

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
 Tuesday, March 3, 2020 – 5:30 PM
 1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Tyler Ward, Karen Hatcher, Bill Taylor

Also Present: Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay, Alison Kreutz, Leo Smith, Seth MacLean
(Starting at 6:00 PM) Budget Committee: Ronald Patten (Chair), Ed Henault, Bob Hanson, Richard Clark, Ron McIntire, Carl Mabbs-Zeno, Donald Parkhurst, James Long

Chair Ward opened the meeting at 5:35 PM.

Chair Ward addressed current concerns about COVID-19. He reminded people to be mindful of those around them and cough into their elbows. Ms. Hatcher added that Monadnock Community Hospital has some good resources on their website.

Proposed ConVal Budget – Janine Lesser & Kimberly Rizzo-Saunders

Ms. Lesser thanked the Select Board for the opportunity to address the ConVal Budget. Voting on the school budget will be held on Tuesday, March 10th. Ms. Lesser said the hope was that the budget would pass so they would not have to default.

Ms. Saunders and Ms. Lesser had booklet and School Budget Primers available for the audience.

Ms. Saunders said the gross budget is up 1.87% over last year (\$1.5 million). Most of those items are things that were voted in in the past, and “they are just continuing their commitment,” and provided the bus contract, food service, and teachers’ contracts as examples. She said they are working on “fine-tuning” the budget and making sure that opportunities are equitable for students across the district.

There are 10 articles on the warrant, the first being the budget. Also on the Warrant:

- They have also asked to appropriate monies to different funds including the Building Reserve Fund and Health Trust Fund, which was created to balance the 12-15% increases in health insurance costs.
- Power Purchase Agreement to be used for building a solar array for long-term investment in solar energy.
- Creation of Alternative Energy Trust Fund and appropriation to that fund to be used for potential buyout or future energy efficiency projects like the switch to LED lighting, which has saved \$60,000-\$70,000 annually.
- There was also a petition warrant article, but the petitioner was not present to speak to it.
- Six positions are available on the School Board this year.

Ms. Lesser said they would like a Statement of Support of the Select Board for the Budget. She said every year that the Select Board has supported the Budget, there’s been a Statement of Support. She added that Dublin has come forward with a Statement of Support.

Ms. Hatcher said there were some new members at the Selectman’s Advisory Committee who may not have known about the Statement of Support, “which is not binding in any way” - it expresses support for the Budget and the process it underwent, which was “lengthy, detailed, and thoughtful.” Ms. Hatcher said that she can speak to the professionalism and thoughtfulness that goes in to the process, as well as the pressure that is borne by tax payers and elected officials to find something that is both fair and adequate. She said she was fully in support, but wanted Chair Ward and Mr. Taylor to have the opportunity to have any questions answered.

Chair Ward asked how the School Board had voted. Ms. Saunders replied that the School Board was unanimously in support. She mentioned that also in the Budget is preschool expansion, with hopes to expand

it further the following year, driven by an increase in community need. Ms. Hatcher asked for confirmation that the expansion referred to the move from part-day to full-day preschool. Ms. Saunders confirmed, and said there is some revenue offset as it is a fee program, though the fees are determined on a sliding scale and the target group consists of people who would otherwise not be able to afford a quality preschool program.

Chair Ward said Ms. Hatcher had provided good information to the Select Board from her time on the SAC and he was in favor of supporting the ConVal Budget. Mr. Taylor said he was also in support. Ms. Lesser said that she and Ms. Saunders could be contacted at anytime if the Board had any further questions.

Production of Annual Report – Loretta Laurenitis

Ms. MacStay handed out copies of the 2017 and 2018 Town Reports so people could compare the two formats.

Ms. Laurenitis said she was disappointed that her letter, in which she requested that the Town return to the old format for Town Reports, as well as the articles that she had sent to the Select Board were not included in the Select Board Packet. She said she had been told the reason for the switch to the new format (which wasn't a bound book and instead was "obviously done in-house") was to save \$5,000. She said she couldn't read the report, and so it wasn't useful to her. The NHMA states the most important consideration should be the readers, and the Town must publish the report in paper form to be given to voters. She said she felt "embarrassed for our town" when she saw the report, as annual reports are valuable historical documents meant to be retained, with copies to be sent to State Library, DRA, and UNH. She continued, "in comparison to others, the report was not very impressive" and doesn't reflect a sense of pride in our community. "I question how it is that Peterborough can't afford to do a Town Report like those of smaller towns" that include full-color photos and covers, print large enough to be read easily, "and a sense of pride in community." She asked, is Peterborough in "such dire financial straits" that it can't afford to produce a meaningful, historical annual report?

