

Town of Pownal
Select Board Minutes
Monday, August 14, 2023,
6:30 pm Regular Meeting

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

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

Town Administrator: Becky Taylor-Chase

Fire Chief: Jesse Peters

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrant

- **FY23 AP Warrant #5 in the amount of \$2,011.42.**

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to pay FY23 AP Warrant #5 in the amount of \$2,011.42.

Selectperson Day seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

- **FY24 AP Warrant #6 in the amount of \$279,582.88.**

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to pay FY24 AP Warrant #6 in the amount of \$279,582.88.

Selectperson Day seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

- **Payroll Journal #59 in the amount of \$11,399.30.**

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to pay Payroll Journal #59 in the amount of \$11,399.30.

Selectperson Day seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

VII. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- **July 24, 2023 Regular Meeting – tabled to next meeting.**

VIII. Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items

Mary Adams asked a question about the update to the noise ordinance voted on in June. How does that apply to the William Allen Farm? Does that ordinance apply? The revision was about times and decibels. Chair Morris stated the requirement is the town purchases a reader and is trained to use/read it. Mrs. Adams reached out to the Code Enforcement Officer and was told it applied to mass gatherings only. Ginifir Giddinge stated section 807 revision was based on having standards to go by. Chair Morris stated it was part of the recodification so we could use that in further ordinances. We need to legally defend a reading. Mrs. Adams asked if it's not an actual noise ordinance? Chair Morris answered that we do not have a specific noise ordinance. We are going to try to enforce it. We need to determine who that is and train that person, so it has legal standing. He suggested she document the time and date and reach out to him as he would come as a witness.

IX. Department Head Reports

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

- **Select Board**

X. New Business

- **September 21 Town Office Closure**

The Town Administrator stated there is a required election training on September 21, 2023 that both she and the deputy clerk need to attend so that would require the office being closed. No objections from the Select Board.

- **IOV Contract**

Chair Morris gave a brief overview of the contract. It has been vetted by the consultant and town attorney and all agree with the terms. Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve the IOV Community Planning contract. Selectperson Day seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

- **Federal ARPA Grant**

The Town Administrator reported that the communication center work will begin on September 18th and should last about two weeks. After that we will be able to start using it to record meetings and host them. She also reported on details on the Brown Tail Moth Mitigation Grant. She had a conversation with Brittany Schappach, an Entomologist with the Department of Agriculture, and she gave a detailed timeline with ideas on getting the community involved. Selectperson Day will bring this information to the Conservation Commission as they are helping administer the program. Selectperson O'Brien asked how much was left from the ARPA grant. The Town Administrator state approximately \$112,000 after use of the \$50,000 for the Future Facilities RFP. Chair Morris stated he had been talking to a Solar Power Company to use solar power to power heat/cool pumps for Mallett Hall.

- **Pole Permit – Merrill Road**

Selectperson O'Brien inspected the area and found no objections. He motioned to approve the pole permit. Selectperson Day seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

- **Meeting with Estabrooks**

Estabrooks has requested a meeting with the Select Board to discuss Tax Increment Financing, Rural Business Grant partnership and infrastructure needs. It was determined that Thursday, August 17th at 4:30 would be the first meeting. Chair Morris stated it was in the Town's best interest to not have former Select Board members in negotiations with the Town.

- **GPCOG Meeting**

GPCOP has invited two elected officials and one senior staff member to a dinner meeting in October. It was determined that the Town Administrator would ask if all 3 elected officials could come. If not, then Selectperson Day and Chair Morris would attend.

- **Supplemental Tax Bill and Abatement Acct 196**

Chair Morris motioned to approve the Supplemental Tax Bill and Abatement Acct 196 map 3, lot 184. Selectperson O'Brien seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

- **FEMA COVID-19 Project Reimbursement**

Chief Peters summarized that it was a grant reimbursement for COVID expenses. The money will go back into the expense lines of each department where the expense came from.

XI. Old Business

Selectperson O'Brien stated he is still working to get 2 estimates for the PCWA ARPA grant.

XII. Correspondence

None

XIII. Any Other Business

Chair Morris stated the North Pownal Community Club would like to possibly transfer assets to the Town. Add to the September 14th agenda. We should also start thinking about what will happen to the North Pownal Fire Station. What will happen to the building in lieu of planning? Selectperson O'Brien felt it's in the Town's best interest to keep it; it could be used as cold storage. Chief Peters also stated the repeater tower is located there.

Chair Morris stated we will need to have the town attorney address the decibel reader.

XIV. Adjournment

Chair Morris motioned to adjourn the meeting. Selectperson O'Brien seconded.

Discussion: None


Vote: Yes 3; No 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Taylor-Chase
Town Administrator



Jon Morris



Andy O'Brien



Kate Day
