

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

Present: Ed Juengst, Barbara Miller, Tyler Ward

Also Present: Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay, Brenda Fox-Howard, Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla

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

Kimberley Saunders, Superintendent ConVal School District

Ms. Saunders spoke to the changing demographics in our area with the socio-economic change being the most significant. She provided the comparison of those eligible for free or reduced lunch. In 2007, within the district, 18.4% were eligible compared to 2016 in which 30.6% were eligible for the free or reduced rate. Peterborough Elementary School alone is 42%, which classifies the school as a Title I school, helping with academic services for students in need. These students often have more academic needs. She presented a slide showing a study of academic advancement of students entering the school system to 10th grade, demonstrating the change over time and the differentiation of academic levels at all grades. She emphasized the importance of early intervention from ages zero to five, the consideration of which may compromise healthy development with consequences for their success in school and beyond. Current public investments in low income or disadvantaged young children are primarily supported with federal monies but are not funded to reach all those who are eligible. Ms. Saunders recommended a one year voluntary preschool program, which would produce a return of two dollars for every dollar invested and nearly four dollars if the cost of the program targets children living in families in poverty, consequently saving money on special assistance for students throughout the years. Early intervention is key to getting students up to the grade school level upon entrance of public school.

She said the district does run preschool programs, targeted toward students with learning challenges. They currently serve around 70 students in the preschool program. There is a fee, based on a sliding scale. Ms. Miller asked if there was federal funding available. Ms. Saunders was hopeful. Currently the district is using some IDEA money, special education funds, for the current limited programs.

Ms. Miller asked about the consolidation plan, and expressed that she would have liked to have reviewed it, and requested that it be revisited. Ms. Saunders explained that it still needs more research and is being reviewed.

Request for Reconsideration of Decision Regarding the Bell Mill Dam

The request for reconsideration was brought to the board on November 17, filed by attorney Mr. Richardson, representing the Porters. Ms. Miller and Mr. Juengst expressed that they had read the materials provided and had not changed their opinion nor their decision.

Motion: Mr. Juengst made a motion for the request for reconsideration of decision regarding the Bell Mill Dam be denied.

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

Voting Location for Town Elections

Mr. Bartlett gave some background by saying the turnout for the last presidential election at Community Center went well. Now there is consideration for moving the voting location to the

PCC for more elections. He stated that the access and pedestrian flow at the PCC is better, accessibility is improved, both of which were problems in the past with the large number of voters in the town hall. He asked for the board to make a determination. Ms. Miller supported the PCC voting location. Mr. Juengst agreed that it worked well, but agreed that consistency is best, despite the tradition of using the town hall and investments in the building. He was concerned using more than one location would be confusing. Chair Ward also agreed that the PCC was a positive experience, but argued that with the building investment in making it accessible, the Town Hall is the seat of our municipal government. He also brought up the issue of transporting voter records in a secure manner, and liked the idea of the presidential elections in the PCC but other smaller elections at the Town Hall. Mr. Juengst asked if there are other towns that split the election voting sites. Ms. Guyette said that Jaffrey chose to move their elections due to accessibility issues. There was a discussion about reimbursement for the value of the loss of rental for the PCC if using that space.

Ms. Miller was also concerned about acoustics at the town meeting if using the PCC. Mr. Bartlett commented that amenities at the town hall are planned to be improved and that would improve the experience at the Town Hall. Mr. Robert Lambert commented that accessibility is a prime concern with our aging community, the community center being a more suitable location to accommodate the changing demographics.

Motion: Ms. Miller made a motion to hold all elections at the Peterborough Community Center, but town meeting at the Town Hall.

Vote: Mr. Juengst seconded. Chair Ward voted against. Motion carried.

Jonathan Erickson on the topic of parking asked if the town has plans to improve the parking situation around the Town House. Chair Ward stated that as soon as the Riverside parking lot is completed, a review will take place regarding parking improvements.

Appointment of Christine Sargent as Deputy Treasurer

Ms. MacStay spoke in support of Ms. Sargent, stating she is long time resident of town, currently works for the Fire and Rescue Department, is well known, and highly recommended by Jane Bowman, the current treasurer for the town. Ms. Miller asked about the function of the Deputy Treasurer. Ms. MacStay said the Deputy Treasurer steps in for the Treasurer when they are not available.

Motion: Mr. Juengst made a motion to appoint Christine Sargent as Deputy Treasurer.

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

Update on 9 Webb Road

Mr. Bartlett said the deeded property was put on real estate market, after three days, there were thirteen offers. The largest was \$66K and a purchase and sale agreement is in hand. The closing is set for next Friday.

Motion: Ms. Miller made a motion to authorize Mr. Bartlett to sign paperwork regarding the sale of 9 Webb Road.

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

Review and Approve the Minutes of November 21, 2017

Motion: Ms. Miller made a motion to accept the minutes of November 21.

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

LCHIP Funds

Ms. Miller announced the receipt of a \$200,000 grant from LCHIP which is 25% of the eligible amount of funding for rehabilitation of the town house.

Formation of ad hoc Energy Committee

Joel and Anne Huberman, Emily Manns, and Dori Drachman, presented the board with a vision statement for the energy committee, of which included the ability to lower the town's carbon footprint, and plan for a more sustainable future. This is currently an ad-hoc committee, with the potential of becoming an official town committee at a later date. The purpose is to make the entire town more energy efficient, and promoting renewable energy with education methods and possibly be a model community. They asked if there were restrictions regarding where to meet, as well as who can be on the committee, if it was limited to Peterborough residents. Mr. Bartlett recommended to not put a potential vendor on the committee due to conflict of interest and that meeting location is up to the committee. He recommended to decide in advance on the number of members, keeping any vendors in an advisory position only.

Ms. Manns said they are still in the research phase, and asked if they could label themselves as the Peterborough Energy Committee. Mr. Bartlett responded that they could, but said they need to be careful to not represent themselves as representatives of the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Miller asked about tax abatements for sustainable energy improvements, but Mr. Bartlett claimed that assessments are based on market value so that is non-applicable. Ms. Manns claimed that some towns do not tax solar panel improvements. Mr. Juengst advocated toward education and the advantages of saving money while saving the environment.

A mailing list was requested by the committee. Ms. Miller claimed more information would be needed before agreeing. Ms. Manns asked about getting a link on the town website. Mr. Bartlett said security issues need to be considered, as well as maintaining the image and differentiation between the town's committees and an ad hoc committee. Chair Ward suggested connecting with the Chamber of Commerce.

As there was no more business to discuss, Ms. Miller made a motion to adjourn at 6:40 pm. Mr. Juengst seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla, Department Assistant

PETERBOROUGH
SELECT BOARD:

Ed Juengst


Barbara Miller


Tyler Ward, Chair

