

Town of Pownal
Select Board Minutes
Monday, January 24, 2022

6:30 Public Hearing w/Regular meeting immediately following

I. **Public Hearing – Remote Access Policies** called to order by Chair Morris at 6:30 pm. He asked if the wording was the same for all policies. The Town Administrator stated yes except for the name of the board or committee at the top. Chair Morris read the policy and stated the Select Board, Planning Board, CIP and Budget committees were adopting. He asked for public input. There was none and the public hearing was closed.

II. **Call to Order-In Person Meeting**

Select Board: Jon Morris, Andy O'Brien, Heidi Cushman Curry

Town Administrator: Becky Taylor-Chase

Road Commissioner: Dick Clarke

Fire Chief: Jesse Peters

III. **Pledge of Allegiance**

IV. **Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrant**

AP Warrant #47 in the amount of \$336,150.58

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve AP warrant #47 in the amount of \$336,150.58.

Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

Payroll Warrant #46 in the amount of \$7976.78

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve Payroll warrant #46 in the amount of \$7976.78.

Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

III. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

• **Minutes of Regular Meeting January 10, 2022**

Selectperson Curry motioned to approve the minutes for the January 10, 2022 meeting as written. Selectperson O'Brien seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

V. **Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items**

Dick Hogue stated he had been around to a number of houses in the past week and the ice conditions are terrible. He asked if there was a way to appeal for donations to help sand. Chair Morris stated the head of public safety could send a request to release "x" amount of dollars which could pay for labor. He is unsure of the insurance liability. The General Assistance Administrator can provide payroll at the lowest pay rate of the fire department. This comes under a certain clause. Mr. Hogue was thinking more along the lines of a truck with a sander. Kathy Hogue stated we already have the bucket brigade but could we raise funds to employ Albert Blackstone to sand. How could we make that happen? Selectperson O'Brien stated the first step would be to find out what he would charge. Selectperson Curry asked if we knew how many people? Mr. Hogue estimated about a half dozen. Chair Morris stated he needed to do some research and asked if there was a senior mailing list. Mrs. Hogue stated no. Chair Morris

stated we will need to see how to fund it. Mrs. Hogue stated people donate to Freeport Community Services and the Pownal Heating fund so maybe we can add another donation category.

Chair Morris moved the meeting to the agenda item Mr. Edgerly Lot Survey.

V. Department Head Reports – Submitted Electronically

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

- **Select Board**

Selectperson O'Brien stated it had been a quiet 2 weeks.

Selectperson Curry attended the Economic Development and Sustainability Committee meeting and the Planning Board Meeting.

VI. New Business

- **Approve Warrant for Special Town Meeting**

Chair Morris motions to approve the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Selectperson O'Brien seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

- **ARPA Funds**

Chair Morris stated we had submitted a grant application to refurbish the Dewitt Room to update the elevator, windows and purchase the necessary technology. The Town Administrator summarized that we had received \$81,894.48 in Federal ARPA money which is in account G-1-4202-00 and the total amount we will be receiving is \$163,598.88. She also presented a guidance sheet from MMA about use of funds, approval of funds, record keeping and reporting. Chair Morris stated if we want to spend \$30,000 on a generator if goes on the warrant for town meeting approval. Any money we spend we put before the town. We need to solicit input from department heads for requests. Selectperson Curry asked if we applied for the generator grant. Both Selectperson O'Brien and Chief Peters stated we did not qualify. Chair Morris stated we want to use in a way that is in the best interest of the town. We will have plus or minus \$130,000 to use. He suggested we use some to purchase COVID home testing kits. He suggested spending \$240 to purchase kits to be paid out of the General Government Carry Forward money. Can reimburse that once approved at town meeting. Members of the Select Board agreed. Selectperson Curry will reach out for department head requests. Those requests will go to the Select Board.

- **FY23 Budget Cycle**

Chair Morris stated we need to notify department heads that the budget cycle is starting. John Green stated the Budget Committee is here to give guidance and the Select Board is really in charge of the budget. Last year a request came from the previous administrator that no one was aware of. He does not want that to happen again. Selectperson Curry stated last year was accelerated. Chair Morris stated we first needed to decide on the town meeting date and work backwards. The Town Administrator asked if we would be doing it on a Saturday again or moving back to Monday. The Select Board agreed to have on a Monday. The Town Administrator stated typically it is the 3rd week of June which is now a holiday weekend. Because we elect our official's prior that leaves the last week of June as the option. June 27 at 6:30 pm was set or the annual town meeting. There will be a Select Board meeting at 6 pm that date. The Town Administrator will notify any potential moderators. Chair Morris will notify

the RSU5 for a use permit. We usually do a dry run of the warrant at one of the public hearings. Public hearings will be set for the last Select Board meeting in May. We will reschedule the June 13, 2022 Select Board Meeting to June 6, 2022 and hold the second public hearing at 6 pm. April 28, 2022 was final date for Budget Committee to submit their recommendations. February 28, 2022 the General Government, Planning Board, Mallett Hall, Human Services will present initial requests. March 14, 2022 Public Works and CIP will present initial request. March 28, 2022 Public Safety, PCWA and Cemetery will present initial requests.

