

**Town of Pownal**  
**Select Board Minutes**  
**Monday, March 27, 2023 5:30 pm**  
**Workshop & Regular Meeting**

**I. Call to Order by Chair Morris**

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

Town Administrator: Becky Taylor-Chase

Fire Chief: Jesse Peters

**II. Enter Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matters**

Chair Morris motioned to enter in executive session per 1 M.R.S.A (6)(A) Personnel Matters. Selectperson O'Brien seconded.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

Chair Morris motioned to exit the executive session. Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

**III. Workshop**

**a. Noise Ordinance**

The Town Administrator summarized she had a conversation with the town attorney and her advisement was to not continue with a specific noise ordinance. The language being written into the Land Use Ordinance will provide guidance there and using language from Title 28 written into the Victualer's and Short-Term Rental ordinances will give enforcement there.

**b. Air BnB/Short Term Rentals Ordinance**

The town attorney agreed that starting with a registry of short-term rentals was a good idea to find out how many and be able to get that information to the Fire Chief. She stated South Portland's ordinance is written well and there are no challenges. She suggested having North Star Planning work on developing an ordinance and using language from Title 28 for enforcement.

**c. Victualer's Ordinance**

As stated above the Select Board was in agreement to add the language form Title 28 to the ordinance draft for enforcement. The Town Administrator will make the edit.

**IV. Pledge of Allegiance**

**V. Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrant**

- **AP Warrant #22 in the amount of \$296,235.96.**

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to pay AP Warrant #22 in the amount of \$296,235.96.

Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

- **Payroll Journal #267 in the amount of \$7,581.19.**

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to pay Payroll Journal #267 in the amount of \$7,581.19.

Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

**VII. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

- **March 13, 2023 Executive Session, Public Hearing, Workshop & Regular Meeting**

Selectperson Curry motioned to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2023 Executive Session, Public Hearing, Workshop and Regular Meeting as written. Selectperson O'Brien seconded.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

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

None

**XI. Department Head Reports**

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

- **Select Board**

Nothing new to report.

**X. New Business**

- **Freeport High School Scholarship Foundation-Stephanie Paine & Fred Palmer**

Fred Palmer summarized how the scholarship program got started. He had been involved in raising money for the track and field and saw a need for scholarships. He used other programs as examples to develop the program. Many of them provided for one year so they chose to offer \$5000 each year for 4-years. They felt this was meaningful support which will help with costs over the course of the full education. Mentoring became part of the program as well. Each student that receives the scholarship is paired up with a mentor.

Stephanie Palmer spoke and gave some more background information. I am president of the Freeport High School Scholarship Foundation. We are a 501c3 established in 2021 to provide significant financial assistance to Freeport High School students for 4-year college and vocation/technical programs. Our students are selected based on need, academic achievement community involvement, and potential. Each awardee is paired with a community mentor for the duration of their post-secondary experience. In both 2021 and 2022, we awarded two scholarships to students who plan to attend a 4-year college. For each of these students, we committed to providing \$5000 per year for four years. Additionally, we have awarded one technical school scholarship to a student who wants to become a welder and will provide up to \$4000 over two years to assist with expenses not covered by the tuition-free plan of the Mill's Administration. This spring we will award our next class of scholars - two juniors and two seniors (one college and one vocational award per class). Our goal is to raise \$2,000,000 so that we can support 8 students a year. We currently have over \$1,000,000 in cash and pledges from over 100 donors. The goal is to support those that may not get a full scholarship. They are hoping Pownal would donate \$10,000. This could be a one time gift or multi-year gift. They also encourage Pownal residents to be mentors and/or serve on the Board.

Mr. Palmer also spoke that they are planning on investing the donations to help grow the fund. Their original expectations have not been met with the recent economy but hopes in the future for that to change.

Chair Morris explained that this would need to go to the voters as all money is approved at town meeting. The Select Board thanked them for coming and sharing the information.

- **Budget Recommendations**

The Town Administrator stated that the printing, postage and public hearing lines increased from the initial presentation to accommodate the Future Facility Committees anticipated needs. Selectperson Curry asked if the planning board lines were at the proposed amounts or last year's amounts. She stated the proposed amounts. Selectperson Curry stated she still felt those lines should be funded at the current levels and given the conversation with North Star and work that needs to be done would not want to see them reduced. Marcia Bowen stated the Planning Board was meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> and she could report back with some information. Selectperson Curry stated that was too late as they needed to approve the budget by April 10<sup>th</sup>. Chair Morris stated the Select Board has been having discussions about the direction of planning and they want to make sure there is enough funds to support North Star or a town planner. The Select Board chose to table the approval the General Government budget to April 10<sup>th</sup> pending the requested information from North Star.

