

# Town of Pomfret

5218 Pomfret Road  
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Draft Minutes of the October 1, 2014 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Mark Warner (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Phil Dechert (Selectboard Member), Arthur Lewin, Sr. (Road Foreman), Ellen DesMeules (Treasurer), Anne Bower (Library Trustee), Betsy Siebeck (Library Trustee), Melanie Williams, Emily Grube, Greg Tuthill and John Moore.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Warner at 7:06pm at the Town Offices.
2. Review of Agenda: The Board agreed to add to the Agenda the following: modify agenda item 6.c. to include consideration of the readoption of dog ordinance.
3. Public Comment: Betsy Siebeck expressed concern about insufficient traffic enforcement on the Pomfret Road, which has experienced a substantial increase over the years including large commercial vehicles.
4. Treasurer's Report (7:13pm):
  - (a) Warrants for Payment: The Board unanimously approved the following warrants for payment: 204, 206 and 207.
  - (b) Homestead Declaration Filing Penalty: Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Town remove the penalty for the 2014 tax bills that were mailed relating to homestead declarations. Michael Reese suggested the Board consider conditioning the action upon a legal opinion that might limit the Board's authority on the matter. Following further discussion, the Board approved the motion with Phil Dechert and Mark Warner voting yes, and Michael Reese voting no.
5. Road Foreman's Report (7:44 pm):
  - (a) Update on activities:
    - i. Road grading: The highway crew graded a few roads that needed it and moved on the ditching with excavator. They installed three culverts on Joe Ranger Road and reshaped a ditch on the Hartford end. They have more to do next week or the week after.
    - ii. White fog-line painting: The state funded yellow line contractor does not install white fog lines. The Road Foreman contacted Scott's Linestripping in Burlington who could not do it this year. He also contacted L&D Safety Marking who priced it at \$6,336 for 15 miles (.08 cents/foot). The Board will seek additional information on fog line pricing and safety for review at an upcoming meeting.
    - iii. Edging along paved roads: In response to questions, the Road Foreman will work on filling in washed-out edges along the paved roads. Next year, the road crew will be installing large stones unearthed from the Barber Hill Road bridge project to stabilize the bank in front of the Roberts' residence in South Pomfret.

- iv. Road Crew: The Road Foreman indicated that the missing road crew member has not affected the ability to complete the required tasks.
  - v. Cracksealing: The Road Foreman said that Nicom Coatings is hoping to start within two weeks from today (10/1/14).
  - vi. Sand purchase: The Road Foreman noted he was incorrect about the sand prices at last meeting which are as follows: Twin State: \$19.80/yard; Pike: \$14.25/yard; and D&D: \$13.50/yard. Mark Warner moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Town arrange for the purchase of sand from D&D instead of Twin State (as voted at last meeting). After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
  - vii. Culvert Replacement at 7090 Pomfret Road: The Road Foreman reported that Hook Construction has ordered the culvert. Once a date is set, Mark Warner will notify those affected.
  - viii. Barber Hill Road bridge: The Road Foreman reported that Hook Construction has poured the second wall on Monday, 9/29/14, and will be out of the waterway by this Friday, 10/3/14. They will start backfilling against the concrete walls by next Friday, 10/11/14.
- (b) Salt contract with Cargill: After speaking with a Cargill representative, Mark Warner presented two options: 1). Purchase with the State at a cost \$83.52/ton with a potential fuel surcharge and delivery of 1,000 tons are guaranteed; or 2). \$75.52/ton without a fuel surcharge but delivery is not guaranteed. Cargill said they learned from their mistakes from last year's shortage. Phil Dechert has not heard back from his contacts relating to Morton for an alternative price. Mark Warner noted the Town's acceptance of this price does not require purchase if another source costs less. Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Town agree to \$75.52/ton without a fuel surcharge from Cargill. Following further discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (c) Repair of Bridge #16 on Pomfret Road over Mill Brook: The Road Foreman met with Patrick Ross from the State's river management department and contractor Wayne Hook to survey the undermined concrete on the footing of the bridge. They agreed new concrete should be poured and install 2 inch stone with 7 inch stone in between along the stream bed. The Road Foreman contacted Chase Site Services and Hook Construction for quotes. Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Board waive its purchasing policy and authorize the Road Foreman to contract with Hook Construction and Chase Site Services in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to repair the bridge. Michael Reese suggested the Board obtain additional bids in order to seek the best price. Following further discussion, the Board approved the motion with Mark Warner and Phil Dechert voting yes, and Michael Reese voting no.

