

Town of Pomfret

5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Minutes of the November 19, 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), Emily Grube, Bill Cole, Ona Chase, Steve Chamberlin, Melanie Williams, Gaal Crowl, Laura Kent (Auditor), Sherman Kent, and Orson St. John.

1. Call to Order: The Meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Warner at 7:07pm at the Town Offices.

2. Public Comment:

(a) Laura Kent described the responses from certain Board members as lacking cooperation and collegiality regarding an Audit Board request for information relating to a payment for the Constable. The role of the Auditors in relation to the Selectboard was discussed.

3. Treasurer's Report

(a) Review and action on warrants for payment: The Board unanimously approved the following warrants for payment: _____.

(b) The Treasurer presented a fiscal year-to-date income and expenditure report.

(c) The Treasurer requested guidance from the Board for timing of large expenditures in order to more efficiently coordinate the withdrawal of funds from certificates of deposits and other investments.

4. Road Foreman's Report

(a) Update on activities

i. General Update:

A. There were three motor vehicle accidents following the recent ice/snow/rain storm after the roads have been salted. Accordingly, the Road Foreman asked the public to slow down during hazardous road conditions.

B. Guard rail repairs have been completed by contractors.

C. Roadside leaf blowing is finished.

D. Two requests to dig trenches under town roads were approved on Caper Street and Hewitt Hill Road.

E. The road crew is preparing for winter, including maintenance of vehicles.

ii. Filling in edges along paved roads: Roadside edges will be filled in next Tuesday or Wednesday if the weather warms up.

iii. Culvert Replacement at 7090 Pomfret Road: Vtrans and state stream management officials reviewed the project and noted it was completed according to the plans.

iv. Barber Hill Road Bridge: The Town's engineer and a state stream management official reviewed the project and noted it was completed according to the plans. The Road Foreman said the additional guardrails are recommended but were not included in the contract and may cost the Town an additional \$2,000-\$3,000.

- v. Record-keeping computer program: Rita Seto at the regional planning commission program is working on the Road Foreman's requested changes to update the program. The Road Foreman noted that monthly data entry takes about 20 minutes to perform.
- vi. Cracksealing: The cracksealing contractor did not seal all of the paved roads. The Road Foreman arranged for them to return in the Spring.
- vii. Embankment on Pomfret Road (just north of Bunker Hill Road): The Road Foreman will prepare a bid package for the work to be completed next spring/summer to be reviewed by state officials to confirm federal highway funding for this project.
- viii. Johnson Road Winter Maintenance: The Road Foreman noted that upgrading Johnson Road would require the upgrade of two culverts, removal of a dozen trees and stumps, and installing hardpack (about \$6,000 to \$8,000 worth) which would take about five working days. The Board will consider motions regarding winter maintenance and seasonal closures of Johnson Road, Old Kings Highway and Wild Apple Road (Class 4 section) at its next regular meeting on December 3, 2014.

5. Unfinished Business

(a) Pomfret School Winter Maintenance Bids:

- i. Steve Chamberlin objected to the Board's award of the Pomfret School winter maintenance contract to Ox Hill Construction (Bill Cole) at the Board's November 12, 2014 meeting, because the Ox Hill Construction bid did not attach references and proof of liability insurance as required by the Request for Proposal (RFP). At the November 12th meeting, Bill Cole noted the insurance information and references were already on file in the town offices.
- ii. Mark Warner moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Board rescind the offer to Bill Cole, because it did not meet the requirements of the RFP and that the Board award the Pomfret School Winter Maintenance Contract to Steve Chamberlin who met the requirements. Following additional discussion, the Board approved the motion (Mark Warner and Phil Dechert voted yes, and Michael Reese voted no). Bill Cole agreed to donate to the Town his services and three applications of salt during the recent storm.

(b) Emergency Services Antenna/Repeater Update: The conduit for electric line has been installed from the edge of Bartlett Brook Road to the top of the hill where the antenna/repeater is located. The electrician will install the wire and connect the antenna/repeater. The final connection to the power grid will be completed upon the installation of a new pole by Fairpoint Communications. Mark Warner noted potential delays in this process as a result of the strike by union workers.

(c) Health Insurance for Town Clerk and Treasurer: At an upcoming meeting, Phil Dechert will propose a compensation arrangement to account for the lack of health insurance coverage provided to the Town Clerk and Treasurer.

(d) Sheriff's Patrols: Mark Warner recently spoke with a Deputy Sheriff and requested that additional patrols include the northern sections of the Pomfret Road.

6. New Business:

- (a) Letter in Support of White River Ledges Natural Area: Phil Dechert moved, and Michael Reese seconded, that the Board authorize Mark Warner to sign the proposed letter (attached to the agenda) on behalf of the Board in support of The Nature Conservancy's application to include the trail at White River Ledges Natural Area in Pomfret as part of the Vermont Trails System as designated by the Vermont Trails & Greenways Council. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (b) Highway Budget: The Board reviewed and discussed a proposed budget presented by the Road Foreman that includes funds for the highway department's operations, paving, tractor with brush hog, and funding of the equipment reserve account.

7. Other Business: None.

8. Minutes of prior meetings: No action taken.

9. Public Comment: None.

10. Adjournment: Following motion and second, the Board adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 11/21/2014

Michael Reese

Approved at February 18, 2015 Meeting