

**MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH**
Tuesday, March 4, 2014 – 6:00pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Joe Byk, Barbara Miller, Liz Thomas
Roland Patten, Bob Lambert, Donald Parkhurst, Gordon Kemp, Steve Jones
Also Present: Pamela Brenner, Rodney Bartlett, Nancie Vaihinger, Scott Guinard, Linda Guyette, Joseph
Lenox, Michael Price, Jeff King, Fash Farashahi, Nicole MacStay

Chair Byk called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Turn-out Gear Bid Opening

Ms. Miller opened the bids that had been received, and read them out:

New England Emergency Equipment, Bid A - \$1,786.05
New England Emergency Equipment, Bid B - \$1,900.80
Bergeron Protective Clothing - \$1,769.27

The Board asked the Fire Chief to review the bids and award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

Appointment of Christopher Martin as Police Officer

Chief Guinard said that Officer Martin was unable to attend this meeting, but he would bring him to a future meeting to meet the Board.

Motion:

Ms. Miller made a motion to appoint Christopher Martin as a Police Officer; Ms. Thomas seconded.

Vote:

Ms. Miller, Ms. Thomas and Chair Byk voted in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

Appointment of Frank Karlicek as Library Trustee

Motion:

Ms. Miller made a motion to appoint Frank Karlicek as Library Trustee; Ms. Thomas seconded.

Vote:

Ms. Miller, Ms. Thomas and Chair Byk voted in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

Pellet Boiler at the Community Center

Mr. Bartlett explained that he had made an error in the memo that had been included in the Select Board's packet; the savings anticipated for the Town and the savings for the Recreation Revolving Fund were switched by accident. He then went on to say that beginning this year the Public Utilities Commission offered a 30% rebate for biomass systems. We put in an application with a quote from Froling Energy for a total project cost of \$55,000, and that has been approved. The oil burner is

fairly new and efficient, and will remain in place to meet peak demand or as a back-up. This arrangement calls for the purchase of the system through the Town's General Fund, with payback from the Recreation revolving fund over six years. Chair Byk said that he thinks that Mr. Bartlett's idea for financing the project is quite clever, and that there are the additional non-economic benefits of carbon reduction and support for a local business.

Motion:

Chair Byk made a motion to go forward with this proposal as described in Mr. Bartlett's memo; Ms. Thomas seconded.

Vote:

Chair Byk, Ms. Thomas and Ms. Miller voted in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

Review of Parking Data from the February 24th Public Hearing and Online Survey

Ms. Brenner noted that with the exception of the acoustics, there was a very positive response to the public hearing. Chair Byk agreed, and said that staff did a very good job organizing the hearing and presenting the options. Ms. Miller said that staff also did a great job advertising and promoting the meeting. Ms. Brenner said that based on the feedback from the public hearing, overwhelmingly the project with the most positive response was the GAR Hall/Riverwalk Project, with secondary support for the Use/Reuse of existing parking. She said that this is a two-for-one project; we get to improve the parking, and move the sale and reuse of the GAR Hall property forward. For that reason, the Board can put an article forward to include a question on the 2014 Town Meeting warrant to appropriate \$80,000 for the technical assessment of the GAR Hall/Riverwalk parking option; further this expenditure will be supported by the Greater Downtown TIF revenue.

Debby Keiser ask if the site can be studied for flood plain and permitting before the \$80,000 is spent; Mr. Bartlett said that he has looked at structuring the engineering agreement so that the first step is an feasibility assessment of the site to answer whether or not a parking lot can be built at this location. That report will go back to the board, and if possible, the project will go forward to the next steps.

Motion:

Ms. Miller made a motion to move forward with drafting a special warrant article to request \$80,000 to study, permit and engineer parking at the proposed GAR Hall/Riverwalk site; Ms. Thomas seconded.

