

Town of Pownal
WORKSHOP & SELECT BOARD MINUTES
October 24, 2022

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

Becky Taylor-Chase – Town Administrator

Public: Dick Hogue, Paul Schumann, Susan Briggs Peters, John Libby, Christine Watson,

Jan Pieter van Voorst van Beest, Matt Nielsen

Notetaker: Kathy Hogue

I. Chair Morris began the TOWN GOVERNMENT WORKSHOP AT 6:00pm.

At a recent Select Board meeting, the Economic and Sustainability Committee suggested that the Town "investigate options of adopting a new form of government". The recently adopted Comprehensive Plan also supports exploring this topic every few years.

- a. Chair Morris reported that he has spoken to Town Attorney and Mr. Kendall at MMA. There are a variety of options the Town could decide; they could vote to create a charter and have a Town Manager and Council or the Select Board could increase to be a 5 or 7 member board, to name a few options. What needs are we trying to address?
- b. H. Curry suggested that we first determine why would we change? What are we trying to accomplish? Right now, we have the traditional town meeting form of government but with little participation/attendance (about 5% of population attend town meeting). A town charter could help define and/or shift roles and responsibilities for staff and boards/committees. Having a Town Manager could help in organizing and expediting ordinances as well as increase ability/reaction time to address issues.
- c. A. O'Brien agreed with the above and noted that time constraints make getting work done difficult, conflicting with daytime jobs, Select Board duties and personal down time. Also, a Town Manager could offer professional assistance for research.
- d. Chair Morris read a letter received from Maine Town, City and County Management Association (MTCMA) giving insight to the roles and responsibilities of a professional manager. (copy attached). Will a Town Manager be what Pownal needs?

OTHER COMMENTS/POINTS


1. Maybe we "mix and match" the type of government that would suit Pownal
2. How will we get business done and still keep volunteer opportunities?
3. Create a roadmap to define needs

8. Fee Schedule / Planning Board: Initially, the Planning Board had requested that the Select Board approve suggested fees for Site Plan Review. The Select Board asked if the Planning Board could make a recommendation for these fees—based on time and effort spent. Then a defined list could be created for office staff to have readily available to use as a reference. H. Curry will draft a letter to the Planning Board to make this request.
9. Spruce Hollow letters from TD Bank: The Board had asked Chair of Planning Board to be present at this meeting to discuss these letters and their purpose. Marcia Bowen, secretary of Planning Board, has offered to contact TD Bank about this.
10. Town Election: Jon Morris will work the 8am-2pm shift; Andy O'Brien will work 2-8:00pm. The Board will also have a workshop at 6:30pm to prepare for Nov. 14 workshop. Becky will work the morning; Ginny and Kathy will be there all day. The Town Clerk's window will be closed for the day. Jon will work with Ginny on lunch menu for poll workers.
11. Town office hours: It was moved and 2nd to keep the present office hours through November 18, 2022. All voted in favor. (Mon 9:30-6:30, Tues & Thurs 8:30-4:30, Wed & Fri closed).
12. Old Business: Chair Morris asked Dick Hogue (Conservation Commission) if any further work has been done on the town land project? Mr. Hogue replied that there has been some work done and that the Commission meets Tuesday night and it will be discussed further. Chair Morris noted that he had an inquiry about building a snowmobile bridge on Poland Range Road, it may be partially on town property? Has anything come to CC about this? Mr. Hogue will check with chair at the Tuesday meeting.
13. Correspondence /none
14. Any other business/none

The Board entered in to Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matters at 7:12pm. Executive Session was adjourned at 7:13pm.

Meeting adjourned, 7:13pm.


Respectfully submitted, Kathleen A. Hogue / Deputy Town Clerk



Jon Morris



Andy O'Brien



Heidi Cushman Curry