

Town of Pomfret
5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Draft Minutes of the June 4, 2014 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Mark Warner (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Phil Dechert (Selectboard Member), Ellen DesMeules (Treasurer), Arthur Lewin, Sr. (Road Foreman) and others.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Warner at 7:02pm.

1. Review of Agenda (7:03pm): Following motion and discussion, the Board agreed to allow the reading of a letter dated May 26, 2014 from Ruth Tuthill under New Business.
2. Public Comment (7:11pm): Kevin Rice requested the Board write a letter to the Vermont Standard regarding what he believed was inaccurate reporting regarding the emergency services antenna/repeater. Melanie Williams noted the paper was notified of certain errors in the referenced story.
3. Town Clerk's Report (7:14pm):
 - (a) The Town Clerk plans to look into sound dampening in the Town Offices including options relating to carpeting and curtains. The Board noted an estimate prepared by Lydia Spitzer.
 - (b) The Board agreed the Town Clerk should notify Jim and Loie Havill when she receives town hall rental requests to ensure the hall is opened and closed properly.
4. Treasurer's Report (7:21pm):
 - (a) The Board unanimously approved warrants numbered 175 and 178 for payment.
5. Road Foreman's Report (7:25pm):
 - (a) The Road Foreman updated the Board of the following recent work performed by the road crew: finished grading roads, started digging up some of culverts that didn't go down after the frost, performed ditching on Thistle Hill Road and part of Kings Highway. They will be resurfacing Thistle Hill Road next week. In the next two weeks, they will work on a collapsed pavement at a culvert on the lower end of Galaxy Hill Road.
 - (b) The Board discussed the lack of progress on the culvert replacement on Pomfret Road, where the Town is waiting for the state to complete its review for the FEMA funding. The Road Foreman offered two temporary options to address the bump: replace bump with asphalt or hardpack. Asphalt would be more expensive. The Road Foreman suggested hardpack.
 - (c) Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Board approve a request by Harold Schwenk, Jr. and H. Spencer Schwenk, III dated May 28, 2014 to perform road maintenance work on a section of Totman Hill Road (Town Highway 38). Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
 - (d) Mark Warner moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Board approved a .50 cent pay increase for Road Crew member Jeff Robinson following his 6 month probationary period. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion. The Board plans to hold an executive session at a future meeting to review the road crew worker's performance.
 - (e) The Board agreed to delay any decision for approval of the Vermont 100 road and trail race until Michael Reese contacts the race director to learn more about their plans.

6. Unfinished Business (8:09pm):

- (a) Phil Dechert discussed the results of a review by computer consultant hired to review the Town's future information technology needs. The consultant noted the Town's equipment and information technology services are geared more to a larger operation and the existing computer contract with Red River computer company is more expensive than necessary. Phil will offer a proposal for bidding future services.
- (b) (8:17pm) Phil Dechert is still in the process of reviewing past invoices from the Red River computer company.
- (c) (8:31pm) Emergency Services antenna/repeater:
 - i. Mark Warner noted that Mike Barcomb, speaking on behalf of property owner Tianna Barcomb, said he would like to discontinue use of the electricity serving the emergency services antenna/repeater on Monday, June 9th.
 - ii. Mark Warner described the short and long terms options that have explored by the working group. Those in attendance raised various questions and concerns.
 - iii. Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Board authorize Mark Warner to arrange for the installation of a temporary generator at a cost of up to \$500 per month. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (d) (9:25pm) The Board reviewed the draft Personnel Policy.
- (e) (9:48pm) Mark Warned moved, and Michael Reese seconded, that the Town continue with the existing arrangement with the Windsor County Sheriff where the deputies provide 8 hours of traffic enforcement instead of performing patrols. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

7. New Business (9:59pm):

- (a) The Board discussed the process of setting up a committee to consider recommendations for town hall improvements.
- (b) Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Town adopt the proposed Local Emergency Operations Plan.
- (c) Michael Reese read a letter to the Board dated May 26, 2014 from Ruth Tuthill relating to fireworks being set off at 10:45pm on May 15, 2014 that awakened her and several neighbors. She asked that town consider ways to address this disturbance. The Board discussed options and agreed it is a problem that requires further review.

8. Approval of minutes of prior meetings (10:21pm): The Board postponed review of minutes from prior meetings.

9. Following motion, the Board adjourned the meeting.

Dated: 6/29/2014

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Reese, Selectboard Clerk