

Town of Peterborough

First Open “Deliberative” Session

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

Upper Town House

Moderator L. Phillips Runyon III called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Moderator Runyon led the Pledge of Allegiance then discussed the rules of debate and civility protocol, known as the “Peterson Principle”.

Moderator Runyon introduced Select Board member, Tyler Ward who made welcoming remarks and introduced Barbara Miller and Ed Juengst of the Select Board; Town Attorney, John Ratigan; Town Clerk, Linda Guyette; Town Administrator, Rodney Bartlett; Supervisors of the Checklist Denise Sweet, Bill Sweet and Carol Lenox; and Deputy Town Administrator, Nicole MacStay. Ms. Miller also introduced Department Directors in attendance: Fash Farashahi, Corinne Chronopoulos, Jeff King, Pete Throop, Seth MacLean, Brenda Fox-Howard, Chief Edmund Walker, and Chief Scott Guinard. He also introduced members of the Budget Committee and it was noted that Chair, Roland Patten was home due to illness.

Mr. Ward discussed the budget process and indicated that the purpose of the deliberative session is to move to the official ballot articles 3-12. The remaining articles 13-21 will be discussed and voted on at the open session on May 9th.

Moderator Runyon then read Article 3:

Article 3. Budget for Fiscal Year 2018 - \$15,082,139

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifteen Million Eighty-Two Thousand Thirty-Seven Dollars (\$15,082,139)** for the support of General Government, Water, and Wastewater. This represents the fiscal year 2019 budget period, July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. 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 7-1

Moved as read by Tyler Ward, second by Ed Juengst.

An amendment was proposed to correct the amount of the proposed budget.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifteen Million Two Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$15,247,314)** for the support of

General Government, Water, and Wastewater. This represents the fiscal year 2019 budget period, July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. 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

Mr. Ward spoke to the amendment. After the Public Hearing on March 6, town staff identified two computational errors that had been omitted from the initial budget amount. They included debt service (the lease payment on a police cruiser) plus \$150,000 for abatements, elderly and veteran credits.

The amendment was put to a voice vote and passed unanimously.

Rodney Bartlett spoke to the article. The proposed FY2019 budget is up 2% over FY2018. Health insurance, the largest single expense, increased only 1% and dental insurance did not increase. Other expenses increased in step with overall inflation.

Bob Lambert pointed out a \$50,000 discrepancy between the amounts shown on the amendment and the amount shown on the Summary of Operating Budget spreadsheet. Which amount is correct?

A second amendment was moved by Tyler, with a second by Mr. Juengst to correct the amount of the proposed budget to **Fifteen Million Two Hundred Ninety-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$15,297,314)**. The second amendment was put to a voice vote and passed.

Deputy Town Administrator Nicole MacStay then indicated that the correct amount of the proposed budget is **Fifteen Million Two Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$15,247,314)**.

Mr. Ward motioned to rescind the second amendment and it was seconded by Don Parkhurst of the Budget Committee. The motion carried.

With no other speakers, Article 3 was moved as amended and remanded to the official ballot.

Article 4. Geographic Information System Capital Reserve Fund - \$5,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000)** to be placed in the previously established "Geographic Information System Capital Reserve Fund" for the purpose of upgrading and maintaining the aerial maps and planimetric data.

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

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

Moved as read by Barbara Miller, second by Tyler Ward.

Ms. Miller spoke to the article. GIS is a tool used for community planning, zoning, utilities, public works, fire and rescue, and tax maps. It eliminates the need for mapping consultants. It consists of computer hardware, software and geographic data, and allows for third and fourth dimensional mapping features for capturing, analyzing and displaying data used in decision-making. The GIS system is scheduled to be upgraded every five years.

As there were no speakers, Article 4 was moved and remanded to the official ballot.

Article 5. Transfer from Cemetery Fund - \$3000

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.

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

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

Moved as read by Tyler Ward, second by Ed Juengst. Mr. Ward spoke to the article.

With no additional speakers, Article 5 was moved as presented and remanded to the official ballot.

Article 6. Refurbish the Ladder Truck - \$200,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000)** for refurbishing the Fire Department Ladder Truck.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0

Moved as read by Barbara Miller, second by Tyler Ward.

Ms. Miller spoke to the article and introduced Fire Chief Ed Walker. The current ladder truck was purchased in 2004 for \$550,000. It has an anticipated lifespan of 20 years and responds to over 60 calls annually. Peterborough's ladder truck is the only ladder truck between Keene and Milford. The refurbishment and equipment replacement should add an estimated five (5) years of additional service. The estimated cost to replace the ladder truck is \$1.25 million in FY2024.

The requested \$200,000 will include refurbishment of the truck's hydraulic systems, vehicle lights, emergency lighting, body corrosion as well as the Jaws of Life rescue tool, rescue air bag system, rescue ropes and two-way radios.

