

**Town of Peterborough**  
**Town Meeting – Open Session**  
**Wednesday, May 12, 2010**  
**Upper Town Hall, 1 Grove Street, Peterborough, NH**

Town Moderator L. Phillips Runyon III called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Runyon began by reviewing the Rules of Town Meeting and Civility Protocol. He recognized the recent passing of Judge Kenneth Brighton, a long-time resident of Peterborough and asked that we choose to act with civility at this Town Meeting in his honor.

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

**Warrant Article 11 – Infrastructure Improvements**

**\$1,010,000**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Million Ten Thousand Dollars (\$1,010,000)** (gross budget) for the purposes of preparing plans and specifications, and for construction of infrastructure improvements; road reconstruction, Transcript Dam improvements, and sidewalks and associated amenities as part of the Main St Bridge/US 202 Retaining Wall project, and to authorize the issuance of up to \$1,010,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act, R.S.A. 33.1 et seq., as amended; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof as shall be in the best interest of the Town; to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept other grants, gifts, or other forms of assistance, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relating thereto.

(Two-Thirds Ballot Vote required). (Recommended by the Select Board)

Motion: Select Board Chair Barbara Miller moved the article as read. Select Board member Joe Byk seconded the motion. Ms. Miller spoke to the article as originally proposed. There are four significant improvement projects in Peterborough: the Main Street Bridge; the retaining wall on Route 202/Granite Street; sidewalks on Route 202/Granite Street; and the Transcript Dam.

The cost to repair the Main Street Bridge to be split 80/20 with the DOT Bridge Aid Program, with the Town responsible for 20%.

The cost to repair the Route 202/Granite Street retaining wall and associated road work to be split 80/20 with the Federal Highway Fund and the DOT. The Town is not responsible for the cost of this work. However, the sidewalks are the full responsibility of the Town. There is no federal or state grant money available to help offset those costs.

The Transcript Dam is a natural extension of the Main Street Bridge and is severely eroded. A decision has not been made as to whether we should breach/remove the dam, or rehabilitate the dam. There is potential grant money for river restoration projects. After recent testing of the bridge, rehabilitation as originally envisioned by NHDOT is not an option. The bridge will need

to be replaced. The Town's engineering consultants, Hoyle, Tanner & Associates have given preliminary estimates to replace the bridge at \$3-5 million although these estimates are far from firm. Additionally, discussions between the State's Cultural Resources and Historic Resources Committees, and the Town's Heritage Commission are still ongoing. The State's Fish and Game, and the Army Corps of Engineers have not finished their examination of the impact the new bridge will have on the Contoocook River.

Therefore, the Select Board feels that is not prudent at this time to ask the Town's voters for money to support these projects at this time but feel that we will be better prepared with more clearly defined cost projections at the May 2011 Town Meeting. She made a motion to amend Article 11 to eliminate funding for the sidewalks and Transcript Dam. The amended article to read:

**Amendment #1 to Warrant Article 11**

**\$250,000**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000)** for road construction and to authorize the issuance of up to \$250,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act, R.S.A. 33.1 et seq., as amended; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof as shall be in the best interest of the Town; to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept other grants, gifts, or other forms of assistance, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relating thereto.

Motion: Amendment #1 to Warrant Article 11 was moved by Ms. Miller, second by Mr. Byk.

Rodney Bartlett, Director of Department of Public Works for the Town of Peterborough spoke to the amended article. He explained that the \$250,000 amount was arrived at by eliminating \$760,000 for the sidewalks on Route 202/Granite Street and the Transcript Dam rehabilitation. He indicated that the bond would cover improvements to Cheney Avenue, Lookout Hill Road, and Orchard Hill Road where water and wastewater improvements have been completed and where the road is marred by numerous pavement cuts and deficiencies. He said that the loan would be for less than 10 years at an interest rate of 4% or less, and that the tax rate impact is estimated at \$0.10 per thousand.

A number of people spoke for or against the article including Fran Chapman, Susan Stansbury, Jim Orr, Jeanne Dietsch, Sue Chute, and Leandra MacDonald.

