

**MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH**

Tuesday, March 5, 2013 – 5:00pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Joe Byk, Barbara Miller

Susy Mansfield, Donald Parkhurst, Bob Lambert, Roland Patten, Gordon Kemp

Also Present: Pamela Brenner, Nancie Vaihinger, Rodney Bartlett, Linda Guyette, Chief Scott Guinard,
Chief Joseph Lenox, Jeff King, Fash Farashahi, Nicole MacStay

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

Gail Cromwell and Mark Fernald – Discussion of Article 8 of the ConVal School District Warrant

Chair Miller said that the Selectmen Advisory Committee did vote for Article Eight and that they thought it is a brilliant first step. **Mr. Fernald** said we put forward this article because this is a way to make significant savings in the budget without affecting programming - the school population has consistently declined, and in a few years we will have 1,000 empty seats. It costs a lot of money to maintain and staff the eleven schools. The School Board has not yet taken any action - we put forward this article as a way to let the voters make the decision whether or not to close a middle school - the Board has the authority now to consolidate the middle schools, but it has not taken any action on that. A model study committee was empaneled to discuss consolidation - this would be a savings of \$1,700,000, much of that in savings of duplicate staff, mostly in support positions not classroom teachers. There have been some arguments against this, one being that some children will spend more time on the bus - it is about equidistant for Hancock children, less time for Frankestown, more for Antrim children. There have been questions about SMS handling the additional children - they will fit, because middle school is where we are seeing the greatest declines; this is the "baby boom echo" that has now dissipated.

Ms. Cromwell said that NESDEC has done our demographic modeling for years, and they have been accurate. We are well below standards of classroom size - ConVal's standards are 22-25; the state's standard is 30. We are also talking about increasing education offerings for students - Great Brook does not have enough students to field sports teams. There is also a benefit because of the proximity to the high school where students could go to the high school, or teachers could go down - this would be very beneficial for our gifted students who we do little for now. **Mr. Fernald** added that most school districts in NH define middle school as 6-8 or 7-8; the outgoing principal said that the ideal size for a middle school is 500. Great Brook will be down to two hundred students in just a few years, which makes it hard to justify a full time music and art teacher. One final point would be that all that this amendment says that there would be one middle school, and gives the school board the flexibility to move the elementary school to great brook if they feel it is a better building. The board could decide to move 5th to the elementary schools, or could move the superintendent's office to another building and create more space at SMS. The Board thanked Ms. Cromwell and Mr. Fernald for their time.

Septage Fee Structure and Pricing Options

Mr. Bartlett said that included in the packets were a range of fees assessed by different communities - those with newer systems like ours have fees in the upper range. We have a capability of 11,600 gallons a day for septage treatment. When we calculated the cost to treat the septage to be about 7.5 to 8 cents per gallon. The personnel is already there to maintain the plant so there is no additional cost there. He has recommended that for Peterborough residents it be 8 cents per gallon, and for others 10 cents per gallon for disposal. As you look at other fees across the state it is fairly average. This is not a huge revenue generator.

Motion:

Mr. Byk made a motion to accept recommendation of schedule as proposed; **Chair Miller** seconded.

Vote:

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

Minimum Charge for Irrigation Meters

Mr. Bartlett explained that presently an irrigation meter is the second meter after the main meter; any water used is not charged for wastewater. The main meter gets a minimum charge, and the irrigation meter is also subject to the minimum charge, which is charged even in the winter months when there is no irrigation; he recommends that the minimum charge on the irrigation meter be dropped and they only be charged for water used. **Mr. Byk** asked if we can wave the backflow inspection charge if the user has that done by a professional third party; **Mr. Bartlett** said that is the way the ordinance is written so no. But we are putting together a proposal to change the backflow ordinance in June - we have identified a number of issues that need to be addressed, and we will add that to the issues to review.

Motion:

Mr. Byk made a motion to approve proposed changes; **Chair Miller** seconded.

