



**Town of Pownal
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2011**

Selectmen Present: Timothy Giddinge, Chairman, Fred Fauver, Jonathan Morris

Municipal Officials Present: Road Commissioner Shawn Bennett, Fire Chief Jesse Peters, Administrative Assistant Justin L. Poirier

Public Present: Jim Brigs, Susan Peters, Mathew Chipman, Bill Dewitt, Dick Hogue, Steve Gordon, Don Arnold

Motions Made at the Meeting

- ❖ **Motion** was made to accept the Public Works budget as presented by Mr. Morris, **seconded** by Mr. Fauver; **vote** 3-0-0 in favor.

Call to Order

Chairman Giddinge called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Minutes

- Minutes of March 28, 2011 – **Motion** to accept the minutes as submitted by Mr. Fauver, **seconded** by Mr. Morris; **vote** 3-0-0 in favor.

Warrant #40

- Warrant was received and a **motion** was made by Mr. Giddinge to accept the warrant in the amount of \$17,472.71 as presented, **seconded** by Mr. Fauver; **vote** 3-0-0 in favor.

Consent Items

-

Discussion with the Public for Items Not on the Agenda

- Candidate for District 3 Cumberland County Commissioners. Mr. Steve Gordon introduced himself to the Board of Selectmen and asked if anyone present would sign his petition to be on the ballot.
- Bill Dewitt – *Out of Order*
 - Proposed a plan to create a sub-division on one of his properties. His proposal included purchasing a piece of Town owned land. He offered the plan to the Board of Selectmen for their review.
 - Mr. Giddinge said they would look into the parcel and see if they could determine where the boundaries were and get an accurate description of the land.

Guest Speakers - None

Department Head/Committee Reports

- Road Commissioner
 - Mr. Bennett reported that one of the plow trucks was involved in an accident during the storm on Friday. The other person involved was summonsed for imprudent speed and no one was hurt. Estimated damage on the truck is between \$5,000 - \$6,000.

- Mr. Bennett also reported that his winter roads budget is nearly depleted, but that he has enough materials and Overtime money if another storm were to occur.
- Fire Chief
 - Mr. Peters reported that a wheel fell off the forestry truck and he is still waiting on an estimate for repairs.
- Administrative Assistant
 - Mr. Poirier reported that the new estimates for revenue sharing have been released for FY12. If the current law is not changed and the Legislature fully funds the program Pownal is looking to receive \$149,673, an increase of nearly \$70,000. He also explained that the more likely scenario will be much less than that. Gov. LePage budget calls for changes to the revenue sharing program and if those are adopted Pownal is looking to receive \$103,453, an increase of about \$10,000 over this year.
 - Mr. Poirier also submitted a proposal for the BOS consideration regarding the use of debit and credit cards for customers at the Town Hall. This program comes at no charge to the Town, but instead passes along a 2.5% fee on each transaction using a card to the customer.
 - Mr. Morris expressed concern about the additional work load and whether anyone would want to use the program after learning about the fee. He suggested taking an informal poll during the next week of those people who ask to use cards.
 - Mr. Poirier updated the BOS on the status of the audit. He said the audit was almost complete and the auditor was just awaiting the debt verification from RSU 5.

Written Correspondence

- Submitted into the record.

Unfinished Business

- GPCOG Ordinance Review-
 - Mr. Giddinge informed Mr. Briggs that the BOS has decided not to include the ordinance revisions on this year's Warrant expressing concern about the tight timeline.
 - Mr. Briggs agreed with the delay and asked if the large group could meet again before inviting CPCOG back for further review in order to save some money.
 - Don Arnold expressed his happiness with the way the document is turning out and is very grateful that after 3 years the project is moving forward.
 - Mr. Briggs hopes to see 10-15 minutes of the meeting to be about how the document is changed and then another 15-20 minutes to divvy up the sections of the document to the group for review.
 - Mr. Hogue stated that even minor changes need to be brought to Town Meeting for their approval.
- Public Works Budget-
 - Mr. Bennett presented a couple of budget changes to the BOS for their consideration.
 - Mr. Giddinge brought up the idea of using the transfer switch money that was originally slated for the school to be used for the new switch at the Highway garage.
 - **Motion** was made to accept the Public Works budget as presented by Mr. Morris, **seconded** by Mr. Fauver; **vote** 3-0-0 in favor.

New Business

- Mathew Chipman Warrant Articles Submissions
 - Mr. Giddinge opened the discussion by stating that he had done some research on the articles proposals he submitted. He then stated that he was concerned about instituting a five year moratorium because it could lead to Pownal missing out on potential opportunities.
 - Mr. Chipman said that he thought the people submitted warrant articles to Town Meeting.
 - Mr. Giddinge replied that the Warrant was written by the selectmen and presented to the people.
 - Mr. Morris explained that the idea of a TIF was brought up for the CMP power line project and that he wanted to know more about the program before he would support a moratorium against it.
 - Mr. Giddinge then commented on having a moratorium on business parks. He stated that in order for a Town to institute a moratorium the Town has to prove that its current ordinances have to be deficient in a way that does not protect the Town and its residents.
 - Mr. Giddinge then commented on the article relating to herbicides and pesticide usage. He stated that the State of Maine already has significant regulations on these topics and he did not feel that Pownal could add anything to them.
 - Mr. Chipman stated he felt the State would not step in and that it would rely on Pownal to defend the residents against these problems.
 - Mr. Morris stated that he contacted the Pesticide Control Board and they informed him that the State has a strong record of intervening in projects that may pollute the environment or interfere with water supplies.
 - Mr. Giddinge said that he understood Mr. Chipman's concerns, but stated that the Town has not received any applications to justify a moratorium.
- Planning Board Budget
 - Mr. Hogue submitted the Planning Board budget into the record.
 - Mr. Fauver asked who was going to pay for the Ordinance Review legal fees.
 - Mr. Giddinge said he felt it should come out of the legal fee budget and not the Planning Board budget.
- Fund Balance Policy
 - Mr. Poirier presented the board with a survey he conducted, from other Towns throughout the State, showing the levels at which fund balances were set.
 - Mr. Poirier suggested setting a goal of 16.7% or the commitment minus the capital outlay and a maximum somewhere in the 20-25% range. This equals approximately 2 months worth of expenditures.
 - Mr. Giddinge agreed with that number and asked Mr. Poirier to draft up a policy with those numbers.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin L. Poirier, Administrative Assistant