

Town of Pomfret
5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Draft Minutes of the July 16, 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); Betsy Siebeck, Melanie Williams, Bob Merrill, Emily Grube, Jon Fredholm (Constable), Kevin Rice (Fire Chief), Sherman Kent, Norwood Long, Joanna Long, Frank Perron and Hazel Harrington.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Warner at 7:04pm.

1. Review of Agenda: The Board agreed to move the the following executive session items to the end of the Agenda: 1. Third party request for information on former town official: and 2. Agreement with landowner regarding antenna/repeater to the Agenda. The Board agreed to add Discussion of Personnel Issue to follow these items.
2. Public Comment (7:06pm):
 - (a) Bob Merrill reported the approval by the Vermont Telecommunications Authority that EC Fiber was awarded \$983,000 to construct almost all of a fiber line about 70 miles long that would run through several towns including a line from Sharon to the Pomfret School. An additional \$200,000 must be raised through investments to support the line through Pomfret. He noted the very respectable tax-free return on investment. Those interested in this project should contact Bob Merrill (bmerrill@bobmerrill.com or 457-4938) for more information.
 - (b) (7:14pm) Norwood Long asked for the Town's support of a public/private partnership through non-profit organization, Sustainable Woodstock, and the Town of Woodstock to offer competitive pricing through cooperative purchasing of solar power home systems called Solarize Upper Valley.
 - (c) Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, to endorse the Town's partnership with Woodstock and Sustainable Woodstock and execute a letter supporting the effort and appointing Norwood Long as the Town's representative. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
 - (d) Norwood Long reported that he plans to meet with other interested residents to explore the formation of a Town energy committee.
3. Treasurer's Report (7:28pm):
 - (a) The Board unanimously approved the following warrants for payment: 185, 186, 187 and 188.
 - (b) Mark Warner moved, and Michael Reese seconded, to approve reimbursement to a FAST Squad member for expenses that had accrued a couple of years ago. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion. The Board agreed the Town should enact a policy limiting reimbursements to a specific time period.
 - (c) Mark Warner updated the Board on his work on a fixed price contract for propane and fuel oil.
 - (d) Mark Warner updated the Board on his work to explore alternative options for telecommunications services. He will report his recommendations at a later date.

4. Road Foreman's Report (7:41pm):

- (a) Update on Activities:
 - i. The Road Foreman plans to begin work early next week on the collapsed pavement/culvert project at the corner of Galaxy Hill Road and Pomfret Road (north of the Town Hall).
 - ii. Roadside mowing should be completed by next Tuesday.
 - iii. The Road Foreman is grading the backroads.
- (b) The Road Foreman and Michael Reese met with Agency of Natural Resources River Management Specialist, Todd Menees, last week to review State requirements for the Barber Hill Road bridge project.
- (c) In the coming weeks, the State will be painting centerlines (and possibly white fog lines) on the roads.
- (d) Upon a resident's request, the Road Foreman inspected a culvert on Bunker Hill Road. He noted the culvert is 5 feet wide and was one-half full during the last rainstorm. It did not washout during Hurricane Irene even though the culverts above and below did washout. He believes a new bridge is the only way to allow a larger flow of water.
- (e) (7:48pm) The Road Foreman reported that roughly \$10,000 worth of repairs need to be done on the Ford 550 one ton truck. Another option is to purchase a new truck with the funds leftover from the purchase of the scraper truck. The Board agreed he should explore this option. A resident believes the Board should purchase a new truck every 4 years in order to avoid high repairs costs and receive more on trade-in values.
- (f) The Road Foreman noted the purchase of a new spindle and key-ways for the mower.
- (g) Joanna Long described the eradication process of wild parsnip. The Road Foreman noted that extensive mowing efforts this year focused on eradicating wild chervil and that the highway department will be unable to get back out this year to mow the wild parsnip before it goes to seed. Mrs. Long appreciated the successes on dealing with wild chervil and will continue to work with the Road Foreman to address additional invasive species in future years.
- (h) *The Road Foreman asked that residents not deposit any discarded wild parsnip (or other debris) in the roadways. It creates havoc for the operation of equipment.***
- (i) A resident reported the proliferation of japanese knotweed on Johnson Road. The Road Foreman noted his department has tried to avoid mowing these plants, because mowing spreads these plants. The only available option at this time is for landowners to apply chemical treatments to eradicate this species.

5. Unfinished Business (8:07pm):

- (a) Emergency Services antenna/repeater update:
 - i. Mark Warner reported that he and other members of his working group met with Green Mountain Power to evaluate establishing a meter to run line power to the antenna/repeater. They are evaluating the installation of line 3 feet underground from the existing pole 305 feet up the road to a location next to the entrance of Jim Jillson's former quonset hut. The existing pole requires replacement and must be coordinated with Fairpoint Communications.
 - ii. Concerns were expressed that a decision was made without Board discussion. Mark Warner noted his working group believed line power appeared to be a reasonable option and was exploring all options.
 - iii. Mike Barcomb has given the Town and emergency services organizations a new deadline of September 1st to install alternative power before the existing electrical service is disconnected.
- (b) Runamuck kennel agreement (8:24pm): The Board agreed to table review of the draft agreement so Board members can review updated drafts from the kennel provider.

6. New Business (8:28pm):

- (a) Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Zoning Administrator file an appearance on behalf of the Town in the Smith/Siebeck appeal of the Zoning Board of Adjustment's decision to affirm the enforcement decision by the Zoning Administrator regarding the activities on David Moore's property. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (b) Michael Reese moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Town designate the following places for the Agendas for all Town boards, committees and commissions to be posted: Teago Store, Town Hall and the North Pomfret Post Office. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (c) (8:41pm) Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Town Clerk be authorized to issue liquor licenses without Board review except in cases where there might be a significant public impact, in which event she shall forward the applications to the Board. Michael Reese believed State law may not allow delegation of review of liquor license applications. Following further discussion, the Board approved the motion (Phil Dechert and Mark Warner voted yes; Michael Reese voted no).
- (d) (8:46pm) Phil Dechert agreed to prepare requests for proposals relating to alternatives to the existing computer services contract that expires at the end of this month.

7. Other Business (8:56pm):

- (a) Phil Dechert is contacting contractors to address the fire code violations at the Town Hall (electric exit signs and outward swinging doors) with a goal toward completion by the Harvest Supper in November.
- (b) Michael Reese said he will follow up with the roofing contractor to replace clapboards on the Town Hall.
- (c) Fire Chief Kevin Rice reported that he approved a request for fireworks for a wedding on August 2nd at 2918 Bartlett Brook Road.

8. Approval of Minutes of prior meetings: Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Board approve the draft minutes from April 16, 2014 through June 18, 2014. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

9. Public Comment: None.

10. Executive Session: Mark Warner moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Board enter executive session to discuss the following: A. Third party request for information on former town official; B. Agreement with landowner regarding antenna/repeater (Road Foreman and Kevin Rice present); and C. Discussion of Personnel Issue (Road Foreman present). No decisions were made after the Board came out of executive session.

11. Following proper motion, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:52pm.

Dated: 7/16/2014

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Reese, Selectboard Clerk