

Town of Pownal  
SELECT BOARD MINUTES  
September 26, 2022

DRAFT

APPROVED AS WRITTEN  
10/11/22  
K.C. Hogue

Present: Andy O'Brien, Jon Morris, Heidi Cushman Curry  
Public: Dick Hogue, Paul Schumann, Susan Briggs Peters, Jesse Peters, John Libby, Rich Maguire, Ginifir Giddinge Notetaker: Kathy Hogue

- I. Chair Morris called the meeting to order, 6:30pm.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. AP Warrant #23 in the amount of \$527,361.08 was approved.  
Payroll Journal #88 in the amount of \$5,624.58 was approved.
- IV. The minutes of September 15, 2022, were approved with the following amendment:  
Under New Business, 7f: *Cumberland County Fiscal Year Budget – the Town has been given the option to spread six months of payments for this fiscal year over five years.*  
~~payments over 6 months for 5 years.~~
- V. Public Comment
  - a. Dick Hogue / Conservation Commission: Dick asked the Board if they would be interested in the Conservation Commission looking into the idea of farming easements on some of the larger parcels of town-owned land. The Town could receive monies from a land trust company and this could be a way to preserve some of Pownal's open space. It was agreed that more specifics were needed and the Board asked Dick to have the Commission look into this further; to identify the town land and potential future uses; and how would the Town benefit financially from this.
  - b. Susan Peters, Paul Schumann, John Libby / Economic Development and Sustainability Committee: Susan read a statement written by this committee (copy attached). The letter requests that the Town appoint a committee to look at the need for a new form of government for Pownal. The Select Board spends a lot of its time "putting out fires" and has no time to look forward. Chair Morris noted that this would be a charter commission and would have to go for State election, not Town. H. Curry suggested that we should begin investigating and map out a plan of action; why do we need this, what are our goals, where are we heading, etc. A. O'Brien agrees and acknowledges that the Select board does not have the time to investigate this assessment but a process needs to start. Chair Morris stated that we would start a citizens referendum to set the wheels in motion for a charter commission. He asked if the Economic and Sustainability Committee would like to work on this project or should this be separate committee? P. Schumann added that

we would need to determine how, who and when “to jump”. What would the process be, where would we start? Ask the Select Board how is this job wearing, what could be different? What are the problems/deficiencies? A workshop may be the first step. Chair Morris stated that he would contact our Town Attorney for guidance and will report at the next Select Board meeting.

VI. Department Head reports were submitted electronically; copies attached. The Select Board had nothing additional to report.

VII. New Business

- a. North Pownal Community Club has requested \$2,000 from the ARPA Grant monies the Town received. This \$182,000 is earmarked for projects to make things energy safe and handicapped assessable. NPCC is a non-profit club who owns the building in North Pownal. It was asked why they didn't apply for their own grant rather than through the Town? How does the Town justify granting this money? Will it be needed for town purposes/needs? Chair Morris noted that the ARPA grant was to “support community-building activities” and suggests that this request be tabled to a future meeting when a member from the North Pownal Community Club would be available to attend.
- b. Fee Schedule – TABLED until a Planning Board member is able to attend.
- c. MOTION: To approve Michael Pascarella as a member of the Future Facilities Committee for the term September 26, 2022 to May 6, 2023. VOTE: Yes - 3, No – 0
- d. Motion to sign the Maine Revenue Service's Municipal Valuation Return as submitted by the Town's Assessor's Agent. VOTE: Yes - 3, No - 0 Comment: We may need a market analysis next year, we have received over 140 applications for the Senior Property Tax Cap and this will affect property taxes. Our last reval was in 2016, we would be due in 2026 for the next one; however, we may need to look at this next year.

VIII. Old Business – None


IX. Correspondence – None

X. Any other Business – None


XI. The Board entered in to Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matters at 7:11pm. Executive Session was adjourned at 7:40.

Meeting adjourned 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen A. Hogue / Deputy Town Clerk

  
Jon Morris

  
Andy O'Brien

  
Heidi Cushman



# **Town of Pownal**

Independent Unto Itself

## **Public Works**

### **Road Commissioners Report September 26, 2022**

The Public works crew has been working on the following task in the last week.

#### **September 12-22**

- Worked with a contractor to complete sweeping the loose stone off Fickett and Lawrence Road.
- Graded and hauled gravel to several dirt roads.
- Ditching and erosion control on Sweetser Road
- Built and installed two gates on Poland Range Road Dump sites

In the next weeks the crew will be working on hauling winter sand, shouldering several roads and replacing culverts on Sweetser.

Good evening – I come to you tonight as a member of the Economic Development and Sustainability Committee.

As you know, we have a very dedicated group of people on this committee. We have had discussions about the needs of the town as we move forward. In those discussions we have questioned whether it is time for our town to consider a new form of government.

As you know, we have a Board with three Select members who put in numerous hours while still working other jobs and taking care of families. We feel the Board does an excellent job, however, we also feel that unfortunately the Board, due to necessity, spends the majority of its time putting out fires rather than addressing current and future town needs such as zoning, financial, and capital improvement issues.

We would like to propose that the Board appoint a separate committee to investigate the options of adopting a new form of government for Pownal.

As we move forward, we will need a dedicated person who is a town employee or subcontractor and who has the time, resources, education, and experience in town government to move Pownal forward.

Susan Briggs Peters – 09.26.2022