

**Town of Peterborough
Special Town Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2020
Upper Town Hall, 1 Grove Street, Peterborough, NH**

Town Moderator L. Phillips Runyon III called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM, led the Pledge of Allegiance and reviewed the Rules of Town Meeting.

Moderator Runyon recognized Select Board Chair Tyler Ward, who those in attendance. Article 1 is the only warrant article this evening. This Special Town Meeting was approved by the Superior Court on January 2, 2020. Tonight we will consider an additional appropriation for the reconstruction of the Main St Bridge. The additional requested appropriation of \$1.4 million is for construction administration and a contingency. In May of 2018 the Town approved a bond appropriation of \$6.6 million.

Warrant Article 1 – Main St Bridge Reconstruction and Improvements additional appropriation **\$1,400,000**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Million, Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,400,000)** for the purpose of designing, engineering constructing and replacing the Main Street Bridge and related work and to authorize the issuance of not more than **Two Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$280,000)** of bonds or notes for such purpose in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds and/or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept Federal, State, or any and all other aid or revenue source that may be or may become available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the Select Board to pass any vote relative thereto and to take any and all action necessary to carry out any such vote or take any other action relative thereto and to take any and all action necessary to carry out any such vote or take any other action relative thereto; with \$1,120,000 to come from Federal Highway Administration/New Hampshire Department of Transportation Municipal Bridge Aid funds. Funded 80% Federal Highway Administration and 20% Town.

By ballot vote (Requires 2/3 vote to pass)

The Select Board recommends passage of this article by a vote of 2-0

The Budget Committee recommends passage of this article by a vote of 8-0

Motion: Select Board Chair Tyler Ward moved the article as read, second by Select Board member Bill Taylor.

Town Administrator Rodney Bartlett spoke to the article. The Main Street bridge has been on the Department of Transportation's red list since the 1990s. After it was inspected in 2009, the weight limit was reduced from 30 tons to 15 tons.

At the May 2018 Town meeting, the Main Street bridge project was passed overwhelmingly at a cost of \$6.6 million. Funding is shared: 80% Federal highway funds, 20% Town funds. The funding included reconstruction of the bridge and construction administration. The estimate of probable cost was \$5.5 million in 2019 - \$1.1 million lower than what was approved at the 2018 Town meeting.

The project was put out to bid and bids were opened on October 30, 2019. Winning bid went to Beck & Bellucci of Franklin, NH. The construction bid alone was \$6,596,176 and did not include construction administration costs at \$785,000.

The intent of the Article 1 request of \$1.4 million is to fund the construction administration plus a contingency. The winning bid is good only through January 30, 2020 and the Town would like to start the project in April 2020, with an estimated completion date of October 2021.

There were several speakers to the article. Gerald Munson asked if the sidewalks would be widened on the new bridge. Mr. Bartlett responded that the sidewalks would be 5 feet wide and ADA accessible.

Judith "Gwyn" Baldwin asked if traffic – especially the big trucks – would be re-directed to Route 9 during the construction, much like traffic was re-directed to Route 202 during Route 9 construction. She also inquired about the effect of the bridge project on the library project. Mr. Bartlett replied that the bridge reconstruction would affect Main Street only. He also indicated that they had planned for both projects to occur simultaneously.

Kathleen Allen asked whether Hunt Road would be used as a detour during the bridge reconstruction. Mr. Bartlett replied that Hunt Road will not be designated as a detour for truck and general traffic. He said that there would be one lane of traffic going in and out of Main Street during the construction period.

Bill Chatfield asked what would happen if the article does not pass tonight. Mr. Bartlett stated that we could lose the \$6.6 million in funding. He pointed out in the photo included in the packet the extensive deterioration of the concrete and how the rebars are exposed.

Maggie Picard spoke for the group that takes care of the flower boxes in the downtown area, including those on the Main Street bridge. She wanted to know if the boxes on the bridge would be available this summer. Mr. Bartlett said that the boxes would not be available during construction but that they would be re-installed upon completion of the bridge. Select Board Chair Tyler Ward asked if we may be able to install boxes on the temporary pedestrian bridge. Mr. Bartlett agreed that it may be a possibility.

Susan Arscott asked what the bridge would look like upon completion. Mr. Bartlett replied that it would look much like it does today.

With debate closed on Article 1, Moderator Runyon put the question to a ballot vote, requiring a 2/3 majority to pass. Used gold ballots. YES favorable, NO against. The polls were declared open at 7:39 PM and would remain open for voting for one hour.

Moderator Runyon announced at 8:39 PM that the polls were closed. Counting of votes commenced by Supervisors of the Checklist: Karen Bannister, Carol Lenox and Denise Sweet.

Moderator Runyon announced results of vote for Warrant Article 1:

177 ballots cast:

YES	175
NO	2

Warrant Article 1 passed successfully with more than the 2/3 required votes.

As there was no further business, Moderator Runyon adjourned the meeting at 8:42 PM.

Total Registered Voters on Checklist: 5,746

Total Registered Voters at Town Meeting: 180

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Guyette
Town Clerk