

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
Tuesday, February 27, 2018 – 5:00pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Ed Juengst, Barbara Miller, Tyler Ward

Also Present: Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay, Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla, Seth McLean, Ed Walker

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

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

Donations of Land from the Paradise Family Revocable Trust, James Borsari, parcel ID U018-054-000

It was briefly discussed that the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board were in agreement of acceptance of this piece of land.

Motion: Ms. Miller made a motion to accept the property, parcel number U018-054-000 on Granite Street.

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

Ed Walker - Acceptance of EMPG Grant for Command Vehicle Communication Enhancement in the amount of \$4,145

Chief Walker explained that after the application process through Homeland Security, a matching grant of \$4,145 has been received toward this purchase. He explained that the vehicle was planned, allowing for the match to come from the operating budget, but that the grant would allow the town to increase the communication capabilities of the vehicle greatly increasing its effectiveness.

Motion: Ms. Miller moved that The Town of Peterborough Board of Selectmen, accept the terms of the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) as presented in the amount of \$4,145.00 toward the purchase and installation of a command vehicle radio, mobile data terminal, and mobile repeater. Furthermore, the Board acknowledges that the total cost of this project will be \$8,290.00, in which the town will be responsible for a 50% match (\$4,145.00).

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

Review and accept minutes of February 13, 2018

Motion: Mr. Juengst made a motion to accept the minutes of February 13, 2018.

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

Motion: Mr. Juengst made a motion to move to a non-public session.

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

The Select Board moved to a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II(b) (personnel)

Motion: Mr. Juengst made a motion to close the non-public session.

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

Motion: Mr. Juengst made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session.

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

6:00pm – Budget Overview – Review of Capital Projects

Mr. Patten introduced the budget committee.

Mr. Bartlett presented the potential impact of a three million dollar library bond under three different scenarios. He explained that these scenarios were all based on the Town's current valuation and a 3% interest rate, both of which may change before bonding. In one scenario the bond would be repaid within one year. Using the current assessed value, this would have approximately a \$4.94 impact on the tax rate. The second scenario presented was a twenty year bond at three percent interest, based on present assessment. This is the typical bond period. This would have a thirty-eight cent increase per one thousand dollars of assessed value over those twenty years down to twenty-five cents toward the end of the bond period. The third scenario presented was a thirty-year bond, at three percent interest. The impact would start at thirty cents down to seventeen cents. He added that no decisions have been made at this time. Mr. Hanson asked when the term would be decided, before or after town vote. Mr. Bartlett said the term would be considered ahead of the bond. Mr. Bartlett said interest rates change depending on the length of the bond but for theoretical purposes, three percent was used across the board for all three scenarios. Ms. Miller asked if we could take an example of a medium priced home and show what the impact would be on their tax bill. Mr. Bartlett said that that calculation will be determined once a decision is made regarding the bond details. Mr. Bartlett said the most important information for taxpayers would be in knowing what an individual tax bill might be in putting together the presentation at Town Meeting, specifying the percent change to an actual tax bill, instead of the tax rate.

Mr. Clark brought up the fact that bonding the library twenty to thirty years would cost the town's taxpayers more in interest over time, money that could have been spent on other things. He proposed bonding the project to closer to ten years in order to save the interest. He said that he recognized that a one year payback would be out of the realm of possibility for most taxpayers since it would increase their taxes by almost fifty percent.

Mr. Bartlett said looking at these bond figures will help us to decide what should be bonded and what should be appropriated.

Mr. Bartlett then moved on to the calculations for adding a Planning Assistant within the Office of Community Development. This would increase the department's operating budget by six percent.

Mr. Bartlett also addressed other changes to the budget. He said that the budget for the library was calculated in case the library bond does not pass. If the library bond does pass, those funds would be used toward the rent of an alternative space while the new library is being built. One of the revenues proposed was an additional \$234,000 from the library trust funds for the future project without accommodating the offsetting expenses. This created a new revenue of \$234,000 and the offsetting expense of \$200,000 was added to the budget.

Mr. Bartlett said the library's overall increase from FY 2018 to FY 2019 would be 1.4%.

He also said there is a possibility of additional funds for winter operations expendable trust fund. So far the town has spent less than expected on winter operations. Currently about \$10K is expected to be left over which can then be put away for future years. This article would be put on the ballot, part of the presentation at the Deliberative Session and adjustments to that figure can be made in time for the meeting.

Mr. Bartlett gave a brief synopsis of each of the warrant articles to be voted on at Town Meeting: GIS Mapping \$5,000
Winter operations expendable trust fund \$10,000
Financial software upgrade \$50,000
Municipal facilities study \$250,000
Fire Department Ladder \$200,000
Roadway management \$400,000
Library of the Future \$8,500,000
Main St Bridge Reauthorization \$5,974,115
Route 202 Reauthorization \$4,280,110 - He noted that this is 100% offset by federal highway and State DOT funds.
Underground utilities \$460,000 - Mr. Bartlett noted that during discussion with Fairpoint, the conduits under the bridge are more complicated than originally assumed. The amount could change. Transcript Dam \$300,000

Mr. Bartlett said the anticipated overlay and credits are calculated at \$150,000, up from \$110,000. This is the money set aside to accommodate veteran's credits, abatements and elderly exemptions. The tax calculation would be \$10.57 without CIP projects. The current tax rate is \$11.29, if everything passes, this would increase to \$12.26 spread over two years, an increase of 8.6 percent in total. Mr. Clark asked about the terms of the bonds. Mr. Bartlett said they were all twenty year bonds.

Mr. Bartlett announced there would be a public hearing on March 6 at 6 pm for the Budget Committee to vote on warrant articles.

Mr. Clark asked about the Roadway Management Program and why a rating of 80 was determined to be the goal. Mr. MacLean responded that it was based on the backlog of work that needs to be done for roads that are under 49%. Mr. Clark said can we save some money by improving the roads to a 75 rating instead of an 80 rating. Ms. Miller responded that taxpayers expect to have good roads. Mr. Bartlett explained the analysis process. Mr. Mabbs-Zeno asked if we could model an amount based on a 75 point rating to see if we can save money. Mr. MacLean said we could, however the point is to lower costs over time by doing a better job at maintaining the roads and doing preventative maintenance. It costs more money to replace a road than it is to maintain it.

Francie Von Mertens asked what will be the significant bond anticipated for next year, as she wanted to have a bigger picture of the bond issues of the future. Mr. Patten addressed the recession from the past years and explained that these issues and needs have not been addressed until now but that the need for these projects still exists.

As there was no more business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla, Department Assistant

PETERBOROUGH
SELECT BOARD:

Ed Juengst



Barbara Miller



Tyler Ward, Chair