Rich Clark asked for clarification to the 5 years that would be gained through the refurbishment. It would extend the life of the ladder truck to 2029. Andrew Dunbar asked how other towns that are serviced by Peterborough's fire/rescue will help pay for this. Per Chief Walker, it will be billed at a one-time cost as part of their annual billing.

With no additional speakers, Article 6 was moved as presented and remanded to the official ballot.

Article 7. Financial Management Capital Reserve Fund - \$50,000

To see if the Town will authorize the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund (pursuant to RSA Chapter 35) to be known as the "Financial Management Software/Hardware Capital Reserve Fund" for the purpose of the orderly replacement and upgrades of the present Financial Management Software/Hardware Systems and further to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000)** toward the purpose and to designate the Select Board as agents to expend.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0

Moved by Ed Juengst, second by Barbara Miller. Mr. Juengst spoke to the article.

With no additional speakers, Article 7 was moved as presented and remanded to the official ballot.

Article 8. All Veterans Tax Credit – RSA 72:28-b

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit. If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident who served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from services and is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be \$500, the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town under RSA 72:28.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0

Moved by Barbara Miller, second by Ed Juengst.

Ms. Miller spoke to the article. This article would include tax credits for all veterans, including those who served during times of peace. It is expected to increase veterans exemptions by 3-5%.

Article 8 was moved as read and remanded to official ballot.

Article 9. Re-establish the Ambulance Fund per RSA 31:95-h Ambulance Revolving Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish an Ambulance Revolving Fund pursuant RSA 31:95-h to replace the Ambulance Operating Fund established by Town Meeting in 1997. If approved, the balance of the discontinued Ambulance Operating Fund would be transferred to the Ambulance Revolving Fund effective May 9, 2018. The revenues from fees, charges or any other revenue derived from the activities or services supported by the fund shall be deposited into the fund. The money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be part of the town's general fund unreserved fund balance. The town treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same pursuant to the policy developed by the town. These funds may be expended only for the operations and activities of the Town's Ambulance Service.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0

Moved by Ed Juengst, second by Tyler Ward.

An amendment was proposed.

Motion to Separate Article 9 into two articles, and to delete the existing Article 9 language and replace it with Articles 9A and 9B as follows:

Article 9A. To see if the Town will vote to rescind the provisions of RSA 31:95-c to restrict 100% of the revenues received from fees charged for ambulance usage to expenditures for the purpose of defraying the ambulance service expenses? Such revenues and expenditures shall be accounted for in a special revenue fund to be known as the Ambulance Operating Fund, separate from the general fund. Any surplus in said fund shall not be deemed part of the general fund accumulated surplus and shall be expended only after a vote of the legislative body to appropriate a specific amount from said fund for a specific purpose related to the purpose of the fund or source of the revenue. This article is contingent upon the passage of article 9B.

The Select Board recommends this amendment 3-0

Article 9B. To see if the Town will vote to establish an Ambulance Revolving Fund for the operation of and related expenses incurred by the Town's Ambulance Service as authorized by

RSA 31:95-h. The revenues from fees, charges, or other income derived from the activities or services supported by the fund shall be deposited into the fund. The money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town's general unreserved fund balance. The town treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same pursuant to the policy developed by the Select Board. These funds may be expended only for the operations, equipment and activities of the Town's Ambulance Service. Further, to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) to be deposited into the fund with said funds to come from town's unreserved fund balance. [This represent the monies from the discontinued Ambulance Operating Special Revenue Fund]. No amount to be raised by taxation.

The Select Board recommends this amendment 3-0

Moved by Ed Juengst, second by Tyler Ward.

Mr. Juengst spoke to the amendment. The current ambulance operating fund was established in 1997 as a Special Revenue Fund under RSA 31:95-c. It requires that funds are limited to those activities funded primarily through user fees. The NH Department of Revenue has requested that we separate Article 9 into two different warrant articles. These articles would convert the Ambulance Fund to a Revolving Fund as allowed by a change in State law in 2005. The first article (9A) would be to vote on rescinding the existing Ambulance Operating Fund. Article 9B establishes the new Ambulance Revolving Fund. If the article is amended as proposed, the Board proposes that the two articles be moved to the Third Open Session (Town Meeting) on May 9th because they should be explained and discussed rather than put to a ballot vote as previously planned.

The amendment was put to a voice vote and passed.

Motion to move Articles 9A and 9B to open session instead of on ballot. Moved by Ed Juengst, second by Tyler Ward.

Amendment passed. Articles 9A and 9B will be moved to the open session (town meeting) and Wednesday, May 9th. They shall appear sequentially as Article 21 and Article 22.

