

Town of Pomfret
5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Approved Minutes of the February 5, 2014 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Mark Warner (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Neil Lamson (Selectboard Member), Hazel Harrington (Treasurer), Art Lewin (Road Foreman), Katy Savage, Orson St. John, William Cole, Bob Merrill, Melanie Williams, Carlene Hewitt, Miller Hewitt, Sherman Kent, Laura Kent (Auditor), Joanna Long, Betsy Rhodes and Peter Vollers.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Michael Reese at 7:03pm.

1. Following motion and discussion, the following draft minutes were approved unanimously: January 6, 2014 and January 26, 2014.
2. The Board accepted Phyllis Harrington's resignation from the Zoning Board of Adjustment with regret. The Board noted the town needs to identify a replacement. A notice will be placed on the website.
3. Following discussion, the Board (Neil Lamson and Mark Warner voting yes, and Michael Reese voting no) approved the motion that the town close the following highways to prevent damage during the 2014 mud season: 1. Class 4 section of Wild Apple Road; 2. Unplowed section of Johnson Road; 3. Unplowed section of King's Highway and that the Road Foreman is authorized to implement said closure at his discretion concerning timing and means.
4. Michael Reese asked Neil Lamson why he informed the Board at the 1/15/2014 meeting that he had not individually authorized a pay increase for one of the road crew workers for the pay period of 12/23/13 to 1/3/14 even though he had done so. Neil Lamson explained that he gets confused easily.
5. Following motion and discussion, the Board (Neil Lamson and Mark Warner voting yes, and Michael Reese voting no) agreed to accept the offer from Holden Engineering to perform a free preliminary costs assessment for Bridge 21 on Barber Hill Road, and that the Road Foreman be appointed as sole town representative on this project with full authority to contact and assist Holden Engineering. Michael Reese wanted to accept additional services being offered by the company at no cost.
6. Following motion and discussion, the Board unanimously approved the application for CDBG-Disaster Recovery projects with the following priorities: First, Barber Hill Road; Second, Bunker Hill Road; and Third, Teago Bridge. The Board authorized Neil Lamson to convey this decision to Rita Seto at Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission.
7. Following motion and discussion, the Board unanimously approved Vermont Overland Grand Prix (bike race) request (8/24/14) conditioned upon the provision of appropriate traffic support, receipt of an insurance binder and hold harmless agreement. Race organizer Peter Vollers presented the request.

8. Following motion and discussion, the Board unanimously approved Dartmouth Cycling Team request (4/13/14) conditioned upon the provision of appropriate traffic support, receipt of an insurance binder and hold harmless agreement. The Board requested that Michael Reese convey this decision to the applicant.
9. Following motion and discussion, the Board unanimously approved Covered Bridges Half Marathon request (6/1/14) conditioned upon the provision of appropriate traffic support, receipt of an insurance binder and hold harmless agreement. The Board requested that Michael Reese convey this decision to the applicant.
10. Following motion and discussion, the Board unanimously approved warrants for payment numbered 143, 145, 147, 148, 149 and 150.
11. Treasurer Hazel Harrington reported 2013 final numbers and projections of fund balances. She noted that it would not be wise to credit any additional funds against taxes to be raised beyond the amounts included in the proposed budget. She also explained that most of the budget surplus came from the highway department and that the Teago Bridge and Sessions Meadow Road projected were not completed.
12. Town Auditor Laura Kent presented the Auditors' 2013 narrative report. She noted areas for improvement include improvements to our Personnel Policy, Funds and Trusts, Financial Reporting, Investment Policy and NEMRC Accounting System. The Board discussed preliminary steps to implement these suggestions. The Auditors will check with VLCT to identify consultants familiar with NEMRC. Hazel will check with the software company that developed NEMRC. Melanie Williams read a letter prepared by Betsy Seibeck addressed to Neil Lamson and Mark Warner, which letter is available as a part of the file for this meeting.
13. The Board discussed the town's website, noting that Michael Reese will be responsible for content while Bob Merrill will be responsible for structure.
14. Under other business, the Board signed a Certificate of Highway Mileage as required by the State.
15. Following motion, the Board adjourned the meeting.

Dated: 2/5/14

Respectfully Submitted by Michael S. Reese