

Town of Pownal
SELECT BOARD MINUTES
April 10, 2023

Present: Andy O'Brien, Jon Morris, Heidi Cushman Curry, Becky Taylor-Chase, Ginifir Giddinge
Public: Dick Hogue, Jesse Peters, Susan Peters, Bo Chesney, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Edgerly
Notetaker: Kathy Hogue

- I. Chair Morris called the meeting to order, 6:30pm.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. AP Warrant #23 in the amount of \$50,039.16 was approved.
Payroll Journal #287 in the amount of \$6,384.24 was approved.
- IV. The Executive Session, workshop and regular meeting minutes of March 27, 2023, were approved as written.
- V. Public Comment
 - a. Mr. and Mrs. Edgerly brought in paperwork, surveys, etc. regarding the 9 acre parcel listed as Map 8 Lot 9. The Edgerly's believe that they are the owners of this parcel; however, our Town Attorney has researched with the Registry of Deeds and determined that the lien placed on this parcel was never paid and that the Town is the owner of this acquired land. Our lawyer has communicated these findings with the Edgerly's lawyer. Mr. Edgerly has concerns about the boundary lines not being clear or correct, that he believes he has paid taxes on this property, and that he is the owner of this parcel in question. Chair Morris indicated to Mr. Edgerly that this has been researched by our lawyer and that he feels confident that the research is the correct outcome; however, if there is "new information" then the Select Board will look at it in a workshop meeting scheduled for April 26, 2023, 6:00pm. He has asked Mr. Edgerly to bring in all his paperwork to the office to be photocopied (and asked Mr. Edgerly not to drop the paperwork off, but to wait while our clerk makes the copies). This will give the Select Board time to review the new documents and information in order to determine how to proceed.
- VI. Department Head reports were submitted electronically. The Select Board had nothing additional to report but noted that the Fire Department did a good job responding to the barn fire on Merrill Road.
- VII. New Business
 - a. Becky Taylor-Chase reviewed the spreadsheet she created to reflect changes to the General Government and Public Safety budget lines for town meeting warrant. The Board all voted in favor of the recommended changes.

- b. Becky reviewed the draft of Town Meeting Warrant with the Board and will reflect any changes, placeholders, etc. as discussed.
- c. Budget Committee Policy: Bo Chesney (Budget Committee Chair) reported that the committee is recommending that the town meeting warrant articles be reflected as a "lump sum budget" vs. a "line item budget". There are no legal requirements to use one policy over the other but the Budget Committee is recommending the Town adopt a "lump sum budget". This can give a carry forward amount for each category and can provide flexibility for the Select Board. In doing this, we can eliminate the warrant article that reads *"To meet emergencies or unexpected expenses during fiscal year, shall the Select Board be authorized to transfer not more than 3% of the Town's budgeted expenditures between budget line items provided that the Town's total budgeted expenditures shall not be increased."* All agreed this makes sense and will have the Town Attorney look at it.
- d. Maine Efficiency funding for EV chargers. A Pownal resident brought this idea forward to the Board. Some questions arose: Can we support this energy infrastructure? Does the electricity for our building have enough to support this? What about vehicles parked here during snow removal? We may need EV for Fire Department and Public Works in the future, how does this fit in with Comprehensive Plan?
 - ▶ Chair Morris moved to look into the funding for EV chargers. No 2nd, motion defeated.
- e. Freeport Scholarship committee has asked Pownal for \$10,000 to support the funding for scholarships.
 - ▶ Chair Morris moved to put this request on the town meeting warrant; No 2nd, motion defeated.
- f. It was moved and 2nd to hire Kathy Hogue as Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Town Clerk, term ending June 30, 2023. All voted in favor by signing the oath.
- g. Due to the 2 public hearings scheduled for April 24 and May 8, Becky requested that the office be closed by 5:00pm on those evenings so that she can attend the hearings. Also, Becky would like to open the office later on April 26 due to a conflict. The Board agreed to all.
- h. Andy O'Brien reported that he and Bo Chesney had a phone conversation with Paul Johnson of GPCOG regarding TIF's, how they work and what types of projects are appropriate. It seems that there is quite a bit of flexibility, terms are 20-30 years, and there could be some good opportunities for Pownal. Mr. Johnson has offered to

help out and answer questions if needed and the Budget Committee will also assist in any way they can.

- i. Annual Report from the Select Board – Andy O’Brien has agreed to write it.

VIII. Old Business – none.

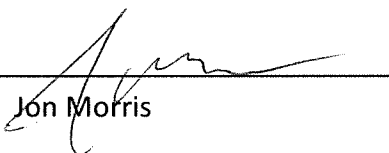
IX. Correspondence – none

X. Any other business – none

Meeting adjourned, 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Hogue / Deputy Town Clerk



Jon Morris



Andy O'Brien

Heidi Cushman Curry

