

**MINUTES**  
**SELECT BOARD**  
**TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH**  
Tuesday, March 10, 2020 – 5:00 PM  
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

**Present:** Tyler Ward, Karen Hatcher, Bill Taylor

**Also Present:** Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay, Alison Kreutz, Leo Smith

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Chair Ward opened the meeting at 5:00 PM.

*Reagan Riffle – Request for Waiver of Upper Hall Rental Fee for ESVOC NH Events*

Ms. Reagan Riffle, a junior at ConVal, said the ESVOC group was requesting a waiver of the rental fees for the Upper Hall for two events in April. She explained that ESVOC stands for End Sexual Violence on Campus. The seven student members are organizing the ESVOC Month of Action, and have invited speakers, writers, and artists to the region and arranged for events and trainings. She read the following letter to the Board:

Dear Select Board,

I am writing to you on behalf of End Sexual Violence on Campus — NH. We are a student-led organization that is hoping to address the state of consent, reporting, rape culture, and sexual violence in New Hampshire. The members of our group include:

Reagan Riffle, junior at ConVal High School: organizer and programming director

Ayla Laro, junior at ConVal High School: programming director

Jaden Hubbard-Lemay, senior at ConVal High School: fundraising director

Leah Krason, sophomore at ConVal High School: logistics team

Olivia Laskey-Rigrod, junior at ConVal High School: logistics team

Lilly Schwabe, sophomore at ConVal High School: communications

Rhett Landers, senior at ConVal High School: communications

Karen Hatcher: advisor of E.S.V.O.C.

In an independent study conducted by our members on high school girls in the region, we found that a large majority of those surveyed had either witnessed or experienced sexual bullying, sexual trauma, sexual harassment, or rape within their time at school. The results inspired research; looking for loopholes in legislation, reasons for the silence, and a general explanation. Our findings developed into the four goals that drive us today.

1. Start the conversation
2. Advocate for the end of all statutes of limitations for sex crimes in New Hampshire
3. Implement legislation for age-appropriate and comprehensive consent education for all NH public schools
4. Bring trauma-informed and survivor-centric counseling to the ConVal district

This April, we have invited a league of speakers, writers, advocates, activists, trainers, and artists to the region in an attempt to bring the community's attention to the issue. On seventeen dates in the month of April, we will be hosting events in various places like the Peterborough Town Library, Dublin Community Center, Avenue A Teen Center, and the Peterborough Community Theater and we are hoping to draw in a variety of audiences from the region.

As students, this issue lies close to heart. Each and every follower of our movement has felt in some way slighted by the current standards of consent education and the slanted reporting process. Although everyone is aware of the #MeToo movement and the epidemic of rape culture on college campuses, it is our message that it starts far earlier, and is far more present than recognized. According to The Reality of Sexual Assault in New Hampshire report, one in every four New Hampshire women have been sexually assaulted and 83% of those assaults occur before age 25. Our own data suggests that approximately 650 of the 800 ConVal students have had run-ins with sexual assault. These numbers, although already large, are probably lower than reality considering the complexities of under-18

reporting procedures and lack of understanding at whole. To learn more about our stances on these issues and a few personal testimonies from the area, visit [www.esvocnh.org](http://www.esvocnh.org).

What we ask of the Peterborough Select Board is a grant to use the Town Hall on two separate dates in April in our hopes to bring maximum attention to the hard-working students of our team and the cause. The first date is April 1st. On April 1st at 7:00 PM, we are hoping to hold a commencement ceremony in the Town Hall that is open to the entire community. We are inviting everyone to come and hear about the project, learn more about our goals, and hear from the students of our group on why we need their help and what is coming next. The second date is April 23rd. On April 23rd at 10:30 AM, a large group of students will be walking out of their school classes and down to the Town Hall. We will have a panel of student speakers, press, and opportunities to write letters to the New Hampshire government. The majority of the students who have spent months on this project are not even old enough to vote on the legislative change they are calling for. All of our fundraising is done through an online donation site and various donation jars. If you were to waive the fee of renting the Town Hall for us and offer your support, we would be beyond grateful; as change is only possible if we can get the entire community working together and the issue has been silent for far too long.

