

Town of Pomfret

5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Draft Minutes of the February 18, 2015 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Mark Warner (Selectboard Member), Phil Dechert (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Art Lewin (Road Foreman), Laura Kent (Auditor), Melanie Williams, Betsy Siebeck, Sherman Kent, Andrew Mann and Emily Grube.

1. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to Order at 7:00pm.
2. Review of Agenda: The Board agreed to the following changes to the Agenda: 1. Add correspondence relating to highway speed and parking issues to Road Foreman's Report; 2. Add review of seasonal road posting notice to Road Foreman's Report; and 3. Add review of resolution relating to solar siting and screening to New Business.
3. Public Comment: None.
4. Road Foreman's Report:
 - (a) Update on activities:
 - i. Snowstorms: The road crew has been dealing with recent snowstorms. Snowbanks on over a third of the roads have been winged back. Worst areas so far were Galaxy Hill Road, Skyline Drive, and Wild Apple Road.
 - ii. New Scraper Truck:
 - A. The Road Foreman learned from the body assembler (Fairfields) that the new truck has been delayed until May or June.
 - B. Following negotiations, Michael Reese reported that Fairfields and the manufacturer (J&B) have agreed to pay \$1,000 each toward the increased cost of the longer dump body.
 - iii. Computer Program: Mark Warner expects to review the improved road program this weekend.
 - iv. Old Scraper Truck: The truck needs tie rod ends and repair of chronic overheating.
 - v. Federal Disaster Declaration for storm damage (12/9/14 – 12/12/14): No update.
 - vi. Seasonal Road Posting Notice: Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Board post the roads as follows: “Pursuant to 19 VSA § 1110, the Pomfret Selectboard has posted all Class 2 and Class 3 town highways, effective March 1, 2015 through May 15, 2015. No vehicle having a weight, including vehicle and load, in excess of the weights specified [as follows], shall be operated on any part of any Class 2 and Class 3 town highway which are posted, except by permission of the Pomfret Road Foreman: Two axle trucks 15,000 lbs; Three axle trucks 18,000 lbs; and Tractor-trailer units 20,000 lbs.” Michael Reese noted that the recently submitted Town Highway and Bridge Weight Restriction Filings will require amendments to reflect these seasonal weight limits. Following further discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
 - vii. Parking issues on Skyline Drive, off Webster Hill Road and Windy Lane: Mark Warner reported a concern by a resident that several vehicles were parked along Skyline Drive interfering with the traveling portion of the roadway. It was suggested the Town contact the vehicle owners to alert them of the concern. The Road Foreman noted the Town's Summer and Winter Road Maintenance Policy which states that “[v]ehicles left in the travelled portion of a road, thus interfering with plowing or sanding operations, may be

towed at the owner's risk and expense.” The Board will review state law as well and consider enforcement options.

viii. Review of Speed Limits: Following receipt of a letter from Shaun and Pam Pickett expressing concern about inadequate speed limit designations in South Pomfret, Mark Warner reported that he has asked Rita Seto at Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission to perform speed and traffic counts in various locations around Town during the springtime.

ix. Pushing Snow across Roadways: *The Road Foreman expressed concern that snow plowed from private driveways across roadways are causing frozen and immovable snowbanks on the opposite side of road, making it more difficult to plow and wing back those snowbanks along roadways. The Board discussed methods of reminding residents and any plow contractors not to remove snow in this manner.*

5. Unfinished Business:

(a) Minutes of Prior Meetings: Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Board approve all draft minutes from meetings from October 15, 2014 through February 4, 2015, except the December 17, 2014 meeting. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

(b) Former Constable Bill: Residents expressed various viewpoints about where the responsibility lies for this invoice. Phil Dechert moved, and Mark Warner seconded, that the Board approve payment for the part of the bill relating to the Harvest Supper, including mileage, and not approve the training, and mileage relating to the training, because payment for the training was not authorized or budgeted. Following further discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

6. Treasurer's Report:

(a) Review and action on warrants for payment: Mark Warner moved, and Michael Reese seconded, that the Board approve check warrants 252, 253, 254 and 255. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

(b) Payment for new scraper truck: Mark Warner moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Board approve payment to J&B International for payment for the scraper truck delivered to the body installer (Fairfields) in December in the amount of \$43,683 less an agreed-upon credit of \$1,000. Michael Reese expressed concerns about outstanding costs relating to problems with the truck and that paying this bill before it is delivered to the Town might make it more difficult to recoup those costs from the truck manufacturer. Following further discussion, the Board approved the motion, with Mark Warner and Phil Dechert voting yes, and Michael Reese voting no.

7. Unfinished Business (continued):

(a) Preparations for Pre-Town Meeting Information Session: The Board discussed the presentation of topics.

8. New Business:

(a) Preparations for Town Meeting: The Board discussed the logistics of preparing for Town Meeting on March 3rd at 9am, including setting up chairs, asking a pastor to speak, and fire safety requirements.

9. Other Business:

- (a) Resolution relating to solar siting and screening: Phil Dechert noted the Planning Commission's request for the Board to consider a "Resolution to increase the input of Vermont municipalities regarding the siting of renewable energy projects in Certificate of Public Good proceedings." The Board will put this matter on a future agenda for consideration.

10. Public Comment: Emily Grube suggested that the Board put review of prior meeting minutes at the beginning of the agenda to encourage more timely consideration.

11. Adjournment: Following motion and second, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10:14pm.

Dated: 2/23/2015

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Reese