

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
Tuesday, November 14, 2019 – 5:00pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Karen Hatcher, Bill Taylor, Tyler Ward

Also Present: Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay

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

Petition for Special Town Meeting for the Main Street Bridge Project

Mr. Bartlett explained that bids for the Main Street Bridge process came in higher than the anticipated \$6.6 million which had been appropriated at the 2018 Town Meeting, and it is necessary for the Select Board to petition the Superior Court for permission to hold a Special Town Meeting. He then spoke to the following points:

- Place on the NHDOT Bridge Red list prior to 2006
- Municipal Agreement between NHDOT and Town signed in 2008 for the bridge reconstruction and a portion of US Rt 202.
- Bridge weight limit reduced from 80,000 pounds to 30,000 pounds in 2010
- Preliminary design efforts from 2009 to 2017
- Final design process from 2017 to 2019
- Bridge funded 80% Federal Highway and 20% from the Town, funding available now
- May 2018 Town Meeting passes a bond article for \$6.6 million for the bridge reconstruction
- 2019 estimate of probable cost by Hoyle, Tanner Assoc, engineer of record, is \$5.50 million waiting to verify this number. \$1.10 million below funding authorization.
- Low bid (Beck & Bellucci) for the Main St. Bridge project is \$6,596,176. Our construction engineering contract is \$785,445 for a total project cost of \$7,381,621
- Shortfall of funding \$781,621
- Special Town Meeting additional funding request \$800,000 as an appropriation, with authorization to bond \$160,000

The Board then discussed the factors outlined in RSA 31:5:

1. The severity of the harm to be avoided. Because of the higher than expected project bids, without the additional funding sought by this Special Town Meeting appropriation, the town risks losing funding and being able to proceed with the project as planned.
2. The urgency of the Petitioner's need The Town needs to have all of its funds in place to keep its spot in the funding queue for this year's funding and to preserve the lowest responsible bid, which are good for 60 days, but can be extended by mutual agreement.
3. Whether the claimed emergency was foreseeable or avoidable. Based on the probable costs the Town received from the engineers contracted to provide bid specifications, the Town didn't foresee the bids coming in as high as they did.
4. Whether the appropriation could have been made at an annual meeting. The last annual meeting was May, 2019, the bids came in October 30, 2019, and the Town cannot wait until May, 2020

without losing the lowest responsible bid (which is good for 60 days) and jeopardizing its funding from other sources.

5. Whether there are alternate remedies not requiring an appropriation. The project cannot proceed without an appropriation covering the entire project, also we need an additional appropriation not only to have compete funding, but also the additional appropriation will increase the amount of the Town's funding match from federal and state funding sources.

Motion:

Mr. Ward made a motion that the Board vote to petition the Superior Court, as authorized by NH RSA 31:5, to seek permission to hold a special town meeting to appropriate funds for the purpose of the Main Street Bridge Reconstruction and Improvements Project.; Ms. Hatcher seconded.

Vote:

Ms. Hatcher, Mr. Taylor and Chair Ward voted in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

As there was no further business, Ms. Hatcher made a motion to adjourn; Chair Ward seconded. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 5:09pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole MacStay, Deputy Town Administrator

PETERBOROUGH
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Tyler Ward, Chair

Karen Hatcher

Bill Taylor

ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST

- 1.