

Town of Pownal
Select Board Minutes
Monday, May 9, 2022 6:30 pm

I. Call to Order by Chair Morris at 6:34 pm.

Members Present: Jon Morris, Andy O'Brien, Heidi Cushman Curry

Town Administrator: Becky Taylor-Chase

Road Commissioner: Matt Nielsen

Fire Chief: Jesse Peters

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrant

AP Warrant #55 in the amount of \$38,843.11

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve AP Warrant #55 in the amount of \$38,843.11.

Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3, No 0

Payroll Journal #315 in the amount of \$6,155.64

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve Payroll Journal #315 in the amount of \$6,155.64.

Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3, No 0

III. Minutes of Previous Meetings

• **Minutes of Regular Meeting April 25, 2022**

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 25, 2022 as written. Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: It was noted there was a great level of detail in the minutes.

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

• **Minutes of Executive Session April 26, 2022**

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve the minutes of the executive session on April 26, 2022 as written. Chair Morris seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 2; No 0; Abstain 1

IV. Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items

None

V. Department Head Reports – Submitted Electronically

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

• **Select Board**

Nothing new to report.

VI. New Business

• **Select Board Budget Recommendations**

○ **Planning Board Stipends**

Selectperson Curry feels the Planning Board should be recognized for their efforts with a stipend. Chair Morris asked what dollar amount she had in mind. She answered with \$1000 for the chair and \$500 for each regular voting member for a total of \$4000. Selectperson O'Brien

pointed out that one member cannot accept a stipend due to a condition of her employment. Marcia Bowen doesn't feel a stipend would influence her either way to participate on the board. Chief Peters agrees. The Planning Board puts in a lot of time. Bo Chesney asked how will this play out with other boards and committees? Chair Morris has discussed this and thought about the amount of time each member puts in. The first step is to get a Planning Board stipend and then they can look at other boards and committees. Mr. Chesney stated the number of hours should be discussed. Kathy Hogue feels it is long overdue. Other towns stipend their Planning Boards. It's not a lot of money. Chair Morris moves we place a separate warrant article on the town warrant from taxation for a \$4000 stipend for the Planning Board. This would be \$1000 for the chair and \$500 for each voting member. Selectperson Curry seconds.

Discussion: Chair Morris asked the Town Administrator if this would be included under the General Government budget. She answered yes as the other Planning Board expenses are included.

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

- **Funding Sources**

Selectperson O'Brien doesn't feel we should dictate funding sources on the warrant articles. Selectperson Curry noted this could tie our hands. Chair Morris agrees. We will continue to use the wording "raise and appropriate".

- **Town Meeting Warrant**

- **Integration of Comp Plan**

Chair Morris stated in the past narratives explaining warrant articles. He would like to incorporate language that directly relates to the Comprehensive Plan. Both Selectperson O'Brien and Curry agree.

- **Select Board Narrative**

Chair Morris asked Selectperson O'Brien to write the narrative for the annual town report.

- **Dedication of Warrant**

The dedication in the annual report will be to James Boyles and Lois Sanders. The Select Board would like to include pictures. Mrs. Hogue has a picture of Mr. Boyles and will email it to the Town Administrator. Selectperson O'Brien will reach out for a picture of Mrs. Sanders. The Town Administrator had heard feedback about acknowledging Mr. Wyatt. In the report we could dedicate it to him and change the other page to a "In Memory of" as an option. Chair Morris suggested that the Select Board narrative include a paragraph about Mr. Wyatt. Chair Morris motions to appropriate \$100 for a gift card to Mr. Wyatt as a thank you for his service. Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

- **Comprehensive Plan Report/Updates**

- **RSU5 Report**

Chair Morris met with the superintendent and the CFO of the RSU and asked them for projected funding expected for the next 10 years, an estimate of cost if we left the RSU and if they could draft a statement on how they are producing well rounded students at a cost-effective price. He will report out when he receives the information. At the next regular meeting he would like to look at the next page of goals and strategies for the Comprehensive Plan.

- **Public Works Full Time Position**

Chair Morris announced that Matt Nielsen had been promoted as our new Road Commissioner so we now have a full-time position to fill. The Town Administrator presented a draft job posting and the two job descriptions. After a brief discussion it was determined to post the Mechanic/Heavy Equipment Operator job description and have potential candidates fill out a job application rather than submit a cover letter and resume. Chair Morris said to direct them to the Road Commissioner and advised Mr. Nielsen to have Selectperson O'Brien, Paul Giddinge and the Town Administrator help with the interview process. The job posting will remain open until filled.

- **Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council**

The Conservation Commission reached out about having representation on this council. The Town Administrator was not able to make the first meeting and is not available for the second meeting. With town meeting and election coming up her time is focused on that. Marie Wendt was in attendance and had been contacted by the Commission about attending. She is willing to attend the May meeting along with Chair Morris. The Town Administrator will forward the ZOOM link and agenda.

