

Town of Pomfret
5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Approved Minutes of the August 20, 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), Emily Grube, Mike Barcomb, Melanie Williams, Betsy Siebeck and Spencer Schwenk

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

1. Review of Agenda: The Board agreed to add an update on phone plans and a recent communication from the Websters about powering the repeater.
2. Public Comment: None.
3. Treasurer's Report (7:09pm):
 - (a) The Board unanimously approved the following warrants for payment: 194 and 195.
 - (b) The Road Foreman will continue to work with the Treasurer to review invoices from the highway department.
4. Road Foreman's Report (7:16pm):
 - (a) Spencer Schwenk presented a town road document reflecting the location of the end of the class 4 section of the Totman Hill Road. He requested the Town improve culverts and waterbars on the class 4 section of road.. He also requested that the Town crown the road with a grader. If the Road Foreman determines there is available time to work on the road, he will contact those landowners abutting the road and work to improve the road.
 - (b) Update on Activities:
 - i. The Sessions Meadow Road project will be completed 8/21/14. They have spread 200 loads of hardpack, applied chloride and compacted the new road surface. The project is under-budget. Unfortunately, a phone line was damaged by the company spreading the materials.
 - ii. The road crew will be cutting waterbars and ditching roadsides in the next couple of weeks.
 - (c) Michael Reese moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Board authorize the Chair to sign the State of Vermont standard grant agreement for the Barber Hill Road bridge project. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
 - (d) Phil Dechert moved, and Michael Reese seconded, to authorize Michael Reese to sign a contract with Hook Construction for the Barber Hill Road bridge, so long as there are no substantive changes to the draft presented. In the event of changes, Michael Reese will consult with the project engineer, Bob Harrington, and the Road Foreman before signing. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
 - (e) Phil Dechert moved, and Mark seconded, that the Board accept the bid from Blaktop paving company, as the lowest bidder on the project which should not exceed \$65,000. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
 - (f) Mark Warner moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Town accept a price quote from Cargill derived from a State of Vermont bidding process whereby the town would pay \$83.52 per ton of salt with potential increases due to fuel surcharge and a guarantee of 1,000 tons. The Road Foreman noted this reflects a 5% increase over last year. A purchase of 1,000 tons would

exceed the salt budget for the current fiscal year. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

5. Unfinished Business (8:25pm):

(a) Emergency Services Antenna/Repeater:

- i. Mark Warner noted a recent approval by Green Mountain Power for burying a line from the pole across from Tianna Barcomb's home.
- ii. Mark Warner noted a recent email from the Webster family stating they are tentatively viewing favorably the proposal to run underground power from the pole across their property to the existing underground power line currently serving the repeater. The Websters will review the details further and provide their final decision in the coming days.
- iii. Phil Dechert met with electrician, Brad Devine, who reaffirmed the price quote.
- iv. Mark Warner agreed to contact Frank Perron to invite him to act as a project manager to coordinate the work.
- v. Mark Warner moved, and Phil seconded, that the Town pursue the proposal that would power the repeater by burying a electric line from the power pole under the road to the Webster property to the existing power line currently serving the repeater. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

(b) Updates (8:39pm):

- i. Phil Dechert detailed recent activities on a new computer backup system.
- ii. Michael Reese noted that Twin State Roofing promptly responded to proposed changes to the roof installation. He appreciated the company's responsiveness and expects the changes to be completed shortly.
- iii. Phil Dechert reported the Town is engaging a carpenter to work on the doors, and is seeking an estimate from an additional electrician. His target is to have the exits and lighting completed by the school's Harvest Supper.
- iv. Mark Warner received approval of the Town's plan to address fire code issues from the Vermont Assistant State Fire Marshal.
- v. During an upcoming Board meeting, Phil Dechert will present his ideas on long term planning for Town Hall improvements.

6. Other Business (8:47pm):

- (a) Mark Warner arranged new services for Town phone plans, which will save about \$40 per month.

7. Approval of Minutes of prior meetings:

- (a) Mark Warner moved, and Michael Reese seconded, to approve the draft minutes from the July 2, 2014 meeting with changes. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (b) Mark Warner moved, and Michael Reese seconded, to approve the draft minutes from the July 9, 2014 meeting with a change to the corrected date. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (c) Mark Warner moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, to approve the draft minutes from the July 16, 2014 meeting with changes. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (d) Mark Warner moved, and Michael Reese seconded, to approve the draft minutes from the August 6, 2014 meeting without changes. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

(e) Mark Warner moved, and Michael Reese seconded, to approve the draft minutes from the August 13, 2014 meeting with a change to add Mike Barcomb to the list of attendees. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

8. Public Comment: Melanie Williams appreciates the civil, cordial and functional tone of tonight's meeting. However, she said it is not okay to see the flagrant violation of the open meeting law on July 16th. She expected the Board to explain its reasoning this evening for the three executive sessions held on July 16th, but the Board decided not to do so. After reviewing emails to Board members, she determined the likely subject matters of the executive sessions and believes that at least two of the issues were not appropriate for executive session. The Board agreed it should have more carefully reviewed and discussed the bases for the executive sessions.

9. Following proper motion, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Reese, Selectboard Clerk

Approved at October 15, 2014 Meeting