

**MINUTES  
SELECT BOARD  
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH**

Tuesday, December 18, 2018 – 5:00pm  
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

**Present:** Barbara Miller, Karen Hatcher, Tyler Ward

**Also Present:** Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay, Alison Kreutz, Bob Hanson

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Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

### **Appointments**

*Dori Drachman, Peterborough Energy Committee – Announcement of the Solarize Monadnock Campaign  
See attached for Power Point Presentation.*

Ms. Drachman is on the Peterborough Energy Committee, the Steering Committee for Monadnock Energy Hub, and is heading the Peterborough part of Solarize Monadnock, which is a campaign to “get as much solar in this region as we can, as quickly as we can.” The goal is to increase number of homes with solar panels in the Monadnock Region by giving residents an incentive to buy in the form of a time-limited discount or incentive; by organizing committed volunteers to work with residents and installers; and by using vetted installers that work well within the Solarize model. Currently there are 44 homes in Peterborough with solar panels and the target is to increase that number by at least 25. Solarize Monadnock includes Peterborough, Hancock, Rindge, and Fitzwilliam and is supported by Monadnock Energy Hub.

The campaign will be advertised with a big kick-off event, scheduled for mid-March; extensive tabling; press releases; use of social media; presentations; and parties hosted at homes with solar panels. All installations will be finished by December 31, 2019 (which is the last year that the federal tax credit for solar installations will be at 30%). This campaign will lead to increased business for local installers and increased community commitment to climate crisis solutions.

Ms. Drachman presented members of the Select Board and Town Administration with the book ‘Drawdown’, a plan to reverse global warming, and said that rooftop solar is #10 on the list of top 100 solutions to the climate crisis.

Ms. Hatcher asked if it was guaranteed that the selected vendor(s) would have time to finish all installations if the target of 25 homes is exceeded. Ms. Drachman replied that they are in the RFP process and will make sure installers have the capacity to handle all projects within the set time frame.

Chair Miller asked what the discounts for residents would look like, and Ms. Drachman replied that they are waiting on proposals with incentives.

Resident Alan Zeller asked if the amount of the discount would have any bearing on how many sign up for it. Ms. Drachman replied that it would be a flat discount.

Ms. Drachman asked present members of the Energy Committee and/or Solarize Monadnock to introduce themselves: Bob Haring-Smith, Mariah O’Neill, Michelle Russell (of Hancock), and Carol Kraus.

*Bob Hanson, CIP Committee – Presentation of the FY 2020 Capital Improvements Plan*

In addition to Chair Bob Hanson, the CIP Committee consists of Alan Zeller, Johnathan Ericson, Sarah Steinberg Heller, Ed Juengst, Valerie Jenkins, Leandra MacDonald, James Kelly, Carl Mabbs-Zeno

Mr. Hanson explained the annual CIP process and said several large projects will continue to drive up the CIP for the next five years due to the town not making any large expenditures in last several years. Many projects should not be delayed due to deteriorating condition, increasing costs and increasing interest rates.

Mr. Hanson explained the difference between level payment and level principal: Level payment functions like a typical mortgage, but with level principal significantly more is paid at the beginning but there are substantial savings over the term of the loan.

*-Review of Total Department Requests and Debt Service through FY 2025 - SEE ATTACHED*

*-Review of Large Facilities and Infrastructure Projects through FY 2024 - SEE ATTACHED*

The largest cost for 2021 & 2022 will be the new fire station, which will be built on the site of the current Highway Garage.

Chair Miller asked why the amount for the fire station seems so high (\$200,000 for design, \$7 million for construction). Mr. Hanson replied that the amount is just an estimate, and could be less.

*Review of Long-Term Debt Service Projections - SEE ATTACHED*

Chair Miller inquired as to the length of time for financing, and said she believes in bonding for the projected life of the asset. Mr. Hanson replied that the CIP use 20 years as the length in most cases, at 4% interest. The Select Board and Town Administrator decide the length of bonds.

There was a group discussion about how pushing projects out can have a significant impact on the ultimate cost of the project, as well how the public vs. private funding is arranged for the Library.

Ms. Hatcher asked how estimates for large projects are made. Mr. Bartlett used the new DPW facility as an example; the Town received plans and specs from NHDOT pertaining to two sites, built within the last five years, that are nearly identical to what the town's needs are. The town has the contact information for the contractor and site engineer of those facilities. The building plans, which are essentially free, are put on our site plan and then are prices are updated according to the costs of connecting power, water, sewer, and building access road, etc.

*Review of Net CIP Plan by Department - SEE ATTACHED*

*FY 2020 CIP Project Detail by Department - SEE ATTACHED*

Expenditures will include new financial software, bucket truck with a higher reach, radios for fire & EMS staff (current radios were bought in 2005 and have 10-year life span), and road & sidewalk work.

Mr. Ronald Patten described in length the issues with the pool, which needs to be sandblasted and repainted. Window glazing around the windows in the Community Center is made of asbestos and needs to be replaced. The Community Center also needs a floor cover and new climate control system (capital will come from private funds, not tax-payer money).

Mr. Bartlett explained the issues with the downtown stormwater & sewer separation.

Chair Miller asked update on budget process schedule. Mr. Bartlett said the budget process will be starting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of January. Draft budget will go out to the Select Board prior to that. Meetings will take place consecutive Tuesdays, weather permitting, and the process is slated to be wrapped up by end of February/early March.

## **New Business**

*Charles and Dorris Richmond – Request to Consider Warrant Article to Increase Disabled Veteran's Exemption*

Ms. MacStay explained that the Select Board received a letter from the Richmonds, who found the town is allowed to have a disabled veterans exemption valued at up to \$4,000. The town's current exemption is significantly less than that, probably around \$1,500. They request that the Select Board consider putting a warrant article forward this year that would increase disabled veteran's exemption to \$4,000. It's essentially a tax credit on property tax. Currently there is an exemption for any veteran as long as they were honorably discharged. This disabled veterans exemption would be in addition to existing elderly and veteran exemptions. Assessing Clerk Leo Smith has the numbers on how many residents are currently taking advantage of exemptions.

## **Old Business**

*Review and Approve the Minutes of November 27<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

*Motion:* Ms. Hatcher made a motion to accept the minutes from Select Board Meeting held November 27<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup> 2018

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

## **Other Business**

*Holiday Hours*

On Christmas Eve, all town offices will be closed at noon, and the Highway Department will close at 11:30. EMS/Police Department employees for whom it will be necessary to remain on the job will receive a floating credit.

The next Select Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Hatcher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m. Chair Miller seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alison Kreutz, Department Assistant

PETERBOROUGH  
SELECT BOARD:

  
Barbara Miller, Chair

  
Karen Hatcher

  
Tyler Ward

**ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST**

- 1.