

Pownal Budget Committee

Mallett Hall

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2019

7:00 PM

Members present: Chairman Wyatt, Kim Best, John Green, Andrew O'Brien and Brian Stornelli

Members absent: none

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm. All five committee members were present and a quorum was established.

Minutes from previous meeting: The minutes of March 5, 2019 were approved unanimously, with one change that under Other Discussion, "operations" needs to be changed to "tipping."

Public comment: None

Selectmen comment: See below.

Presentation of proposed budgets: The following budgets were presented:

Administration Assistant Melissa Henes presented the proposed **Compensation** budget. The proposal would result in a \$15,600 increase, or 8.63 percent increase. The overall general government budget would see an \$18,877 increase or 6.6 percent increase. The following significant comments are applicable:

Melissa noted that the previous administrative assistant used the Boston area CPI area index data for budgeting which for 2018 was 2.5% and is significantly higher than the 1.9% CPI-U data the committee has adopted. First Selectman Jon Morris added the Boston data would reflect increased housing costs recently observed in the Portland market. The committee will research the issue and discuss at our next meeting.

John noted that responses from Jon and Melissa, concerning the Compensation Policy Ordinance, required the Committee to recommend the annual pay for each elected position (Selectmen) and that amount be approved each year by the Town Meeting.

Melissa provided information on a proposal to budget a family health insurance option from Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust for eligible town employees. A committee recommendation for such a proposal would also require voting on an amended Compensation Policy Ordinance at the Town Meeting. Melissa will provide the committee with an updated cost for a 80/20 (Town/employee split) for 3 potential employees and the committee will further consider Melissa's recommendation.

Animal Control Officer John Rankins requested a pay increase from \$3,600 to \$4,800 due to increased time needed to comply with state and county reporting standards. Past expenditures and animal census information will be provide and we will further consider the request.

John noted that the assessing agent and code enforcement officer positions where more in line with professional service contracts (line item 030) than general government compensation employees (line item 010) and that would allow contract review/recompetition on some scheduled basis.

Fire Chief Jesse Peters presented the second view proposed **Public Safety** budget. The second view results in a \$1,873 increase, or 1.48 percent increase from the 2019 approved budget. Jesse reported that the Brunswick Dispatch Service change to the Cumberland County service proposal will be reviewed by the Capital Projects Planning committee and therefore is no longer part of our current deliberations.

Public Works Commissioner Dick Clarke presented the second view proposed **Public Works** budget. The second view results in a \$11,105 increase, or 1.6% from the 2019 approved budget. The following comments are applicable:

Dick met with Spectrum communications personnel and the only viable and reliable internet connection for his department is a connection independent from the Town office. The committee agreed.

With guidance from Melissa, Dick has reconciled year to date invoices into the proper chart of account categories.

Chairman Andy Wyatt provide the proposed **Cemetery** budget. The budget of \$4,000 results in no change from last year.

Other Discussion: The committee noted budget deliberation uncertainty when invoices incurred during the fiscal year were paid from the unexpended balance account in the new fiscal year. Melissa and Jon felt a listing of those expenditures could be provided to the committee. The committee will determine the best format for next year.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 7:00 PM for the proposed Planning Board and Solid Waste budget presentations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John Green

Committee Secretary