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve budget recommendation of \$12,350 for Human Services. Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

The Town Administrator stated the amount for Mallett Hall did not change however the Budget Committee shifted the recommendation to reduce the painting line to \$10,000 to offset an additional amount needed for the security system upgrade.

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve budget recommendation of \$40,330 for Mallett Hall. Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

The Town Administrator stated the budget committee had added an additional \$2000 to the Public Safety budget to cover the costs with the software change. Chief Peters spoke briefly that there were additional upfront costs above the added cost to the software. He is still investigating one other option but does not have all the information yet. The Select Board tabled voting on this request until the information was received.

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve budget recommendation of \$879,604 for Public Works. Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve budget recommendation of \$130,081 for Solid Waste. Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

Selectperson Curry motioned to approve budget recommendation of \$3,400 for Human Services. Chair Morris seconded.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve budget recommendation of \$5,000 for Cemeteries. Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve budget recommendation of \$279,229 for Debt Service and Other Obligations. Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve budget recommendation of \$2,500 for Recreation Committee. Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

- **Town Planner Job Description**

The Town Administrator presented a draft job description using New Gloucester's as a model and changing aspects that were specific to Pownal. All members of the Board felt it was adequately written. She also presented a salary survey compiled from MMA's 2021 online survey and information gathered from reaching out to other towns. It was decided to fund the warrant article at \$32 an hour for 32 hours a week. Selectperson Curry stated it was important to have this warrant article presented at town meeting and to have full disclosure of the compensation packet. The Town Administrator stated she had placed a draft article on the warrant and had line itemed the full compensation amount to include the benefits and payroll taxes.

- **Ordinance Warrant Articles from North Star Planning**

North Star Planning sent over edits to the Land Use Ordinances. Some of them were typo corrections and some were policy changes. The Select Board reviewed each one and approved them all. The typo changes will be corrected and policy changes will be placed on the warrant. The new language regarding cisterns was reviewed by Chief Peters at the meeting and he was comfortable with that language.

- **Solid Waste Contract and Trash Hauling**

Chair Morris motioned to accept the new contract from Casella. Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

Selectperson Curry asked how the replacement costs were billed. The Town Administrator will follow up with Casella.

- **CEO Oaths**

Selectperson O'Brien motioned to approve the E-911 Officer, Building Inspector, Electrical Inspector and CEO oaths for Ginifir Giddinge. Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Ye 3; No 0**

**XI. Old Business**

**XII. Correspondence**

The Select Board reviewed a letter submitted by John Green (see attached). Chair Morris commented that you cannot TIF an existing structure.

**XIII. Any Other Business**

**XIV. Enter Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matters**

Chair Morris motioned to enter into executive session per 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6)(A) Personnel Matters. Selectperson O'Brien seconded.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

Chair Morris motioned to exit the executive session at 7:57 pm. Selectperson O'Brien seconded.

Discussion: None

**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

Chair Morris stated to put discussion of the Freeport Scholarship fund on the next agenda. He also stated to set an executive session at 5:30 with North Star and the Planning Board and to have a workshop prior to the regular meeting with the Planning Board.

**XV. Adjournment**

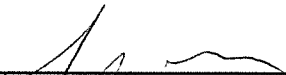
Chair Morris motioned to adjourn the meeting. Selectperson Curry seconded.

