

**MINUTES**  
**SELECT BOARD**  
**TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH**  
Tuesday, February 21, 2017 – 5:30pm  
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

**Present:** Barbara Miller, Ed Juengst, Tyler Ward

**Also Present:** Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay, Brenda Fox-Howard, Linda Guyette, Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla

Budget Committee: Roland Patten, Ron McIntyre, Paul Sullivan, Ed Henault, Bob Hanson, Many Sliver, Don Parkhurst, Richard Clark

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Chair Juengst called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

**Ahmed Kuddy – Sanctuary City Status**

Mr. Kuddy began by explaining that Kath Allen and he were the proponents of the idea of a Sanctuary City Status. The United Nations has identified 65 million worldwide as refugees, with less than 1% being accepted in the United States. As Americans, our country is doing very little in alleviating this problem, despite our possible implications with the worldwide conflicts. So far, New Hampshire has no cities that have declared themselves as sanctuary cities but there are some towns moving toward a formal declaration toward this status. He told his own personal immigration story, and with that as his own personal history, it is a motivation to help others in similar circumstances. Chair Juengst asked if Mr. Kuddy was requesting a formal declaration, and he responded in the affirmative. Ms. Miller asked what the process would be in accepting refugees regarding vetting. Mr. Kuddy responded with his understanding of refugee processing, UN screening process, U.S. processing, all in all taking about two years of processing prior to the current administration. His understanding is that an organization that provides sponsorship would need to be in place. Andrea Cadwell spoke, explained she has been working with other residents in town on petitions, to bring to town meeting in May. She explained the difference between immigrants needing a sponsor, refugees that spend 10-15 years in a refugee camp before re-settling. She continued to explain how primary organizations help refugees with immediate needs, secondary organizations that follow up with vocational training and how it is unlikely for refugees to come to Peterborough since these types of organizations are not in place. She urged for Select Board support. Mr. Juengst expressed his concern with the term ‘Sanctuary City’ due to the withholding of federal funds due to this specific term being used. Kathy Lanigan gave the definition of a sanctuary city, and explained that the town would take the stance that tax dollars will not be used to track down individuals, arguing that it makes a city a safer place if immigrants don’t feel the need to go into hiding or perform unnatural acts, that this is a moral decision, and that no city has been told that they cannot receive their federal funds due to their stance on this issue. Mr. Bartlett explained that he had a conversation with the town attorney, who cautioned against it, in case the current administration decides to withhold federal funding. It was discussed how to place this issue as a petition on the ballot to be voted on at town meeting. Mr. Ward added that he is moved by the number of people that are supporting this issue and personally supports this issue, asking what we can do to support it as a town and requested that we consult with the town attorney with regard to the language involved in this petition. He supports the concept without the formal declaration, including that local law enforcement will not participate in immigration enforcement. Chair Juengst added his support. Sue Chollet added her support to the concept of safety and welcoming. Sheila Vy, a resident, also expressed her support in exercising compassion over commerce. Mr. Juengst added that at this point, we are not at the point to be able to formally declare, but recognize the desire of the residents wanting to be a welcoming place for all.

**Review and approve minutes from January 17 and January 31, 2017**

Mr. Ward pointed out a change to be made to the minutes of January 17, 2017 to be changed from “were hired” to “will be hired” under the EDA agenda item.

*Motion:* Mr. Ward made a motion to accept the minutes as amended.

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

**Other Business- GAR purchase and sale authorization**

*Motion:* Ms. Miller Made a motion for Ed Juengst to authorize and represent the board and the town in place of Rodney in the purchase and sales agreement for the closing and sale of GAR hall.

*Vote:* All in favor. Motion carried.

**Joint SB/Bud Com Meeting**

Mr. Bartlett explained the memo that was distributed regarding changes to the budget. The draft of the budget had a 2% increase in debt service, but due to a change in debt payment reduction, there is now an overall reduction of \$73, 412. The Operating budget and CIP changes result in a 3% increase in taxation, down from 8.5% from the original draft budget. He elaborated on the specifics of each department's changes.

**Police**

Chief Guinard began with an overview of the police department budget: eighteen accounts reflect increases out of 45 accounts. There is a 4.8% increase overall, a total of \$85K. Health insurance and retirement comprise \$65K, as well as salary line increase from the additional 6-month position new hire. Professional services and equipment also have increases, as well as heating costs, but health insurance and retirement add the top increase. There is also a small increase in health insurance premiums.

**Town Clerk**

Ms. Guyette briefly explained reductions in accounts, and an increase in revenues, the decreases resulting in the fact that there will be only two elections instead of four or five. Increase in her salary is requested based on the number of hours that the office is open, 43.5 hours, the next closest town being 35 weekly open hours. Ms. Miller asked about making payments online, does this reduce the foot traffic? Mr. Juengst asked about promoting that method of payment. Ms. Guyette explained the added fees, and that 2.79% of the total is a discouragement to residents since the added fees fall on the residents. Ms. Fox-Howard interjected that she had done some research in reducing those fees, but found no resource to reduce those fees.

**Administration, Finance, Human Services, Human Resources and Misc. Budgets**

Ms. MacStay explained some of the changes across the different departments including a change in how the budgets are being structured, and a reduction of health insurance for Finance Director. Other General Government line item includes merit raises for department directors in one account, then it is allocated out to the different departments. Additionally, she explained the fines under ACA which pertain to if our insurance is deemed 'affordable' as there is no way for the town to be able to ascertain this. An estimate has been made but it is unknown until the IRS fine is received. There are no changes in Human Services budget, the demand is stable over the last three years.

**Office of Community Development**

Ms. MacStay covered the OCD budget in Mr. Throop's absence explaining the change in capital expenditures, with no offsetting revenue, therefore the overall increase being 5.1%. The EDA has no requests. Heritage Commission has no significant changes, therefore 0% change.

**Budget overview**

Ms. MacStay reviewed the summary of the overall budget packet, she explained that staff had separated the operating budget CIP from the operating budget for clarity. She continued to explain the details of the estimated town tax rate and the warrant articles to be voted on separately at town meeting, the financial impact on FY2018 for all of them except for the town house rehab, which would be FY2019, leaving the estimate of tax increase at 10% if all the articles passed. The department operating budget increases the bottom line 3.8% after making adjustments. She then explained details of the debt service budget. Mr. Ward asked about the anticipated school district portion. Ms. MacStay said that their budget is anticipated to be flat. Mr. Bartlett explained the next steps, the March 7<sup>th</sup> public hearing and asked the budget committee if they felt the need to meet the following Tuesday for another meeting to discuss the budget. The budget committee agreed that the additional meeting was not needed, Mr. Bartlett explained they had until April 4<sup>th</sup> to amend the budget, March 14, being the date to review the budget.

As there was no more business to discuss, Ms. Miller made a motion to adjourn at 7:47 pm. Mr. Patten seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla, Department Assistant

PETERBOROUGH  
SELECT BOARD:



Ed Juengst, Chair



Barbara Miller



Tyler Ward

