

Town of Pomfret
5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Approved Minutes of the July 9, 2014 Special Selectboard Meeting

Present: Mark Warner (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Phil Dechert (Selectboard Member), Arthur Lewin, Sr. (Road Foreman), Ellen DesMeules (Treasurer), Melanie Williams, Marge Wakefield and Kevin Rice.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Warner at 7:08pm.

1. Review of Agenda: The Chair described the following purposes of the meeting: 1. Set the municipal property tax rate; and 2. Approve a plan of correction for the fire code violations at the Town Hall.
2. Public Comment: None.
3. Tax Rate:
 - (a) The Treasurer proposed a fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015) municipal tax rate of .3284 which is the rate required to raise the amount in taxes approved at town meeting based upon the grand list value.
 - (b) This tax rate of .3284 is lower than recent years. In 2012, the rate was .3672. In 2013, the rate was .3666.
 - (c) Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Board adopt a municipal tax rate of .3284 (town tax of .3261 and local agreement of .0023). Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
4. Plan of Correction for Town Hall fire code violations:
 - (a) Mark Warner offered the following proposed plan of correction:

To allow for the use of the building with the least amount of inconvenience, the Fire Marshal's offices efforts have been focused on working with the town cooperatively. Bruce Martin, Vermont Fire Marshal, working with John Moore and the people running the Strawberry Supper, Judy Greene, and the Constable, temporary measures were worked out as follows:

- * Occupancy has been reduced from 180 - 200 to around 100 to 120 with servers.*
- * The exterior (exit) doors are to be blocked open during occupancy.*
- * No one may congregate in the area of the doorways.*
- * Constable to be stationed at the event for crowd control and compliance.*

A committee needs to be formed or revitalized for discussions on the following:

1. *Short term - schedule and method(s) for addressing immediate items on Fire Marshal's list with the understanding that occupancy may not be increased until a formal plan or steps are in place to:*
 - a. Fix all exterior doors (exits) to swing outward.*
 - b. Exterior door Hardware must be panic style (cross bar or a push pad)*

c. Emergency lighting and exit signs need to be installed (hardwired) into the building for all exits and must have battery failover in case of loss of power.

2. *Longer Term – (Committee)*

a. Improve egress from the building – a 2nd exit, (to be being reviewed with architects)

b. Improve ADA ramp for special needs access, (being reviewed with architects)

(b) Board members agreed that an architect is not necessary for the short-term fixes but will likely be required for the second exit and handicapped access ramp because of the historic nature of the building.

(c) Phil Dechert moved, and Michael Reese seconded, that Mark Warner prepare and execute a letter to Bruce Martin, Assistant Fire Marshal, substantially similar to the proposal presented.

5. Next Meeting's Agenda: The Board reviewed next meeting's agenda.

6. Following motion, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:07pm.

Approved by Selectboard on 8/20/14

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Reese, Selectboard Clerk