

Town of Pomfret  
5218 Pomfret Road  
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Minutes of the March 5, 2014 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Mark Warner (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Sara Tuthill, Douglas Tuthill, Katy Savage (Vermont Standard), Becky Fielder (Town Clerk), Melanie Williams, Bob Merrill, Ellen DesMeules (Treasurer), Betsy Siebeck, Laura Kent (Auditor), Gaal Crawl, Betsy Rhodes, Norwood Long, Joanna Rudge Long, Miller Hewitt, Art Lewin (Road Foreman), Tim Leavitt, Norm Buchanan (Lister), Ona Chase, Keith Chase, Bill Emmons and Emily Grube.

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

1. Review of Agenda: Following motion and discussion, the Agenda was unanimously approved.
2. Appointment of Selectboard Member: Following motion and discussion, the Board appointed Phil Dechert to serve until the Special Town Meeting on April 9, 2014 and was thereafter sworn in.
3. Elect chair and clerk:
  - (a) Following motion and discussion, the Board approved Mark Warner to serve as Chair for one year (Warner & Dechert voting yes; Reese voting no). Michael Reese objected to the appointment extending beyond the election of a new selectboard member in April.
  - (b) Following motion and discussion, the Board unanimously approved Michael Reese to serve as Clerk.
4. Town Clerk's Report:
  - (a) Becky Fielder reported that her transition to the position is going well.
  - (b) Following motion and discussion, the Board unanimously approved Phil Dechert to coordinate training with the Town Clerk and Treasurer with a budget of up to \$300.00 until the next Selectboard Meeting.
  - (c) Following motion and discussion, the Board unanimously approved paying former Town Clerk, Lynne Leavitt, for her time assisting the Town Clerk with administering the voting process on March 3, 2014 following Town Meeting at a rate of \$30.00 per hour.
5. Meeting Resolution: Following motion and discussion, the Board unanimously approved a document entitled "Revised 2013 Meeting Resolution Draft #2 12/18/13 with Proposed Changes by Michael Reese on 2-9-14."
6. Approval on minutes of prior meetings 1/8/14, 1/12/14, 1/15/14-1/20/14, and 2/5/14 (see website <http://pomfretvt.us/index.php/select-board1/minutes/>): the Board agreed to defer approval of the Minutes until the next meeting.

7. Town Treasurer's Report:

- i. Ellen DesMeules reported that her transition to the position is going well, and that Hazel Harrington is assisting with the transition.
- ii. Review and action on warrants for payment: the Board unanimously approved the following warrants for payment: 153, 155 and 156, except for check number 2534 payable to Red River Computer Co. shall be held until the next meeting for further review.

8. Road Foreman's Report:

- (a) Roadside mowing RFP: following motion and discussion, the Board unanimously approved:
  - i. Sending out the Request for Proposal with the starting date for May 15, 2014; and
  - ii. Obtain and develop maps depicting the presence of invasive roadside vegetation to assist the Road Foreman in coordinating the mowing.
- (b) Tractor repair: The Road Foreman noted persistent fluid leaking from the tractor casing, and recommended its repair at a tractor repair shop. The Board and public discussed the alternative of repairing it in-house.
- (c) Following motion and discussion, the Board unanimously approved the expenditure of \$27,000 for sand.

9. Appointment of Town Officers:

- (a) Following motion and discussion, the Board unanimously approved the Road Foreman, Art Lewin, to serve as Tree Warden.
- (b) The Board heard extensive information about an incident involving a neighbor's dog trespassing on another's property. Following motion and discussion, the Board unanimously approved the Jon Fredholm to serve as Constable.

10. Following motion and discussion, the Board unanimously approved The Vermont Standard as the official newspaper for town notices.

11. Consider designation of selectboard liasons to town departments: after noting the benefits of delegating individual Board members to communicate with specific departments, the Board deferred such delegation to a future meeting.

12. Review of selectboard priorities:

- (a) Phil Dechert noted the pressing time constraints for enrolling the Town Clerk and Treasurer for health insurance coverage.
- (b) The Board deferred discussion of Selectboard priorities to a future meeting.

13. Other business:

- (a) Laura Kent reported that Andrew Mann does not wish to take office as Lister. The Board agreed to put an election for this vacancy on the Warning for the Special Town Meeting in April.
- (b) Auditors presented a report on special funds prepared by former Auditor Janis Murcic.

14. Following motion, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting.