

Minutes of Meeting
Pownal Board of Selectmen
Monday February 10th, 2014

Meeting Called to order at 7 pm. All members were present.

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

AP Warrant – Motion by Mr. Fauver, 2nd by Mr. Giddinge to approve as presented. Mr. Giddinge asked Mr. Bennett about the price of cutting edges. Bennett noted they were odd sized for the Grader. SO VOTED.

Pine Tree Waste – Karen McNaughton from Pine Tree Waste was present to discuss renewing the collection contract under the terms provided for renewal in the present contract. She indicated that Pine Tree Waste would be please to renew the current contract for up to three years at the current cost, with a cpiu adjustment in the 2nd year. She noted the most recent cpiu adjustment for the Boston market had been 1.4%. The present contract expires 6/30/2014. Discussion as to whether there was room to expand the recycling effort to commercial entities. She indicated that the recycling capacity probably could not handle large amounts of corrugated or container type items. Mr. Giddinge indicated that if possible to renew for a 3 year period, which would be his preference. Mr. Fauver and Mr. Morris concurred. Ms. McNaughton will forward the appropriate contract paperwork to the Board.

Minutes of the previous meeting were not yet available.

Public Comment Period

Kathy Hogue was present representing the Recreation Committee and noting that the committee was interesting in pursuing the acquisition of the Haskell Mill property as a historic town use site. She had held informal discussion with the planning board and they indicated no issues with the site. It is about 1.3 acres and owned by "Feagle". Mr. Fauver will contact the Feagles and see if there is any interest in selling the property. Discussion ensued regarding mill and riparian rights. It seemed the answers to riparian rights questions depends on specific issues in the questions. Ms. Hogue noted that the committee was nearly complete in meeting the charge laid out by the Selectmen. Mr. Morris felt that the planning of the Mill property would fulfill the goals as he understood them. The Committee will wait to hear back from Mr. Fauver regarding the Feagle property.

Susan Peters wondered about the timeline for revaluation of the Town. Mr. Giddinge explained that a meeting with the State Bureau of Taxation had not yet occurred, and he was interested in holding that meeting to get a better understanding of what the town would gain by doing (or not doing) a revaluation program. He wondered what it would mean to educational aid. Mr. Bennett asked about equity in valuations. Mr. Giddinge noted there was issues with antique versus new construction, but further noted that indications were that if land was not looked at and adjusted properly, the money would be wasted. He felt the upcoming valuation needed public input and discussion to do away with innuendos and hearsay.

Department Head Reports

Fire Chief Peters noted that he had attended a regional Chiefs meeting and further noted that all departments seem to be facing finance and staffing issues. He noted a busy January with several mutual

aid calls to other communities. His department was hosting a Coastal Mutual Aid dinner meeting in Freeport on 2/11/14. The Rope Rescue training books have been ordered.

Scott Seaver, just returning from vacation, had no report.

Road Commissioner Bennett noted that he had about 70 tons of salt in the building. He will present his budget and road maintenance plan to the Board on 2/24/2014. He will be on vacation from 3/18 through 4/2.

Mr. Morris asked about the emails from MDOT regarding the intersection of Allen Road and Elmwood Road. The email was from Kyle Hall, who had received the speed limit review request at MDOT. Mr. Giddinge felt the intersection was a dangerous one. Mr. Bennett felt that it was not the best but that there were other intersections, such as Elwood and Rt. 9, that other intersections were better candidates for the expenditure of town funds. Mr. Hall will be contacted regarding the intersection being changed to a 3-way stop.

Other discussion regarding the Allen Road railroad overpass and the possibility of Elmwood and Rt. 9 becoming a 4 way stop intersection.

Compensation Policy – proposed changes were discussed. It was decided that this item would take up a workshop session at the next meeting. Items to be addressed were the Public Safety wage scale, paid time off accrual and payout, and any other suggestions the board might have.

Request for Warrant Article – The Board had received a request for a warrant article from Mr. Robert Slocum to have the Town vote on the combined position of the Road Commissioner sharing with Durham. Mr. Giddinge noted that the Board needed to decide if the Town should continue this relationship. Mr. Morris wondered under what criteria that issue would be evaluated. Mr. Giddinge felt that the letter challenges that relationship. Mr. Bennett noted that Durham has gone a long way toward finalizing their new department under the current relationship, including bonding for equipment, facility purchase and the imminent hiring of employees. Mr. Fauve indicated that the Board should continue its support of the program, and indicate that to the Town of Durham. In regards to the letter, Mr. Morris did not feel that accountability had changed. Mr. Giddinge mentioned the use of salt rather than sand. After discussion, Mr. Morris moved to affirm the Boards commitment to the cost sharing project of the shared Road Commissioner position with Durham. SO VOTED

Mr. Morris will contact Mr. Slocum and invite him to attend the next board meeting to discuss any issues, and his letter.

Mr. Giddinge discussed the activities of the Community Input group meeting with the RSU committee that will be negotiating with the Town of Freeport. He noted that Jen Kaplan and Anne Graham were attempting to arrange a meeting with Education Commissioner Reier regarding the unique issue of the largest member of the RSU, the one with the host high school, requesting to pull out of the RSU.

It was noted that a very complimentary article regarding the Road Commissioner had appeared on the Maine Local Roads Newsletter.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.