Ms. Laurenitis continued that another change she didn't approve of was that the May 8th ballot was not reproduced completely in the printed report - Only the winners were listed, and there were no vote totals, and articles with yes or no votes were not included, which "short-changes the historical record." The new format also didn't include listing of salaries for Town employees, list of committee members, or how to contact town officials. She said there must be other ways to save money, and Town has won awards for the Annual Report in the past. She said that in December of 2018 Ms. MacStay brought it to Select Board's attention, and the Select Board never voted on it at that time: "Do you need to make a vote to return back to it?"

Ms. MacStay said she went through the concerns in Loretta's email, which the Select Board forwarded to her. Regarding readability, Ms. MacStay agreed the MS9 could have been better formatted. She said the Auditor's Report was "as difficult to read in one as it is in the other" because it's provided by the auditor in a PDF format that is 'fixed', and can't be modified, so the legibility of that specific report between the 2017 & 2018 annual reports is equivalent. Ms. MacStay explained that in 2018 she took the approach of only including the things that were required in the printed report, including (but not limited to) Municipal Budget, Final Budget & Ballot Questions, Year-end balance sheets, and reports of the Select Board, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Highway Department. The report was available on the website and in print on May 2nd, and the required statutory date was May 7th. In addition to the required information, the website also included the NHMA optional annual report items including (but not limited to) municipal officers, warrant, and comparative statements.

Ms. MacStay said that she agreed there are some formatting issues and "it's not the prettiest report", and said she'd like to spend some more time on it this year, and going forward. She noted that while the new format was done as it was more cost-effective, staffing changes also presented a challenge; when the 2017 report was done, there were three part-time personnel who could assist, and now there is only a single full-time employee who is working as both the administrative assistant and the assessing clerk. The overlap of the multiple part-timers meant there was someone available to consistently work on formatting the 2017 report, which went for a "month straight." She said it takes 70-80 hours to put together a report in that format. With the staffing

concerns and less and less people are taking the printed reports while the unit price is continually going up, "it didn't seem like the best use of our resources." Ms. MacStay there really wasn't a staff member who could dedicate the amount of time needed to put together a report in the old format.

Ms. Hatcher asked Ms. MacStay what she thought about the idea of "a small dedicated group" volunteering to help with layout so it could be achieved without having to dedicate so much staff time. Ms. MacStay answered that it could be an option for next year, but she would still want to make sure the statutory requirements of having a book out were met. Ms. Hatcher said she imagined that this year would probably be the same as last year, as there wasn't time to organize something else, "but maybe next year we look at a different way to get it done." Ms. Laurentis said, "but that doesn't mean you can't put down vote totals and exact ballot counts" and said she didn't understand why that couldn't be changed. Ms. MacStay said those elements could certainly be added. She explained that some things "did not come through exactly right" as the new layout was created entirely from scratch, but "corrections can be made." She pointed out that an upside of the new format was that it allowed for corrections, which can't be made on something that's gone to a printer.

Ms. Laurentis said she likes seeing reports from all the departments and Chair Ward said those were all on the website, but Ms. Laurentis said she would prefer it in a book, and you "can't do it piecemeal," and other towns have the whole book and the whole thing together on their websites. Ms. MacStay said there are many communities that have gone to a digital publication. Ms. Laurentis said the report should "tell the story of this town."

Ms. Hatcher said a compromise was needed, and there wouldn't be time to create a new book before Town Meeting, so perhaps the information that was felt to be the most important could be added to the existing format for this year, and in the meantime the process could be improved for the following year, "so we can get to where you want to get to and also recognize that we have limitations in capacity."

Chair Ward said "all the information *is* available," and the Select Board is looking for every way to tighten the budget: "We really are doing our due diligence, and Nicole has really done a great job pulling together the information," but there are things that could be added to the report.

Mr. Andrew Dunbar said he questioned the Annual Report, too, and he felt what was produced was "embarrassing" and that everything that was supposed to be included wasn't - he had to request salary information at the Town House. "Nothing to do with saving money, in my opinion."

