

**MINUTES**  
**SELECT BOARD**  
**TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH**  
Tuesday, April 7, 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 at 5:00 PM.

Chair Ward made a motion to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) (Personnel)

Roll call vote:

Chair Ward: Yes

Ms. Hatcher: Yes

Mr. Taylor: Yes

Ms. Hatcher made a motion to exit non-public session.

Roll call vote:

Chair Ward: Yes

Ms. Hatcher: Yes

Mr. Taylor: Yes

Ms. Hatcher made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session.

Public meeting resumed at 5:24 PM. The meeting was conducted via Zoom video conference, and broadcast on Facebook Live and Channel 22 (Comcast).

*COVID-19 Update- Chief Ed Walker*

*Town Services*

The Town is continuing to provide all essential services to our residents. The town house, fire department, and police department are encouraging people to conduct their business via phone or email when possible. If business must be conducted in person, appointments must be scheduled ahead of time.

In an effort to help promote the safety of both our providers and patients, all staff will be wearing procedure masks or N95 Respirators on every fire and ambulance call. Patients who are experiencing any symptoms will also be asked to wear a mask. Monadnock Community Hospital (MCH) is also requiring all hospital visitors wear masks.

The second edition of the Peterborough Weekly Dispatch was sent out today via the Select Board email list and also posted on the Town website.

*Healthcare*

Chief Walker said there is daily communication with MCH. Current planning includes the operation of the Alternate Care Site (ACS) in Keene as well as collaboration on testing, treating, and transporting COVID-19 patients.

MCH continues to provide services to all of their patients but in order to prepare for any surge in COVID-19 related cases, a number of practices have been modified. Please start with your primary care physician if you have any questions about illness. As always, if you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency call 9-1-1.

*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.

#### *Retirement Communities*

The Town and MCH are continuing weekly check-ins with retirement communities in town. All are currently doing well. This has been very difficult on families and residents, so many communities have come up with innovative ways to keep people connected.

#### *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 - the best donation for them to receive right now is money, as not only is this consistent with staying home, but it also helps to ensure that both groups are able to get the specific items they need. Please check their respective Facebook pages for specific information on how to donate.

Another great way to stay connected, share information, and learn about opportunities to help is the Peterborough NH Area Cares during COVID-19 Facebook page. This moderated page has almost 1,000 members and has grown into a great platform for sharing resources.

#### *Businesses*

The business portal is up and running. As of this afternoon, we have 48 business that have taken advantage of the listing.

The Department of Health and Human Services is now listing COVID-19 positive patients by community. The map is for positive laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and is updated daily (based on cases that were reported day/night before). The map data shows all cases that have been reported in that community. Like many data sets, it's not perfect. Addresses that are used are the address that the individual provided at the time of testing so they could be living in another community or reporting errors. It has been said many times that if you assume you are positive and act in a way so as to not spread the disease, you will minimize your own exposure.

The current prediction is that the outbreak will peak in the next two weeks. Staying home is the best defense. If you must go out, wear a mask, practice social distancing, and wash your hands as soon as you can. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Chair Ward thanked Chief Walker for all his hard work and reiterated that people should be very careful when they go out to reduce their exposure.

#### *Monadnock Community Hospital Update - Dr. Luke Shippee & Ms. Laura Gingras*

Dr. Shippee, an internal medicine physician, said there have been adjustments to clinic schedules, "but we are absolutely available." It's important to maintain social distancing, so MCH is encouraging patients to avoid coming to the hospital campus when possible. The telehealth program is working reasonably well and is helping to minimize travel and exposure.

Dr. Shippee said that typically MCH is a 25 bed critical access hospital, but surge plans could allow MCH to increase as high as 40 beds if needed. MCH is working with Cheshire Medical Center on ongoing process to prepare Keene State as alternate care facility if needed. The hope is that it would never need to be used, but would be available if needed.

Ms. Gingras said a database of volunteers is being created as a proactive surge planning measure. She encouraged people to visit the COVID-19 Volunteer Corp page on the MCH website. Once registered, volunteers will be contacted if their help is needed.

The CDC and NH DHHS put out a public health alert asking all who enter a health facility to wear a mask, and MCH asks that anyone on campus or at a satellite facility bring a mask or face covering with them. A mask will be provided if a visitor does not have one with them.

She continued that the response from the community “has been incredible.” MCH has a great distribution network and is helping all healthcare providers in primary service area. She encouraged people to continue to drop masks off at the drop-off locations. MCH is in touch with nursing homes, retirement communities, and EMS personnel so that other essential healthcare employees can be helped by PPE donations. She gave a “huge shout-out” to the talented sewists in our communities and said more than 3,000 masks have been donated. There are several patterns out there, but any donated fabric masks will be used and appreciated.