Maude Salinger asked why the cost for road improvements are not part of the DPW annual budget. Mr. Bartlett indicated that the Town incurred extraordinary expenses due to the 2008 ice storm and recent flooding. He said that by acquiring the \$250,000 bond, the town will be able to do much-needed road improvements that are not possible due to the requirement of town administration to come in with a flat budget for 2011.

Bob DeMaura inquired whether excess funds in the West Peterborough TIF be used toward road improvements rather than a bond. Mr. Byk indicated that the Town is saving the TIF revenues to possibly be applied towards the shortages experienced by the Town due to the State's downshifting of costs.

Jamie Trowbridge asked what the consequence would be should the bond vote fail. Mr. Bartlett responded that road improvements would not be able to take place and the roads will continue to deteriorate, making them even more expensive to repair.

Bonnie Harris asked whether any other town roads were slated for repair. Mr. Bartlett indicated that Sand Hill Road, Old Jaffrey Road and Old Town Farm Road are targeted for repair in the 2011 DPW budget.

Andy Dunbar asked why the town is budgeting for new sidewalks on a state route when he believed they are the State's responsibility. Mr. Bartlett indicated that the sidewalks are the Town's responsibility and that the State is responsible only for the portion to be driven on.

As there were no further questions, Moderator Runyon put the amendment to vote.

Vote: By a show of paddles, Amendment #1 to Warrant Article 11 passed.

Josh Bond proposed an Amendment to Article 11's Amendment #1 to raise and appropriate an additional \$50,000 to the amended Warrant Article 11 for the inclusion of additional roads for improvements.

**Amendment #2 to Warrant Article 11**

**\$300,000**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000)** for road construction and to authorize the issuance of up to \$300,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act, R.S.A. 33.1 et seq., as amended; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof as shall be in the best interest of the Town; to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept other grants, gifts, or other forms of assistance, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relating thereto.

Motion: Amendment #2 to Warrant Article 11 moved by Josh Bond; second by David Simpson.

Shelley Goguen-Hulbert, Bob DeMaura and Joanne Carr spoke to the proposed amendment.

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

Vote: by a show of paddles, Amendment #2 to amended Warrant Article 11 failed.

Warrant Article 11 was put to ballot vote and required a 2/3 majority to pass. Used yellow ballots. YES favorable, NO against. Moderator Runyon declared at 7:55 PM that the polls are open for voting and to remain open for one hour.

Moderator Runyon announced at 8:55 PM that the polls were closed. Counting of votes commenced by Supervisors of the Checklist, William Sweet, Denise Sweet, and Mary Lee Leedham.

At 9:00 PM Moderator Runyon announced results of vote for Warrant Article 11:

YES	104
NO	20
Spoiled	3

Warrant Article 11, as amended, passed successfully with more than the 2/3 required votes.

### **Special Recognition**

Moderator Runyon recognized Select Board Chair Barbara Miller who spoke of a very special citizen of Peterborough and this year's recipient of the Governor Walter Peterson Award: Mr. Gordon L. Kemp. Ms. Miller spoke to Mr. Kemp's 50 years of service to the Town of Peterborough as a member of the Recreation Committee, Selectman, and current chair of the Budget Committee. The award had been previously presented at the Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce banquet honoring the Chamber's Citizen of the Year and Business Leader of the Year awards where Mr. Kemp was also recognized as the Chamber's Citizen of the Year.

