

Warrant Narratives

Article 3: This amendment is adding a provision that the Town can make a direct payment onto the tax account rather than issuing a check to the applicant. This is mostly an administrative change that will save time in the office and time for the applicant. Exhibit A

Article 4: This is a new ordinance. Exhibit B

Article 5: The proposed change consists of adding back the local fine amount to the Ordinance for any person, firm, or corporation violating the provisions of the Ordinance. The fine amounts are not less than \$250 and not more than \$1,000 for each offense. Exhibit C

Article 6: Sections A through C are proposed to be added back to the Ordinance under Back lots. These sections deal with the purpose of a Back Lot, where they are applicable and the date effective. Exhibit D

Article 7: This change pertains to Section 807L Noise to clarify wording around noise levels at the property line. These noise levels are 55 decibels daytime hourly limit and 45 decibels nighttime hourly limit. Exhibit E

Article 8: Hotels and Motels are proposed to be deleted from Section 400 Definitions. These are not permitted used in the Town of Pownal. Exhibit F

Article 9: Under Section 504A Village District and 504B Rural District (RA), home occupations are proposed to be moved from the special exceptions to permitted uses. Home occupations are currently listed under both special exceptions and permitted uses. Exhibit G

Article 10: This change pertains to Section 605B.3.b Minimum Water Supply Standards for Fire Suppressions Operations, Underground Cisterns. New policy language is proposed to be added under Underground Cisterns pertaining to cistern inspection and testing. Exhibit H

Article 12: The CIP committee recommends the transfer of funds to the Capital Reserve Account to address a "less than desired" projected fund balance in 2029 and then again in 2034. Future fund balances are directly impacted by a higher rate of inflation in the replacement of large, heavy, equipment. The transfer will mitigate increases in the annual appropriation to fund capital equipment purchases.

Article 14: This would be creating a town position for a dedicated planner. This position would replace North Star Planning. See Exhibit I Job Description.

Article 15: Increases were due to rise in utility costs and changing the CEO position to a Level I employee. There is also additional costs included in the printing, postage and public hearing notices to inform residents of the work the Future Facilities Committee is doing.

Article 17: The largest increase is due to the need to paint the front of the hall.

Article 18: The largest increase is the need to change communication software as the current software has been discontinued. Other increases include the rise in utility costs.

Article 19: The largest increase is due to needing to replace 6 tires for the grader. Other increases include the rise in utility costs.

Article 20: There were increased costs in the yearly contract and recycling tipping fees.

Article 25: This money would be used for the work the Economic Development and Sustainability Committee is doing. Currently there is an RFP for the Village District.

Article 26: These funds would be coming from the Federal ARPA funds the town received in 2022. This will help forward the work being done by the Future Facilities Committee.

Article 29: This article will allow an amount authorized by the town to be transferred from the undesignated fund balance to minimize the tax mil rate increase set at the tax commitment meeting (typically in July). Exhibit J

Article 30: This will allow any remaining unexpended balances from the PCWA budget to be transferred to the PCWA fund balance. The goal is to build that balance to \$20,000. It currently stands at \$13,073.

Article 31: Explanation: It is not projected that the town's budget will exceed tax levy limits established by State law, but as a preventative housekeeping action it is recommended the Town vote to approve Article 24. This is an article that is voted on at every Town Meeting.

Article 32: This article is how the Town sets the Tax payment due dates. Item #1 sets the due dates and interest rate on late payments. Item #2 is asking to allow the Tax Collector to waive unintentional tax interest. This happens when a payment is accidentally shorted due to slight oversight. Item #3 is required by state law at each Annual Town Meeting, in order to collect any prepayments for taxes paid prior to the commitment of said taxes.

Article 33: This Article is to set an interest rate on money the Town would need to pay back to a taxpayer for taxes that have been abated. This is an article that is voted on every year.

Article 34: This Article is asking the Town to authorize the Select Board to transfer money from one line item to another kept within each individual department should a budget line item not be approved for an increase. This is an article that is voted on every year.

Article 35: This Article is asking the Town to allow the Select Board to transfer money that does not get expended each year to the carry forward account to continue current projects that have not yet finished. The requests happen in a public Select Board meeting usually July or August following the close of the fiscal year.

Article 36: This Article is asking the Town to allow the Select Board and Town Treasurer to dispose of real estate that the Town has acquired due to foreclosure on terms as they deem advisable in the best interest of the Town. This is an Article that is voted on every year.

Article 38: The Town needs to ask for permission by the legislative body to accept any gifts or donations that are not accounted for in our budget line items. This Article is voted on every year.

Article 39: Much like the previous Article, this one allows the Select Board to apply for grants on behalf of the Town.

Article 40: It is a state mandate that the snowmobile registration money must be appropriated annually by the Town for whatever purpose it desires. If all or part of it is appropriated to a snowmobile club, one of the conditions of that appropriation must be that the club's trails are open to public use. Otherwise, it would be an illegal appropriation of public funds for a private group.

2019 Town Meeting approved the two operating snowmobile clubs in Town. Additionally, the Town was provided with a written letter with an agreement of both snowmobile clubs to split funds on a 50/50 basis annually. The snowmobile trails are all primarily on privately owned land. What property owners choose to do with their land during other seasons is at their discretion