Ms. MacStay said payroll information is not included in the list of required information, which is why it wasn't included, but it could certainly be added. She also noted that Peterborough's annual reports were not bound until 1993, and so "the vast majority of our annual reports" are formatted like the 2018 report. For the 2017 reports, 750 were ordered and came with errors, and there was no going back and fixing them. Printing in-house, corrections and updates can be made.

Mr. Taylor asked if anyone had ever made a decision that later turned out to not be popular. The consensus was that most had. Mr. Taylor said "we're hearing what's being said." He asked Ms. Laurentis and Mr. Dunbar if they had ever been denied information they had been asked for. Mr. Dunbar said, "No, but I shouldn't have to ask for it." Mr. Taylor said he would appreciate it this was approached in a positive direction, rather than as an attack. He said there is a lot less staff in the Administrative office, and a lot of work to do, and so Ms. MacStay and others made the decision to cut back on the book. He said that in retrospect he, too, would rather see the old format, but he would appreciate people coming forward with the issue in a positive manner.

Chair Patten said, "we're talking about \$5000 in a budget of \$17 million." He said wants to see something printed in larger format, and he would like to know who's on what board, and what the terms are. "I think there's a common sense approach to be worked out." He said he remembers when we started doing the glossy cover and he thought it was great. He thought \$5,000 was a reasonable amount, and the previous form was "very nice," and he liked seeing it dedicated to someone every year. He suggested hiring kids looking for

part-time work to help put it together. He said that the 2018 report provided at the current meeting was better than the original printed reports, and Ms. MacStay replied that it's the exact same file, but now Administration has a new printer that can print in color, so that is an improvement. She said she could size things up to request, and she agreed with Ms. Hatcher that the easiest thing to do would be to have a volunteer group or outside consultant come in to help. She said she doesn't have a problem trying something else if the Budget Committee and Select Board were on board, but wants to ensure all statutory requirements are met.

Mr. Patten said he felt Board & Committee information was "absolutely necessary" to include in the report. Ms. MacStay said that was fine, but she had received had very little feedback about what to add in; instead the complaints received were mostly that the cover wasn't in color and the pages weren't bound. She said she was happy to add things in, she just needed to hear about it from people.

Mr. Taylor said now that we have the feedback, we can make a plan to do everything we can to get it right, within reason.

Ms. Marcia Patten said she was on the Board of the Historical Society for a number of years, and when we worked on the last update of the Town History, she used the town reports to figure it out: "It's on the website now, but where is the information going to be in forty years?" Mr. Taylor said that was a very good point.

Resident Stephanie Hurley said she was concerned that the material and list that Ms. Laurenitis sent to the Select Board were not included in the packet, and asked what the policy is for things that are sent to the Select Board. Ms. MacStay said that could be amended, and Ms. Laurenitis' correspondence could be added to the Minutes. She explained that when Ms. Laurenitis emailed the separate Select Board members, Administration staff was not copied (and administration staff puts together the packet), which is why it didn't appear in the packet. To ensure materials make it into the packet, the best course of action is to copy Administration, or send things to the collective Select Board email address (selectboard@peterboroughnh.gov).

Ms. Hurley said she was in support of the Town Report including the information that Ms. Laurenitis has referenced. Mr. Taylor said he "didn't think anybody disagrees with that."

Ms. MacStay noted that the whole ballot has never been included in the town report – in the past, the Word document with that information was copied and pasted in. She also emphasized that even if something doesn't make it into the Town Report, whether it be minutes of meetings, ballots, or lists of municipal officers, it's all still a part of the official town record, and is preserved at the Historical Society in perpetuity.

Town Clerk Linda Guyette said she would like the vital statistics put back into the town report, as it is something people look for.

Ms. Hatcher suggested that anyone in the audience should contact Nicole if there's something specific they would like to see in the report.

Review and Approval of the Minutes of Select Board Meetings of February 4th and February 18th, 2020

Ms. Kreutz noted that she had corrected the spelling of Chris McCall's name in the Minutes of February 4th, and it was the corrected version that was in the Select Board's folder for approval and signature.

Motion: Ms. Hatcher made a motion to approve of the Minutes of Select Board Meetings of February 4th and February 18th, 2020

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

PUBLIC HEARING – Proposed FY2021 Town Budget

Budget Committee Chair Roland Patten introduced the present members of the Budget Committee.

