

# Town of Pomfret

5218 Pomfret Road  
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Minutes of the February 4, 2015 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Mark Warner (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Phil Dechert (Selectboard Member), Ellen DesMeules (Treasurer), Arthur Lewin, Sr. (Road Foreman), Laura Kent (Auditor), Sherman Kent, Melanie Williams, Peter Vollers, Katie Savage (Vermont Standard), Emily Grube, Jon Fredholm, Amanda Metevier and Andrew Mann.

1. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to Order at 7:02pm.
2. Review of Agenda: The Board agreed to the following changes to the Agenda: 1. Add Selectboard Budget Narrative to Unfinished Business; and 2. Add Auditor update on Town Report.
3. Public Comment: Betsy Siebeck noted the importance of hiring an Administrative Assistant and encouraged the Board to prepare a job description and interview candidates for position before the beginning of the next fiscal year (July 1, 2015).
4. Treasurer's Report:
  - (a) For warrant for payment, see paragraph 8 below.
  - (b) The Treasurer is focusing the majority of her time on financial reports for the Town Report.
5. Auditors' Update: Laura Kent reported the Town Report is expected to go to the printers on Friday. One financial report has been difficult to produce due to the transition from the new accounting system.
6. Road Foreman's Report:
  - (a) Update on activities:
    - i. Truck Problems: In the past couple of days, the 2wd plow truck broke down (rear end came out from underneath) and was towed to the repair shop. When the road crew switched to the scraper truck, it ran for four hours and overheated again. At the same time, the one ton truck was being repaired leaving the Town with just two trucks to plow, salt and sand the entire 67 miles of road in Town. The one ton truck is back in operation.
    - ii. New Scraper Truck:
      - A. The wheel base of the new scraper truck is one foot too long for the planned 10 foot dump body, leaving a four foot gap between the cab and dump body. In order to fix the problem, the body installer (Fairfields) needs to either install a longer body (11 foot instead of 10 foot) or the truck dealer (J&B) must move the rear axle forward. An 11 foot body would cost \$2,000 and the wait time will be an additional 2 weeks beyond the expected delivery date. Moving the axle forward would cost at least \$2,500 and require review by engineers to ensure a proper drive shaft angle.
      - B. The Road Foreman suggested installing the 11 dump body, which would reduce the number of trips hauling sand to Sessions Meadow Road.
      - C. Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Road Foreman arrange for the 11 foot dump body to correct the issue which was quoted at \$2,000, and the suppliers shall take all responsibility for the additional costs. Following further discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

- iii. Sand: The Road Foreman clarified his calculation of \$61,000 worth of sand used this winter, which he noted at the Board's previous regular meeting (1/21/2015): we had \$27,000 left in the six month budget which we spent on sand last Spring. We have spent over \$33,000 to have sand hauled in already this season. The sand pile is almost as far back as it was at the same time last winter. We have \$20,000-\$23,000 left. The Road Foreman does not believe we will run out, but it will be close.
- iv. Salt: We have about \$12,000 left in salt, which will probably be for the rest of the winter. He will follow Rutland's approach: he will not salt until after the snowstorm, unless it is a heavy snow.
- (b) Overtime: Michael Reese noted that recent additional overtime costs seemed high (for example, the Road Foreman had 80 regular hours and 50 for overtime over the past two weeks) and suggested the Town explore ways to manage these additional costs. The Road Foreman noted he was significantly under-budget for labor costs.
- (c) Road Mileage Certificate (& Ancient Roads):
  - i. Michael Reese noted the State agency of transportation interpreted the ancient roads law (see attached) to allow towns to identify any unmapped roads or "unidentified corridors" by July 1, 2015, and the filing of the Road Mileage Certificate by February 10, 2015 does not affect such roads. It was noted the Town has not embarked upon the potentially substantial task of identifying old roads.
  - ii. Michael Reese moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Town approve the Road Mileage Certificate and authorized the Chair to sign and deliver the certificate to the state. Following additional discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (d) December Winter Storm Damage: Mark Warner noted the federal government approval of a federal disaster declaration for the December 9-12, 2014 storm damage. The Chair, Road Foreman and Michael Reese will review any expenses eligible for reimbursement.

## 7. New Business:

- (a) Vermont Overland Grand Prix Bicycle Race:
  - i. Race promoter, Peter Vollers, presented the plans for the Sunday, August 23, 2015 race. Mr. Vollers plans to reduce the number of motorcycles which are used for safety and communications. Last year, there were about 20 motorcycles. This year, there will be 4 or 5 EMT's (Emergency Medical Technicians) on motorcycles. There will be a jeep or landrover at the front, middle and back of race group. In total, there will be less than 10 motor vehicles. Also, Mr. Vollers noted the benefit of the race to the local economy.
  - ii. Michael Reese moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, to permit the Vermont Overland Grand Prix bicycle race to be held on August 23, 2015 in Town conditioned upon the provision of appropriate traffic support and receipt of an appropriate insurance binder with the Town named as an additional insured. A resident expressed concern about the rude behavior of motorcycle race guides and interference with her business. Following further discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (b) Former Constable Issues: The Board, former Constable and members of the public discussed at length the former Constable's bill of \$4,386. The Board agreed to review his payment request at the next regular meeting in order to review additional information.
- (c) 2016 Fiscal Year Proposed Budget Narrative: The Board agreed not to include a draft Budget Narrative in the Town Report.
- (d) Lamson concerns regarding Board policies: Neil Lamson presented a letter with a list of questions relating to minutes, warrants for payment and public records requests. The Board agreed to review and respond at a later date.

8. Warrants for Payment: Mark Warner moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that/ the Board approve warrant for payment number 251 in the total amount of \$9,014.84. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
9. New Business (continued):
  - (a) Preparations for Pre-Town Meeting Information Session: The Board agreed to hold a pre-town meeting information session on February 24, 2015 at 7pm at the Town Offices.
10. Public Comment: None.
11. Adjournment: Following motion and second, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:31pm.

Dated: 2/12/2015

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Reese

Approved at February 18, 2015 Meeting