Vote:

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

Betterment Assessment for Improvements to Robbe Farm Road and Legacy Lane

Mr. Bartlett said that recently five neighbors came in and met with him and **Ms. Ogilvie** to see what they can do to get the road finished. There is some detrition in the present paving and curbing and how the frames and grates are set. There is a state statute that allows a town to do repairs to the road and add a betterment assessment. He requested that they present a petition from 27 of the 39 homes, so he had agreed to work with them to move that forward, and you will look at a bond article on the 12th for the improvements. **Mr. Byk** asked if this would be a petitioned article; **Mr. Bartlett** replied no - you may recall that a few years ago the town voted to accept the road pending the completion of the road; staff has asked that the Board consider the bond on behalf of the residents. I have a meeting scheduled for tomorrow night to go over the whole process. If the neighborhood decides that they do not want to go through the process then they just need to say so and the town would not go forward with the process. **Mr. Byk** said he would like to have a more firm agreement from the neighbors to avoid a collections issue in the future. **Mr. Bartlett** said when in the past we did water or sewer extensions 75% of the neighborhood had to show interest, and the balance of the neighborhood was assessed a betterment charge. There was further discussion regarding the collection and tax deeding process.

Motion:

Mr. Byk made a motion to give **Mr. Bartlett** support to continue discuss and refine proposal; **Chair Miller** seconded.

Vote:

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

Public Hearing on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget

At 6:00pm The Board was joined at this time by Susy Mansfield, Donald Parkhurst, Bob Lambert, Roland Patten and Gordon Kemp of the Budget Committee.

Marcia Patten, Chair of the Library Trustees, said that there was a fire in the Library's pellet boiler rendering it useless - the Trustees want to ensure that the library will not have to close if there is a cold snap in the winter. For several reasons the situation is in flux, and **Mr. Bartlett** has been working on this and there are options. **Mr. Bartlett** the incident occurred on Jan. 27th when there was a smoldering fire in the boiler. There has been significant damage to the boiler. The adjuster has an estimate to do the repair at \$6,440 the

difficulty is that both the supplier that we bought the boiler from and a local vendor refuse to do the repair. We will continue to do work and see what flexibility there is from the insurance company. There are three options to look at for additional heating. In 2006 we did a heat load calculation for that building and the demand at zero degrees - 310k BTUs per hour. The oil boiler there can produce 290,000 BTUs, and since the fire it has done a reasonable job. **Mr. Bartlett** then reviewed the three options:

1. Look into whether or not the existing boiler can be retrofitted, which would be the least expensive short term solution.
2. Purchase an additional smaller oil boiler to assist with the demand. This may be an interim solution.
3. Replace the pellet boiler with a newer somewhat larger boiler for 37,000, which includes dismantling what is there and installing a new boiler and a bag pellet storage bin, which has many advantages including allowing for bulk deliveries and reduction of dust. It will take some time to refine that to what will be the best cost effective solution on the coldest days of the winter.

Ms. Patten said that the Trustees were hoping to get a sense from the Board what you support. We have no real recommendation yet. We would like to know how you feel about this problem. **Ms. Brenner** said that her inclination is that anything more than \$5,000 or \$10,000 should be a special warrant article. The Board and Budget Committee agreed.

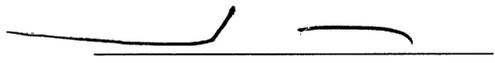
Chair Kemp opened the Budget Hearing, reviewed the summary of the Proposed FY2014 Budget, and then asked if there were any questions about any particular portion of the proposed budget. Hearing none, **Chair Kemp** closed the public hearing.

As there was no further business, **Mr. Byk** made a motion to adjourn; **Chair Miller** seconded. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 6:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole MacStay, Assistant Town Administrator

PETERBOROUGH
SELECT BOARD:


Barbara A. Miller, Chair


Joe Byk


Elizabeth M. Thomas

ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST

1. State Aid Grants – Legislation is now in Senate – passage looks promising
2. GAR Hall – Discuss at 4/9/13 Select Board Meeting
3. Affordable Care Act – N. Vaihinger will follow up with needed personnel policy changes
4. Dispatch Center Grant – N. MacStay to follow up on possible grant for dispatch center – NH Dept. of Safety Homeland Security Grants are not yet available for 2013 - <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/homeland/homelandgrants.html>
5. Backflow Prevention Ordinance – R. Bartlett to include the Backflow Prevention Ordinance in his review of other utilities ordinances