

Pownal Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting
December 2nd, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7 pm in the Dewitt Room of Mallett Hall. All members were present.

Payroll Warrant 42 – Motion by Mr. Fauver, 2nd by Mr. Morris to approve as presented. SO VOTED.

AP Warrant 43 – Motion by Mr. Fauver, 2nd by Mr. Morris to approve as presented. Mr. Giddinge questioned if the fire truck repair bill would be in soon. Mr. Peters noted that he had not yet received it from the Deputy Chief. SO VOTED.

Dept. Head Reports

Fire Chief – noted that the issue with the utility truck was a problem with the turbo and a loss of power. Mr. Fauver asked about training for the back country rescue equipment. Chief Peters noted it would start soon after the first of the year. He also asked about the fee schedule, the Chief will bring it to next meeting. Mr. Giddinge noted that the school was looking for a grant for a generator, and wondered if the school was going to be designated as an emergency shelter. Chief Peters noted that the standard was now to establish larger facilities in time of an emergency which required fewer volunteers than several smaller ones. He will work with the school on their grant application. He noted that some members of the department were still deficient in their NIMS certification, and will be working on bringing that into compliance.

Road Commissioner – noted that he had added a paragraph to his previous week's report. Mr. Morris noted that he had a town line sign that was beside the road and will bring it to the public works garage. He noted that the International truck seemed to be running well now. He noted that work on the Hodsdon Road was pretty well wrapped up for the winter. Mr. Giddinge noted that the chip seal material on Lawrence Road was holding the salt very well. Mr. Fauver noted that he had heard that Durham was leaning toward a full time road commissioner. Mr. Bennett said that had been discussed, but was no longer being considered by the committee.

CIP Debt Service spreadsheet – Seaver had distributed the completed spreadsheet along with the combined debt service spreadsheet. Discussion regarding what is a comfortable level of debt % to net budget. Mr. Morris reported % numbers all over the place, including Yarmouth which is at 9% and New Gloucester which is at 6%. Seaver will contact 10 towns about the size of Pownal and request their numbers. Mr. Wyatt asked if the Board was considering legislatively restricting debt limit. Board was not but had been asked by CIP for a comfort level. Seaver reminded them that in out years, net operating budgets with falling revenues would be hard to define, and would increase the debt level percentage. Mr. Morris noted it was important to fund CIP at a functional level. Mr. Wyatt was looking to be able to balance debt to savings within the CIP. Mr. Bennett noted that when finalized, it might be a good idea for Paul Schuman to give the board a power point presentation for easy understanding.

Reminder of Meeting with Durham Selectmen on Thursday evening at 6 pm. Mr. Fauver wondered if this was a good time to start a discussion regarding the RSU if Freeport pulls out. It was noted that that discussion would take up all of a stand-alone meeting, and should wait until Freeport makes its decision.

New Business

Budget Meetings – Andy Wyatt was present as Chairman of the Budget Committee. He was willing to consolidate the meeting schedule by meeting longer and getting to more departments in a

shorter time frame. He felt the meeting schedule last season had worked well, and will redistribute that schedule for review. Mr. Morris asked for budget info from department heads prior to the meeting. Mr. Fauver wondered if presentations couldn't be made to the Selectmen and the Budget Committee at the same time. Mr. Giddinge felt he like it as it was now, separately. All department heads noted that their budget could be emailed to the board the week prior to the meeting. Mr. Fauver would like a week to review, Mr. Giddinge was happy with 4-5 days prior.

Fire Department compensation budget – noted that the budget committee had been uncomfortable with determining the pay of firefighters. Seaver suggested that the pay schedule become part of the Compensation Policy as other departments were. He also noted that there was tweaking of that policy to be done at town meeting, and this could be inserted into the policy at that time. Chief Peters will bring the pay plan back to an upcoming meeting.

Budget Requests – request received from Red Cross- The consensus of the board was that this agency had not been funded in the past, and to notify them that they would not be considered in this year's proposals. The Port Teen Center had submitted a non-specific request. The consensus was that since this is funded by town funds through the RSU and also through the Freeport Community Services that they should be invited in to provide more information. Seaver will provide a listing of schedule of meetings to Mr. Myers.

Waste Zero order – Seaver noted that the warehouse had only 22 cases of large bags left in stock and presented a quote for an order of large bags from Waste Zero. Motion by Mr. Giddinge, 2nd by Mr. Morris to order. SO VOTED.

Spatial Alternatives – quote for mapping updates and edits. Mr. Fauver will contact Judy Colby-George for more information.

Impact fees – Seaver provided the Board with a spreadsheet showing the balance of impact fee accounts.

Town Line Marker – Mr. Fauver noted that a marker was broken at the New Gloucester/Pownal/Durham town line. Mr. Morris said he would fix it.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 pm.