

**Town of Durham
Board of Selectmen
Joint Pownal/ Durham Meeting Minutes
March 7th 2017**

Call to Order: Selectman Wakeman called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Durham/Pownal Select Board Members Present:

From Durham: Chairman Jeffrey Wakeman, Vice Chairman Sarah Hall, Selectman Mark Blake, and Selectman Michael Stewart

From Pownal: Selectman Timothy Giddinge, Selectman George Anderson, Jr., and Selectman Jonathan W. Morris.

Quorum: Chairman Wakeman announced a Quorum had been met with four (4) members present.

Also Present: AA/TA Ruth Glaeser, Road Commissioner Calvin Beaumier, previous Road Commissioner and Pownal resident Shawn Bennett

Discussion of Pownal/Durham Road Commissioner Agreement.

Tim Giddinge brought forward the idea that the Town of Pownal was planning on withdrawing from the agreement as of June 30th, 2017. Tim stated that it was felt the contract was not working out for Pownal because of the need for more direct supervision of their work crew. At this time there was not an employee in Pownal who could take on the position of foreman and an ongoing power struggle was developing. The plan is to wait for the June 30th, 2017 date which ends this year's contract because this move would have to be approved at their Town meeting in June.

Sarah asked if this was a new issue and Tim replied that he was not sure.

Tim Giddinge made it clear that he still wanted to maintain collaboration on purchasing and use of equipment.

Mark asked if it was a personality issue between the Pownal Crew and the Road Commissioner and Tim responded that it was mostly the struggle between Pownal's employees.

Tim Giddinge states that one department between the two Towns would be ideal but this would "not fly".

Sarah asked if there was a possibility that it could work better if the employees had clear assignments but Tim answered that what was needed was direct and constant supervision.

Jon indicated that Shawn had a clearer relationship with the workers. The workers were loyal to Shawn and much of the collateral Shawn had left with him. This could not be replaced overnight and it may have worked out better if the workers in Pownal had been more independent. Jon said he had no issue with Calvin or negative comments.

Shawn Bennett (previous Road Commissioner) spoke up. He emailed the Select Board and a copy of that email is attached. Shawn said it seems to be an issue with Pownal personnel. The agreement was set up originally on a 60/40 split because of Road mileage and was not meant to indicate the amount of

actual time spent in either Town. He felt that the effort to make it work was insufficient and Pownal needed to name one crew leader and set up accountability. Shawn felt the efficiencies outweighed the difficulty and there were no issues that could not be overcome with more work. He felt a harder look was warranted and the Boards could find a way to solve the issues.

At 5:52pm Jeffrey Wakeman moves both Boards into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6) (A)-Personnel – Personnel Matters.

Out of Executive session at 6:10pm.

No action taken.

Set up meeting in Pownal on May 9, 2017, at 6:30pm.

Jeffrey Wakeman moves the Board into recess at 6:13pm until 6:30pm when the Durham Board will reconvene for a regular Durham Selectman meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Glaeser
Town Administrator