

**Town of Pomfret
5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053**

Draft Minutes of the January 26, 2014 Special Select board Meeting

The meeting was called to order by select board chair, Michael Reese at 7:08 pm.
The chair announced that an audio recording of the meeting was being made.
Melanie Williams volunteered to take minutes.

Officials Present: Neil Lamson, Mark Warner, Michael Reese, Hazel Harrington, Art Lewin

Others Attending: Sherman Kent, Laura Kent, Betsy Rhodes, Kevin Rice, Bill Emmons, Joanna Long, Norwood Long, Bob Merrill, Melanie Williams

Review of Agenda

Chief Rice was added to the beginning of the meeting.

Chief Rice raised an urgent concern of the Emergency Services (ES).

The ES repeater is located on Seth Webster's property on Bartlett Brook Road. The generator that provides backup power to the repeater is now on property owned by Mike Barcomb (Mike also owns the generator). ES currently has no easement to get to get electrical power to the repeater. Nor are there any easements to have the repeater on the Seth Webster property. Current vehicular access to the repeater site is across the Dodge property on Wild Apple Road. Mike Barcomb wants Emergency Services to repair his generator which provides back-up power if the DC power running the tower fails. Mike has said he is planning to sell the property within four years and does not plan to provide an easement to ES to access the repeater. Mike Barcomb now wants to shut off the electrical power to the repeater and discontinue use of the generator March 1st. ES needs to develop an alternative plan. ES will present more information at the 2/5/14 select board meeting.

Final Budget

Laura Kent gave a brief explanation of the 6 and 12-month budgets that the auditors, with much help from Betsy Rhodes, have put into the form that will be in the Town Report. The auditors will finalize it tomorrow. There was some discussion about formatting for future reports to include line numbers and underlines for ease of reading and reference. There was some discussion about the need to get a better understanding of the surplus and whether, in the next few weeks, it will come to light that there is more surplus that is not already designated for use, and if so, should that be credited back to reduce the taxes to be raised. A question was raised about some numbers for the 6 month highway budget for materials, equipment and garage building expenses that are different than the previously agreed upon figures. It was determined that somehow 10% was inadvertently deducted from the previously agreed upon numbers. The numbers will be corrected in all sections in which they appear. The board voted to approve the budget with those figures corrected.

Budget Explanation

The board reviewed the document that has been drafted to explain the current budget and the proposal to change to a fiscal year budget. Some language changes were made. The board will have the final version ready for the auditors tomorrow at noon.

Town Meeting Warning

The board discussed the draft Warning. They agreed on the substance, still need to add budget numbers, and will rework the formatting.

Select Board Report

The board unanimously approved the board report as written.

Other Business

Chairman Reese brought up the issue of the surplus and Andrew Mann's offer to volunteer to work up a trial chart of accounts in NEMRC. Michael stated a desire to have the board discuss this option prior to town meeting. The topic was discussed and will be added to the 2/5/14 board meeting.

Art Lewin brought up problems with town highway crew communication due spotty radio coverage throughout the town.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.