

Pownal Budget Committee

February 11, 2021 Public Proceeding Minutes Approved

Members Present:

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

Guests:

Heidi Curry and 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 6:31 PM.
2. Mr. Wyatt provided draft minutes of the February 4, 2021 meeting. Chairman green suggested edits to the paragraph on committee bylaws. Mr. Chesney moved to approve them as amended. Ms. Giuliano seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. The Public Comment period was skipped as no members of the public were in attendance.
4. The Select Board Comments period was skipped as the Select Board members in attendance did not have any comments.
5. Chairman Green walked us through recent updates to the Budget Working spreadsheet. A column for 2021/2022 includes budget proposals reviewed to-date. Rows were added for overlay, surplus and 'from surplus'. There was some discussion about 'surplus', and whether that was a percentage of the municipal budget or the overall budget (including county and schools).
6. No members of the Cemetery Commission were in attendance, so the review of the Cemeteries budget was tabled for a future meeting
7. Road Commissioner Clarke led the committee through a review of his proposed Public Works budget. The budgeted values for compensation and insurance have not yet been determined. Mr. Clarke provided his review of the non-compensation portion of the Public Works budget.

Notable items:

- Utilities are up \$145: + \$45 for phone and + 100 for cable/internet.
- Winter Roads is down \$1,000 on the Sand/Gravel line due to selection of a different supplier (Albert Blackstone).
- Fleet Maintenance is up \$10,400. \$400 of that is for the shop supplies line, which support purchase of needed shop tools, including a welder. The \$10,000 increase is for equipment maintenance which includes use of a certified heavy equipment mechanic for certain tasks and use of salt neutralizer to extend the service life of the trucks.
- The proposed fuel budget is unchanged from current year.
- The Road Maintenance category is up \$20,900, primarily driven by funding the Crack Sealing, Survey/Engineering, Line Painting and Roadside Mowing lines, which were unfunded for the current year, in response to the corona virus pandemic which necessitated these cuts.
- The Administrative category is up \$450, due to a need to refresh an arborist license, provide training to two new employees and provide coveralls for the crew for use while greasing the vehicles.

Bottom line: Non-compensation Public Works budget is increased by \$30,985 (6.85%).

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

Mr. Chesney asked the Road Commissioner “Budget-wise, what keeps you up at night?” Mr. Clarke responded, “Vehicle Maintenance.”, and continued to say that past maintenance has been inadequate.

8. Chairman Green related his email conversation with Fire Chief Peters regarding Pownal’s agreement with Freeport regarding ambulance service. Chief Peters informed us that the agreement is not contractual, but instead is a ‘gentlemen’s agreement’
9. Selectman O’Brien related that there is no change in the Pownal Center Water Association budget. He also noted that current year expenditures are minimal, so far, since most monies for this are expended in June.
10. The next meeting is set for Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 6:30 pm. Town Administrator Melissa Porter will present the proposed General Government budget. Chairman Green will provide the agenda and a URL for the meeting.
11. Mr. Chesney made a motion for adjournment. Mr. Stornelli seconded. The motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wyatt