

Town of Pownal
SELECT BOARD MINUTES
December 12, 2022

Present: Andy O'Brien, Jon Morris, Heidi Cushman Curry, Becky Taylor-Chase
Public: Susan Briggs Peters, Paul Schumann, Christine Watson, Pat Hodsdon

- I. Chair Morris called the meeting to order, 6:30pm.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. AP Warrant #15 in the amount of \$67,536.85 was approved.
Payroll Journal #140 in the amount of \$18,979.98 was approved.
- IV. The minutes of November 28, 2022, were approved as written.
- V. Public Comment / Non-Agenda Items
 - a. Paul Schumann / Economic Development & Sustainability Committee read a statement from the Committee (copy attached.) The committee feels they don't have the tools or the expertise to meet the committee charge and don't know how to move forward. They are requesting that the Select Board approve the \$25,000 voted at Town Meeting to be used for a Growth Study to help this committee in moving forward. A. O'Brien stated that this study would benefit several other committees as well such as Future Facilities and the Select Board and supports using these funds to move the project forward. H. Curry agrees. Chair Morris stated that he has spoken with Mr. Hale of VSB of South Portland about this. Mr. Hale would come and speak to the committee and perhaps do a village district site evaluation and suggestions on what he could offer for help. Paul suggested that the committee get started right away with an RFP for a growth study because these take time and we don't want the allocated funds to "expire". It was agreed that Mr. Hale could also be helpful in the RFP process and may even have a sample RFP he could share. Chair Morris will speak with him about attending a meeting.
 - b. Kathy Hogue / Recreation Committee reported the at the committee's meeting last week, it was agreed to move forward with pursuing purchasing an electronic sign for Mallett Hall. She will contact Bruce Bailey of Bailey Signs to come and talk to the committee and wonders if the Select Board wants to be present at that meeting? Chair Morris suggested that the committee meets with Mr. Bailey and then makes recommendations to the Select Board. Then an RFP can be sent out.
- VI. Department Head Reports were submitted electronically.
 - a. Becky Taylor-Chase reported that she and Chair Morris attended the RSU5 Leadership Meeting last Thursday. Some of the topics of the meeting included:

timeline for the budget process; 2 year growth projections; bus driver shortage; cost-sharing formula; emergency shelter. Becky also noted that there would be a cost-sharing meeting this Wednesday night.

- b. A. O'Brien reported that he spoke with Michelle Harrison regarding the paving issue on the new Meadowbrook Road. She said she had no documentation on the inspection process but that so far there is just a base coat. The top coating will be done in the spring. A. O'Brien told her that the Town will inspect the road before the top coat is done and he requested that Ms. Harrison inform the Town when the topcoat was scheduled.

VII. New Business

- a. Septic Contract: It was moved and 2nd to approve paying \$250 for the "Agreement for the Management of Septic Tank Waste and Holding Tank Waste Disposal" between the Town of Pownal and the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority. All voted in favor.
- b. Mallett Hall Use Form: Updated fees were reviewed and all agreed. H. Curry questioned the "proof of insurance" for events and should we require this for everyone? Ginifir Giddinge asked if we couldn't just have a waiver signed for any damages? Becky will check with our insurance company to see what/who is exactly covered.
- c. Planning Board Fee Schedule: In a statement from the Planning Board, all site plan reviews, whether major or minor, will require a fee of \$1,500. A. O'Brien moved to accept the proposal as written; all voted in favor.
- d. Cumberland County is transitioning to a fiscal year so they will be supplying a 6 month budget and then a 12 month budget. They have offered to towns to pay the 6 month budget in full or spread it out over 2-5 years. This would start in fiscal year 2024 for us. We just need to let them know what we want to do. H. Curry asked if there was any interest or penalty for spreading the cost out. TA stated that there is nothing noted in the information sent but she will reach out and ask. All were in favor of spreading the cost of the 6 month transitional budget over 5 years.
- e. Chipman property: H. Curry has taken picture from the Estabrook property showing that the Chipmans are building a structure along the river – there is no building permit issued for this. She also noted that there is a grave stone standing. Is this a private cemetery registered with the Registry of Deeds? Is it just a stone, or is there a casket or urn? There are specific rules for this and will need to be looked in to. Chair Morris asked Becky to draft a letter to Sam and Matt Chipman requesting that

they attend the next Select Board meeting. The Board will also check with town attorney to find out how to enforce this "cease and desist" order – will it be the CEO? Or Cumberland County Sheriff?

- f. Becky requested that the town office be closed on December 20 at 3:30 so that the staff can attend a zoom meeting regarding 401K options. Select Board approved this early closure.

VIII. Old Business / none

IX. Correspondence / none

X. Any other business / none

I. It was moved and 2nd to enter in to Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matters at 7:10pm. All voted in favor.

II. 7:33 pm exited Executive Session Jon motioned, Andy seconded all in favor.

III. Town Administrator stated she had reached out to the Casella rep regarding renewing our contract but had not heard back. May take a few of us reaching out to get a response. Andy asked if they were the only ones we could reach out to. Town Admin stated they were the only ones doing residential trash and they want to get out of it. They are pushing for 5 year contracts and expect to be automated in the next few years. Andy stated the town would have to purchase new bins. Town Admin stated the regionalization talks have stopped until 2028 mostly because towns had to renew contracts and they are set to expire that year. There was further discussion among the board at looking at all options including purchasing a truck for trash removal and contracting with the Freeport Transfer Station.

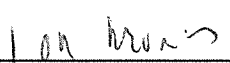
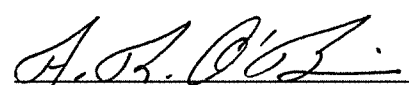
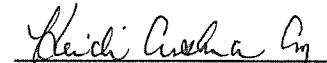
IV. Jon reported to the board that we had received 123 applications for the Senior Property Tax Stabilization Program. This is going to be a wildcard when budgeting. The program is only funded for 2 years so what happens when they run out of money? The Town Admin stated there were 2 things that stood out regarding the program. First was lack of consistency where homeowners have to apply each year unlike the homestead exemption. People will forget to apply and then see a jump in their tax bill and those phone calls will come to the town office and not the state. The second piece is you can take a tax bill from another town and carry it over to the new town of residence if it is lower so who makes up for that difference? She also mentioned that TRIO would have to be re-written to configure those that have a set tax bill so when commitment is done it does not adjust that amount. There was further discussion regarding what happens if you put an addition on?

Adjourned at 7:43 pm Jon motioned, Andy seconded all in favor.

Becky Taylor-Chase

Respectfully submitted,

Becky-Taylor Chase / Town Administrator and Kathleen A. Hogue / Deputy Town Clerk

 _____ Jon Morris	 _____ Andy O'Brien	 _____ Heidi Cushman Curry
--	---	---