Chair Patten noted the budget has gone up just a little bit, as has inflation. Ms. Smith passed out a summary of the proposed budget to the audience. A PowerPoint was presented.

Ms. MacStay provided a review of the Operating Budget, which is on the ballot as Article 3. Operating Budget has a net change of 0.1%. Net change for Operating Budget CIP is 20.6%, and Debt Service is 1.2 %. Overlay & Credits had a 77.8% change, for a total net change of 2.6% (or \$177,023) to be raised through taxation.

Highlights

- Salaries reflect increases for Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and Merit
 - Combined Average of 3.2%
- Health Insurance premiums will increase 5.7%
- State biannual budget included \$89,000 revenue sharing to municipalities for FY 2020 and FY 2021 (This revenue is not expected to be ongoing)
- New BS&A finance software package has enabled staff to accurately budget payroll, insurance premiums and salaries across the board

Ms. MacStay said the switch to the new software has saved \$45,000 in annual software maintenance fees. Chair Patten asked if those savings will continue after it's out of warranty and Ms. MacStay confirmed.

- Information Technology (IT) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
 - Increased software licensing and Internet costs - \$9,500
 - Increased payroll and related costs primarily due to changes in staff allocations - \$47,000
- Police Department
 - Increased payroll and related costs \$56,000
 - New Canine Program - \$15,000
 - Building Repairs - \$5,000 (for windows)

Chair Patten asked what breed of dog would be used for the K-9 addition to the Police Department. Chief Guinard said it would be either a German Shepard or a Belgian Malinois.

- Highway and Streets
 - Increased payroll and related costs primarily due to changes in staff allocations - \$22,000
 - Consulting for management and oversight of the Main Street Bridge project - \$25,000
 - Reduction in Revenue due to reduced NH DOT Highway Block Grant - \$40,000
 - Street lighting LED upgrades reduced electricity costs - \$10,000
- Assessing
 - 2020 Valuation Statistical Update - \$24,000 (contracted cost)

Other Fund Highlights

- PEG Station
- Improvements to broadcast system - \$48,000
 - 100% offset by Cable Franchise Fees
- West Peterborough TIF District
 - Various infrastructure improvements - \$256,000
 - 100% offset by West Peterborough TIF funds
- Greater Downtown TIF District
 - Main Street Corridor Study - \$20,000
 - 100% offset by Greater Downtown TIF funds

CIP Highlights

- Highway and Streets
 - Front Loader/Snow Blower - \$335,000
 - Offset by Fleet Management Capital Reserve - \$170,000
 - Net to be raised through taxation - \$165,000
- Planning and Community Development
 - Building permit software package estimated not to exceed \$40,000
- Stormwater Separation
 - Removed from budget pending completion of updated asset inventory and management plan - \$20,000

Debt Service Highlights

- Projected net debt service is up \$10,558 over FY 2020
- Changes to debt service as projected last year include:
 - DPW Facility renovation delayed six months
 - Estimated \$92,000 annual payment to begin in FY 2022
 - Town House Renovation bond
 - Term was estimated at 20 years – actual term of bond is 10 years
 - Annual payments are \$49,708, approximately \$10,000 more than estimated, but shorter term means significantly less interest paid over life of the bond

Overly and Tax Credits

- Voters passed significant changes to various Veteran's Tax Credit and (to a lesser extent) Elderly Exemption programs at the 2019 Town Meeting
- Total impact of those changes is an increase of \$116,750

Ms. MacStay said though the change caused by the update in the elderly exemption was roughly anticipated, the impact of the veteran's tax credits "was a surprise, but a good one."

Ms. Laurenitis asked what the total amount of the Debt Service is. Ms. MacStay answered that the net amount was \$868,630.00.

Ms. Joanne Carr asked what the anticipated debt is, considering the warrants that have been passed in the last few years. Ms. MacStay said, with the exception of the DPW Facility, everything else that was passed, including the Library and Cold Stone Springs, is currently in the budget.

Ms. Smith said the total debt, including (but not limited to) Main Street Bridge, Transcript Dam, and Library was about \$8 million, and Cold Stone Springs is about \$4 million, for a total of \$12 million to be added to the debt service in next one to two years. The existing debt is approximately \$11 million. Ms. Carr said it should be clear that "we're doubling our burden."

