

Pownal Budget Committee

May 12, 2020 Public Proceeding Minutes Approved

Members Present:

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

Guests:

Andy O'Brien of the Select Board, Road Commissioner Dick Clarke

1. A quorum was established (all committee members logged in). The meeting was called to order by Chairman Green at 7:01 PM.
2. Mr. Wyatt provided draft minutes of the April 14, 2020 meeting. Mr. Chesney moved to approve as amended (one misspelling corrected). Mr. Stornelli 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. Chairman Green asked Mr. O'Brien about the date for this year's Town Meeting. Mr. O'Brien indicated that state/municipal voting day will be Tuesday, July 14, and that Town Meeting will be held on Monday, July 20. At this time we don't know what constraints will be in place regarding large in-person gatherings.
 - b. Mr. O'Brien also reported results of the Capital Improvement Plan meeting held just before this meeting: Refurbishment of Fire Engine 2 will proceed as planned this year. Replacement of the Poland Range Road multiplate culvert will be deferred to next year, and will be bonded rather than funded from the capital reserve. The recommended FY 2021 appropriation for the capital reserve shifts from \$157,000 to \$1.
5. Road Commissioner Clarke presented an updated Public Works budget request (not including salaries) which results in a 0.11% decrease in expense over current year. Mr. Clarke walked through the budget proposal calling out lines with significant changes. Notable changes are:
 - i. + \$400 (25.00%) for electricity to reflect recent actual costs.
 - ii. + \$240 (33.33%) for cell phones to reflect the reality that we're covering four subscriptions, not three.
 - iii. + \$1000 (5.65%) for sand, due to \$1.00 per yard increase in cost.
 - iv. + \$4500 (20.00%) for equipment maintenance to reflect recent actuals and implementation of a more thorough maintenance program.
 - v. + \$1000 (40.00%) for Tires to reflect recent actual costs.
 - vi. + \$1000 (55.56%) for Gasoline to reflect recent actual costs. Weekly inspections around town have been implemented that have increased gasoline usage.
 - vii. - \$16,400 (100%) for crack sealing, line painting and roadside mowing. Budget for these lines has been reduced to zero to defer expense to a future budget cycle.
 - viii. + \$500 (100%) for Miscellaneous (02-08-040-021) due to increased need to trap beavers. Mr. Clarke mentioned that the value of pelts is low, so cost of engaging trappers is up.
6. Road Commissioner Clarke described paving plans, which included asphalt resurfacing on the Merrill Road from Hodsdon Road to the Freeport line, and chip seal on the Hodsdon Road from Elmwood Road to the Yarmouth line as well as that section of Merrill Road. Mr. Clarke

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mentioned the importance of applying the chip seal after the new pavement has been allow to cure. The 2021 budget proposal includes \$205,000 for this work. There remains about \$99,000 for this in the 2020 budget. There was much discussion regarding the funding of this project across two fiscal years. Chairman Green proposed another meeting with the Select Board, Road Commissioner and Budget Committee to discuss this further. Chairman Green will contact MMA (Maine Municipal Association) to get their perspective on legal or other considerations.

7. Chairman Green reopened the Public Comment period and invited Alan Bradstreet's comment. Mr. Bradstreet recommended not deferring the road striping and roadside mowing, citing safety considerations and increased cost due to deferral of the work. He also suggested moving forward with the paving and chip seal on the Merrill and Hodsdon Roads.
8. The next meeting is set for May 19, 2020, 7:00 PM via zoom.com. Fire Chief Jesse Peters and Town Administrator Melissa Henes will be in attendance to present proposed budgets for Public Safety, General Government, Human Services, PCWA, Mallet Hall and Debt Service. Chairman Green will provide the agenda and a URL for the meeting.
9. Mr. Chesney made a motion for adjournment. Ms. Giuliano seconded. The motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wyatt