

# Pownal Budget Committee

## April 14, 2020 Public Proceeding Minutes Approved

### Members Present:

Bo Chesney, John Green, Gennifer Giuliano, Matthew Roy, Brian Stornelli, Andy Wyatt

### Guests:

Andy O'Brien and Jon Morris of the Select Board, Fire Chief Jesse Peters

1. A quorum was established (all committee members logged in). The meeting was called to order by Chairman Green at 7:03 PM.
2. Mr. Wyatt provided draft minutes of the March 31, 2020 meeting. Mr. Chesney moved to approve as written. Mr. Roy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. The Public Comment period was skipped as no members of the public were in attendance.
4. Select Board input:
  - a. Mr. O'Brien provided some insight into upcoming budget reviews and that this committee's goal of no more than 2 percent increase will likely not be met as several budgets will be affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Examples cited are Public Safety and General Government (e.g. additional costs for communications, postage, streaming meetings on the internet, personal protective equipment for first responders, etc.).
  - b. Mr. Morris mentioned that the RSU5 budget will increase by about 3 percent for this fiscal year.
5. Chief Peters presented his proposed Public Safety Budget with an expense total of \$132,316.00, which is a 3.17 percent increase over current year. There were no lines items with budgeted expense lower than current year. Notable increases are:
  - i. + \$352.00 (2.99%) for the county dispatch contract.
  - ii. + \$1688.00 (4.45%) for the compensation category, primarily driven by the increase in the state minimum wage.
  - iii. + \$379.00 (3.13%) for the buildings category, primarily driven by cable/internet, electricity and janitorial supplies (depleted due to coronavirus-related usages).
  - iv. +1649.00 (4.05%) for the operations category, primarily driven by maintenance on aging apparatus, ems personal protective equipment, and medical supplies.

Mr. Morris mentioned that the town is considering some form of additional compensation for members of the Fire/Rescue department in recognition of the hazardous conditions that they encounter in their work during the coronavirus pandemic. Mr. Morris will provide a more formal and detailed presentation of this at a later time.

6. Mr. Green provided a view of cemetery expenses for the current fiscal year. The budget for cemetery expenses has been \$4000.00 for the past several years. For the current fiscal year, the wages line is already over-expended by \$1195.00. No members of the cemetery commission were in attendance to provide insight into the over-expenditure. Mr. Morris will assign Town Administrator Henes to get a firm budget request from the cemetery commission. The Select Board may apply pressure to get them to participate.

7. The next meeting is set for April 21, 2020, 7:00 PM via zoom.com. Town Administrator Melissa Henes will be in attendance to present proposed budgets for General Government, Human Services, PCWA, Mallet Hall and Debt Service. Chairman Green will provide the agenda and a URL for the meeting.
8. Mr. Chesney made a motion for adjournment. Ms. Giuliano seconded. The motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andy Wyatt