

Town of Peterborough
Town Meeting – Open Session
Wednesday, May 9, 2012
Upper Town Hall, 1 Grove Street, Peterborough, NH

Town Moderator L. Phillips Runyon III called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Runyon began by reviewing the Rules of Town Meeting and Civility Protocol, known in Peterborough as the “Peterson Principle”.

Moderator Runyon recognized Barbara Miller of the Select Board who delivered a welcoming statement to the body and reviewed the structure of the Charter as it pertains to Town Meeting.

Ms. Miller thanked those involved in the restoration of the old horse trough that used to stand at the intersection of Main and Summer Streets. It was dedicated in memory of the Founder of Peterborough Human Services, James Lenane, and will be known as the James W. Lenane Wishing Well. Funds raised will go to Peterborough Human Services.

Special Recognition

Moderator Runyon recognized Select Board member, Liz Thomas who acknowledged Leandra MacDonald for her 18 years of service to the Town as a member of the Planning Board and Open Space Committee.

Next, Moderator Runyon recognized Select Board member, Joe Byk who paid tribute to long-time Town Treasurer, Kenneth Christian, who served as Town Treasurer for 38 years. He was first elected the position in 1974.

Moderator Runyon recognized Barbara Miller, with assistance from Norman Makechnie, who awarded the a special group of citizens of Peterborough and this year’s recipient of the Governor Walter Peterson Award: the Advisory Committee for the A. Erland and Hazel N. Goyette Memorial Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. The Goyette Fund was established by Hazel Goyette “to benefit residents of the town of Peterborough...and for the support of projects which are intended to sustain and improve the quality of life” in Peterborough. “Goyette Grants” have supported a wide-range of non-profit groups including Arts and Humanities, Environment, Health and Social Services, Recreation, and Civic Improvement. Names of past and present members of the committee have been added to the Governor Walter Peterson Award plaque and include: R. Gregg Alexander, John Brewster, Susan Callihan, Susan Chollet, Robert J. Condon, J. Roderick Falby, Richard R. Fernald, Deb Fredericks, Cheryl Fry, Nancy Gorr, Gordon Hale, Joseph S. Hart, Florence B. Jarest, Claire R. Jutras, John Kaufhold, Elaine Keating, Jay A. LaRoche, Norman H. Makechnie, Gretchen Orme, R. James Orr, Roland Patten, Anne Pelletier, Linn B. Perkins, Walter R. Peterson, Robert W. Ray, Albert E. Roy, Cathie Runyon, Lewis S. Stone, Ann D. Twitchell, Ray L. Wakefield, Lorraine Walker, Robert D. Weathers, and Audrey White.

Warrant Article 13 - Budget for Fiscal Year 2013
\$11,730,586

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eleven Million Seven Hundred Thirty Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Six Dollars (\$11,730,586)** for the operation of General Government, Water, and Wastewater. This represents the fiscal year 2013 budget period, July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

This article does not include special or individual articles.

Pursuant to the Peterborough Charter, if the Official Ballot Session adopts an annual operating budget by approving **Article 3**, this article will be passed over.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation.

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation.

Pursuant to the Peterborough Charter, the Official Ballot Session has adopted the annual budget by approving Article 3. Therefore, Article 13 was **PASSED OVER**.

Warrant Article 14 - Downtown TIF District and Plan

To see if the Town will vote to readopt and ratify the Greater Downtown Tax Increment Finance District and Plan of 2004 with an effective date of March 31, 2012 and an expiration date of May 31, 2022, as presented at public hearings on November 15 and December 20, 2011.

Motion: Select Board member Barbara Miller moved the article; Select Board member Liz Thomas seconded the motion.

Ms. Miller spoke to the article. Carol Ogilvie, Director of Community Development gave brief overview of the fundamentals of tax increment financing. Peterborough currently has three (3) TIF districts: the Downtown TIF, the Monadnock Community Hospital TIF, and the West Peterborough TIF.

