

Approved
April 23, 2014

Pownal Budget Committee
MINUTES ~ April 9, 2014

Present: Andy Wyatt, Jan Pieter van Voorst van Beest, John Green, Carlene Harvey,
Kathy Hogue, Shawn Bennett Excused: Kim Best

1. Andy called the meeting to order, 7:00pm. A quorum was established.
2. Minutes from March 5, 2014, were approved as written with a few typo corrections.
Minutes from March 26, 2014, were approved as written with a few typo corrections.
3. Public comment: None.
4. Selectmen's input: None
5. Presentation of proposed budgets:
 - a. Public Works: Shawn Bennett
 - i. Shawn distributed a copy of the "Annual Road Maintenance Program" with financial spreadsheet for the committee's review. This plan has been developed as a tool for moving forward and spreading costs out over the years.
 - ii. The Public Works budget has been brought before the Board of Selectmen twice and budget cuts discussed have been applied. This budget submitted to the Budget Committee was approved by the Selectmen.
 - iii. With an overall 4.88% budget increase over last year, the following are some of the larger increases to this budget:
 1. Winter Roads line shows an increase of \$3,000 to reflect purchasing additional salt for next year. This number is based on the icing trends we are seeing, and increase of storm events, as well as pricing increases from GPCOG.
 2. Fleet Maintenance line is showing a \$5,000 increase for major repairs and issues with our vehicles and equipment. Some factors with these increases have to do with warranties expiring; wiring and electronics/computer issues; emissions problems, etc.
 3. Crack and Chip sealing projects have been increased by \$20,000. This amount will allow us to do 2 roads this year; part of Lawrence Road and part of Fickett Road. Crack and chip sealing will increase the surface life of roads for up to 7-8 years before the road will need asphalt overlay. Asphalt overlay should be done on a 10-year rotation.
 4. Office supplies were increased by \$800 to purchase a laptop computer and email account for the garage for on-call use, etc.
 5. Based on Selectmen's input to decrease the overall Public Works budget, some cuts were made to include consulting services and the purchase of tires.
 - iv. Shawn noted that the Town of Durham just hired a diesel mechanic and will set up a well-equipped garage with computer diagnostic capabilities. Having some of our town vehicles serviced there will give us a cost savings in towing charges, hourly rates, and collaborating with our road crew of some bigger maintenance projects.
 - b. Cemeteries: Duane Snow did not attend this meeting to present the budget for cemeteries. Andy will contact him to see if he can attend the April 16 meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen A. Hogue