Discussion: None


**Vote: Yes 3; No 0**

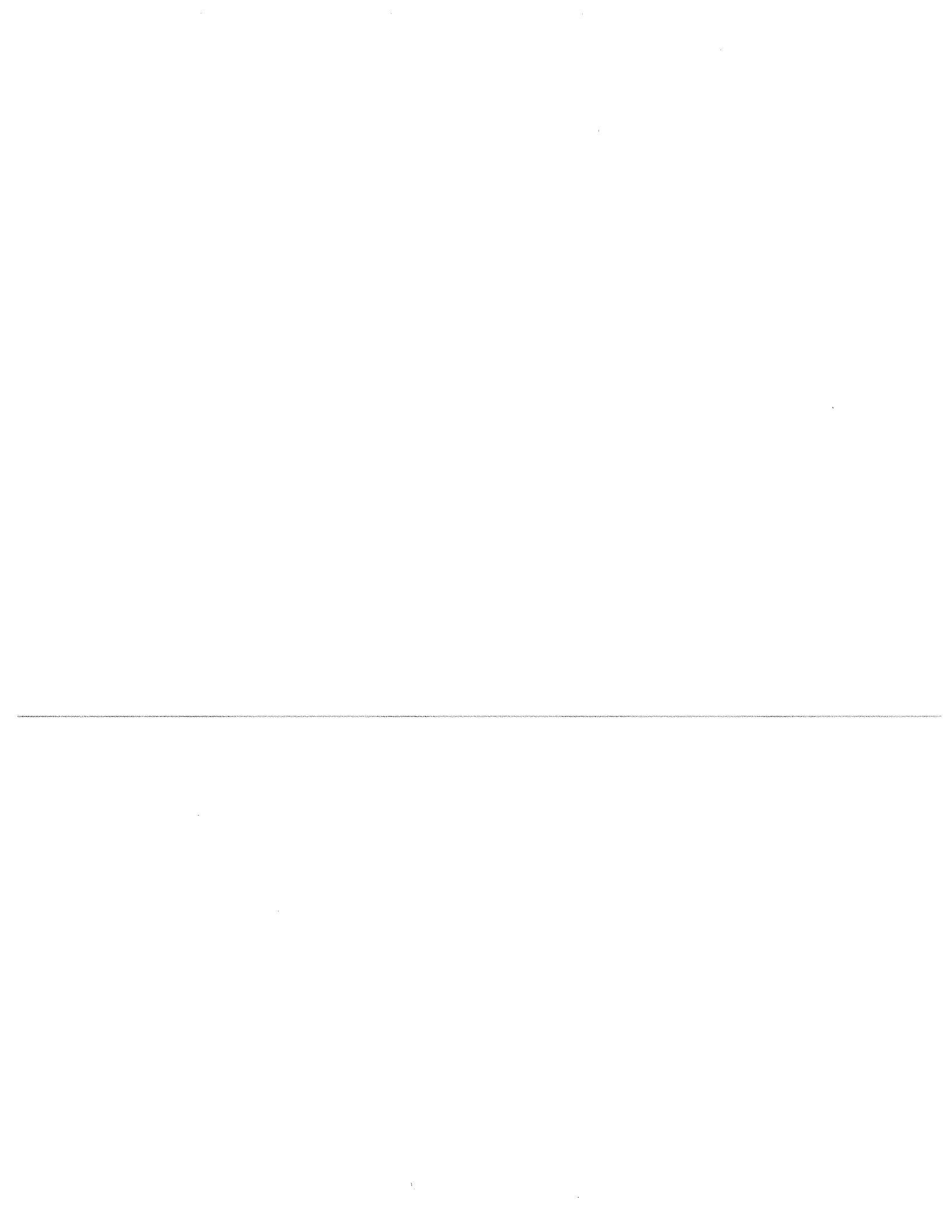
The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Becky Taylor-Chase  
Town Administrator

  
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Jon Morris

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andy O'Brien

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Heidi Cushman Curry



March 22, 2023

Dear Selectboard members,

The District Court trial of the NECEC (New England Clean Energy Connect) plaintiff's assertion of vested rights to complete the NECEC project will be next month (April) and Judge Duddy has committed to a prompt trial court decision.

There are no other legal challenges, and a positive outcome could result in construction starting in Pownal this year. Planned project improvements include both transmission line and Surowiec substation upgrades. My old file from 2020 has additional valuation of \$85.9 million and added tax revenue of \$1.41 million for Pownal once the project is complete.

If Pownal does nothing our taxes will drop appreciably in the first few years and then rise appreciably in the following few years as the state adjusts our education, revenue sharing and other subsidies. That's what happened to a limited degree twelve years ago with the CMP reliability project.

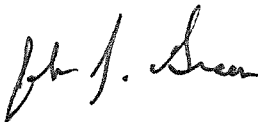
The other option is to implement a TIF (Tax Incremental Financing) that could fund a portion of needed municipal projects and lessen subsidy impact. We've all talked or heard about this option and the comprehensive plan includes it. The timeframe could be as short as April 1, 2024 when the first year of NECEC improvements would enter our tax base.

If the project moves forward we all know the TIF option is vital to the town's financial health. However, the effort to meet a possible April 1, 2024 implementation goal would be a significant challenge. It's not inconceivable that planning for the effort may need to start within a month.

Additionally the Estabrook Production Facility may be of significant value for TIF consideration.

Let me know if I can be of any help.

Sincerely,



John Green

jgreen67@maine.rr.com

Copy to:

Economic Development/Sustainability Committee Chair (Susan Peters)

Budget Committee Chair (Bo Chesney)