Thank you,  
Reagan Riffle

Chair Ward said "I am so moved by the kids in this town that are taking action and getting involved in the democratic process and...putting so much passion and energy into finding a way to make things better."

He then asked Mr. Bartlett if there would be pedestrian access over the Main Street Bridge on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. Mr. Bartlett said there will be pedestrian access over the Contoocook River by the second week of April.

Ms. Hatcher, who serves as the advisor for the group, said Ms. Riffle came to her with the idea "pretty much fully formed," and said "this group and the scope of work they have done is amazing."

Ms. Chronopoulos added that ESVOC provided a well-developed plan and said it was a "brave thing to speak up about this subject." She added that the Library has waived fees for the ESVOC events scheduled to take place at the there.

Mr. Taylor said, "I don't know how you *don't* support something like that."

*Motion:* Mr. Taylor made a motion to waive the Upper Hall Rental Fees for the ESVOC events scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

*Vote:* Chair Ward seconded. Ms. Hatcher abstained. Motion carried.

#### *Projected Year End 2020 Financials*

Mr. Smith explained he had put together a summary and also a list of more specific recommendations in response to Ms. Hatcher's previous request. After reviewing total appropriations for Operating Budget, CIP, and Warrant Articles, Mr. Smith estimated the Town would be \$270,000 below budget by the end of the year (original budget appropriation amount was \$13,558,000). Two big projects in highway account for the difference: the purchase of a highway vehicle budgeted for \$160,000 didn't happen, and road money was rolled forward after we didn't have time to spend the previously budgeted amount before the end of the year.

Looking at actual expenditures through February 4<sup>th</sup>, we are at about \$9.6 million, and about 68% complete in terms of our spending patterns between now and the end of the year. Estimated yearly expenditure number is \$13,945,000. Compared to original budget, that is a variance of about \$387,000 of overspending, or 2.9%, but compared to the amended budget, it's \$206,000 less, or only 1.5%.

The same method was used on the revenue side: \$7.9 million was projected, the actual as of February is \$5.5 million, so we're at about 70% complete. Projected yearly revenue is higher by \$131,000, or 1.7%. Net amended budget is \$6,278,000, with the estimated projection at \$5,540,000, for a net change of \$338,000, or 5.4% below amended budget.

Mr. Bartlett noted that just because the Town raises more revenues than anticipated, it doesn't mean the Town can spend more than has been budgeted. Ms. MacStay added the \$89,000 in unanticipated funds that came from the State would be the additional revenue. Ms. Hatcher asked if that would go into the unassigned fund balance. Ms. MacStay said yes, unless the Select Board held a hearing and designated the funds to a specific purpose.

*CIP Budget (Article 3)*

CIP Budget had planned expenditures of \$431,000, with revenue offsets of \$220,000, for net CIP Budget of \$211,000. We've spent \$107,000, for about 50% complete. Estimated yearly expenditure is \$209,433, or a little over \$2000 less than net budget with variance of 1%.

*Budgeted CIP Items (Special Warrant Articles)*

CIP items were budgeted at \$13,106,000 with revenues of \$12,478,000 for net budget of \$628,000. We've spent \$605,000 so we're at 6.3% complete. If the estimated yearly expenditures are the same, the variance is \$23,000, or 3.7%.

*Overlays and Credits*

Original budget for overlays was for \$50,000, and will probably be about that for this year, but it depends on how abatements go. Budget for Veterans Credits was estimated for \$100,000, but estimated yearly expenditure came in at \$192,750, or up almost 93%. Ms. Hatcher said that was due to the Town not really knowing how many veterans there were, and Mr. Smith confirmed.

