

**MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH**

Tuesday, February 20, 2018 – 5:30pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Tyler Ward, Barbara Miller, Ed Juengst

Also Present: Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay, Brenda Fox-Howard, Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla, Jeff King, Ed Walker

Budget Committee: Roland Patten, Ed Henault, Mandy Sliver, Rick Clark, Carl Mabbs-Zeno, Ron McIntyre, Paul Sullivan, Bob Hanson, Don Parkhurst

Chair Ward called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Melissa Stephenson – Honeybee Mural

Ms. Stephenson introduced the proposed concept of a mural on the Community Center to be painted by artist Matthew Wiley who is painting murals in the U.S. to raise consciousness about pollinators. The prospective site is the south facing wall of the Community Center. The artist's goal is to paint 50,000 honey bees in total nationwide, which is the number of bees in a typical hive. Ms. Stephenson said she is planning to raise the money privately and is still in the process of getting a fiscal agent for this project. Mr. Wiley will feature the mural on his website while he is painting.

Ms. Miller asked if this would be all private funding. Ms. Stephenson affirmed that she was only asking for approval, not funding. Ms. Miller asked how long it would take. Ms. Stephenson answered that it would take a month to complete the project, most likely over the summer. Chair Ward asked if the painter had a sense of the longevity of his work. Ms. Stephenson said he applies a coating to protect his work but has not asked him that specific question.

Motion: Ms. Miller made a motion to approve the placement of the mural on the wall of the Community Center to be funded by private funds.

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

New High Street LLC Abatement Request

Mr. Bartlett presented Mr. David Macy's letter regarding the Country Club's overdue water bill. The arrearage stems from before the purchase of the property, currently around \$9,150. Mr. Juengst asked if requesting an abatement would set a precedent. Mr. Bartlett said we have done similar abatements in the past, usually abating a sewer portion of the bill due to flooding. Ms. Miller suggested to stop the interest from accruing, eliminate penalties, but still create a payment plan for the original amount. Mr. Juengst asked if the original amount could be determined and also proposed that it be paid back.

Motion: Mr. Juengst made a motion to negate the fees, penalties and interest, determine original amount and work out a payment plan to pay off the original amount of the overdue utility bill in its entirety.

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

Joint Budget Committee/Select Board – Overall Budget Analysis/Completion of the Budget

Mr. Patten introduced the Budget Committee. He explained that tonight's duty is to examine the entire operating budget, then turned over the meeting to Mr. Bartlett. Mr. Bartlett said the budget projects a 2% total increase as it stands currently. Mr. Bartlett listed the warrant articles and presented the budget without CIP included for clarity. Mr. Juengst asked why the downtown storm

drainage isn't showing up on the budget. Ms. MacStay said it's now in the highway budget. Mr. Juengst asked about winter operations monies. Mr. Bartlett said it was placed in an expendable trust fund, and it remains there, therefore doesn't show up on the operating budget. This money gets appropriated but not necessarily spent.

Mr. Bartlett said the new library budget operating request was changed to reflect the anticipated costs if the library bond issue does not pass. The budget now reflects the cost of staying at the current library, including current cost for heat and utilities. If the library bond does pass, those funds would be applied to rent while in transition during construction of the new library.

Mr. Bartlett explained each of the warrant articles and explained the details on each. Mr. Johnathan Erickson asked if there is an economical advantage of putting the utilities underground around the Main Street Bridge. Mr. Bartlett said that the benefits are mostly aesthetic. Chair Ward said it's also a safety concern.

Mr. Erickson asked about the North Dam project. Mr. Bartlett said in considering the CIP projects, the Transcript Dam project took precedence with regard to maintenance and making improvements. The North Dam project will be considered at a later date.

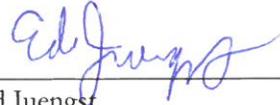
Mr. Bartlett offered suggestions, mentioning the records retention decrease from the Town Clerk's budget. He also mentioned adding \$2,600 to the Town Clerk's budget for renting the Community Center for election purposes. Mr. Bartlett continued, recognizing the additional demands of the EDA on the Office of Community Development, as well as business employer forums, zoning amendments, and the creation of the South Peterborough TIF District, all add to the workload of the OCD. He proposed establishing a planning assistant position. Currently, there is a temporary 20 hour per week part-time position providing some support, which would increase to 40 hours. The additional cost of this new position would be offset by the revenue generated by all the TIF districts. Ms. Miller and Mr. Juengst supported this suggestion. Ms. Sliver asked if we had used TIF funds in the past to fund a salary position. Mr. Bartlett said we have not, but he consulted the town attorney, and if the position supports the TIF plans, then it is acceptable. In addition, he suggested an expendable trust fund, with excess TIF monies put aside to help maintain the improvements that were paid for by the TIF.

Mr. Bartlett explained that overlays and credits, the amount that is set aside to accommodate veteran's credits, abatements and elderly exemptions, has increased to \$150,000, up from \$110,000. Mr. Patten asked how much we have spent so far this year on overlays and credits. Mr. Bartlett said about \$47,000 and more will be spent in the form of tax abatements after the tax bills go out later this year.

As there was no more business to discuss, Mr. Patten made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla, Department Assistant

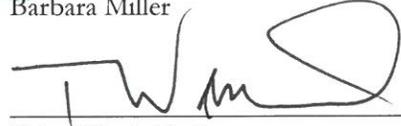
PETERBOROUGH
SELECT BOARD:



Ed Juengst



Barbara Miller



Tyler Ward, Chair

