 400 seats which is a comfortable size for the regions groups. She said that they will also book touring companies, professional acts, musicians and have included an orchestra pit.

**Ms. Miller** said that the Peterborough Players has an Ascending Stars and Second Company program, and asked if the Park Theatre has planned to work with the Peterborough Players. **Ms. Hollister** said that they have been working with many groups since 2007, and added that it is easier for them to open in the winter, and would love to host those programs. **Chair Byk** asked who would be operating the theater; **Ms. Hollister** said that they are a non-profit governed by a board of trustees. The plan is to always have a board of trustees, but to also have a professional manager and programmer.

**Ms. Hollister** finished by stating that the Park Theatre project is not subsidized by the town of Jaffrey, and while they may request a payment in lieu of taxes from Jaffrey in the future, she and the board of trustees see this as a regional project which has the potential to provide secondary economic growth to the larger community, and the board of trustees would like the support of the Select Board. After some discussion, the Select Board decided to instruct staff to draft a letter of support and review it at their upcoming retreat.

**Update on the GAR Hall**

**Ms. Brenner** said that she is pleased to report that the town has received a full price offer of \$172,000 for the GAR Hall. **Ms. Brenner** distributed copies of the purchase and sales agreement, and said that the town attorney has reviewed and approved it, as has the Attorney General's office. **Mr. Bartlett** said that there are still a number of steps in the process; the preservation easement is a requirement of the purchase and sales agreement, and the Heritage Commission will be a part of that process. The construction of a pedestrian crossing to Depot Square is also a part of this agreement, as well as part of the Common Pathway project. There are also some ideas and concepts for additional parking, and a timeline covering the process that will take place between now and 2015 Town Meeting should any warrant articles be required.

**Tyler Ward**, member of the Heritage Commission, asked if any measures have been taken to guarantee that what happened to the stone barn [alluding to the contractor leaving the property in a partially remodeled state when he wasn't able to get financing to complete the project] won't happen to the GAR Hall; **Chair Byk** said that we can assure that anything that happens will have to be approved by the Planning Board, which is the proper venue for securing any bond.

**Bob Lambert** asked where the cannons and cannon balls will be put; **Chair Byk** said that question will be resolved by the Heritage Commission along with the veterans groups. **Roland Patten** asked who would be responsible for the cost of moving the monuments; **Ms. Brenner** said that would be at the sellers cost.

**Motion:**

**Ms. Miller** made a motion to accept the Purchase and Sales agreement on the GAR Hall; **Chair Byk** seconded.

**Vote:**

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

**Solar Array Update**

**Chair Byk** stated that **Mr. Bartlett** attended the Governor and Executive Council meeting earlier in the day. **Mr. Bartlett** introduced Chris Anderson of Borrego Energy, and said that the Town and Borrego were successful in getting the RGGI grant for \$1.2m for the construction of the solar array approved by the Governor and Executive Council. The project will entail Borrego Solar buying, installing and maintaining the array, and selling the electricity at \$0.08 per kilowatt to the Wastewater Treatment Facility, with any remaining energy going to the town via net metering through PSNH's distribution system. The details of the lagoon closure are being worked out with DES for this summer, and afterwards Borrego will come in and begin construction. **Ms. Miller** asked if there will be enough energy to run other town buildings; **Mr. Anderson** said that the solar array is conservatively estimated to produce over 1 million kilowatt hours, of which 700,000 will be consumed by the wastewater treatment plant. The remainder will go to offset other buildings. **Chair Byk** said that he is particularly pleased that this happened today, and recalled that in 2007 he had heard that Portsmouth was considering solar power at their new wastewater treatment facility, and had been "bugging" **Mr. Bartlett** about it ever since. He said about a year ago he had heard about this grant and forwarded it to Ms. Ogilvie and Mr. Bartlett, who replied that they had already applied. He said that he is very pleased with the effort that staff has put into this project. There was a further discussion about the project, its benefits, and the lagoon closure. **Chair Byk, Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Anderson** agreed to work together on the press release.

**Minutes of November 19, 2013**

**Motion:**

**Ms. Miller** made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; **Ms. Thomas** seconded.

**Vote:**

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

**Joint Select Board and Budget Committee Meeting**

At this time the Select Board was joined by **Roland Patten, Leslie Lewis, Bob Lambert and Gordon Kemp**.

