

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
Tuesday, January 31, 2017 – 5:00pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Barbara Miller, Ed Juengst, Tyler Ward

Also Present: Rodney Bartlett, Brenda Fox-Howard, Seth MacLean, Nate Brown, David Croumie, Leo Smith, Fash Farashahi, Jeff King, Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla
Budget Committee: Roland Patten, Ed Henault, Mandy Sliver, Ron McIntyre, Bob Hanson, Paul Sullivan, Richard Clark, Steve Jones

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

Kimberley Saunders, Superintendent and Marion Alese, Finance Director, ConVal School District - Update

Ms. Saunders reviewed the vision of the district that includes a model of excellence, in which all children learn and succeed. After conducting research, she stated that school districts follow a trend based on a similar process, including foundational stages to align curriculum and assessment practices to share inclusion, a comprehensive communication plan, and working with local agencies to increase community connections. She stated four strategic goals, including to provide high quality educational opportunities for students, foster community, to develop and organizational structure to ensure high quality resources and opportunities and finally, operations, recognizing that competent staffing is necessary to ensure student success.

The budget process was started in September and a budget prep calendar. The presentation to the school board took place in November, a public hearing last week, and a deliberative session next Wednesday. The ballot vote will be on March 14. Considerations include these assumptions: 1) procedural: move forward to a specific set of frameworks 2) programmatic-curriculum renewal cycle, contractual and legal financial items, changing professional development needs and 3) financial: staff increases, contractual increase with transportation contractor and NH retirement.

Ms. Alese covered most of the line items in the budget expanding on why each line item was either increasing or decreasing. Some of the items she mentioned were: salaries, the largest of the budget. They are anticipating a district assessment of an increase in \$10K. The largest reduction is in the anticipated unreserved fund balance, expecting it to be \$725K down from \$1M. They will be requesting less in the health insurance line, but a slight increase in building aid. They are also anticipating a small decrease in adequacy funds.

She continued, mentioning an increase of \$79K in salaries, proposing new staffing, including additional athletics at the high school. Additional positions are anticipated as well as a reduction at some of the schools which net to 3.5% increase in salaries. Bus contract increase is expected as well as a supplies increase, including curriculum for a new math curriculum. She also mentioned a reduction in furniture and equipment, as they will be transferring money from trust funds. She closed by noting that the school board was cognizant of the tax rates for each of the towns.

Ms. Miller asked if this would be a good year to make changes to the articles of agreement. Ms. Alese replied that it is too late for this year, without results from the formula study. She felt the studies should be done first before making any changes. Ms. Miller replied that many school districts can make these decisions without $\frac{3}{4}$ vote from the town residents. Ms. Alese responded that studies have been done that show they want input from the public. Mr. Juengst expressed that presenting a simple and concise concept to the public would be beneficial to create clarity and positivity. In closing, Chair Juengst expressed that the school board requested an endorsement from the select board and agreed to the endorsement.

Motion: Chair Juengst made a motion to endorse the school district budget.

Vote: Mr. Ward seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Other Business

Ms. Miller mentioned that the EDA suggested a business excellence sustainability award nomination of the town, in the context of a tourism business. The details were discussed briefly.

Review and approval of minutes from January 10, 2017.

Motion: Mr. Ward made a motion to approve the minutes from January 10, 2017.

Vote: Ms. Miller seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

JOINT SELECT BOARD/BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING***Public Works***

Mr. Bartlett opened the discussion by explaining that Mr. Smith's responsibilities is to track energy costs. In November we celebrated a full year of the solar array figures, and are able to compare assumptions and actual costs. He explained there is an increase in expenses, but also an increase in revenue to offset these costs. Mr. Smith covered the activity of the solar array, how much energy was generated and how much saved. The solar array generated 1.2 million megawatt hours (MWh) costing \$102,126. 995. MWh were exported to Eversource, which then paid us a revenue of \$103,667. An additional piece is the consumed behind the meter cost that is used at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The avoided cost rate was calculated to be .1147 cents per kWh. Using that rate, a savings of \$32,322.

Mr. Smith continued by explaining the Group Net Metering program. Ultimately because there were 5 meters unable to be moved to Constellation Energy, this resulted in a cost of \$24,300. There was a three cent difference between the two. The net savings was around \$10,000/year.

Mr. Bartlett explained the complexities of group net metering in that the rules today favor onsite generation matching onsite use. Mr. Smith continued with the environmental benefits of the solar array, including greenhouse gas reductions.

Water and Sewer - Mr. MacLean presented DPW budget starting with sewer department, explaining some of the budget line items including a need for a crane equipped truck for opening manhole covers. The water budget shows a 1.8% increase, due to personnel increases, as well as a financial software upgrade, which is shared with sewer department, equipment repair and maintenance, engineering services for 12" water main for route 101/202 bridge project. Other increased include general supplies and chemical expenditures. Ms. Miller asked if the summer street well is online. Mr. Brown responded that a part was ordered but was incorrect. It will be online within the next two weeks but could be operational if necessary.

