

## Pownal Budget Committee

January 5, 2011

APPROVED

Mallett Hall  
7:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order at 7:20 by Tom Godfrey.

**Members present:** Tom Godfrey, Bill DeWitt, Andy Wyatt, Scott Kaplan, and Mary Ann Hodsdon

**Members Absent:** Carlene Harvey, Jan Pieter van Voorst van Beest

**Minutes:** Andy Wyatt moved to approve the minutes of June 16, 2010. Bill DeWitt seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Carried

Tom Godfrey made a motion to approve the minutes of June 2, 2010. Scott Kaplan seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Carried

Tom Godfrey asked Andy Wyatt for an update on the Compensation Committee. The committee met on January 4, 2011. Their discussion centered on employee time off and the employee retirement plan. Currently, the town contributes six percent to the retirement plan. Employees are not required to contribute, but may, if they wish too. The committee feels this is a good benefit for town employees, and that a good retirement plan counteracts Pownal employee's lower health benefits.

The committee is looking at paid time off without categories and with a cap of 80 hours per year. An employee could use paid leave for illness, vacation or appointments. The paid leave would not accumulate beyond the end of the year. If an employee still has accumulated hours, they would be paid for those remaining hours, and start a new year. The issue was raised: If the policy becomes effective, what happens to employee time that has already been accrued? At this time there is no limit to the number of hours an employee can "bank".

The committee has looked at employee health care benefits and find that Pownal's benefits are in the middle of the road.

The Compensation Committee Members are Jan Pieter van Voorst van Beest, Suzanne Crowell, Sean O. Bennett, Ansley Newton and Andy Wyatt.

Selectmen have taken an active part in the committee meetings, but have not had representation at all meetings.

Election of Budget Committee Chair: Tom announced that he has changed jobs, and his new position will have him out of town most week nights. He will not be running for the office of chair.

Bill DeWitt declined to run. Bill did say, "Tom has done a commendable job." Bill also said that he plans to stay on the committee this year, and we need to find new members to replace those that have resigned.

Andy Wyatt said, "Tom has left big shoes to fill".

Scott Kaplan also declined to run. Scott said, "He is sorry to hear of these changes."

Committee members decided to defer the election of a chair to the next meeting.

**The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at Mallett Hall**

Bill asked if hiring the town's administrative assistant is entirely up to the selectmen. The offices of Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Treasurer were changed from elected to appointed in warrants in three separate town meetings. The selectmen are required to interview and hire the administrative assistant and the two clerical positions in the town office.

Bill also asked about recommending new member to the selectmen. Any committee member may recommend a person to the selectmen. The suggestion is that the person be contacted, asked if they would be willing to serve on the budget committee, and then nominated to the selectmen. If this procedure is followed, the selectmen only have to appoint the new member.

Tom Godfrey brought up the election of secretary. Bill DeWitt made a motion to elect Mary Ann Hodsdon as secretary. Andy Wyatt seconded the nomination. Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:08.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Hodsdon