Mr. Smith responded "we're taking a good hard look" at the length of bonds, and current interest rates are decent, so the Town could potentially save a lot of interest over time. Ms. Carr said she appreciated saving interest, but wanted to be careful about what the tax impact was short-term.

Mr. Dunbar asked, regarding Bridge Management, why there is an additional \$25,000 consulting fee. Ms. Hatcher said it is anticipated that Mr. Bartlett may be retiring this year, and if so, we may need his services going forward after his retirement, to ensure needed work continues to get done.

Chair Ward asked if the number Mr. Smith had provided about total amount of Debt Service included offsetting revenues. Mr. Smith said no, that was the gross number, and there are offsetting revenues of about \$2.6 million that will help offset those general obligation bonds.

Mr. Mabbs-Zeno pointed out that about \$200,000 of the \$266,750 (77.8%) in net FY2021 Overlays & Credits was due to the adjustments made relating to the tax credits. He said if those tax credits hadn't been voted in, the number would only be around .9%, so the spending has been really held back below inflation rate.

Ms. Carr said it came to her attention that the cost of Cold Stone Springs Project is upwards of \$12 million, and as only \$8 million had been approved for appropriation at Town Meeting, she wanted to know how that was being handled. Mr. Bartlett said the towns of Peterborough and Jaffrey had hired a consulting firm (Tighe & Bond) to go through the work that had been done so far, and provide feedback about what the relative shares of the project would be: Jaffrey's share is \$5.5 million and Peterborough's is \$7.6 million, which is less than the \$8 million projected last year. "We don't need to go back for additional cost."

Ms. Carr asked how that was possible, if Peterborough must raise the full appropriation. Mr. Bartlett said his understanding was that, as it's a joint project with joint ownership, the costs of the ownership are split along the same lines; "I don't believe we're going to need more bond authorization." He added Jaffrey's bond council is the same Peterborough's, and there had been joint discussions. He said he would double check on the details.

Ms. Carr said, as a water user she's very concerned about the rates if the cost of the project increases. Mr. Bartlett said even if there is a requirement to adjust the gross appropriation, it won't reflect an additional appropriation on the bond. Ms. Hatcher added, that with the way the warrant was written and passed, the Town won't be bonding unless everything else needed comes together.

Mr. Taylor noted that all the department heads were present at the meeting, and said he appreciated everybody's hard work.

Joint Vote to Recommend Article 3, Budget for FY2021 at Town Meeting - \$17,057,941

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventeen Million, Fifty-Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred Forty-One Dollars for the support of General Government, Water, and Wastewater. This represents the fiscal year 2021 budget period, July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. This article does not include appropriations in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Motion: Mr. Hanson

Second: Mr. Henault

Ms. Mabbs-Zeno asked for clarification about the rest of the \$17 million that hadn't been discussed. Ms. MacStay explained the \$17 million represents the gross appropriation, and it's the net amounts were presented. The State requires warrant articles are written with gross appropriation amounts.

Budget Committee Vote: 7 for, 1 opposed (Mr. Clark)

Select Board Vote: Unanimous

Joint Vote to Recommend Article 4 – Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds - \$73,100

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Three Thousand, One Hundred Dollars (\$73,100) to be placed in the following previously established capital reserve and expendable trust funds:

Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the GIS Capital Reserve Fund

Eighteen Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$18,100) to be placed in the Police Department Fleet Management Capital Reserve Fund

Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) Fire Department Apparatus and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Winter Operations Expendable Trust Fund

Motion: Mr. Hanson

Second: Mr. Henault

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Budget Committee Vote: Unanimous

Select Board Vote: Unanimous

Joint Vote to Recommend Article 5 – Transfer from Cemetery Fund - \$3,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) to be added to the previously established Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund, and further, to transfer said amount from the Cemetery Trustee's checking account to the Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund. This amount is funded 100% by the sale of deeds for burial lots.

