

Pomfret Selectboard
5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Approved Minutes of the January 12, 2014 Emergency Selectboard Meeting

Present: Mark Warner (Selectboard Member), Neil Lamson (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Lynne Leavitt (Town Clerk), Laura Kent, Sherman Kent, Andrew Mann, Betsy Seibeck, Gary Smith, Janis Murcic and others (attendance was not taken)

The meeting was called to order by Neil Lamson, Selectboard Clerk, Neil Lamson at 10:00am.

Neil Lamson asked if the Auditors intended to work in the Town Offices today. Auditor Laura Kent said they were not intending to work in the Town Offices today.

Mark Warner moved to go into Executive Session, and explained that 1 VSA sec. 313(a)(3) was the reason. Neil Lamson seconded the motion. Andrew Mann explained that he believed that public official is not a proper basis to go into executive session under the law. Neil Lamson disagreed.

Michael Reese arrived after the meeting began and requested an Agenda. Michael Reese requested that the motion be held until discussion of the Agenda. Mark Warner stated that the Agenda for the meeting was to discuss personnel issues regarding the relations between members of the Selectboard and the Town Clerk specifically.

Neil Lamson turned over moderation of the meeting to the Chair, Michael Reese. The Board unanimously agreed to table the motion to go into Executive Session until we straighten-out the Agenda.

Michael Reese asked to add the issue of calling the meeting to the Agenda as well. There were no objections. The only other item added to the Agenda was an announcement by Bob Merrill that the Business Broadband District Application was accepted and South Pomfret is now a VTA Business Broadband District.

Neil Lamson asked who was taking the Minutes. He declined to take the Minutes, because he has a hearing disability. Mark Warner said he does not feel it's the responsibility of a selectboard member to take notes and actively participate in the meeting. Michael Reese asked if any members of the public were willing to take the Minutes. A question was raised as to the necessity of Minutes when the meeting was being recording. Michael Reese agreed to take notes for the meeting.

Michael Reese noted he received notice from Mark Warner who asked for a meeting relating to personnel issues, and he replied that the meeting needs to comply with the public meeting law. In his email, Michael Reese also noted that he and others had religious services to attend and requested that it be postponed to 1pm. The three issues were 1. timing of meeting; 2. whether the meeting should have been called; and 3. notice to the public as is reasonable under the circumstances.

As to the basis for the emergency meeting, Mark Warner believes there have been communications that have gone on that have been detrimental to the town clerk and her position and the relationship between the Town Clerk, the Selectboard Chair, and other other Selectboard Members.

He felt it needs to be addressed right away. Neil Lamson and Mark Warner said it could not wait for a Special Meeting.

Neil Lamson said he told Mark Warner that he intended to resign from Selectboard because of the deteriorating relationship between the town clerk and selectboard.

Mark Warner called the question to move the meeting to call the question. Michael Reese said he wanted to discuss the motion. Neil Lamson agreed.

Michael Reese objected to the timing of the meeting on a Sunday morning. It doesn't comply with the rules for Emergency Meeting. Michael Reese noted that notice did not go out to the email list or the website. Michael Reese says it's an illegal meeting. Neil Lamson agreed not to continue with the emergency meeting.

2/7/2014

Michael S. Reese