

Town of Peterborough
Town Meeting – Open Session
Wednesday, May 10, 2017
Upper Town Hall, 1 Grove Street, Peterborough, NH

Town Moderator L. Phillips Runyon III called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and began by reviewing the Rules of Town Meeting.

Moderator Runyon recognized Ed Juengst, Chair of the Select Board who welcomed all in attendance. He introduced the two other members of the Select Board, Barbara Miller and Tyler Ward; Town Counsel, John Ratigan; Town Clerk, Linda Guyette; Supervisors of the Checklist, Bill Sweet, Denise Sweet and Carol Lenox; Town Administrator, Rodney Bartlett; and members of the Budget Committee and department heads in attendance. He described Peterborough's charter form of government which is a hybrid, incorporating official balloting and the open session, also known as town meeting. Mr. Juengst recapped the results of yesterday's official ballot voting where there were 1,216 voters out of 5,482 registered voters on the checklist, for a 22.18% voter turnout.

Special recognition was given to three long-time Peterborough residents for their volunteer service to the town.

Ed Juengst recognized Gordon Kemp, who has been involved in town matters for more than 50 years. He is often referred to as the town's memory. He was a recipient of the Walter Peterson award and Peterborough's Citizen of the Year.

Tyler Ward recognized Sue Chollet who served on the Master Plan Steering Committee for more than 15 years and is also a previous recipient of the Walter Peterson award.

Barbara Miller recognized Fran Chapman who has lived in Peterborough for more than 45 years. He encourages thinking, not complacency, and is a community activist in the truest sense of the word.

Select Board Chair Juengst described the six remaining warrant articles for deliberation and voting. He pointed out that Article 13, the budget for Fiscal Year 2018, will be passed over since Article 3 passed by ballot vote.

OPEN SESSION ARTICLES

May 10th, 2017

Article 12. Renovations and Improvements to the Town House - \$1,000,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000)** for the purpose of designing, engineering, constructing renovations and improvements to the Town House and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,000,000 of bonds or notes for such purpose in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds and/or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof 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 be or 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 take any other action relative thereto. Without impairing the general obligation nature of the bonds and/or notes, it is intended that this appropriation will be supported by LCHIP funds.

By ballot vote (Requires 2/3 vote).

The Select Board recommends this appropriation by a vote of 3-0

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a vote of 5-1

By ballot vote (Requires 2/3 vote).

Motion: Select Board Chair Barbara Miller moved the article; Select Board member Tyler Ward seconded the motion.

Ms. Miller spoke to the article. The Peterborough Town House is on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. It was built in 1918, replacing the building that was built in 1860 but destroyed by fire in 1916. It has been suggested that its design was inspired by Boston's Faneuil Hall and the unique architecture is described as American or Colonial versions of the Georgian style.

The Town House is in need of repair and remediation. Restoration of the building will be much too costly so it is the goal to rehabilitate the building in such a way that it can remain on the State and National Register of Historic Places.

The bond is for one million dollars and we have a pending \$250,000 LCHIP grant for this project. By voting for this bond, one million dollars will be appropriated, with the hope to spend only \$750,000 to be paid back over 20 years. Principal and interest will be \$65,000 each year at an interest rate of 3.5%.

Ms. Miller then introduced Rodney Bartlett, Town Administrator to describe the project. The most costly repair is the replacement of the slate roof. Ice damming has occurred in the slate area of the snow guard and copper metal, causing water to back up under the slate and leak into the building. The ice damming damages and breaks the slate leading to further leakage. There was no ice and water shield material installed in 1918. Heat tape was placed along the copper metal edging and below the snow guard to mitigate ice damming. The estimated cost for the slate roof replacement with ice/water shield, copper guard and gutter work: \$350,623.

In addition, the copper lined gutter has failed causing leakage and damage at the wood cornice. The estimated cost for cornice repairs: \$21,450.

There is a vertical crack in the masonry at the south wall extending from the foundation to the cornice. Sealing and repair of the bricks is estimated at: \$24,675.

The entry plaza at the front of the building is not ADA accessible. The Main Street stairway leading to the administration offices requires masonry repairs to both sides of the granite steps. In addition, the ADA entrance at the rear of the upper hall auditorium does not meet current ADA and life safety requirements due to the railings, landings, ramp slope, and parking. It also has numerous issues with ice and water damage. Estimated cost for ADA improvements: \$117,000.

The re-finishing of the maple floor in the auditorium in the upper hall over the past 100 years has resulted in the wood being worn into the tongue and groove. In addition, the floor was laid without a sound-deadening underlayment resulting in 'creaking'. The estimated cost to replace the maple floor with one in kind: \$110,734.

Additional upgrades to the upper hall: acoustics, lighting and audio are estimated at \$193,043.

With a 25% contingency of \$182,475 the total estimated budget for the project is \$1,000,000.

There were several speakers to the article. John Patterson inquired whether the building's historic designation requires that the roof be replaced with slate. Mr. Bartlett replied that it does but that they are looking at a new type of installation and the possibility of solar panels that look like slate.