Motion: Mr. Hanson

Second: Mr. McIntire

Budget Committee Vote: Unanimous

Select Board Vote: Unanimous

Joint Vote to Recommend Article 6 – Public Gardens & Planters Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will authorize the establishment of a Expendable Trust Fund (pursuant to RSA Chapter 35) to be known as the "Public Gardens and Planters Expendable Trust Fund" for the purpose of maintaining and/or enhancing the public gardens and planters located in Peterborough, and to designate the Select Board as agents to expend. This fund shall be funded in whole or in part by the proceeds of the Fred and Betty Fry Garden Fund held by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

Motion: Mr. Hanson

Second: Mr. McIntire

Budget Committee Vote: Unanimous

Select Board Vote: Unanimous

Joint Vote to Recommend Article 7 – Discontinue Funds

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the following Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds with said funds accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, to be transferred to the municipality's general fund:

Financial Software Capital Reserve Fund, date of establishment 9/11/2018, approximate balance of Two Hundred Two Dollars and Twenty-five cents (\$202.25)

Union Street Bridge Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, date of establishment 8/2/2006, approximate balance of Zero Dollars (\$0.00)

GAR Hall Expendable Trust Fund, date of establishment 1/1/2017, approximate balance of Zero Dollars (\$0.00)

Motion: Mr. Hanson

Second: Mr. Henault

Budget Committee Vote: Unanimous

Select Board Vote: Unanimous

Joint Vote to Recommend Article 9 – Fly Pond Dam Reconstruction - \$270,000

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$270,000) for the purpose of designing, engineering and reconstructing the Fly Pond Dam located off of Summer Street, and to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept Federal, State or any and all other aid, grants, gifts or revenue source that may become available for said project, and to comply with all laws applicable to said project and to take any and all action necessary to carry out any vote hereunder or any other action relative thereto. It is intended that this appropriation will be supported by a FEMA grant and other matching funds.

Ms. Carr asked if this is a dam that the Town owns, and if there has been consideration of removing the dam and restoring the brook. Mr. Bartlett explained that the dam is owned and permitted by William Duerig, who came to the Town because he had received deficiency letters from NHDES. Summer Street is the actual dam structure; Mr. Duerig owns the outlet structure and box. As such, he had committed to financial support, and

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Chief Walker found a FEMA grant that would apply to help reduce the cost. The site has been damaged before due to flooding, though the pond itself is very shallow. If the FEMA grant comes into play, the total out-of-pocket cost will be \$35,000.

Ms. Reinhardt asked what gets damaged if the area floods. Mr. Bartlett said flooding washes out Summer Street. He noted that the work would be segregated from the Main Street Bridge Project, so there wouldn't be an overlap – it would begin late summer 2021, after the bridge is open.

Ms. Carr said there should be wording that we won't move forward unless we have the FEMA funding. "I would like to be sure that we are covered in the language of the warrant."

Ms. Reinhardt asked how often that area floods. Mr. Bartlett said the average is every five years, plus more frequent partial flooding.

Motion: Mr. Hanson

Second: Mr. Henault

Budget Committee: Unanimous

Select Board Vote: Unanimous

Joint Vote to Recommend Article 10 – Roadway System Upgrades Capital Reserve Fund - \$400,000

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) to be placed in the previously established Roadway System Upgrades Capital Reserve Fund.

Mr. Taylor asked what the impact to the road program would be if the amount was reduced. Mr. MacLean explained that the application of the funds each year depends on the condition of the roadway upon reinspection. Initially the town road rating was about a 70 (on a scale of 0 to 100). After the first year, we increased the rating by 2.5 points, and gained another 2.5 points this past year. There is still a backlog of really rough roads that require heavy construction to get them back into decent shape. Old Street Road, Vose Farm Road, Cunningham Pond Road were done this past year. We can hold the rating if the funds were reduced, but to take care of roads once they're in good shape is a small fraction of what it costs to repair roads in bad condition. Repair of the roads on the list would get more expensive if the roadway program was reduced or cut for a year.

Ms. MacStay pointed out that the roadway program allows the Town to avoid more debt and bonding.

Mr. Taylor asked Mr. MacLean, regarding the ten-year plan, if he considers things ahead of schedule. Mr. MacLean said, "looking at the backlog, we're right on schedule."

Ms. Judy Ferstenberg said the roads that have been improved are the roads that people speed down, which residents have been complaining about, so maybe it makes sense to not repair the roads.

Motion: Mr. Hanson

Second: Ed Henault

Budget Committee Vote: Unanimous

Select Board Vote: Unanimous

Joint Vote to Recommend Article 11- Fire Station Design - \$250,000

To see if the town will vote to raise and authorize the expenditure of the same of Two Hundred Thousand Fifty Dollars (\$250,000) for the development of a conceptual design, preliminary cost estimate and construction drawings for a new Fire Station on a town-owned parcel located off of Elm Street.