A TIF is the financing of public improvements using new tax revenues generated within a specific district by new construction, expansion, or renovation of existing properties. A TIF District is any part of the town that is designated as the location for implementation of the TIF Plan. The TIF Plan is a description of the public projects that could be financed by TIF funds. It estimates the revenue that will be generated through the TIF capture values, and costs of the projects.

Speakers to the article included:

Larry Schongar questioned whether this makes sense in our present economy. Bob MacDonald asked what happens if the article isn't approved. Town Administrator Pamela Brenner responded that the TIF would "go away" and any monies in the TIF fund would go to the General Fund.

Loretta Laurenitis questioned the expiration of the TIF and isn't it really just being expanded. John Franklin asked whether the TIF plan described in Article 14 is the current district – without

any expansions, or is it the proposed district with expansions? Carol Ogilvie responded that the TIF district, as described in Article 14, includes the proposed expansions.

Stan Fry inquired whether the former Guernsey Building is part of the proposed TIF district. It was pointed out that it is part of the Downtown TIF.

Sharon Bailly asked whether the General Fund is underfunded when it comes to making infrastructure improvements. Administrator Brenner replied that the current tax rate is \$27.34 and of that, \$8.16 is the town portion. Without the TIF, the town cannot afford to make necessary infrastructure improvements.

Ron McIntyre, Bill J. Kennedy, and Doug Williams also spoke to the article. Roland Patten of the Budget Committee spoke in support of TIF districts and said that the Budget Committee supports the proposed Downtown TIF district.

With no further speakers, Moderator Runyon put the article to vote.

Vote: By a show of paddles, the majority was in the affirmative and Warrant Article 14 was **PASSED**.

Warrant Article 15 - Fire Department Parking Lot Upgrades \$75,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Seventy Five Thousand (\$75,000)** for the purpose of the reconstruction of the Fire Department Parking Lot and furthermore, to authorize the withdrawal of **Seventy Five Thousand (\$75,000)** from the previously established Greater Downtown Tax Increment Finance District Fund created for this purpose to offset this expense. This Article has no effect on the tax rate.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation.

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation.

The article was moved by Select Board member Liz Thomas; Select Board member Barbara Miller seconded the motion.

Liz Thomas spoke to the article. She described how, if the article passes, the current municipal lot will effectively “trade places” with the current Fire Station parking lot. It will move the municipal parking lot to the front of Summer Street where it will be more visible to residents and visitors. The other lot which sits behind the houses on Summer Street adjacent to the fire station will provide added parking spaces for the fire department and will provide them with an entrance that can accommodate the trucks.

Speakers to the article included Bill J. Kennedy who suggested that the town simply “give” the current municipal lot for the fire station’s usage as no one really makes use of it.

Bill P. Kennedy asked whether there was support from downtown merchants for the article. Peter Cross stated that he doesn’t believe that this article will do much to relieve the current lack of parking in downtown Peterborough. Mary “Duffy” Monahon pointed out that the current municipal lot is just 250 steps away from their office so it really is accessible. Joel Harrington

asked why we are “raising and appropriating” \$75,000 if the money is already in the TIF funds. Administrator Brenner responded that it is required by law to state it that way in the warrant article.

Other speakers to the article included Leandra MacDonald, Rick Monahan, Kathleen Allen, Andy Dunbar, Doug Williams, and Mary “Mose” Olenik.

As there were no further questions or comments, Moderator Runyon put the article to vote.

Vote: By a show of paddles, the majority was in the affirmative and Warrant Article 15 was **PASSED**.

Moderator Runyon recognized Francis Chapman who posed questions about the 2011 Town Report which were answered by Nicole MacStay, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

As there was no further business, Fire Chief Joseph Lenox made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Joe Byk. By a show of paddles, the vote was manifested in favor of the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Total Registered Voters on Checklist:	4,362
Total Registered Voters at Town Meeting:	105

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Guyette
Town Clerk