Kath Allen asked if the new slate roof will last another 100 years and whether repairs could be broken up into increments. Mr. Bartlett responded that it makes better sense to do everything all at once, especially due to the grant application. And, yes, the new roof should last at least another 100 years.

Richard Sanders asked how acoustics will be improved. Mr. Bartlett said that they have polled some of the groups who currently use the upper hall as to what their needs are. The upgrades will be 'somewhere in the middle'.

Francie Von Mertens inquired about the ADA improvements inside the Town House. Mr. Bartlett said that an elevator had been considered early on but that it was too costly.

Alan Bannister asked if the crack in the south wall is cosmetic or a structural issue. Mr. Bartlett said that the crack was most likely caused by water damage or settlement of the building. Mr. Bannister also asked if the upper hall floor will be replaced by maple, oak, or some other material and if it would be in the same pattern. Mr. Bartlett replied that LCHIP suggested that it be replaced in kind.

Sarah Steinberg asked about the timeline for the project. Mr. Bartlett responded that they hope to finish design work by August of this year and to have all renovations done by the November 11, 2018 building anniversary.

Liz Thomas spoke in favor of the restoration of the Town House.

Fran Chapman called the question, seconded by Ivy Vann, and passed by a majority voice vote.

With debate closed on Article 12, Moderator Runyon put the question to a ballot vote, requiring a 2/3 majority to pass. Used fuchsia pink ballots. YES favorable, NO against. The polls were declared open at 8:09 PM and would remain open for voting for one hour.

Moderator Runyon announced at 9:09 PM that the polls were closed. Counting of votes commenced by Supervisors of the Checklist, William Sweet, Denise Sweet, and Carol Lenox.

At 9:12 PM Moderator Runyon announced results of vote for Warrant Article 12:

130 ballots cast:
YES 122
NO 8

Warrant Article 12 passed successfully with more than the 2/3 required votes.

Article 13. Budget for Fiscal Year 2018 - \$14,847,037

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fourteen Million Eight Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Thirty-Seven Dollars (\$14,847,037)** for the support of General Government, Water, and Wastewater. This represents the fiscal year 2018 budget period, July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. This article does not include appropriations in special or individual articles addressed separately.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation by a vote of 3-0

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a vote of 6-0

Pursuant to the Peterborough Charter, the Official Ballot Session has adopted the annual budget by approving Article 3. Therefore, Article 9 was **PASSED OVER**.

Moderator Runyon then recognized Select Board member Barbara Miller who announced the recipient of the Walter Peterson Medallion Award. Each year the Select Board and the town have recognized an individual or group of individuals who exemplify the characteristics and attributes that we admired about former Governor, Walter Peterson: devotion, integrity, compassion, citizenship, respect and honesty. It is the highest award given by the town to those whose contributions have a significant impact on this community. This year the Walter Peterson Medallion Award was accepted by Stan Fry and Cy Gregg, business partners since the early 1990s and visionaries for the development of downtown Peterborough. Some examples: Depot Square, 36 Grove Street, Stone Barn Project, and – coming soon – the Riverwalk Park, They have also been instrumental in sustaining many of the non-profit and cultural initiatives here and in the greater Monadnock Region.

Article 14. Sidewalk Tractor Lease Purchase - \$110,000

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a lease purchase agreement for **One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$110,000)** for the purpose of lease purchasing a replacement sidewalk tractor for the Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) for the first year's payment for that purpose.

(Two-Thirds Ballot Vote Required)

The Select Board recommends this appropriation by a vote of 3-0

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a vote of 6-0

Motion: Select Board member Tyler Ward moved the article; Select Board member Barbara Miller seconded the motion.

Mr. Ward spoke to the article. The town is looking to replace the current sidewalk tractor that is in poor condition. The Trackless MT-5 is primarily used for sidewalk plowing including the downtown area and the sidewalk spanning Concord Street/US Route 202 to ConVal High School. It also aids in sidewalk and roadway sweeping and other miscellaneous cleanup projects.

There were a couple of speakers to the article. Francie Von Mertens asked whether the new sidewalk tractor will apply/distribute salt better than the old tractor. Seth MacLean, Operations Manager for the Department of Public Works responded that it will distribute salt but looking for machinery to do it more efficiently.

Karen Hatcher inquired why the town enters into a lease/purchase rather than a straight-forward purchase. Town Administrator, Rodney Bartlett replied that by leasing, the cost can be spread over a 4-5 year period instead of the one-time full cost in a purchase scenario. Town Counsel John Ratigan further explained that a 2/3 vote is needed to bind the community for the life of the lease when there is no non-appropriation clause.

With no further speakers, the article was put to a voice vote requiring a 2/3 majority vote. On show of paddles, the vote was unanimous, 104 yes, 0 no. Warrant Article 14 was **PASSED**.