Operating Budget will come in at about \$338,000 less; CIP at \$2,000 less; warrants at \$23,000 less; and Overlays and Credits has an increase of \$270,000.

Ms. Hatcher asked about the unassigned fund balance as it appeared on the Financial Report from the CPA. Mr. Smith said unassigned fund balance is at about 11.2%.

Mr. Smith said Finance will keep an eye on those numbers every month as we approach the end of June.

Chair Ward mentioned that there needed to be a non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3 II (c): reputation.

*Review of Warrant for Town Meeting*

Ms. MacStay handed out most recent draft of the Warrant for Town Meeting. She said the Budget Committee will be meeting tomorrow to make their recommendations. Three new articles have been added since the last meeting. Warrant has to be posted on Monday, along with MS-636.

Articles 5, 8, & 9 are to preserve money that was raised for this year and last year, as we were planning on making payments to the debt service for the Library, Main Street Bridge, and Transcript Dam. As all three projects got pushed off, if we don't move that money into capital reserve funds or expendable trust funds, we'll lose it to the unreserved fund balance, and it would be preferable to keep those funds designated to the purpose they were intended for.

Chair Ward asked if people vote 'no' on the articles, and the money ends up in the unreserved fund balance, would the Select Board would be able to put those funds back towards those projects? Ms. MacStay answered no, the Select Board would only be able to use it to offset the tax rate.

*Motion:* Ms. Hatcher made a motion to recommend Articles 5, 8, & 9

*Vote:* Mr. Taylor seconded. All in favor.

Select Board Vote: Unanimous

Articles 12, 13, and 14 were Petition Articles that do not have money attached to them. Ms. MacStay said the Board is not required to vote on those articles; The Select Board can vote if they would like to see them on the ballot or at Open Session, but the articles are required to be on the warrant either way.

Ms. Hatcher asked if petitioners can request to have it either on ballot or Open Session. Ms. MacStay said yes, but none of the petitioners had expressed a preference this year. Ms. Hatcher said she was in favor of them being on the ballot, and Chair Ward agreed.

Ms. MacStay explained that as there aren't any bond articles, we actually don't have to have any articles at Open Session, but it's up to the Select Board. Administration may recommend having some at Open Session even if they don't need to be, as they are slightly complicated issues and would benefit from discussion by the voters at the Open Session. Mr. Taylor added that would mean someone could vote to amend it as well, and Ms. Macstay confirmed.

Ms. Hatcher asked if the Board should recommend any of them. Mr. Taylor said as they were sort of political in nature, he didn't feel that the Select Board should be trying to sway anyone's vote on them.

Ms. Hatcher said she was also okay with that, and that, if the issue was a national issue, the voters should be able to have their say without Select Board recommendation.

Chair Ward said they should "let the people tell us what we should do."

Ms. MacStay asked the Board if the three articles other than the budget that are left on Open Session should be left there. She said there may be a lot of questions about them, so it would be helpful for residents to be able to ask those questions before voting.

Chair Ward said it would be good to have Mr. MacLean update people on the Roadway program.

Resident Al Lennis asked about the process by which the architect firm is picked for the new fire station. Mr. Bartlett explained there is a Request for Qualifications process, where the Town advertises for qualification packages, which are then reviewed, firms are potentially interviewed, and then after the most qualified is selected, the scope and fee are negotiated.

Mr. Lennis asked if it was for design or for actual drawings. Mr. Bartlett answered it was 20-30% for drawings so we can have comfortable so we have a good cost estimate to request when it's time to move forward. Mr. Lennis asked if those documents go out in the community. Mr. Bartlett said we try to get them into Dodge Summary, Union Leader and relevant trade magazines.

Ms. MacStay said the Board needed to decide on which members would move and second articles. Typically the Select Board member who moves on the article speaks on it as well. Traditionally, the Chair speaks to the Budget.

Regarding petition articles, the petitioners speak, and the Select Board doesn't need to move and second those.

Articles for Deliberative Session:

Article 3 – BUDGET

Chair Ward will move.

