

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
Tuesday, January 3, 2012 – 6:00pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Barbara Miller, Joe Byk, Elizabeth Thomas

Also Present: Pamela Brenner, Carol Ogilvie, Nicole MacStay

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

Francie Von Mertens – Proposed Legislation to Limit Conservation Commissions

Ms. Von Mertens explained that the land use change tax (LUCT) is the tax levied when a property classified as current use is taken out for development. Current use is taxed at a lower rate, and 10% of the market value of the property is levied when it is taken out of current use. Walter Peterson was governor and very supportive of this legislation when it was originally passed. The intention of the legislation was to preserve open space. New Hampshire is one of the few states to enact current use. Towns have been given the option to vote on how to designate how the LUCT funds will be spent, and whether they will go to the general fund or to the Conservation Commission. About 160 towns have voted to direct 50% of those funds to a conservation fund with a \$500,000 cap; the cap was recently done away with. Once the town has taken that vote the vote can be undone, which some towns have done, giving towns a great latitude for local control. The two bills being proposed and scheduled to be heard next week would take away that option.

Chair Miller asked how much historically does the Conservation Commission receive from the LUCT; **Ms. Von Mertens** said that on average about \$5,000 a year. In some towns there is a lot of development and more money is available, and in many towns this is the only funding the Conservation Commission receives to fulfill their mandate. This may not impact Peterborough given the support that the Conservation Commission receives from the community, however statewide this is important. **Ms. Von Mertens** then reviewed two letters drafted by Administration Intern Emily Rapp, who she said did a wonderful job of diving into the proposed legislation and really understanding it. The Board agreed to sign both letters, and asked Ms. Brenner to track both bills.

Virtual Tour of town House Wood Pellet Boiler

Mr. Bartlett said that this project started in 2009 when the Town was fortunate enough to get a grant to complete a decision-grade energy audit which then allowed us to apply for an OEP grant for a wood pellet boiler, which we won. He then introduced Rick Monahon and Dave Drasba who gave the PowerPoint presentation. **Mr. Monahon** said that he and Mr. Drasba were thrilled to be selected to do this project. Peterborough has adopted some very progressive approaches to energy at other buildings. This building is the flagship of the town, however it has not operated at the performance level it should have. It was a fun challenge to figure out how to complete this project without impacting the building or constructing a silo outside. **Mr. Drasba** then walked the Board through the installation, showing how the wood pellet storage bin was constructed inside the building in a mostly vacant space under the stage. There was some discussion about the details of the system. **Ms. Lewis** said that \$100,000 was set aside in the CIP for boilers, and asked how those funds figured in. **Mr. Bartlett** said that those would be used in addition to the \$200,000 in grants on the entire building envelope project.

Fash Farashahi – Nixle Emergency Notification System

Mr. Farashahi gave a presentation on the Nixle Emergency Notification System. This new system allows the Town to send public safety alerts, community notifications to residents who sign up for the service. Messages are sent as text messages or as emails depending on what the resident signed up for. This is a completely confidential service; no one in the town has access to any phone numbers or email addresses. He said that sign-up information will be posted on the Town's website, and there will be a press release sent to the newspaper, and flyers will be available to voters at the polls.

Other Business

Chair Miller announced that the Board will meet in non-public session on January 11th to discuss changes to the Public Works Department.

The Board decided which member would sit at the polls throughout the day of primary elections.

Joint Select Board/Budget Committee Meeting

The Board was joined by Steve Jones, Roland Patten, Gordon Kemp, Bob Lambert and Leslie Lewis of the Budget Committee.

Cemeteries

	FY 2012	FY 2013	% Inc. or Dec.
Net Operating	\$39,750	\$45,197	13.7%
Net Capital	\$0	\$0	N/A
To be raised through taxation	\$39,750	\$45,197	13.7%

Mr. Lambert said that the administrative budget has stayed the same. **Mr. Bartlett** explained that the increase to the budget is due to the replacement of a riding mower, leaf vacuum and truck hitch. These expenditures are divided over all three Buildings and Grounds budgets.

Parks

	FY 2012	FY 2013	% Inc. or Dec.
Net Operating	\$62,880	\$68,434	8.8%
Net Capital	\$0	\$0	N/A
To be raised through taxation	\$62,880	\$68,434	8.8%

Mr. Bartlett said that this budget is also essentially the same, with the same increase in expenditures to replace the riding mower and accessories.

Buildings and Grounds

	FY 2012	FY 2013	% Inc. or Dec.
Net Operating	\$254,979	\$263,952	3.5%
Net Capital	\$0	\$30,000	100%
To be raised through taxation	\$254,979	\$293,952	15.3%

Mr. Bartlett said that there is a 12.82% increase, much of which goes towards the painting of the trim and doors of the Town House, estimated to cost \$36,000. Without that expenditure the budget

would have increased by 2.1%. **Chair Miller** noted that property and liability insurance has gone down; **Ms. Vaihinger** said that she has been told that premiums will not change, and so she was able to budget the actual expenditure from the current fiscal year.

Landfill Maintenance

Mr. Bartlett said that this includes groundwater monitoring for the two closed landfills as well as remediation for the hazardous waste from NHBB. The last injection at the Scott Mitchell landfill was last year, and has shown enough success with that program that they do not anticipate any more remediation for the next ten years. **Chair Miller** asked how much is left in the fund; **Mr. Bartlett** said that there is \$500,000. He added that they are now required to test for another chemical.

Recycling

	FY 2012	FY 2013	% Inc. or Dec.
Net Operating	\$186,781	191,488	2.5%
Net Capital	\$2,000	\$0	-100%
To be raised through taxation	\$188,781	\$191,488	1.4%

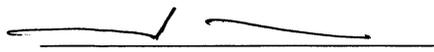
Mr. Bartlett said that this budget is at the mercy of what happens with the sale of recyclables. The swings in pricing has been dramatic over the last couple of months. Internally, Scott is working on a new fee structure for the recycling center, particularly electronic waste which includes monitors and hard drives. **Ms. Brenner** said that the Town used to get a lot of scrap metal but that has become so profitable that people are selling it themselves. **Mr. Bartlett** said that people are also taking the tubing out of air conditioners and refrigerators. **Mr. Patten** asked why Sharon's rate dropped by half; **Ms. Brenner** said that for many years Sharon was being charged double per capita partly because they were not originally paying for landfill remediation. Since the Town is now being reimbursed they asked to negotiate, and we agreed to reduce the rate. We do feel strongly that we need to charge them an administrative fee on all of these budgets which will be built in in the future.

As there was no further business, **Chair Kemp** adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole MacStay, Assistant to the Town Administrator

PETERBOROUGH
SELECT BOARD:


Barbara A. Miller, Chair


Joe Byk


Elizabeth M. Thomas

ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST

1.