

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
Tuesday, August 15, 2017 – 5:00pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Barbara Miller, Ed Juengst, Tyler Ward

Also Present: Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay, Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla, Leo Smith

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

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

Complete Streets Policy

Ms. Vann explained that she produced a complete streets policy for the town by comparing the top 10 accepted complete streets policies choosing the one most closely related geographically. The policy supports safe convenient travel, without a preference for automobiles when making any new improvements to roads. Additionally by requesting a specific policy, the state would not give us a one-size-fits-all approach. The vision and purpose includes: streets that are designed and operated to provide safety and accessibility for all users of roadways, trails, and transit systems including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, commercial vehicles and emergency vehicles, and for people of all ages and abilities.

Its purpose is to accommodate all street and road users by creating a network that meet the needs of users of all transportation modes.

Mr. Bartlett said West Peterborough is a good example, and improvements have been made to the downtown area that follow this concept.

Ms. Vann continued that it is high time to consider bicycles as transportation instead of only as recreation and said that when reaching out to the community, the community has shown interest and support for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

Ray Cote asked rhetorically, once this policy is formalized, how does this impact the next streets scheduled for maintenance? When repaving of roads, does this include sidewalks, what does this do with incremental costs and does this slow down the timeline on these roads? He asked if the roads and bridges will be able to accommodate commercial vehicles. Mr. Bartlett said if we utilize DOT bridge funds, they are designed for that standard. Mr. Cote asked if there are places we don't want commercial vehicles. Ms. Vann explained while the policy allowed for differences in certain areas, some may be excluded from the plan and not everything has to be allowed everywhere.

Beth Alpaugh-Cote asked about burying electrical lines in conjunction with this policy. Ms. Vann said it does not, as this is strictly for transportation, and that is beyond the scope of this policy.

Mr. Juengst mentioned that this policy should not force the town to spend more than is budgeted due to the policy, it will be incremental in nature, and used within budgetary limits. Ms. Vann agreed.

Vote: Mr. Juengst moved to accept the complete streets policy as written.

Motion: Ms. Miller seconded. All in favor.

Ms. Vann continued to talk about a parking policy. A public workshop will be held in the future. Proposing instead of having parking space minimums, to have parking maximums. The maximums would be the old minimums. This promotes better walkability by having fewer parking lots and also encourages redevelopment. In addition the winter snow ban prohibits parking on the street for almost 6 months out of the year. By allowing parking on the street, it affects housing choices, by not requiring homeowners to build parking spaces within their own property. Also on-street parking is the cheapest traffic calming measure to slow traffic down.

Mr. Cote suggested putting back the parking on the rest of Grove Street. Ms. Vann agreed.

Hydro Electric Power Easement under River Street

Mr. Bartlett explained the Bell Mill was first cotton mill in NH. In this same location, Lori Barg, has an agreement with 3 River Street to upgrade the hydro power plant at that location. He explained new pole installation, will follow conduit path under River Street, transformer pad rebuild, and interconnect into the grid. The easement from the town to Contoocook Hydro LLC is the last piece for her documentation, putting an older hydro facility back into operation. She received a grant from PUC. He added that net metering rules are more conducive to putting energy back into the grid, of which she expects to do by rebuilding this hydro power plant.

Motion: Mr. Miller made a motion to execute the easement.

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

Proposed Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement – All Saints Church

Mr. Smith explained the overview of the history of the purchase. The church purchased the property from the River Center and did not realize the tax portion of this property, as it was overlooked during the closing. The professional services for this purchase were donated to the church. They received final tax bill and paid the second installment. First installment was not made, therefore a tax lien was put on the property. After the subdivision, they could not sell the property due to the lien.

The church filed an abatement and applied for a charitable exemption. The property was not eligible for exemption status. The church is attempting to subdivide the lot and resell a portion. They are asking to consider a pilot agreement for the money owed. Next steps would be to abate the 2016 taxes, not the lien, execute pilot agreement for 2016 and 2017 taxes paid by All Saints church of \$2407 with the last step abating 2017 taxes estimated at around \$5100. And finally, grant tax exempt status for 2018. The portion not sold will be merged into Reynolds Hall, which would then be tax exempt. They are requesting consideration for signing the abatement.

Mr. Ward expressed his issue with putting the rest of the taxpayers on the line for the mistake made during the sale of the property of the taxes that were not paid by the former owners. Mr. Juengst expressed the same concern, asking if there was any other solution. Mr. Bartlett said he could go back and talk to All Saints in pursuit of other options with regard to the back taxes that were not paid. Mr. Henault asked about going back to the River Center for back taxes that was their responsibility. Mr. Smith said they had discussed this and recognized this would most likely not be the most likely solution, as it was the title company that was liable for determining any liens on the property. It was agreed to go back to All Saints to continue the discussion.

Letter in Opposition to Release of Confidential Voter Information

Chair Ward presented the letter that expressed the opposition in making voter information in excess of what is currently publicly available.

