

**Town of Pownal  
Select Board Minutes  
Monday, April 8, 2024  
6:30 pm Regular Meeting**

**I. Call to Order** by Chair Morris at 6:30 pm.

Members Present: Jon Morris, Andy O'Brien, Kate Day

Fire Chief: Jesse Peters

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Accounts Payable Warrant & Payroll Journal**

- **FY24 AP Warrant #22 in the amount of \$27,728.91.**

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to pay FY24 AP Warrant #22 in the amount of \$27,728.91.

Chair Morris seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

**Vote 2; No 0; (Absent 1)**

- **Payroll Journal #400 in the amount of \$8,596.91.**

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to pay Payroll Journal #400 in the amount of \$8,596.91.

Selectperson Day seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

**IV. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

- **March 25, 2024 Regular Meeting**

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2024 Regular Meeting as written. Selectperson Day seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

**V. Public Comment – Non- Agenda Items**

Shane Brady stated he started a petition to get the sale of Map 9, Lot 43 on the town warrant and it requires 109 signatures. He stated the deadline for submission is before the next Select Board meeting. Chair Morris stated when the petition was completed to drop it off with the Town Clerk and the Select Board will convene to review it.

**VI. Department Head Reports**

(Department head reports can be viewed on their respective website page(s))

- Select Board

Selectperson O'Brien recognized both the Fire Department and Public Works Department for their performance during the recent storms.

## **VII. New Business**

Chair Morris amended the order of the New Business to address the Credit Enhancement Agreement and the Conservation Easement items ahead of the others.

- **Rough Draft Warrant Review**

Bo Chesney, Chair of the Budget Committee, commented that the committee voted to support the budgets as presented by the department heads during the joint meetings. Chair Morris read through the warrant. Article 11, Chief Peters clarified that some of that is grant money and we are not spending it. That is money Cumberland County is spending. There was some discussion about how to phrase the article. Chair Morris suggested we have an Article 11a accepting the grant funds. Chief Peters asked if there was an article that the Town can accept all grant funds. Chair Morris stated because it is being used with a Capital Projects expenditure it might require a separate article. Selectperson Day stated the amounts do not match. Article 12, Selectperson O'Brien stated we shouldn't name the brand of the truck in the article as it needs to go out to competitive bid. Article 27 is a placeholder for the Future Facilities Committee. Bo Chesney, member of the FFC, stated there are some fundamental decisions to make as to what that next step is. Until the committee knows what the next step is it's very difficult to recommend a specific amount of money. He wants to see the committee continue with the work. The Select Board could put some money aside to continue the work and there could be some grant opportunities. Selectperson O'Brien motioned we appropriate \$50,000 from the unassigned fund balance to fund the committee. If we don't use it, it would go back to the fund. Chair Morris stated ~~this will help fund the next chapter. Without funding the work stops. Mr. Chesney stated~~ that would be a good idea. We are waiting for the final report from the consultant which we may not have before the town meeting. That report may have suggestions on work to be done to move forward so it would be good to have some money available. He stated there is about \$11,000 unspent from what is authorized. That money would go back to undesignated funds. Selectperson Day seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

Article 28, Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve the amount of \$737,380 as non-property tax revenues. Selectperson Day seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

Article 30, Chair Morris suggested we strike it as it conflicts with the conservation easement article. Article 40 was also struck until the State completes its work sessions and amendments to the law. Chair Morris stated our policy is not legal at this point and they are rewriting a law that is in progress. Chair Morris asked if anyone could remember the details of the straw vote discussion we had.

- **Conservation Easement**

Alan Stearns with the Royal River Land Trust spoke regarding the agreement and recent amendments. The legal description has been inserted since the Select Board last reviewed and approved the agreement. There were no changes in substance. Selectperson O'Brien motioned to accept the amended Conservation Easement Agreement. Selectperson Day seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

- **Freeport Scholarship Warrant Article**

Chair Morris stated the Select Board voted at the last meeting and it was a one-to-one vote. Chair Morris motioned to approve \$10,000 for the Freeport Scholarship warrant article. There was no second. The motion is denied.

- **Sweetser Donation Request**

Chair Morris explained that we get requests for donations from non-profits and Sweetser has submitted a request. There was no motion to proceed with the request.

- **Quit Claim Deed Map 8, Lot 23 Chandler Brook Properties LLC**

Chair Morris stated we have reviewed the quit claim deed. Selectperson O'Brien motioned to sign the quit claim deed for Map 8, Lot 23 over to Chandler Brook Properties LLC.

Selectperson Day seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

- **RFP-Economic Development & Sustainability Committee-Water Study**

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve the RFP for the Economic Development & Sustainability Committee. Selectperson Day seconded the motion.

Discussion: Selectperson O'Brien gave a summary of the RFP. The Town Planner applied for and received a 75% reimbursable grant from the Maine State Drinking Water Program to investigate our well and aquifer around our well.

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

- **Public Hearing – Credit Enhancement Agreement-Estabrooks**

Chair Morris stated we gave homework to the Budget Committee, Economic Development & Sustainability Committee and CIP Committee to send their recommendations to the Select Board. Selectperson O'Brien motioned to set April 22, 2024 for a Public Hearing and set up an Executive Session prior to that hearing to meet with Chandler Brook Properties LLC and include Isabelle with IOV Community Planning. Selectperson Day seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

- **Annual Town Report Dedication**

Chair Morris motioned that we nominate the Future Facilities Committee to be the subject of our annual town report dedication. Selectperson O'Brien seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

- **Select Board Annual Town Report**

Chair Morris asked Selectperson O'Brien to write the report.

**VIII. Old Business**

None

**IX. Correspondence**

Selectperson O'Brien received a couple of calls from Poland Range Road that did not get their trash picked up. Chair Morris had a number of phone calls that were storm related and trash related.

Mr. Chesney asked if the Select Board had seen the alert about the Congressional Spending seminar.

Matt Welch asked for the dates for the public hearings.

**X. Any Other Business**

None

**XI. Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A 405 (6)(A) Personnel Matters**

Chair Morris motioned to enter into executive session per 1 M.R.S.A 405 (6)(A) Personnel Matters 7:29 pm. Selectperson O'Brien seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

Chair Morris motioned to exit the executive session at 7:40 pm. Selectperson O'Brien seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

**XII. Adjournment**

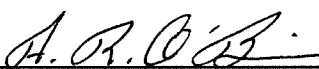
Selectperson O'Brien motioned to adjourn the meeting. Selectperson Day seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

  
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Jon Morris

  
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Andy O'Brien

  
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Kate Day