

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
Wednesday, October 14, 2015 – 5:00pm
25 Elm Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Barbara Miller, Ed Juengst, Tyler Ward

Also Present: Rodney Bartlett, Nancie Vaihinger, Nicole MacStay

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

Rodney Bartlett – Updates

Mr. Bartlett gave the Board an update on the paving of Union Street, which should be completed by the end of October.

PSNH is scheduled to witness a test of the connection from the solar array; Mr. MacLean is scheduling a date for the ribbon cutting.

Budget Philosophy

Mr. Bartlett said that staff is looking for a direction from the Board in terms of the budget process, and with regards to the health and welfare of the community. Chair Miller said that we do not set a percentage for the department directors; she said that they have followed a zero-base budget approach. Mr. Juengst said that it is important that the Board is fiscally conservative. Department Directors are advocating for their departments, but the Board needs to advocate for the taxpayers. Individually these are all good ideas, but there are so many demands coming at us that are not in the CIP already. The EDA will be looking for money, as well as the new Library and the Fire Station. He said that the board will have to make tough decisions as a team. He thinks that directors should look at every single line item and staffing for ways to be more efficient. They must demonstrate an absolute need for new things, because the tax bills are already pretty high in this town. Mr. Ward agreed.

Chair Miller said but when we talk about the CIP we should take all those big items and start budgeting for the future. She added that during the recession the CIP was pushed off into the future. Mr. Bartlett said that when Public Works was before the CIP Committee recently they talked about the facilities. One of the things he committed to was a long discussion in this coming year to put together a facilities plan in preparation for the FY 2018 budget. He said that they are also working on a more robust fleet management plan. There was some discussion about predictive software programs and how they can assist planning. Chair Miller said that with regards to new program requests, they should be warrant articles, and that the operating should be kept as low as possible to get it passed.

Staffing

Mr. Bartlett said that Chief Guinard has expressed a need for another officer to staff busy times of the week. This is the first request for a new officer in over twenty years. There was a discussion about how in general vacated positions are analyzed before they are filled. The Board agreed that a 2% merit increase should be used for planning and budgeting purposes for FY 2017.

GAR Hall

Mr. Bartlett said that he spoke with Mr. Fry and Mr. Gregg earlier in the day. They are prepared to close within thirty days with one caveat; that the town agree to buy back the building for one dollar if they cannot find a use for it within the next twelve months. He said that Mr. Karacappa and the Petersons are ready to close as well. He added that the DES permit applications have been submitted.

Rymes has committed to a removal of their underground tanks and clean-up with DES funding before the end of the year. The site will not be clean, but it will be cleaner.

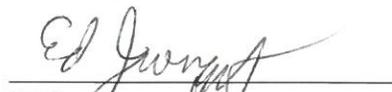
As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole MacStay, Assistant Town Administrator

PETERBOROUGH
SELECT BOARD:



Barbara A. Miller, Chair



Ed Juegst



Tyler Ward

ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST

1.