

# Pownal Budget Committee

May 27, 2020

## Public Proceeding Minutes

Approved

### Members Present:

Bo Chesney (until 8:00 PM), John Green, Gennifer Giuliano, Matthew Roy, Andy Wyatt

### Absent:

Brian Stornelli

### Guests:

Andy O'Brien and Jon Morris of the Select Board, Town Administrator Melissa Henes

1. A quorum was established (five committee members logged in). The meeting was called to order by Chairman Green at 7:04 PM.
2. Mr. Wyatt provided draft minutes of the May 19, 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:

Mr. O'Brien informed the committee that the FY2021 overtime budget for Public Works will be significantly reduced. For the current year budget, the pay rates were adjusted in two increments. In error, the full-year overtime amount was included twice.
5. Town Administrator Melissa Henes presented the compensation component of the FY 2021 budget requests for several departments. Since the compensation amounts had just been set at the Select Board meeting the previous evening, she had not yet entered these values into Trio so that they could be presented in the 'standard' budget views. She will provide that at the next meeting.

Notable items from Melissa's overview

  - a. Workers compensation costs are down due to Pownal being claim-free this period.
  - b. For Public Safety, the Call Pay, Training and Maintenance lines are increased due to changes in state minimum wage. The Chief Stipend is increased by the 2% cost of living adjustment.
  - c. For Mallett Hall Maintenance, the Janitorial line is increased by the 2% cost of living adjustment.
  - d. For General Government, a part time clerk position is funded. \$2700 is budgeted to fund this at 15 hours per week for 12 weeks to cover Melissa's upcoming maternity leave. At this time, former town clerk Scott Seaver appears to be a candidate.
  - e. For the Cemetery budget, no input was received from the committee, so the Wages line is increased by the 2% cost of living adjustment.
6. Mr. Wyatt presented a view of the Solid Waste budget for FY2021 with a \$3159 increase (3.00%). Notable items:
  - a. \$2000 increase for Solid Waste Tipping fees. Starting July 1, ecomaine will increase the fee from \$73.00 per ton to \$75.50. Also the solid waste tonnages are trending upward.
  - b. \$700 decrease for Recycling Tipping fees. The price per ton remains at \$35.00, but tonnages are trending downward.

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

- c. \$241 decrease in Solid Waste Hauling. In July, Pownal and Casella start a new 3 year contract, which includes \$76,129 for FY2021 and 3% increases for the following two years.
  - d. \$2100 increase for Pay-as-you-throw bag production. \$8500 is budgeted as a best-guess 'placeholder', while we're awaiting response from WasteZero re current inventory and recent usage. The previous two budgets were \$6400 for this line, and had been over-expended each time.
  - e. Budgeted revenue from PAYT bag sales is reduced by \$2600 (9.09%). Current year sales are trailing expectations, which is puzzling, given that the bag prices were increased by 30% in July 2019, *and* that tonnages for solid waste tipping are trending upward.
7. There was a brief discussion of the process for this committee to formulate its recommendations to the town that will appear on the Town Meeting warrant. Chairman Green will provide a sample of a previous year's recommendations document for review.
8. Selectman Morris indicated that the Select Board will engage the Budget Committee and Capital Improvement Planning committee to do a cost/benefit analysis on whether or not to create a Tax Increment Financing District on the proposed Central Maine Power expansion. Pownal expects that CMP will be adding about \$90 million in taxable property.
9. The next meeting is set for Tuesday June 2, 2020, 7:00 PM via zoom.com. Chairman Green will provide the agenda and a URL for the meeting.
10. Ms. Giuliano made a motion for adjournment. Mr. Wyatt seconded. The motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andy Wyatt