

Pownal Administrator

From: chesney633@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 10:05 AM
To: Pownal Select Board
Cc: Pownal Administrator
Subject: Public Safety / Public Works Facilities Project

Select Board

I am writing to offer my thoughts on the major project the Town of Pownal is in the formative stages of undertaking, that being the likely replacement of the Fire Station(s) and Public Works facilities.

The project will be a multi-year undertaking with profound long-term impacts on both the financial burden of taxpayers and how the town looks well into the future. It's clear from Monday's Public Hearing that there are many community members interested in participating. I strongly urge the Board to consider forming a committee to take on the project. There is a lot of expertise in the community which can be tapped, including those experienced in:

- Defining specific problems that need to be addressed
- Detailing the needs of the two departments along with those of the town
- Physical Siting considerations
- Design and construction
- Financing
- Grant Writing
- Public Engagement
- Working with (and managing) Engineers and Consultants

...and the list goes on.

I can't even begin to imagine the hours the Board puts in to keep the town running day-to-day for what are token stipends, at best. In the same way the Comprehensive Plan helps frame the vision while leaving the details to be addressed by others, the Select Board should not be expected to take on the burden of micromanaging the project but to set the ball in motion and provide the framework for others to do the hard work.

Thank you for taking the Comprehensive Plan to heart. It is encouraging to see the Board's interest in focusing on it as well as the level of community support and interest in supporting your efforts. Please feel free to share this letter at this coming Monday's workshop.

Respectfully,
Bo Chesney