

Pownal Budget Committee

April 29, 2021 Public Proceeding Minutes Approved

Members Present:

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

Guests:

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

1. A quorum was established (all committee members logged in). The meeting was called to order by Chairman Green at 6:36PM.
2. Mr. Wyatt provided a draft of minutes of the April 22, 2021 meeting. Mr. Chesney moved to approve them 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. Chairman Green solicited comments from the Select Board. Mr. O'Brien reported that he had attended the audit this afternoon, and that the auditor had found no irregularities in the Town's books. He had asked the auditor about several general ledger accounts of unknown purpose or origin with balances totaling \$82,102.22. The auditor told him that the Select Board could vote to move those funds to the Undesignated Fund Balance, which could be used to support the next year's budget.
5. Chairman Green presented a final version of the Committee's working spreadsheet for review. At the first meeting of this year, the committee used a consumer price index as a guide for setting the goal of limiting budget increases to no more than 1.4% (\$25,662) over the 2019 fiscal year budget. This final view results in an increase of 8.54% (\$156,606), which is primarily driven by increases in the General Government Budget (e.g. Planning Board expense, Administrator/Clerk salaries and Code Enforcement Officer salary).

Mr. Morris added that he had recently received word that state revenue sharing is expected to be increased by about 7% over last year and that excise tax revenues to-date are 'through the roof' (+20% vs. last year).

6. Chairman Green led the committee through a process of discussion and voting on this committee's recommendations for the Town Meeting warrant. Results follow:
 - i. Mr. Wyatt moved that this committee recommend to the Town that we appropriate \$421,835 for the General Government budget. Mr. Chesney seconded. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.
 - ii. Mr. Wyatt moved that this committee recommend to the Town that we appropriate \$12,350 for the Human Services budget. Mr. Chesney seconded. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.
 - iii. Mr. Chesney moved that this committee recommend to the Town that we appropriate \$23,230 for the Mallett Hall Maintenance budget. Mr. Roy seconded. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.
 - iv. Mr. Chesney moved that this committee recommend to the Town that we appropriate \$144,766 for the Public Safety budget. Ms. Giuliano seconded. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

- v. Ms. Giuliano moved that this committee recommend to the Town that we appropriate \$754,401 for the Public Works budget. Mr. Chesney seconded. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.
 - vi. Mr. Chesney moved that this committee recommend to the Town that we appropriate \$113,047 for the Solid Waste and Recycling budget. Mr. Stornelli seconded. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.
 - vii. Mr. Chesney moved that this committee recommend to the Town that we appropriate \$3,200 for the Pownal Center Water Association budget. Ms. Giuliano seconded. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.
 - viii. Chairman Green moved that this committee recommend to the Town that we appropriate \$5,000 for the Cemetery Commission budget. Mr. Chesney seconded. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.
 - ix. Mr. Chesney moved that this committee recommend to the Town that we appropriate \$339,760 for the Debt Service budget. Mr. Roy seconded. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.
 - x. Mr. Chesney moved that this committee recommend to the Town that we appropriate \$152,000 for the Capital Improvement Plan budget. Mr. Stornelli seconded. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.
 - xi. Mr. Chesney asked about whether or not this committee should provide a recommendation to the Town for the Poland Range Road multiplate culvert project. The committee decided that its recommendation was not necessary since the Capital Improvement Plan Committee will be providing its own recommendation to the Town.
7. Chairman Green provided a draft of this committee's narrative to be included in the Town's Annual Report. The committee reviewed the draft and other than correcting one dollar value, accepted it as is. Chairman Green will submit this to the Town Administrator before the due date.
8. Other items of discussion:
- i. Mr. Chesney noted that in his role of Town Meeting Moderator, he will be limited in his ability to participate in discussion of these budgetary articles. He asked that members of this committee attend and be prepared to advocate for affirmative votes on these articles.
 - ii. Chairman Green reminded the Select Board members that this committee would like to attend the Select Board meeting in August where the Tax Commitment is set for the next fiscal year.
 - iii. Mrs. Curry and Mr. O'Brien expressed their appreciation for the work of this committee this year.
9. Since the committee has completed its work for this budget cycle, the date for the next meeting will not be set at this time. Chairman Green will contact the committee early in 2022 to convene the first meeting for the next budget year.
10. Mr. Chesney made a motion for adjournment. Chairman Green seconded. The motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Andy Wyatt