Vote:

Ms. Miller, Ms. Thomas and Chair Byk voted in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

6:45pm – Summer Street Well Bond Hearing

Chair Byk opened the hearing. Mr. Bartlett explained that the Summer Street well's production has fallen off largely due to the growth of iron bacteria that can eventually get so thick that it cuts off the flow of water. In 2011 Emery and Garrett did a site assessment to determine if a new well can be installed at that location; that assessment led to three sites being identified that are neither too close to the current well or too close to the river. Mr. Bartlett also asked for a price to replace the pump house, pumps and other equipment; the estimated cost of the entire project is \$700,000 to be paid by water department revenue. Ms. Miller asked what the impact will be to user fees; Mr. Bartlett

said that he has not done that calculation yet, but said that he will get those numbers. There was no comment from the public. Chair Byk closed the public hearing.

7:00pm – Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Public Hearing

Chair Byk opened the public hearing and turned it over to Chair Patten, who began the review by stating that this proposed budget includes a 2% increase on the net operating budget. Three budgets show some increases which seem significant over last year, but amount to very little in context to the overall budget; Elections are up 5.3%, Recreation is up 5.7% which includes \$25,000 for the new software package, and PEG station is up 10% because of increases in benefit costs. Overall, operating budget expenditures are up 0.7%, but due to declining revenues, the net operating budget is up 2% over the previous year.

Chair Patten said that a number of reductions were made to the CIP requests at the last Budget Committee and Select Board meeting, which brought the CIP budget down to \$2,140,000 which, with revenues of \$1,298,377, adds a net CIP budget of \$841,623 to the operating budget request. Susan Stanbury, member of the CIP Committee, said that she is concerned that there was a significant cut to the capital reserve fund for public works equipment, and asked about the future impact on that budget, particularly in terms of debt service; Chair Patten said that he shares her concern, especially with regards to the snowblower that has broken down twice this winter, and will cost \$300,000 to replace, however hard choices had to be made, and the impact to the taxpayer was more important. Ms. Stanbury said that she was also concerned about the cuts to the Fire apparatus; Chief Lenox said that it will not affect the department this year, but the costs will be passed down to future budgets. Mr. Kemp said that since 2009 the town has lost over \$106,000,000 in valuation, which has had a terrific effect on the tax rate; the Administration and the Select Board have been able to keep the tax rate relatively level, while still maintaining services.

Ron MacIntire asked where were all the people who in 1999 came to a special Town Meeting and voted to accept the Kyes Sage House as part of the Library? He said that the Sage House is in need of repair, and hoped that it is something that will be done next year. Chair Patten said that it will be addressed again next year.

Chair Patten said that two items were given to the Budget Committee this evening which had not yet been considered, the first being \$80,000 for a technical assessment of the GAR Hall/Riverwalk parking project; he then asked if \$80,000 was available in the Downtown TIF fund; Ms. Brenner said that there is \$78,000 in that fund now, and another \$54,000 will be deposited, before taking into account the improvements and sale of the units at 36 Grove Street. Mr. Lambert said that if we go along with this, will the employees of the downtown park in it, because they do not utilize the Fire Department Parking Lot now; Chair Byk said that what he has heard from the merchants about this solution has been very enthusiastic. Mr. Jones asked for Mr. Bartlett for a better description of the assessment; Mr. Bartlett reviewed the steps, as well as the known challenges that this project faces.

Motion:

Mr. Jones made a motion to support the expenditure of \$80,000 for a technical assessment of the GAR Hall/Riverwalk parking project; Mr. Lambert seconded.

Vote:

Mr. Jones, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Kemp and Chair Patten voted in favor; Mr. Parkhurst voted in opposition. The motion passed.

In regards to the expenditure to install a pellet boiler at the Community Center, with the estimated cost of \$55,000 to be refunded by the Recreation Revolving Fund over six years, Chair Byk explained that this will not increase the Recreation Department's budget, since the savings in the heating fuel line will pay for the cost of installation.

Motion:

Mr. Lambert made a motion to support the Community Center pellet boiler project; Mr. Jones seconded.

Vote:

Mr. Lambert, Mr. Jones, Mr. Parkhurst and Chair Patten voted in favor; Mr. Kemp voted in opposition. The motion carried.

As there was no further business, Mr. Patten adjourned the meeting at 7:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole MacStay, Assistant Town Administrator

PETERBOROUGH
SELECT BOARD:

Joe Byk, Chair



Barbara A. Miller



Elizabeth M. Thomas

ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST

- 1.