Ms. Hatcher added that the MCH volunteer program Ms. Gingras mentioned includes opportunities that aren't onsite at the hospital.

Ms. Hatcher said people are concerned about retail providers having masks. She asked if excess masks could potentially be channeled to grocery stores and other essential service providers. Ms. Gingras answered that once the needs of the healthcare workers are filled, she will see if volunteers would continue their efforts for others in the community. Ms. Hatcher said that she and other mask-making volunteers will keep at it for as long as there is a need in the community.

Chair Ward noted that the work of community volunteers has been “heartening,” and mentioned that a resident has been volunteering to repair sewing machines.

Via Facebook, Sharon Smith commented that End 68 Hours of Hunger is still seeking donations of 12-oz. boxes of cereal, soup and canned tomato sauce.

#### *JustCommunity Inc. Contract*

Ms. Hatcher explained that at the last physical gathering of Community Housing Task Force there was a small group of members who expressed the willingness to look at some hard questions and see if the community process could be moved forward. She said it occurred to the group that bringing back Lee Rush & his organization (who helped create the framework for the group interactions and discussions) would be appropriate. Mr. Rush and his colleague Richard Cohen said they were willing to come and assist with a smaller group “who need and want to have a harder conversation” about how to move forward together. This contract is for that purpose, to be paid with money raised to support the Task Force. Interactions would be done via Zoom, at least until there is an opportunity for an in-person gathering.

*Motion:* Ms. Hatcher made a motion to approve the justCommunity Inc. contract and authorize Ms. MacStay to sign.

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

#### *Drum Contract Extension*

Ms. MacStay said that at a previous meeting the Board had authorized Mr. Bartlett to sign the Drum Contract Extension, and asked that they authorize her instead so she could sign in Mr. Bartlett's absence.

*Motion:* Chair Ward made a motion to authorize Ms. MacStay to sign the Drum Contract Extension.

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

#### *Review and Approval of Minutes from March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

*Motion:* Ms. Hatcher made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

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

Chair Ward said Ali Kreutz did a great job on the minutes, and Mr. Taylor noted that Ms. Kreutz was spearheading the Weekly Dispatch. The Board thanked Ms. Kreutz for her efforts.

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Chair Ward reminded residents to take the 2020 Census if they had yet to get around to it. The town is not yet at 50% participation. He said that Mandy Sliver and Kate Coon had been working hard to get the word out.

Ms. Hatcher added that the whole process only takes about 2 minutes to do it online.

#### *Update from Town Administration*

##### *Main Street Bridge Update*

Mr. Bartlett shared that Beck & Bellucci is moving forward on the Bridge project. New traffic signals will be installed this week. Soon after that, work will be done widen Route 202 will be done on easterly side of intersection, and will last 1-2 weeks. The Bridge will be open to one-way traffic in the meantime.

Following that, the pedestrian bridge will be installed, and there will be remarking of parking spaces to generate some additional spaces. Traffic signals will go into full effect early next week. The contractor's DOT has confirmed funds and employees are available. Executive order from Vermont governor restricted access to and from the state with affected some of the anticipated labor, but we've gotten around that issue. There will be work starting soon, and it will continue for a long time.

##### *Town Meeting Postponement*

Deliberative session has been moved to June 16<sup>th</sup>, with the Ballot Session July 14<sup>th</sup> and Open Session, July 15<sup>th</sup>. Open Session will only be held if budget does not pass at the ballot session on the 14<sup>th</sup>. "We'll face all those issues when we get there."

##### *Library Project Update*

Mr. Bartlett said there have been "positive efforts" regarding the guaranteed maximum price from Harvey Construction, who is contracted to do the work on the library. The amount of money needed to be "in the bank" is very close, such that we're looking at the final details needed to authorize the contractor to start the work. Mr. Bartlett requested that the Board to authorize/reauthorize him to sign contract with Harvey Construction.

*Motion:* Mr. Taylor made a motion to authorize Mr. Bartlett to sign the contract with Harvey Construction regarding the Library.

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

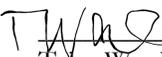
Ms. Hatcher recognized the tremendous work of community volunteers and organizations including Tina Kriebel, The River Center, and Avenue A in Antrim: "It's a labor of love, and we'll come out of this as a stronger community." Mr. Taylor said, "I'll second that motion!"

Chair Ward asked if the northwest end of Pine Street will be open during the widening of Route 202. Mr. Bartlett confirmed it will be open.

Ms. Hatcher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 PM. Mr. Taylor seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alison Kreutz, Department Assistant

PETERBOROUGH  
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**ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST**

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