

Town of Pomfret
5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Draft Minutes of the January 15, 2014 Special Selectboard Meeting
(continued to January 16, 2014, January 17, 2014, January 20, 2014 at 7am, & January 20, 2014 at 7pm)

The meeting was called to order by selectboard Chair, Michael Reese at 7:00pm.

Present: Michael Reese, Neil Lamson, Mark Warner, Hazel Harrington, Art Lewin, Kevin Rice, Anne Bower, Laura Kent, Sherman Kent and others.

Agenda was reviewed and it was unanimously agreed to postpone approval of 1/6/14 minutes to next meeting.

Town Clerk and Selectboard relations: brief discussion of short special meeting last Sunday. Matters raised seem to be in process of resolution. Some question as to propriety of such a special meeting.

Carpet in Town Office: Chair introduced issue--we need to be in compliance with ADA regulations given we've had complaints from people with hearing difficulties. Lydia Spitzer presented rug samples and layouts; this is the first measure recommended by an ADA specialist (could be followed with curtains and/or acoustic ceiling tiles). Lydia is giving her services (helping to select, order, install rugs) for total of \$50 fee. She's still researching underlayments. Selectboard thanked her and plan to pursue this method.

Abbott Library Trustees: Anne Bower presented reasons and method for putting the Library on the National Register of Historic Places. Selectboard unanimously approved going forward with said application; Library Trustees will manage application process and watch out for any potential problems that might change our minds about the application.

Operation of Website and email list: Selectboard agreed to have Bob Merrill, as a volunteer, see if he can simplify the website operation system. Selectboard unanimously voted to have Michael Reese run the email list (for people who want to receive emails concerning meeting agendas and attachments and draft minutes of meetings).

Road Foreman's Report

Grant agreement for emergency repairs to Pomfret Road: This agreement is 24 pages long, with much of it full of complicated legal language that's difficult to follow; however, it's basically the same as other grant agreements Pomfret has had. Signing this agreement will give Pomfret \$60,000 to fix the Pomfret Toad where it washed out in July. Lamson and Warner voted yes, Reese abstained. Reese signed agreement and it will be submitted.

Bridge grant change from Teago Bridge to Barber Hill: Upon consultation with V-Trans it has been decided Pomfret can transfer money originally thought best to expend on one of the bridges near Teago Store to the Barber Hill Bridge damaged during Irene (which expense could not be covered by FEMA). The \$175,000 grant has been extended to July 31, 2014; Town will have to expend additional monies, but this seems the best route to go. This transfer of the grant to Barber Hill project was unanimously approved.

Certificate of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards: It's required that the Town sign off on this each year to obtain state aid for road work. We've done this in the past. Lamson points out we are completely in compliance with state standards. Unanimously approved to sign and submit this form.

Compensation for road crew member: After considerable discussion and many thanks to Kevin Sawyer for his sustained work on Pomfret roads, and at the recommendation of Art Lewin, the Selectboard unanimously agreed to award Kevin a \$2.00/hour raise retroactive to Jan. 1, 2014. This brings his pay to \$20 an hour. Some discussion of raising Art and Jeff's pay once their probationary periods are over, but it was agreed to wait until that probationary period is completed before action.

Auditors' Report

Status of the 2013 audit and town reports: Laura Kent reported that the schedule is tight but they're working to complete the audit and report in time to meet the publishing deadline for the Town Report.

Publishing identity of delinquent taxpayers: After some discussion, Laura explained that by State guidelines, this can be decided by the auditors themselves, and the auditors have decided not to publish names of delinquent tax payers this year. Reese affirmed this seems in line with modern standards. Auditors would like this issue warned for Town Meeting so they can follow the wishes of residents.

Dates of Selectboard Meetings to be published in Town Report: It was agreed to stay with the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month for now--so that will be in Town Report. Laura Kent pointed out that a change to alternate weeks (which has been suggested) could be very confusing.

Town Treasurer's Report: The board approved warrants for payment. Hazel Harrington will present a report in two weeks.

Budget Discussion: The board worked through the budget line by line, with the assistance of visitors.

At 11:20pm, motion approved to continue the meeting to January 16, 2014 at 7:00pm.

January 16, 2014

Present: Mark Warner (Selectboard Member), Neil Lamson (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), (attendance was not taken)

Chair called the continued meeting to order on January 16, 2014 at 7:00pm.

Budget Discussion: The board worked through the budget line by line, with the assistance of visitors.

No decisions were made.

January 17, 2014

Present: Mark Warner (Selectboard Member), Neil Lamson (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), (attendance was not taken)

Chair called the continued meeting to order on January 17, 2014 at 7:00pm.

Budget Discussion: The board worked through the budget line by line, with the assistance of visitors.

No decisions were made.

January 20, 2014 at 7:00am.

Present: Mark Warner (Selectboard Member), Neil Lamson (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Art Lewin (Road Foreman), Sherman Kent, Laura Kent (Auditor), Andrew Mann, and Melanie Williams.

Chair called the continued meeting to order on January 20, 2014 at 7:00am.

Neil Lamson has not been feeling physically well. The Board discussed the logistics of finalizing the budget. The Board also discussed various budget income and expense items.

No decisions were made.

January 20, 2014 at 7:00pm.

Present: Mark Warner (Selectboard Member), Neil Lamson (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Art Lewin (Road Foreman), Sherman Kent and Laura Kent (Auditor), Andrew Mann and Betsy Rhodes

Chair called the continued meeting to order on January 20, 2014 at 7:00pm.

Neil Lamson has not been feeling physically well and accordingly abstained from voting.

Mark Warner and Michael Reese approved a final budget and Selectboard Report. The Warning was discussed but not finalized.

The meeting was adjourned.

2/8/2014

Date

Michael S. Reese