Article 10. Reclamation Trust Fund Re-Adoption

To see if the Town will vote to readopt the provisions of RSA 262:153, V and RSA 149-M:13-a and continue the Town reclamation trust fund for the purpose of paying for the town's vehicle waste in which the town can use any monies in the fund for the recycling and reclamation of solid waste and designate the Select Board as agents to expend. If approved the Town will

assess an additional fee to any motor vehicle registered in town pursuant to the fee schedule as follows:

- A. the fee for heavy vehicles, including mobile homes and house trailers, heavy trucks and truck-tractors whose gross weight exceeds 18,000 pounds, and buses shall be \$5.00
- B. unless otherwise provided, the fee for automobiles, light vehicles including trucks, and commercial motorized vehicles including tractor trailers, shall be \$3.00
- C. unless otherwise provided, the fee for special use vehicles including all-terrain vehicles, agricultural and farm vehicles, and historic vehicles and for 2-wheeled vehicles including mopeds, motorcycles and non-motorized car and boat trailers, shall be \$2.00

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

Article was moved by Tyler Ward, second by Barbara Miller. Mr. Ward spoke briefly to the article.

With no additional speakers, Article 10 was moved as presented and remanded to the official ballot.

Article 11. Pay As You Throw Fund

To see if the Town will vote to expand the allowed expenditures from the Pay-as-You-Throw fund to include the orderly maintenance and replacement of equipment necessary to the operation of the Pay-as-You-Throw program.

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

Article was moved by Ed Juengst, second by Tyler Ward.

Mr. Juengst spoke to the article. The Pay As You Throw Fund was established at the 1999 Town Meeting. It set a fee per bag disposed of at the recycling center into the trash compactor, and created a special revenue fund to restrict expenditures. Currently, authorized expenditures from this fund cannot include the maintenance and replacement of the equipment necessary to the program (i.e. the trash compactor). This article seeks to include maintenance and replacement of equipment as an allowed expenditure of the fund.

Rich Clark asked what funds could be used for if not for maintenance and replacement of equipment. Mr. Bartlett responded that fees could increase, if necessary, to cover the cost of the compactor.

With no additional speakers, Article 11 was moved as presented and remanded to the official ballot.

Article 12. Resolution to Move Forward on Offshore Wind Development (by petition)

- **Whereas** the State of New Hampshire has committed to 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050, but has yet to develop a plan to achieve that goal, and needs to work toward a sustainable energy system to ensure protection of the health of its people, environment, and economy before this date, and
- **Whereas** the federal Department of Energy has determined that the Gulf of Maine has a total potential wind power capacity in excess of 200,000 Megawatts within 50 miles of the coasts of New Hampshire, Maine and northeast Massachusetts, and that utilizing just a small percentage of this potential, combined with other renewable resources, could provide most of the future power needs of our region, and
- **Whereas** operation of floating wind farms 10 to 50 miles off our coast is expected to have much less impact on our environment and public health than all existing power sources, as well as create less aesthetic concern than terrestrial wind farms, and
- **Whereas** development and operation of offshore wind farms have the potential to create large numbers of jobs and other economic activity within Portsmouth Harbor and other NH coastal communities, and
- **Whereas** a bipartisan NH legislative study committee report in 2015 concluded that "The wind resource off of New Hampshire's coast has the potential to generate significant amounts of electricity," and that "offshore wind development has the potential to generate significant economic activity within Portsmouth Harbor..." recommending that the Governor request formation of an intergovernmental Task Force and stakeholder process to plan for regional offshore wind development,
- **Resolved**, the **Town of Peterborough** supports efforts to develop wind power off the New Hampshire coast and urges Governor Sununu to make a formal request to the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to form a Task Force and stakeholder process to plan for regional offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine. Further, the Town will send written notice of support for this resolution to Governor Sununu within 30 days of its passage.

Moved as read by Joel Huberman, second by Ann Huberman.

Mr. Huberman spoke to the article. In 2009, New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services released its Climate Action Plan, committing our State to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050. However, the Action Plan did not contain a specific timetable, and it did not describe how fossil fuels could be replaced by clean energy. Offshore wind is a single clean energy source that can easily replace fossil fuels and provide for 100% of our energy needs. Offshore wind could generate as much energy as a nuclear power plant. In fact, the amount of energy that could be produced each year by wind turbines located from 10 to 50

miles off the coasts of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts could be as much as the electricity generated by 136 Seabrook nuclear plants and is much more electricity than is currently used by these three states. The purpose of this article is to persuade Governor Chris Sununu to act to request a study to evaluate offshore wind.

Don Parkhurst questioned whether this would infringe on international waters.

With no additional speakers, Article 12 was moved as presented and remanded to the official ballot.

With no other business, Moderator Runyon adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Total Registered Voters on Checklist:	5,471
Total Registered Voters at Meeting:	57

This is a true and certified copy.



Linda M. Guyette, Town Clerk
Peterborough, NH