

Pownal Budget Committee

March 25, 2021 Public Proceeding Minutes Approved

Members Present:

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

Guests:

Heidi Curry, Jon Morris and Andy O'Brien of the Select Board

1. A quorum was established (all committee members logged in). The meeting was called to order by Chairman Green at 6:34PM.
2. Mr. Wyatt provided draft minutes of the March 18, 2021 meeting. Ms. Giuliano provided feedback for a couple of areas where the essence of the discussion was not well captured. Approval of these minutes was tabled until the next meeting for which Mr. Wyatt will provide a corrected draft.
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 informed the committee that he had had a conversation with Duane Snow of the Cemetery Commission. Mr. Snow indicated that the proposed \$5,000 budget is appropriate. Mr. Snow also cautioned that labor costs for mowing are affected by rain (i.e., more rain causes more grass growth).
6. Chairman Green opened a discussion on stipends for the Select Board, by providing a comparison to other towns with similar populations and government types. Mr. Chesney suggested that the matter of stipend evaluation be conducted as part of a comprehensive analysis, instead of a consideration specific to the Select Board. Mr. Morris agreed and stated that he would decline an increase in his stipend if it were offered. There was further discussion about workload distribution and how the role of chair is selected.

Mr. Wyatt moved that the Stipend line on the General Government Budget be increased by \$2,000, to be split between the two non-chair members of the Select Board. Mr. Chesney seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

7. The committee deliberations and voting on recommendations started with the General Government budget. The process of wording a motion for a recommendation was complicated by the fact that:
 - This committee has not yet seen an updated General Government budget worksheet since the Select Board decided to not add a third person to the office staff.
 - The costs for insurance are not yet available.
 - The change in Select Board stipends was just adopted, with a known cost, but the affect on payroll tax is unknown.

Mr. Wyatt made a motion attempting to 'handle' these unknown elements. Mr. Chesney seconded. Ms. Giuliano expressed concerns about making a recommendation with these elements still unknown. After some discussion, the motion and second were withdrawn, and further deliberations on committee recommendations was tabled until the next meeting. These open questions should be resolved by then.

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

8. This committee's review of the Chair's draft of the Annual Report narrative was tabled until the next meeting.
9. Emergent Comments, Questions or Concerns:
 - Mr. Morris asked Mr. Wyatt (chair of CIP) to invite the budget committee members to the April 7 meeting of the Capital Improvement Plan committee, where funding options for the Poland Range Road multiplate culvert project will be discussed.
 - Mr. Morris informed the committee that Administrator Porter will not be available to present the Town's chart of accounts at our next meeting, since she is quite busy with other tasks at this time. Perhaps this presentation can be included in the Select Board meeting where tax commitment is done.
10. The next meeting is set for Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 6:30 pm. This committee will deliberate and vote on its recommendations for the Town Meeting warrant. Chairman Green will provide the agenda and a URL for the meeting.
11. Mr. Chesney made a motion for adjournment. Chairman Green seconded. The motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Wyatt