

**MINUTES**  
**SELECT BOARD**  
**TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH**  
Monday, March 31, 2020 – 5:00 PM  
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

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

**Also Present:** Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay, Chief Ed Walker, Alison Kreutz

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Chair Ward opened the meeting, conducted via Zoom web conference, at 5:00 PM. The meeting was broadcast live on USTREAM, Facebook Live, and Channel 22 (Comcast).

Chair Ward reminded residents that they are able to take the 2020 Census online, and encouraged everyone to get counted.

*Chief Ed Walker – COVID-19 Update*

Chief Walker said that, though access is restricted at Town Buildings, all essential services are still being offered. The first online ‘Weekly Dispatch’ was published today, and that will go out on a weekly basis to help keep residents up-to-date.

EMTs & police officers are wearing face masks to protect both themselves and patients during interactions. The Town is communicating daily with Monadnock Community Hospital (MCH), and Chief Walker talked today with MCH, Keene Fire, Cheshire Medical Center and State HHS & Fire Marshall’s Office to look at building an alternative care site, should we find an influx of patients that our current medical facilities would not be able to handle. MCH is making modifications to ensure they are safely handling patients and protecting employees.

Chief Walker reminded residents that if they have a life-threatening emergency they should call 9-1-1. Minor illnesses that may be COVID-19 related should first be reported to one’s primary care physician.

*School District*

ConVal Schools continue to be a major partner in assisting the community through the delivery of food through their breakfast and lunch programs, as well as 68-Hours of Hunger. They are working hard to ensure students in the districts are getting the food and resources they need.

*Retirement Communities*

The town and MCH are holding weekly meetings with our local healthcare facilities. All of them are taking specific, facility appropriate actions, to adapt to the current situation.

*Community Service Organizations*

The Town continues to work with the Food Pantry to help ensure they can meet the needs of their clients and others in our community who are suffering food related issues.

Both the Peterborough Food Pantry and End 68-Hours of Hunger are welcoming donations of both food and money. Please check their respective Facebook pages for specific information on the types of donations and how to donate.

River Center is working with the Town to build and create a network to help support residents on a long-term basis.

*Businesses*

The business portal is up and running. As of this afternoon, we have 47 business that have taken advantage of the listing. Several restaurants have recently added delivery services in addition to take-out.

Regarding the Governor's Order about Essential Businesses; the Governor's website lists what is considered an 'essential service.' Included are laundromats, pharmacies, and grocery stores. One important message is that as the State builds the capacity to test more people, the numbers of infected people will continue to rise. If you look at other communities around the world, we are likely to see an increase in the cases both statewide and locally. "Only you as an individual can keep yourself healthy." Limit exposure to other people, maintain distance if you must go out, don't touch any surfaces you don't have to, and wash your hands and disinfect surfaces frequently. "The disease doesn't spread itself; we're spreading the disease."

Chair Ward asked if we needed to reach out to businesses and have them update the information that's on the spreadsheet. Chief Walker said he would reach out to the Chamber of Commerce and ask if they would assist in getting the word out.

Ms. Hatcher thanked Chief Walker for his report, and did Chair Ward. Chair Ward noted we've yet to have a positive case in Peterborough.

*Rodney Bartlett – Update from Town Administration*

Mr. Bartlett said he was seeking authorization to sign an extension of the letter of credit for Town House renovations. The extension would push it out to August, which would allow for completion of needed tasks and then only finance actual expended amounts.

*Motion:* Ms. Hatcher made a motion to authorize Mr. Bartlett to sign the extension on the letter of credit for Town House renovations.

*Vote:* Mr. Tyler seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Bartlett shared that the Main Street Bridge work will start next week, with the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Granite Street and Route 101. Bridge will be closed on April 13<sup>th</sup>, but south side sidewalk will remain open as they build the free-standing pedestrian bridge.

Regarding the Library Project: They've been working with Harvey Construction on a new guaranteed maximum price. There is a meeting scheduled for Thursday, and hopefully the outcome will be positive.

The Deliberative Session was scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup>. Only the Town Moderator can postpone that meeting, per State Law. With the current Executive Orders in place, that meeting cannot be held, so Attorney Runyon will make that announcement within 48 hours of the scheduled meeting time. A Date Certain needs to be established, so the hope is that will come together by next Monday.

Per the latest Executive Orders from Governor Sununu, all State campgrounds, playgrounds, and historic sites are closed until further notice, as are State-run sandy beaches, parking areas, and bathrooms. This was in response to the high usage over the weekend.

Ms. Hatcher asked, pertaining to the reschedule of the Deliberative Session, if the date certain could be extended again if needed. Mr. Bartlett confirmed.

Ms. Hatcher asked about the potential for all mailed ballots for Town Meeting. Mr. Bartlett said administration has reached out NHMA to see what options are available to the Town. Currently we plan on following existing statutes about postponement.

Ms. MacStay said that Gloria Morison commented via Facebook that the Food Pantry is looking for monetary and gift card donations, rather than in-kind donations.

*Drum Contract Extension*

Ms. Hatcher explained there is a contract extension up for Drum, who produces videos and content for promotional use by the Town. The EDA would typically be the body that would extend the contract, but they

have not been able to meet. The Select Board has the ability and authority to extend the contract for three months.

*Motion:* Ms. Hatcher made a motion to extend Drum’s contract by three months, through the end of June.

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

Mr. Ward said he was pleased with what Drum has posted, and, referencing their Instagram posts, said “they’re very clever with their hashtags.”

*Review and Approval of Minutes from February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

*Motion:* Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

*Vote:* Ms. Hatcher seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Hatcher made a ‘big shout out’ to the community’s volunteers: “It’s a wonderful thing to watch this community rally to take care of each other...this is a very special place to live.”

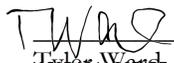
Mr. Taylor said Peterborough has seen a “wild outpouring” and people are “jumping all over” requests for help on the ‘Peterborough Area Cares During COVID-19’ Facebook page.

Ms. MacStay shared that Mandy Sliver thanked the Select Board and town employees via Facebook. Also via Facebook, Emma Toursey referenced some earlier technical difficulties, commenting that “Tyler sounds like Max Headroom,” which elicited laughter all around.

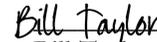
Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 PM. Ms. Hatcher seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alison Kreutz, Department Assistant

PETERBOROUGH  
SELECT BOARD:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Todd Ward

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Karen Hatcher

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Bill Taylor

**ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST**

1.