

Town of Pownal  
SELECT BOARD MINUTES  
June 12, 2023

Present: Andy O'Brien, Jon Morris, Heidi Cushman Curry, Becky Taylor-Chase  
Public: Dick Hogue, Bo Chesney, Matt Nielsen      Notetaker: Kathy Hogue

- I. Chair Morris called the meeting to order, 6:30pm.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. AP Warrant #28 in the amount of \$73,176.27 was approved.  
Payroll Journal #381 in the amount of \$7,444.65 was approved.
- IV. The minutes of May 22, 2023, were approved as written.
- V. Public Comment / Non-agenda items
  - a. Bo Chesney suggested we ask a Boy Scout Troup to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at Town Meeting? Tom Hall is a local scout leader, Chair Morris will contact him. And maybe there is a Girl Scout Troup?
- VI. Department head reports can be viewed on the Town's website.
- VII. New Business
  - a. Pole Permit Application received for Loring Lane: all voted in favor to sign.
  - b. Village District Contract Update: Becky noted there were a few minor grammatical changes made and that our attorney has reviewed it reporting "no red flags".  
MOTION: It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to sign the GPCOG contract. All voted in favor.
  - c. GPCOG TIF Quote: Andy O'Brien suggested that we ask I.O.V. Consultants for guidance/quote. This agenda item is tabled until we have more information.
  - d. North Star Contract was received for this fiscal year. Heidi Curry stated that it would be helpful to see last year's contract to compare numbers. Becky noted that there are some minor increases but she will get a copy of last year's contract for the Board to review before signing the contract. This agenda item is tabled until the Board is able to review.
  - e. Town Employee Oaths: It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve/sign oaths for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, for town employees as listed on the attached spreadsheet. All voted in favor.
  - f. The Select Board agreed to the following office hour changes:
    - > June 26, close 4:30pm (before Town Meeting)
    - > June 29, close @ noon (to close the books)
  - g. Efficiency Maine is offering grant monies for heat and light upgrades in municipal buildings. Becky will ask an electrician and a heat pump specialist to look at the building and help us assess what we might need. This information/assessment will be needed for the grant application process.

VIII. Old Business: None.

IX. Correspondence


- a. Becky reported that property cards are now available to view on our GIS Mapping link on our website (under Assessing).
- b. Becky reported that she has heard from Portland ARPA and we should receive the final grant approval within 7 days.
- c. Becky reported that the Town Reports will arrive at the office tomorrow.
- d. Andy O'Brien reported that he received an email from the Big Brad Ultra Race organizers requesting permission to use a portion of town-owned property this October as part of their race trail. This is their 4<sup>th</sup> year making this request. There have been no issues. MOTION: It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to give the Big Brad's permission to use a portion of Town-owned property as part of their race trail. All voted in favor. Andy will let them know.

X. Any other business

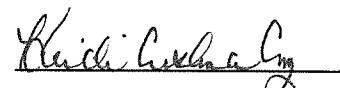
- a. Rail to Trail Straw Vote: At a Public Hearing on April 24, 2023, Mary Angela King Horne asked if the Town could take a non-binding straw poll vote to reflect the sentiment of the Town regarding the proposed "Berlin Corridor" trail system (a portion runs through Pownal): Does the Town prefer (1) Rail and Trail (2) Trail only or (3) Trail until Rail? (To date, the Town has not given a formal opinion regarding this.) Mary Angela was to bring information to the Board for Town Meeting; that has not yet been received. Chair Morris will contact her. This vote would take place after the last warrant article is voted on; the moderator will then ask if there are any further reports, this is when the straw poll vote would happen. We will need a Ballot Clerk to tally the votes.
- b. Kathy Hogue asked about the Select Board's annual report regarding work done in regards to the Comprehensive Plan. It was suggested by Becky that this be put on a July Select Board meeting agenda where the Board can give their summary of work/accomplishments done in the past year. This can give an opportunity for discussions/questions as well as a written record of this annual report. Chair Morris asked Becky to put it on the agenda for the July 10 meeting.

Meeting adjourned, 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen A. Hogue / Deputy Town Clerk

  
Jon Morris

  
Andy O'Brien

  
Heidi Cushman Curry