6. Unfinished Business (8:40pm):

(a) Emergency Services antenna/repeater:

- i. While researching alternative options, Mark Warner noted he received the following quotes for ditching from Nelson Bugbee to bury an electric line all the way to the repeater without crossing Angela Barcomb's property: \$875 from the electric pole to a point across the road from the former site of Jim Jillson's quonset hut, and \$1,800 a distance of 850 feet to the repeater.
- ii. Mark Warner reported on favorable correspondence from the Webster family.
- iii. Phil Dechert reported he arranged the preparation by Attorney Peter DesMeules of an easement from Angela Barcomb to the Town and eventual review by Ms. Barcomb's

attorney.

- (b) Update on Town Hall: roof, clapboards, fire code issues, and long-term capital improvements (8:51pm):
  - i. Michael Reese has contacted Bill Cole to install ice/water shield along with other measures to seal the building for the winter.
  - ii. Phil Dechert reported on the completion of carpentry work to reverse the swinging doors and install 'panic' door levers. The emergency lighting will be completed after the Harvest Supper. The Assistant Fire Marshal is pleased with the progress.
  - iii. Phil Dechert will present a written proposal for the process to review long term capital improvements at the next Board meeting.
- (c) Dog ordinance re-adoption (8:56pm): Phil Dechert reported that he did not arrange notice of the dog ordinance within the required time frame following last meeting's vote. Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Board re-adopt the dog ordinance previously approved. Michael Reese noted he has opposed the dog ordinance penalty provisions, and therefore was voting against it. Following further discussion, the Board approved the motion with Mark Warner and Phil Dechert voting yes, and Michael Reese voting no.
- (d) Appoint committee for preparing Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (9:01pm): Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that he and Mark Warner invite people (from a list presented by Phil) to join a committee to draft a hazard mitigation plan with support from Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Commission. The actual composition of members will be determined at the next Board meeting. Michael Reese suggested the meetings be held efficiently, because at least two of the proposed members (Road Foreman and Zoning Administrator) will be paid by the Town for their time.
- (e) Determine options for enacting flood hazard regulations (9:12pm): The Board agreed that drafting updated flood hazard regulations is the Planning Commission's responsibility. Phil Dechert will check with Kevin Geiger for deadlines.

7. New Business (9:18 pm):

- (a) Road permit application: Eric Maynard, Allen Hill Road: Michael Reese moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Board authorize the Road Commissioner and Board Chair to approve the application for agricultural access subject to the terms on the application which include installation of a culvert along with road ditch and other terms. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (b) Abbott Library cresting tiles (9:34pm): Library trustee, Ann Bower, reported that replacing the cresting tiles on the roof will cost about \$75,666 which is more than originally anticipated. In order to apply for a \$20,000 grant whose application is due 10/6/14, the library requested the Town guarantee \$4,316 in addition to other sources which include the following: fundraising (actual and pledges) to date: \$22,350; Town Reserves (actual and pledges): \$9,000; and Library reserve: \$20,000. Michael Reese moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Town guarantee up to \$4,316 from the Town Building reserve fund for the cost of replacing the cresting tiles. Ms. Bower noted the library is continuing its fundraising and expects these Town funds will not be necessary. Following further discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (c) Process for preparing budget for next fiscal year: Given the late time of the meeting, the Board agreed to present proposals at its next meeting.

- (d) Raymond Potter Tree Fund: consider distribution: The Treasurer reported that Raymond Potter's daughter, Sheila Murray, said she would be in favor of the Town spending the remaining funds held in the Raymond Potter Tree Fund to buy trees in the general vicinity of the Town buildings so long as they were properly maintained. Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Board authorize disbursement of the remainder of the fund for the purchase, planting and maintenance of trees in the vicinity of the Town buildings.
- (e) Authorize request for school snowplowing bids: Mark Warner moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Board arrange for the advertisement of a Request for Proposal for snowplowing at the school for a three year contract. The Town has been snowplowing the school lot for a number years. Following further discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

8. Minutes of prior meetings: The Board deferred action on review of the minutes for the Board's August 20, 2014 and September 17, 2014 meetings.

9. Public Comment: None.

10. Following proper motion, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:14pm.

Dated: 10/4/2014

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael Reese, Selectboard Clerk