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Chief Walker said \$125,000 would be reimbursed through the ambulance enterprise account. In discussions with Hoyle Tanner, we believe the amount can be reduced, and should have the numbers prior to Town Meeting.

Ms. Hatcher asked if the reduction was linked to the review of plans from similar projects around the State to avoid having to go through full engineering and design process. Chief Walker said we're not starting with a level piece of ground, which complicates things, but that is the intention.

Motion: Mr. Hanson

Second: Mr. Henault

Budget Committee Vote: Unanimous

Select Board Vote: Unanimous

Petition Warrant Article: Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in Riverwalk Parking Lot - \$35,000

Ms. MacStay said a petition warrant article was received today:

To see if the town will vote to allocate a sum of up to Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) from the Greater Downtown Tax Incremental Finance District (GDTIF) funds to be used for the installation, operation, and maintenance of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in the Riverwalk parking lot. Implementation of this Article will draw funds from an established account and not increase or otherwise affect the Peterborough tax rate. Both the GDTIF Advisory and the Economic Development Authority support this Article.

Mr. Dunbar pointed out, when it comes to TIF district expenditures, it's not "free money."

He continued that when he had co-chaired the Transportation & Traffic Subcommittee for Master Plan rewrite, the priority was to have public transportation, so he didn't see the purpose in supporting the electric vehicles of "10 people in town". Other charging stations in the state are owned by private businesses, so a business should fund it, not taxpayers.

Chair Patten said he has an electric vehicle and would like to see it done (he noted he has his own charging station) for area visitors and workers. His carbon footprint is 1/3 what it used to be, and he gets 75 miles a gallon and spends about \$30 a month charging it. He'd like to see people buying electricity to run their cars, as its one of the best ways to reduce carbon footprint.

Mr. Dunbar said there are other ways to save money and reduce carbon footprint, like a driving a Prius.

Ms. Hatcher (who serves as Select Board Liaison to EDA and Downtown TIF) said there have been many discussions with business owners who are in favor who understand the economic benefit to the town. Ultimately, it should be left up to the voters. She asked that any continuing the debate was left for Town Meeting.

Ms. Judy Ferstenberg said the charging stations at her work in Nashua are "never used." She said the Town should get a vendor: "Don't make tax-payers pay for something that should be from a service provider."

Ms. Laurenitis said it should be made clear that the Town would not be footing the bill for electricity, but she wanted to know who would be covering the cost of upkeep and maintenance of the charging stations.

Mr. Taylor said he was in support of there being a charging station, but not one that is tax-supported. There are options like EVgo, who install charging stations at their cost. His understanding was that use of a charging station would incur an electric bill of around \$1.29 an hour, with an average charging time of 8 hours, so he wanted to know who would monitor that, and keep track of who's using it (locals vs. visitors). Would it then be the responsibility of the PD, or DPW, who already have a lot to do? He said it's a slippery slope because we don't yet know what the ramifications are.

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Mr. Parkhurst asked, if we want people with electric cars to come in from out of the area to spend money, and they're planning their trip knowing they can only go so far and we don't have a charging station, are they going to come to Peterborough? Having the bridge out may have an impact on downtown, so

Mr. Bartlett said that, as it is a petition warrant article, it must go to vote as it is written. Town Clerk Linda Guyette clarified that you cannot amend a Petition Article at Deliberative Session.

Vote to Recommend the Petition Article:

Motion: Mr. Hanson

Second: Mr. Henault

Budget Committee Vote: 4 for, 4 opposed

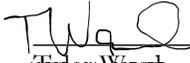
Select Board Vote to Recommend: 2 for, 1 opposed (Mr. Taylor)

Ms. MacStay said March 10th is final day to accept petition warrant articles. Ms. Hatcher said she'd like to wait until then to decide where to put the petition article.

Mr. Rich Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 PM. Mr. Henault seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alison Kreutz, Department Assistant

PETERBOROUGH
SELECT BOARD:

DocuSigned by:

Alison Kreutz

DocuSigned by:

Karen Hatcher

DocuSigned by:

Bill Taylor

ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST

- 1.