

Town of Pomfret
5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Draft Minutes of the June 18, 2014 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Mark Warner (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Phil Dechert (Selectboard Member), Arthur Lewin, Sr. (Road Foreman), Katie Savage (Vermont Standard); Ellen DesMeules (Treasurer), Betsy Seibeck, Melanie Williams, Art Lewin (Road Foreman) and others.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Warner at 7:06pm.

1. Review of Agenda (7:03pm): Following motion and discussion, the Board agreed to the following changes to the agenda: 1. Add oil heating fuel price comparisons to New Business; and 2. Add memorandum dated June 16, 2014 from Auditor Laura Kent to the Agenda, and then the Board approved an honorarium of \$500 for the benefit of Betsy Rhodes in recognition and appreciation of her work associated with producing the 2014 Town Report.
2. Public Comment (7:20pm): None.
3. Constable's Report (7:21pm):
 - (a) The Board agreed to move review of the dog ordinance to the end of the Agenda.
4. Treasurer's Report (7:22pm):
 - (a) The Board unanimously approved warrant numbered 180 for payment with the exception of check number 8923 regarding a reimbursement from 2012, which will be considered at a subsequent meeting following further review.
 - (b) The Treasurer noted a payment due on July 5th for payment of the Windsor County tax, which is \$6,000 more than was budgeted, because the bond payment for the courthouse renovation project was not included.
 - (c) The Board reviewed and discussed a Budget Status Report, Revenue Report and Expenditure Report. Income exceeded expenses by a significant amount for the six month budget period.
 - (d) The Treasurer is making progress on revisions to the Chart of Accounts.
5. Road Foreman's Report (7:54pm):
 - (a) The Road Foreman noted about one-half of the roadside mowing along the pavement has been completed with the remainder to be completed shortly. They have also mowed sections of wild chervil on Session Meadow Road, Lower Cloudland Road and Barber Hill Road.
 - (b) The Road Foreman noted the mower is an older model and has limited availability of parts. He suggested considering a new tractor and mower in next year's budget.
 - (c) The Road Foreman informed the Board the various regulations relating to chemical spraying of invasive plant species.
 - (d) Michael Reese agreed to contact the local Vtrans official regarding progress on the culvert at 7090 Pomfret Road.
 - (e) The Board agreed to submit its salt needs for a special bidding process being organized at the state level.
 - (f) The Road Foreman agreed to follow up with Mike Barcomb regarding the status of the proposed Indemnity Agreement relating to the emergency services antenna/repeater.

6. Appointments (8:23pm):

- (a) Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that Hunter Ulf be reappointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) for another term. Following discussion, the motion was approved (Mark Warner and Phil Dechert voted yes; Michael Reese recused himself from the vote because he is a current member of the ZBA).
- (b) Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that Nelson Lamson and Orson St. John be reappointed to the Planning Commission for terms ending in 2018. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

7. Unfinished Business (8:32pm):

- (a) Michael Reese moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Board approve the proposed Personnel Policy with the following change: Section 13, end of first sentence, add “but at least once a year.” Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the Personnel Policy.
- (b) (9:13pm) Phil Dechert noted he has to complete additional research before presenting a draft of the drug policy to the Board.
- (c) (9:15pm) Mark Warner noted his working group held an informational meeting on the emergency services antenna/repeater this past Monday evening.
- (d) Phil Dechert noted he is making progress on reviewing the Red River computer co. invoices, but is still working on it.
- (e) (9:24pm) Phil Dechert presented a draft chart of Board priorities which were briefly discussed.
- (f) (9:31pm) Michael Reese moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Board approve and execute the proposed contract with the Windsor County Sheriff for 8 hours a week of traffic enforcement at a rate of \$47 an hour. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (g) (9:32pm) Town Hall:
 - i. Mark Warner described Fire Inspection Results from the Office of the State Fire Marshal from a report dated June 12, 2014 which noted various violations including exits, emergency lighting and inadequate entrance ramp. An acceptable plan must be submitted within 30 days. Further, the report noted that “[t]he compliance date of July 16, 2014 is a guideline, and does not preclude the occasional use of this structure so long as reasonable precautions securing the public safety are provided (limited occupant load; assigning trained personnel to monitor occupant load and safety; securing exit doors in the open position during events).”
 - ii. Phil Dechert agreed to preliminarily discuss options with an architect familiar with these issues.

8. New Business (9:41pm):

- (a) Michael Reese moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that Phil Dechert represent the Town on the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Transportation Advisory Committee. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (b) Michael Reese reported that the Race Director of the Vermont 100 told him that the race is not intended to interfere with traffic. Accordingly, the Board agreed that approval for this race is not required.
- (c) The Chair opened the only bid for lawn mowing, which was from Ox Hill Construction for \$950. Mark Warner moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Board approve the bid. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion. Following the vote, Michael Reese asked the Chair if he could change his vote, because he wanted the approval to be conditioned upon the absence of any additional bids, which he believed may have been misplaced and not included in the selectboard folder. The Chair declined the request.
- (d) (9:52pm) Michael Reese moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the the Board authorize Mark

Warner to sign up for oil and propane plans from among at least 3 vendors based upon price and other relevant factors. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

9. Approval of minutes of prior meetings (10:05pm): The Board postponed review of minutes from prior meetings.

10. Other Business:

- (a) Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded the motion, to approve the revised dog ordinance. Michael Reese believed the penalties for noncompliance with the dog licensing were improved but still too severe under the revised draft ordinance. Following discussion, the Board approved the motion (Phil Dechert and Mark Warner voted yes; Michael Reese voted no).
- (b) Michael Reese moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Board approve the request for blasting to be done within the town right of way by Dan Clay on behalf of property owner, McKenna, at 1516 Joe Ranger Road, pursuant to any conditions set by Road Foreman, including a Certificate of Insurance for the benefit of the Town. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

11. Public Comment:

- (a) Michael Reese expressed his disapproval of the Chair's unilateral decision to deny his wish to change his vote.

12. Following motion, the Board adjourned the meeting.

Dated: 6/29/2014

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Reese, Selectboard Clerk