

Town of Pomfret
5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Approved Minutes of the February 24, 2014 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Mark Warner (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Kevin Rice, Lynne Leavitt, Phil Dechert, Ona Chase, Keith Chase, Laura Kent, Sherman Kent, Bill Heston, Sue Heston, Neil Lamson, Nelson Lamson, Miller Hewitt, Emily Grube, Melanie Williams, Orson St. John, Gaal Crowl, Jack Crowl, Bob Merrill, Betsy Siebeck, Joanna Long, Katy Savage (Vermont Standard), Kevin Geiger, Norwood Long and Joanna Long.

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

1. Agenda: Following motion and discussion, the Agenda was unanimously approved.
2. Selectboard Resignation:
 - (a) The Board accepted Neil Lamson's resignation from the Selectboard with regret.
 - (b) Doug Tuthill, Ona Chase and Phil Dechert expressed interest in being appointed to the Board until a Special Town Meeting. The Board decided to wait until the next regular selectboard meeting (after 3/5/14 Town Meeting) to appoint a replacement selectboard member.
 - (c) The Board set the date for the Special Town Meeting for Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 7pm.
 - (d) Mark Warner will contact Secretary of State for advice on the law regarding the appointment of officers at first regular selectboard meeting after Town Meeting.
3. Research Legal Issues: Michael Reese will follow up with the Vermont League of Cities and Town for information on the following legal issues leftover from last meeting: 1. Is the town liable for damages upon public use of unmaintained town highways? and 2. Are private citizens allowed to plow unmaintained town highways?
4. Roadside Mowing:
 - (a) On behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Invasive Species, Joanna Long reported the following: certain invasive species should be handled differently; chervil should be mowed before June 1st, wild parsnip should be mowed by the end of July, and knotweed should never be mowed; wholesale mowing would probably be worse than nothing other than clearing a line of sight for vehicles; the committee advised mowing selectively and timely.
 - (b) Road Foreman noted the state and federal government recommends spraying.
 - (c) The Board received various comments on mowing, spraying and educating landowners.
 - (d) After motion and further discussion, the Board approved the Request for Proposal (RFP) for roadside mowing and authorized the Road Foreman to determine the appropriate dates for the mowing to occur.
5. Posting of Town Highways: After motion and discussion, the Board approved the posting of Town Highways, pursuant to the notice attached to these Minutes.
6. Preparation for Informational Selectboard Meeting: The Board discussed arrangements for the presentation of the surplus, fiscal year change and budget.

7. Preparation for Town Meeting:

- (a) The Board discussed arrangements for Town Meeting.
- (b) The Board discussed the estimates for the Barber Hill Road culvert replacement and its possible impact on the highway equipment reserve account.

8. Following motion, the Board adjourned the meeting.

Dated: 3/11/2014

Respectfully Submitted by Michael S. Reese