- **COVID Policy**

Chair Morris stated we are trying to outline guidelines so everyone knows what to do. He asked Selectperson Curry for her input. She stated with edits from the input at the last meeting and sitting down with the Town Administrator to go over the policy she is good with the one presented.

Selectperson O'Brien motions to approve the Town of Pownal COVID policy. Selectperson Curry seconds.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

- **Mr. Edgerly Lot Survey**

Chair Morris stated Mr. Edgerly had a lawyer researched the land. He stated for the public there was a request for the sale of Map 8 Lot 9 located as a back lot of Lawrence Road. Mr. Edgerly is presenting evidence that he has claim to the property. The request came during a transition time at the town office. The request form went to the Planning Board. The requester is Rick Storey. On March 17 the Planning Board stated not to approve the sale signed by Christine Watson, Planning Board Secretary. Mr. Edgerly's lawyer researched everything. Mr. Edgerly asked if the town has copies of the lien certificates. Selectperson O'Brien stated he had not seen any actual copies of lien certificates. Chair Morris said he looked in the Registry of Deeds and did not find anything. Chair Morris summarizes that Mr. Edgerly has presented a copy of termination by Powers and French. They have done a study looking for evidence that the town put liens on the lot at the registry. Jonathon Davis found no evidence that the town put any lien on the property. The town is unable to produce any evidence of liens. We have a description by a former town clerk in hand writing that the property has liens and the town owns it. It's the only evidence. Mr. Edgerly stated in the letter there could be a conflict on information. He has town reports on liens that go back to 1953. Chair Morris stated having no evidence of claim we will have our town attorney direct us as to what to do. Mr. Edgerly stated Robert Slocum had signed 2 documents and the signatures match but on the third document the signature does not match. He presented those documents. One was made out to Stanley Hilton and the other to Joseph Stanley Hilton. Chair Morris stated based on the evidence we should give this to the town attorney to determine if the town can forego any claim on the land. Mr. Edgerly felt the lots may have gotten mixed up as the land changed hands several times in the 1950s. Chair Morris stated our attorney will guide us; we need some legal direction.

The meeting resumed back to agenda item Department Head Report.

- **Town Office Hours on February 14, 2022**

The Town Administrator asked for guidance on the office hours for February 14, 2022 which is when the special town meeting will be held. Chair Morris stated typically the office closes at 3 so they can prepare for the meeting, get everything over to the school and set up.

Chair Morris motions to close the town office at 3 pm on February 14, 2022. Selectperson Curry seconds.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

- **Annual Report Dedication**

Chair Morris stated he didn't want to miss out on doing a dedication. Jan Petier had advocated for Mr. Boyles and others mentioned Lois Sanders.

Selectperson O'Brien moves to accept the dedication as written. Selectperson Curry seconds.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

Chair Morris will provide pictures.

- **Remote Participation Policy**

Chair Morris motions to approve the Select Board Remote Participation Policy as written.

Selectperson O'Brien seconds.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No 0

Chair Morris commented on how do we make the policy work. The Town Administrator after talking with other boards and committees stated she would set the meeting up in the town's ZOOM account and the chair of the boards and committees would host their own meeting. We only need to supply a remote access if one of the board or committee members is participating remotely.

Chair Morris stated the Public Works did a great job with the roads. Dick Clarke stated the new truck went into service today. It's been a busy couple of weeks.

Chair Morris asked Chief Peters if the public safety department would like tests kit. He answered that it would be a nice thing to have and offer. Chair Morris stated to double the amount previously approved to purchase additional test kits.

VII. Old Business

- **Board of Appeals Document**

The Town Administrator stated the documents submitted to the Registry of Deeds has been filed so all the edits were acceptable. She spoke with MMA and they stated the other documents did have all the necessary components. We will present them at the next meeting for adoption.

VIII. Correspondence

Chair Morris had received a number of calls from a resident on Leighton Road wanting an audience with the Select Board. He told him he needed to attend a meeting and could speak during the Public Comment time. He had received calls about the excellent work the road crew had done. Selectperson O'Brien stated he had been in Farmington the previous Tuesday and the roads were glare ice. Came back to Pownal and the Roads were clear.

IX. Any Other Business

XI. Adjournment

Selectperson O'Brien motions to adjourn the meeting. Selectperson Curry seconds.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes 3; No

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

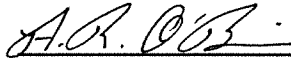
Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Taylor-Chase


Town Administrator



Jon Morris



Andy O'Brien



Heidi Curry