### **Warrant Article 12 – Fire Department Pumper Truck**

**\$550,000**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a two year lease purchase agreement for the purpose of lease-purchasing a fire pumper truck for the Fire Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for initial payment for that purpose. This payment will be reimbursed from a transfer from the Fire Pumper Capital Reserve Fund. The first and second year lease purchase payments, to include principal and interest will be in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$133,480). (Two-Thirds Ballot Vote required). (Recommended by the Select Board)

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

Fire Chief Joseph Lenox spoke to the article. Peterborough Fire & Rescue is requesting \$550,000 to purchase a new 2010 Rescue Pumper truck that would replace the 1985 Emergency One pumper truck currently serving the department as a Class A first response pumper truck, a water supply and mutual aid pumper. He indicated that \$300,000 would come from the existing Capital Reserve Fund and \$250,000 will come from a lease/bank loan. Interest rates range from 4.49% to 2.75%. Chief Lenox indicated that the 1985 Emergency One pumper truck, because of its age, is not only costing money to keep it road and suppression worthy, it is deficient in firefighter safety issues including the open-cab style with no roll-over protection, lack of work lighting, no heat in the passenger compartment for firefighter rehab during cold weather events, limited compartment space to carry necessary rescue equipment, and limited seating for personnel due to the open-cab concept. Also, due to the vehicle's 25-year age, the Insurance Service Office may not recognize it as a serviceable firefighting unit which could cause everyone's fire insurance rates to increase. The National Fire Protection Association recognizes pumpers up to 20 years old; ten years front line and ten years reserve. National standard for replacement is 15 years. The

present vehicle has cost an estimated \$10,000 per year in maintenance over the past five years which has caused the department to overspend its vehicle maintenance line.

Fran Chapman and Bob DeMaura both spoke to the article. Mr. DeMaura wanted to ascertain that the new pumper will fit into the current fire house which Chief Lenox confirmed.

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

Warrant Article 12 was put to ballot vote and required a 2/3 majority to pass. Used lavender ballots. YES favorable, NO against. Moderator Runyon declared at 8:11 PM that the polls are open for voting and to remain open for one hour.

Moderator Runyon announced at 9:11 PM that the polls were closed. Counting of votes commenced by Supervisors of the Checklist, William Sweet, Denise Sweet, and Mary Lee Leedham.

At 9:13 PM Moderator Runyon announced results of vote for Warrant Article 12:

YES	118
NO	6
Spoiled	1

Warrant Article 12 passed successfully with more than the 2/3 required votes.

### **Warrant Article 13 – Operating Budget**

**\$10,233,818**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Million Two Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eighteen (\$10,233,818)** for the operation of General Government, Water, and Wastewater. This represents the fiscal year 2011 budget period, July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

This article does not include special or individual articles.

Pursuant to the Peterborough Charter, the Official Ballot Session has adopted an annual operating budget by approving Article 3. Therefore, this article was passed over.

### **Warrant Article 14 – Exemption for Alternative Energy Systems**

To see if the town will vote to rescind the adoption of the provisions of NH RSA **72:61** through RSA **72:72** (property tax exemptions of up to **\$20,000.00** based upon the cost of solar, wind-powered and wood heating energy systems) as had been adopted by the town in **1976** and **2009**. (The Select Board recommends this article.)

Motion: Select Board member Joe Byk moved the article as read; Select Board member Liz Thomas seconded the motion.

Mr. Byk spoke to the article. He indicated that the purpose of the article is to correct a vote from the September 2009 Special Town Meeting that the DRA disallowed due to an improper

warning. The article will also remove an exemption that is ineffective, non-compliant, and hard for the Town Assessor to administer. He indicated that the Town should have an exemption that is equitable and meaningful, without penalizing other taxpayers. Mr. Byk also pointed out that those taxpayers who are currently allowed an exemption based on the 1977 ordinance providing an exemption for solar heating will continue to receive that exemption.

Speaking for or against the amendment were: Duffy Monahan, Joy Flemming, Kathleen Allen, Ed Henault, Rod Christy, Fran Chapman, John Friede and Martha Eichler.

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.

As there was no further business, Joe Byk made a motion to adjourn. Barbara Miller seconded. By a show of paddles, the vote was manifested in favor of the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

<b>Total Registered Voters on Checklist:</b>	<b>5402</b>
<b>Total Registered Voters at Town Meeting:</b>	<b>135</b>

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Guyette  
Town Clerk

This is a true and certified copy.

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Linda M. Guyette, Town Clerk  
Peterborough, NH