Buildings and Grounds - Mr. McLean started by stating that the budget reflects a 2.87% increase, being driven by one line item, an increase in contracted services related to the refinishing of the floors for the upper main hall. Mr. Bartlett explained that he attended a meeting with LCHIP recently, and the town should be eligible for some grant support and could include replacement of the floor in addition to slate roof work and brick work improvements. Mr. Croumie continued with a request to replace a daily work truck, and new mower, the cost of which would be split across the three departments, B & G, Parks and Cemetery.

Parks - No changes are anticipated with no significant line item change.

Cemetery - An increase of 19.3% is anticipated, which includes a request for contracting to repair older stones that have fallen to disrepair. The Cemetery Trustees requested 136 stones to be replaced.

Highway - The requested budget shows a 2.77% operational increase primarily related to rentals and leases and outsider contracted services including a rental of a brush mower for roads prior to being paved, as well as anticipating for the worst possible scenario with regard to winter plowing. Mr. Bartlett explained the idea of an expendable trust fund for winter operations, with excess funds saved for any given year to be used at a later date.

Capital expenses include a 6 wheel plow truck replacement of an eighteen year old vehicle, and a sidewalk reconstruction project to be completed over the next two or three years. Also, the replacement of a sidewalk plow tractor through a lease purchase.

Transcript dam and North dam – Mr. Bartlett explained the underground utilities relocation related to the Main Street bridge project, a cost of \$400K \$ 300K is budgeted for the Transcript dam and \$750K for the north dam The bid date has been pushed off to 2018 May town meeting for FY2019.

Mr. Bartlett continued to explain how TIF revenues could be used for maintenance work.

Recycling – The budget shows an increase of 7.42% in expenses, primarily driven by increases in disposal costs of demolition items which include a rate increase, as well as an increase in amount of waste. Mr. Bradford continued, explaining the requirement of the disposal of tires to be in compliance with the state. Chair Juengst asked if there were a number of complaints from residents. Mr. Bradford affirmed that there have been many complaints. He continued, explaining the need for the replacement of a baler for baling steel cans, which is currently a 40 year old machine.

Information Management Systems (IT)

Mr. Farashahi began by explaining the mobile data terminal for police cruisers are the biggest replacement cost, with a replacement of all three, about \$4-5K apiece. Computer replacement is on a five year schedule, but will push the replacement to six years if necessary. He estimated \$600-800K cost per computer, \$1300 for laptops, with docking station, business class, showing a 4.5% increase overall.

Recreation

Mr. King introduced Heather McClusky, Recreation committee member, and Gloria Schultz, Senior Program Specialist. He continued to explain his initial proposal which is up 7.5% over last year. This includes a part time (28 hours/week) custodial position to cover the maintenance of all the buildings surrounding Adams Pool and playground, as well as recreation office. There is currently only one custodian to cover all the buildings, including all the recreation buildings which is inadequate especially considering a warming climate, as the facilities are being used earlier and lasting longer into the fall. Painting Adams pool will be a necessary expenditure for preventive maintenance. In addition, the roof of the maintenance building, a building from 1992, requires a roof replacement.

Mr. King explained that the committee has brainstormed revenue ideas in order to balance the anticipated increase in the budget. Revenue opportunities include a proposal for non-resident beach stickers for Cunningham Pond at \$100 each. Attendance at the pond has declined, the pool pulling some of the activity since it was renovated. However, when the pond was accepted, it was with the provision of being for residents only, therefore this would have to go to town meeting to be approved. Also day passes are a consideration at \$10/day for non-residents with a cap of 10 passes per day. With 85 days in the beach season, this could provide revenue of another \$8500. These revenues could offset the expenditure increase.

Ms. Miller asked about increasing a headcount for staffing and that it can incite negativity from the public due to budgetary considerations. Mr. King responded that staffing cuts aren't feasible as they're stretched thin as it is and that is why they were trying to pursue revenue operations. Chair Juengst mentioned if the revenue opportunities aren't approved by the town, then the budget for this department would not be balanced. Mr. King continued with other smaller revenue opportunities, such as renting kayak or paddle board space to store residents' boats. Camping space could also be rented out.

As there was no more business to discuss, Mr. Patten made a motion to adjourn at 8:23 pm. Mr. Hanson seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla, Department Assistant

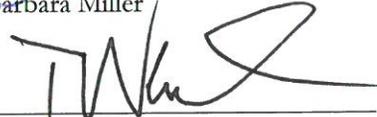
PETERBOROUGH
SELECT BOARD:



Ed Juengst, Chair



Barbara Miller



Tyler Ward