

Town of Pownal
Select Board Agenda
Wednesday, March 30, 2022 6:30 PM

I. **Call to Order-In Person Meeting** by Chair Morris at 6:30 pm.
Members Present: Jon Morris, Andy O'Brien, Heidi Cushman Curry
Town Administrator: Becky Taylor-Chase

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

III. **New Business**

a. **Personnel Decision**

Chair Morris stated we recently had an executive session about a personnel issue and asked if any members of the board had any further discussion. There was none.

Selectperson O'Brien motioned that we terminate employment of Coleman R. Clarke as Road Commissioner and rescind his appointment. Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

Selectperson O'Brien will present the termination letter tomorrow and explain to the crew. Chair Morris asked if it was agreed to ask Mr. Nielsen to consider being the Interim Road Commissioner? Selectperson Curry agreed to that and Selectperson O'Brien felt it would be advantageous. Chair Morris will call him this evening but we need to appoint by vote. Chair Morris moves to appoint Matthew Nielsen as Interim Road Commissioner until such time as the town has hired a permanent replacement. Selectperson O'Brien seconded.

Discussion: None

The Town Administrator asked if there will be a difference in pay with the assumed new duties? Selectperson Curry asked specifically what duties will change? Selectperson O'Brien stated scheduling, managing projects and he should be involved with the budget and billing. Selectperson Curry asked why he would be involved in the budget and billing. Selectperson O'Brien stated he may have insight. Chair Morris felt the Select Board would assume the responsibilities for budgeting and bills with Selectperson O'Brien taking the lead. He relieved him of his other committee responsibilities during this time. Chair Morris will assume Selectperson O'Brien's commitments to his other roles with CIP and other committees. He stated the Public Works budget has been presented to the Select Board and Budget Committee but his main concern is making sure bills get paid. He will develop a leadership role with Matt and we will need to post the job. He asked if the job should be changed to a salaried position. Both Selectperson Curry and O'Brien agreed it should be salaried. Chair Morris stated we will need to post a salary range. He suggested posting for a percentage less than what Durham pays their Road Commissioner. Possibly \$5000 less. Selectperson O'Brien is agreeable to this. Selectperson Curry would like to see some numbers. She asked if we could get the MMA survey for Road Commissioners. Chair Morris tasked Selectperson Curry and Town Administrator Chase with working via email on the salary range. Selectperson Curry said we should be in the median to towns similar in size. Chair Morris suggested taking 10 towns in similar size and

figure median salary. We need to acknowledge this position is in Cumberland County. Selectperson O'Brien asked if we needed to make any adjustments to the job description? Chair Morris stated we can post the existing one and provide an updated one at the time of interview. Going back to the original question regarding any pay difference Selectperson Curry stated she wanted to be very clear on his new duties. Chair Morris will hold off calling Mr. Nielsen. We will hold a Select Board meeting on Monday, April 4 to discuss. The Public Works crew will be invited to attend this meeting. Meeting time will be 6:30 pm. Selectperson O'Brien felt being slow and cautious was good.

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

b. EcoMaine Representation

Because Jensen Baird represents both the Town and EcoMaine, they are asking for our consent to allow another attorney from their firm to represent EcoMaine in the regional trash project. Selectperson O'Brien thinks we should allow. The Town Administrator stated this is specific to just the regional trash project. That should we pursue this project and need legal guidance Jensen Baird would provide a name of conflict counsel at a municipal rate similar to theirs. Selectperson Curry asked what other towns are doing? Why should we be the ones to back down? Why isn't Ecomaine being referred to conflict counsel. The Town Administrator stated there were 3 other towns in this project and they are all giving consent to allow them to represent EcoMaine. Selectperson O'Brien motions to allow Jensen Baird to represent EcoMaine in the trash regionalization project and to accept conflict counsel should we need it.

Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

Yes: 3; No 0

XII. Adjournment

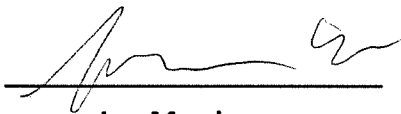
Chair Morris motioned to adjourn the meeting. Selectperson O'Brien seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

The meeting adjourned at 5:46 pm

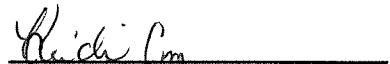
Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Taylor-Chase
Town Administrator



Jon Morris



Andy O'Brien



Heidi Curry