Motion: Mr. Juengst moved to accept the letter as written.

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

Appointment of Matt Lundsted to the Conservation Commission

Mr. Ward recommended Mr. Lundsted's reappointment. Ms. Miller also expressed her support.

Motion. Mr. Ward made a motion to reappoint Matt Lundsted to the Conservation Commission.

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

Draft South Peterborough TIF District Plan and Map

Mr. Bartlett showed a map of the proposed South Peterborough TIF District and went on to explain that it is an advantage to get the plan and map in place before the improvements take place. Next steps will be to send map and plan to the school district and county. October 26th is the date chosen to request a special town meeting. The plan includes improvements to Sharon Rd, Powersbridge Rd, bridge on Morison road, some sections of Grove Street, stone arch bridge on Powersbridge road, and steel bridge by Noones Falls. Hoyle Tanner & Associates have been out to provide their opinion of costs. Rivermead improvements will be in

excess of \$10 Million, providing \$300,000. Mr. Patten, asked how long the TIF district would be incorporated. Mr. Bartlett answered that it is planned to be for 20 years. Mr. Patten's concern was that after the improvements are made, that the TIF district should come to a close in order for those monies to go back to helping property owners. Mr. Bartlett commented that the process has started, the focus is on the hospital improvements, analysis has been done regarding the West Peterborough TIF district status for reference, limits are being considered and he recognized Mr. Patten's concern.

Ms. Sliver asked about the reason for the special town meeting instead of waiting until May town meeting. Mr. Bartlett explained the first round of occupancy permits will be in April, we want to be ahead of April 1st occupancy. With a second round of permits in May. Any new value would be considered as TIF accessed value.

Review and approval of Select Board minutes from July 18, 2017

Motion: Mr. Ward made a motion to approve the minutes from July 18th, with a small amendment of a misspelled name.

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

Other business

Chair Ward commented on Mr. Martin Dunn's letter concerning logging around his home on Cunningham Pond Road and the consequent continuous noise as well as mud on the road. Mr. Bartlett responded, saying the logging operation in this area is large, July went relatively smoothly, until the rains began. At the loading site, mud was dragged onto the road, he spoke with Swift Corwin, the logger involved, and agreed on a financial arrangement to compensate for time and materials needed to clean up the road. Logging will continue for another two weeks. Enforcement is done by the state. They've had good cooperation with the loggers. Ms. Miller asked about the purpose of the logging. Mr. Bartlett responded that it is a commercial logging operation for generating a source of income.

Mr. Clark commented and verified that there was a foot of mud on the road and it was almost non-passable, but that the sweeping operation worked quite well.

Ms. Miller made a motion to adjourn regular meeting.

Mr. Ward seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Joint Budget Committee

Roland Patten began with the re-election of a new chair. Rob Hanson nominated Roland Patten. All in favor. They proceeded with the re-election of a vice-chair. Rob McIntyre nominated Bob Hanson. Mr. Henault seconded. All in favor. Motions carried.

They continued with a discussion and overview of the budget for FY2018. Mr. Bartlett said they are finalizing FY2017, have allotted 7 days of auditing. The best estimate of unspent funds is \$400-500K. We are still sorting through how previous reports worked and getting support from financial software company and making sure we didn't overspend the budget. We will know better after the auditors have finished. Any unspent funds will go to the unrestricted fund balance.

For FY2018 according to the Old Farmer's Almanac from Maine, a snowy winter is expected, therefore the Town will wait on some road maintenance until spring so as not to overspend in case this reference is correct. For FY2019, the library introduced a placeholder of a \$2M bond for town meeting for the library project. The architect is moving along plans, and next is construction manager bid. The committee for the review process will be made up of representatives of 1833 Society, Library Trustees, and the Select Board, to review cost and design. He added that there is innovative financing for energy efficiency available after conferring with a consultant. The library has decided to explore biomass to heat the facility. The Planning Board meeting in conjunction with library is also moving forward. Expenses and donation income should become clearer as we move forward.

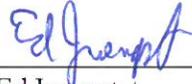
He added that the Fire Department has proposed a new facility. Options are being reviewed as possible sites, the current site, as well as the old maintenance facility built in 1948 by Evans Flats. The building appears to

be structurally sound. \$40,000K was appropriated to this assessment. The CIP Committee has discussed these proposals.

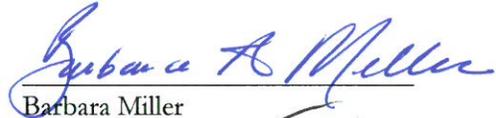
As there was no more business to discuss, Mr. Patten made a motion to adjourn 6:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla, Department Assistant

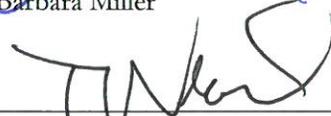
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