Ms. Hatcher will second.

Article 4 – CAPITAL RESERVE AND EXPENDIABLE TRUST FUNDS

Ms. Hatcher will move.

Mr. Taylor will second.

Article 5 – BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Mr Taylor will move.

Chair Ward will second.

## Article – TRANSFER FROM CEMETERY FUND

Chair Ward will move.

Ms. Hatcher will second.

## Article 7 - PUBLIC GARDENS AND PLANTERS EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

Ms. Hatcher will move.

Mr. Taylor will second.

## Article 8 - LIBRARY RENOVATION PROJECT EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

Mr. Taylor will move.

Chair Ward will second

## Article 9 - TRANSCRIPT DAM PROJECT EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

Chair Ward will move.

Ms. Hatcher will second.

## Article 10 - DISCONTINUE FUNDS

Ms. Hatcher will move.

Mr. Taylor will second.

Articles 11-14 are by petition.

## Open Session Articles:

## Article 16 - FLY POND DAM RECONSTRUCTION

Chair Ward will move.

Mr. Taylor will second.

## Article 17 - ROADWAY SYSTEM UPGRADES CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Ms. Hatcher will move.

Chair Ward will second.

## Article 18 – FIRE STATION DESIGN

Mr. Taylor will move.

Ms. Hatcher will second.

Chair Ward thanked Mr. Smith for the improvements to the budget process this year.

Chair Ward he said he'd like the Select Board's contribution to the Annual Report to be collaborative.

Ms. Hatcher noted that the committee reports hadn't been done in a while, and there were things that were coming up, so it should be picked back up at the next meeting. Ms. MacStay said this may be the last meeting before the Deliberative Session.

Mr. Ward said Planning Board had a meeting last night, which reviewed a petition article for the ballot, and the Planning Board voted not to support.

Ms. Hatcher said the next Community Task Force on Housing has been scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The open meeting will take place at Bass Hall. It starts with potluck at 5:00 PM, with work starting at 5:30 PM.

Ms. Hatcher said there "was a lot in the works" at the recent Hub meeting, with a number of community events being planned, including two night market events - one in May and one in August - that will occur when the Main Street Bridge is closed. Roy Schlieben will be coordinating it again. Chair Ward, who serves on the Board at MaxT, said he'll discuss it with Mr. Schlieben.

Ms. MacStay said she had been in discussions with Eric Gagne about The Thing in the Spring, since it will be very different this year with the Bridge being closed.

Ms. Hatcher added that it would be good to have the various representatives of these large events together in one place to discuss it.

Ms. Hatcher said Senator Dietsch has a hearing tomorrow at Senate Election Law Municipal Affairs regarding her bill for communications district for broadband, and if the Board wanted to send a letter in support of it, she would appreciate it. Ms. Hatcher apologized for not passing it on earlier.

Ms. MacStay said a meeting is being organized for some time next week with MCH, ConVal, and the various retirement and assisted living communities to talk about community needs related to the the Corona Virus, and to ensure everyone has the necessary contacts they need.

Ms. Hatcher made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to 91-A;3 II (c): reputation.

Roll call vote:  
Chair Ward: YES  
Ms. Hatcher: YES  
Mr. Taylor: YES

Non-public session entered at 5:53 PM.

Chair Ward made a motion to exit the non-public session at 6:25 PM.

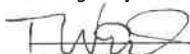
Roll call vote:  
Chair Ward: YES  
Ms. Hatcher: YES  
Mr. Taylor: YES

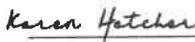
*Vote:* Ms. Hatcher made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session.  
*Motion:* Chair Ward seconded. All in favor.

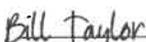
Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 PM. Chair Ward seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alison Kreutz, Department Assistant

PETERBOROUGH  
SELECT BOARD:

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DocuSigned by:  
  
Karen Hatcher

DocuSigned by:  
  
Bill Taylor 415...