**Cemetery**

	FY 2014	FY 2015	% Inc. or Dec.
Net Operating	\$42,566	\$42,856	0.7%
Net Capital	\$0	\$0	0%
To be raised through taxation	\$42,566	\$42,856	0.7%

**Mr. Bartlett** said that there was a minor restructuring of personnel in the Buildings and Grounds department; where there was a full-time superintendent and part-time custodian there is now a full-time Custodian and a full-time Maintenance I. As a result of this restructuring, salaries are down approximately \$9,000, as well as associated costs. **Mr. Patten** asked why water and sewer is up 400%; **Mr. Bartlett** replied that there are plans to reseed the Pine Hill Cemetery, which will require a substantial amount of water. He added that UNH will be assisting that project with the soil analysis at no cost.

#### Parks

	FY 2014	FY 2015	% Inc. or Dec.
Net Operating	\$67,673	\$69,803	3.1%
Net Capital	\$0	\$0	0%
To be raised through taxation	\$67,673	\$69,803	3.1%

**Mr. Bartlett** explained that this budget is up slightly based on a more accurate accounting of the hours expended on parks.

#### Buildings and Grounds

	FY 2014	FY 2015	% Inc. or Dec.
Net Operating	\$238,478	\$294,848	23.6%
Net Capital	\$10,000	\$0	-100%
To be raised through taxation	\$248,478	\$294,848	18.7%

**Mr. Bartlett** noted that the salaries are fairly similar to last year, but there were changes in insurance, and a major increase in contracted services – many of the regularly contracted maintenance projects have come due, including refinishing the floors, slate roof repairs, repairs to the furnaces, distribution system, A/C repairs, maintenance on the generators and testing of the sprinkler system. The remaining funds are made up of three projects; the painting of the copula for \$26,000, the clock on the Unitarian Church for \$5,000 and the Sage House for \$15,000.

#### Landfill

**Mr. Bartlett** explained that this budget is used to cover the cost of groundwater monitoring, and is entirely offset by the proceeds of a settlement with New Hampshire Ball Bearing. The monitoring is now only being done twice a year.

#### Recycling

	FY 2014	FY 2015	% Inc. or Dec.
Net Operating	\$192,691	\$197,206	2.3%
Net Capital	\$0	\$0	0%
To be raised through taxation	\$192,691	\$197,206	2.3%

**Ms. Lewis** asked what the medical services line is used for; **Mr. Bartlett** explained that it is used for new employee physicals, CDL testing and drug testing.

#### Pay As You Throw

**Mr. Bradford** said that we have not had to raise the bag fees since we started the program in November 1999.

**Mr. Bartlett** turned the Board and Committee's attention back to the Buildings and Grounds budget, and noted that part of the budget includes expenses for heating at the Community Center. Staff has applied for a PUC reimbursement grant to supplement the heating at the Community Center with wood pellets. The estimate provided by Froling Energy to install the furnace, including storage, is \$55,000. The project would save about \$5,000 a year in fuel costs. In discussions with Mr. King, when we looked at the Recreation Department's portion of the expenses, he didn't believe he had the money for a capital investment. **Mr.**

**Bartlett** said that he is looking for a discussion about a proposal where Public Works pays the upfront costs, and Recreation is charged at the same price that they would have paid if they were still buying oil; they pay their fair share over time, and the Town saves money overall.

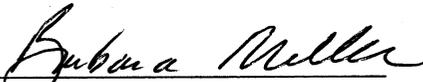
**Chair Byk** said that he thinks the idea is very creative, and he is in favor. **Ms. Lewis** said that she thinks that the town strongly stated that taxpayer money would not be used at the Community Center, and she is concerned about using taxpayer dollars, even if it is only for seven years. **Mr. Kemp** said that he thinks that you will find that the Community Center will never be in the budget; a lot of people are concerned about it, and there is a sentiment among those who are willing to work in that recreation is fine for the kids, but there isn't anything there for adults. He said that he thinks that it will need to be split off from Recreation and supported by the town at some time. There was a discussion about potentially creating a senior center in the future, and a request that the Recreation Department's presentation include a called-out Community Center budget.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:19pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nicole MacStay, Assistant Town Administrator

PETERBOROUGH  
SELECT BOARD:

  
Joe Byk, Chair

  
Barbara A. Miller

  
Elizabeth M. Thomas

**ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST**

1.