- **EcoMaine Letter of Understanding**

Chair Morris explained the letter in regard to the regionalization. Selectperson O'Brien motioned we participate in the negotiations with EcoMaine. Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: Selectperson O'Brien asked the Town Administrator if she willing to represent the town at these meetings. She replied yes although she cannot make the meeting on Friday, May 13 due to a conflict. Selectperson O'Brien will attend.

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

- **Oath for Road Commissioner**

Chair Morris noted the oath had been approved and the certificate of appointment needed to be corrected removing the word "interim". Matt Nielsen took the oath.

- **Budget Committee Memo**

The Chair of the Budget Committee, John Green, sent a memo to the Select Board. Chair Morris suggested this item be tabled until the next meeting as the members had not had a chance to review. Both Selectperson O'Brien and Curry agreed. Mr. Green commented that this issue had been ongoing for a couple of months. The Budget Committee would like to move forward as they feel it is important. Selectperson Curry asked at the recent Budget Committee meeting there was reference to a conference call presenting a list of questions. Mr. Green answered the plan was to take a memo and have a joint phone call with MMA legal to get clarification. Chair Morris stated some topics had been referred to the town attorney.

- **Ordinance Review Request**

Tom Hall has set a meeting date of Wednesday, May 11 at 7 pm for the committee to start work on the definitions.

- **Edgerly Property Walk**

Chair Morris received a phone call from Mr. Edgerly and he was adamant that if we walked the property, it would bring clarity. Selectperson O'Brien commented that he had walked the property once with him. By walking the property, it doesn't mean he owns it. It doesn't make the 3 liens disappear. Chair Morris asked if we walked the property would it bring anymore information to the Board to consider? Selectperson O'Brien said we will have a warrant article to survey the property and a title search will be done. This should help clear things up. Dick Hogue received a price from John Mann to survey this lot. He will forward the estimate to the Town Administrator.

The meeting moved back to the Town Meeting Warrant and Budget Recommendations. The Select Board tabled approving budget amounts for the General Government, Public Works and Public Safety departments until after they have discussed evaluations and compensation. The Select Board approved the following department budgets:

Human Services: \$12,360

Mallett Hall: \$26,110

Solid Waste: \$120,845

PCWA: \$3,200

Cemeteries: \$5,000

Debt Service: \$284,964

CIP Fund: \$154,000

Recreation Committee: \$1,000

These amounts align with the Budget Committee recommendations.

The Select Board reviewed the draft town meeting warrant. Selectperson O'Brien would like to put an article asking for the unexpended PCWA budget to be moved into the PCWA sinking fund. The Town Administrator had put a place holder in for that article and needs to fine tune the wording. Chair Morris asked if the Board will pursue an article for researching the Public Safety and/or Public Works buildings? We will need to think about the wording. Can the article be designated for Professional Services?

Selectperson Curry mentioned that there was a sign ordinance amendment that did not make the warrant last year and asked if it was included on this year's warrant. The Town Administrator stated Article 4 is the amendment to the sign. The Select Board reviewed the 2 CIP articles and recommended approval. They recommended approval of the survey of Map 8 Lot 9. Chair Morris suggested removing "Select Board" from the information in the next article. The Town Administrator, after having a discussion with Mr. Chesney, suggested that the article establishing the tax club was not needed since voters approved it last year and it is now an established program. They agreed so that article is removed. Selectperson O'Brien asked if the Snowmobile Club article was copied and pasted from the previous year. The Town Administrator stated yes.

Selectperson O'Brien stated there are 2 vehicles from Public Works that need to be disposed of and we need to come up with a plan. The money goes to the CIP. Chair Morris understood the money goes back to the department the vehicles came from.

VII. Old Business

Chair Morris had a discussion with Cumberland County Sheriff's office regarding the bus on Allen Road. They will offer a possible solution. He spoke with Officer Donovan with the State Police concerning the abandoned vehicle close to a busy intersection. Selectperson Curry stated Cumberland County is already deeply involved. The Town is not liable because it is a state road.

VIII. Correspondence

Selectperson O'Brien received an email from Orion Breen wanting to get the lines on Elmwood Road in front of his house changed to a double line. Selectperson O'Brien will reply that he contacts MDOT because it is a state road.

Chair Morris stated the North Pownal Methodist Church had been meeting and they are trying to develop a business plan. He's received an official complaint about the underpass on Allen Road. The University of Maine Engineering Department asked if the town would be a part of a pilot project to design a different way of going through the underpass. Matt Nielsen stated the

railway is owned by the state and is this part of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Council. Chair Morris stated they are part of the overpass but not the underpass.

IX. Any Other Business

None

XI. Adjournment

Chair Morris motioned to adjourn the meeting. Selectperson Curry seconded.


Discussion: None


Vote: Yes 3; No 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Taylor-Chase
Town Administrator


Jon Morris


Andy O'Brien


Heidi Cushman Curry