Article 15. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Lease Purchase - \$270,000

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a lease purchase agreement for **Two Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$270,000)** for the purpose of lease-purchasing Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Fire Rescue Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) for the first year's payment for that purpose.

(Two-Thirds Ballot Vote Required)

The Select Board recommends this appropriation by a vote of 3-0

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a vote of 6-0

Motion: Select Board chair Ed Juengst moved the article; Select Board member Tyler Ward seconded the motion.

Mr. Juengst spoke briefly to the article and then introduced Fire & Rescue Chief, Ed Walker who spoke further to the article. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) are a critical piece of the firefighter's personal protective gear. The National Fire Protection Association Standard for SCBA outlines the safety requirements for SCBA. The standard is updated every five years and the current edition was released in 2013. Peterborough Fire units meet the 2002 edition of the standard, making them two standards old. The bottles are due to be replaced in 2018 even without the replacement of the air packs themselves. The bottles account for one-third of the total cost of the project. And in the eleven years since Peterborough's SCBA were designed, there have been several major safety enhancements:

- Low air alarm that sounds at 30% of capacity providing 8-10 minutes of time to leave the hazardous environment
- Personal Alert Safety System with louder alarm to improve the ability of other firefighters to hear the alarm
- Newer face piece made from more heat resistant material and that allows for the use of a thermal imaging camera, freeing up the firefighter's hands
- New air tanks are filled to 5,500 PSI, as compared to 4,500 PSI in the existing units

With no further speakers, the article was put to a voice vote requiring a 2/3 majority vote. On show of paddles, the vote was unanimous, 110 yes, 0 no. Warrant Article 15 was **PASSED**.

Article 16. Police Department Cruiser Lease Purchase - \$32,086

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a two-year lease purchase agreement for **Thirty-Two Thousand Eighty-Six Dollars (\$32,086)** for the purpose of lease purchasing a replacement cruiser for the Police Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixteen Thousand Forty-Three Dollars (\$16,043) for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains a non-appropriation clause.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation by a vote of 3-0

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a vote of 8-0

Motion: Select Board member Tyler Ward moved the article; Select Board chair Ed Juengst seconded the motion.

Mr. Ward briefly spoke to the article and then introduced Police Chief Scott Guinard. The lease/purchase will replace a 4-year old cruiser. The existing vehicle will be put out for bid. Former cruisers are usually purchased by taxi cab companies and can recoup one-quarter of the vehicle's cost.

There was one speaker to the article. Kath Allen questioned if the revenues received on the former cruiser would be applied to the cost of the new cruiser, thus lessening the amount of the lease/purchase. Chief Guinard responded that the revenue from the sale of the former cruiser gets applied to the town's General Fund to help offset expenses.

With no additional speakers, the article was put to a voice vote.

Vote: By a show of paddles, the majority was in the affirmative and Warrant Article 16 was **PASSED**.

Article 17. Use of Marshall-Thomas Recreation Facility (Cunningham Pond)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Recreation Committee, with concurrence from the Select Board, to regulate the use of the Marshall-Thomas Recreation Facility by non-residents to include rules, regulations, and fees.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation by a vote of 3-0

Motion: Select Board member Barbara Miller moved the article; Select Board chair Ed Juengst seconded the motion.

Ms. Miller spoke to the article. The Cunningham Pond site was gifted to the town in 1994. It was ratified at Town Meeting in 1996. There had been discussion at that time to limit use of the pond to residents only. However, such was not stipulated in the article or deed.

In January 2017, the Recreation Committee and Recreation Director were challenged to find new revenue sources and discussed non-resident use of the pond. Approval of this article will allow the development of rules, regulations and fees for non-resident use of the facility.

There were several speakers to the article. Kath Allen asked whether residents would be able to find adequate parking if the pond is opened to non-residents. In response, the number of passes issued to residents over the last couple of years has decreased from more than 1200-1500 passes to about 750 so there is room for non-residents to use the pond. Non-resident passes will be issued in limited amounts.

Jeanne Dietsch inquired about the fees for Cunningham Pond passes. Jeff King, Recreation Director, responded that the first pass for each residence is free and each additional pass is \$10.00 Ms. Dietsch asked if the fees caused the decreased number of passes issued. Mr. King replied that the fees have been in place since the town started issuing passes. However, there has been a decrease in the number of passes issued since the renovation of Adams Pool.

Liz Thomas, Ivy Vann and Doug Williams spoke in favor of opening the pond to non-residents.

Joellen D'Ambrosio called the question, seconded by Ivy Vann. It was passed by a majority voice vote.

With debate closed on Article 17, Moderator Runyon put the question to a voice vote.

Vote: By a show of paddles, the majority was in the affirmative and Warrant Article 17 was **PASSED**.

As there was no further business, Moderator Runyon asked for a motion to adjourn. By a show of paddles, the vote was manifested in favor of the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Total Registered Voters on Checklist:	5,482
Total Registered Voters at Town Meeting:	134

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Guyette
Town Clerk

This is a true and certified copy.

Linda M. Guyette, Town Clerk