

Town of Pomfret

5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Minutes of the November 5, 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), Betsy Siebeck (Library Trustee), Jon Fredholm (Constable), Emily Grube, Bill Cole, Ona Chase, Keith Chase, Steve Chamberlin and Scott Woodward.

1. Call to Order: The Meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Warner at 7:00pm at the Town Offices.
2. Review of Agenda: The Board agreed to add to the Agenda the following: add to Treasurer's Report review of invoice submitted by Ona Chase for work on the cemetery.
3. Public Comment:
 - (a) Mark Warner reported the Town is mourning the recent loss of David Luce, who has served the Town for many decades.
 - (b) Ona Chase asked about the planting of a tree in honor of service to the Town of Hazel Harrington.
4. Dog Ordinance Comments: The Board will review possible changes following its work on the budget in early 2015.
5. Treasurer's Report
 - (a) Review and action on warrants for payment: The Board unanimously approved the following warrants for payment: 219 and 221.
 - i. The Board discussed the budgeting for breathing apparatus for the fire department(also known as SCBA's).
 - (b) Distribution of Scott Harrington Road Fund: Mark Warner moved, and Michael Reese seconded, to distribute all remaining funds contained in the Scott Harrington Road Fund in coordination with the family to remember Scott Harrington. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
 - (c) Invoice from Ona Chase for Cemetery Work: Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Board approve the invoice. The Board discussed the need for documentation for lump sum payments going for further reimbursement to third parties. Following further discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
6. Road Foreman's Report
 - (a) Michael Reese moved, and Mark Warner seconded, to approve the request from Keith and Ona Chase to install underground electrical service beneath Hewitt Hill Road with any further conditions as may be imposed by the Road Foreman. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

(b) Update on activities

- i. Cracksealing: Cracksealing began two days ago.
- ii. Culvert replacement at 7090 Pomfret Road: Contractor finished pouring the concrete walls last Friday, stripped the walls on Monday and started back-filling. The road is back to two lanes.
- iii. Barber Hill Road Bridge: The project is ahead of schedule.
- iv. Repair of Bridge #16 on Pomfret Road over Mill Brook: The Road Foreman recommended that the Town complete these repairs next summer, because it is late in the year and the risk of structural damage is minimal.
- v. Record-keeping Computer Program: The Road Foreman and Mark Warner are still working on additions to categories before forwarding requested improvements to Rita Seto at Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Planning Commission.
- vi. Snow Fencing: The Road Foreman is planning on putting it up next week.
- vii. Payments to Hook Construction: Phil Dechert reported on a conversation with Wayne Hook. Others discussed the process of authorizing payments.

7. Unfinished Business

- (a) Budget Process: The Board discussed the process of formulating the budget.
- (b) Emergency Services Antenna/Repeater:
 - i. Mark Warner reported that the Websters are agreeable to a 5 year term with a 12 month notice of termination thereafter.
 - ii. Mark Warner will seek a second estimate for back-up batteries.
 - iii. Mark Warner moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Town proceed with installing the second PL code (for a new municipal radio frequency in addition to the existing emergency services frequency) and reprogram the municipal radios. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (c) Constable Training Costs:
 - i. The Board, Constable and attendees discussed constable training and options for law enforcement responsibilities. No action was taken.
 - ii. Michael Reese moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Board approve Jon's timesheet less the hours for law enforcement training. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (d) Sheriff Traffic Enforcement:
 - i. Michael Reese reported on his recent discussion with the Windsor County Sheriff about additional coverage on the Pomfret Road from Hewitt Corners to the Hartford town line.
 - ii. Mark Warner will further discuss patrols during rush hours.
 - iii. The Board discussed options for reviewing speed limits. Mark Warner will check with Rita Seto at the regional planning commission for information on costs.
- (e) Snowplowing Bids for Pomfret School:
 - i. Two bids were submitted for three years for winter maintenance of the Pomfret School:
 - A. Ox Hill Construction: \$9,600.00.
 - B. Steve Chamberlin: \$11,700.00.
 - ii. Michael Reese moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Board approve the bid from Ox Hill Construction for winter maintenance of the Pomfret School for the next three years. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (f) Selectboard Assistant: The Board will consider hiring a selectboard assistant following the budget preparation.

(g) Health Insurance for Town Employees and Officials:

- i. Phil Dechert noted that health care coverage costs have increased about 6%.
- ii. The Board discussed transitioning to a set dollar amount of coverage regardless of the family status for future years.
- iii. Phil Dechert moved, and Mark seconded the motion, that the Town continue to provide full-time employees with the existing Blue Cross/Blue Shield gold plan with an option to permit them to put the amount of the gold premium toward a different plan if they so choose. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- iv. Phil Dechert will discuss health insurance options with the Treasurer and Town Clerk following the meeting.

8. New Business

- (a) Letter Regarding Conservation Easement of Chase's Field: Mark Warner moved, and Michael Reese seconded, that the Board approve the draft letter endorsing the effort to conserve the so-called Chase field with a permanent conservation easement. The Planning Commission fully supports the effort. Following additional discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (b) Review Correspondence: The Board received a letter from John Semple.

9. Other Business

- (a) Telecommunications for Abbott Memorial Library: Betsy Siebeck expressed concern about changes to library telecommunications without consultation. She noted the library has independent authority over its operations and expenditures.
- (b) Review and Action on Additional Warrants for Payment: The Board unanimously approved the following warrants for payment: 222 and 223 for payees Ona Chase and Jon Fredholm.

10. Minutes of prior meetings: No action taken.

11. Public Comment:

- (a) Steve Chamberlin requested a copy of the bids for the winter maintenance at school.

12. Adjournment: Following motion and second, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 10/21/2014

Michael Reese

Approved at February 18, 2015 Meeting