

Town of Pomfret

5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Draft Minutes of the March 4, 2015 Regular Select Board Meeting

Select Board members present: Phil Dechert, Michael Reese, Scott Woodward
Others present: Melanie Williams, Betsy Siebeck, Sherman Kent, Neil Lamson, Bruce Tuthill, Emily Grube, Art Lewin (Road Foreman), Ellen DesMeules (Treasurer), Laura Kent, Andrew Mann, Norm Buchanan (Lister)

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

The Select Board began business with the election of a new Chair and Clerk.

- Reese motioned to nominate Dechert to be Chair. Woodward seconded the motion. Reese and Woodward voted in favor while Dechert abstained. Dechert elected Chair.
- Dechert motioned to nominate Woodward to be Clerk. Reese seconded the motion. Reese and Dechert voted in favor while Woodward abstained. Woodward elected Clerk.

The second order of business was to review the meeting agenda. Three agenda items were added: review of a solar siting resolution, framing of tasks to develop a new town budget, and discussion of receiving and processing bills from a S. Pomfret P.O. Box.

The third order of business was to receive public comment.

- Tom Havill, property owner on Sugar House Rd. raised issue of property destruction from grader during snow plowing; he owns a fence along edge of the road that had gone without incident for eight years (fence is 2/10's of a mile long), but is not gone. The Select Board will look into the details.
- Andrew Mann raised question about how and when the Select Board will address redoing the town budget.
- Andrew Mann raised issue of the future of Audit Board and Listers and how Select Board going to deal with it. Believes Listers more urgent.
- Sherman Kent made the point that it's the Select Board that will "frame" the conversation for budgeting
- Betsy Siebeck made the point that the job description for admin assistant for July 1st needs to be done sooner than later to get the person on the ground and running.
- Neil Lamson raised a number of issues in a February letter. He wants an update and wants it on the agenda for upcoming meetings.

The fourth order of business was to review meeting minutes.

- No minutes to approve; briefly discussed outstanding minutes – will deal with those next meeting.

The fifth and sixth orders of business were to receive the Treasurer's and Highway Foreman's reports.

- Outstanding warrants were approved and signed – payroll warrant 258 and AP warrant 259.
- Lewin reported that:
 - Smashed 2 of 3 windshields on loader at a cost of around \$1,000;
 - Scraper truck is non-op, waiting for parts;
 - Sand is still being hauled in, storing it potentially for next year;
 - Seasonal posting of roads going up next week until May 15th (cannot get into Pomfret without passing one of these signs);
 - Has not heard back from Rita at TRORC regarding Materials Management System and adding even greater detail to the software;
 - No updates on federal disaster application for December 2014 storm; and
 - Raised issue of objects in the public right-of-way that makes plowing difficult in winter. The town should consider notifying property owners of these obstructions.

The seventh order of business was new business:

- The board presented the solar siting resolution to those present and will decide whether to sign it at the next regular meeting.
- The board next discussed the revised budget and what steps will be necessary to get it accomplished; need to establish a timeline and work backwards.
- The Liquor and Tobacco License Renewal Application for Teago General Store was discussed, approved and signed.
- The Meeting Resolution document was deferred to the next regular meeting.
- Dechert motioned, Reese seconded that the Vermont Standard be the Town's primary newspaper for notice and the Valley News as a back-up/alternative. All voted in favor of the motion.
- Reese moved to authorize the Chair or Clerk to sign payroll warrants pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 1623. Dechert seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
- Reese moved to authorize the Chair or Clerk to sign Accounts Payable warrants pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 1623. Woodward seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
- Dechert motioned to re-adopt the "Select Board Meeting Procedures for Public Participation." Reese seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
- Reese moved to appoint Art Lewin as the Tree Warden. Dechert seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
- A brief discussion of the Town Poundkeeper appointment ensued, but no appointment was made.
- The board discussed upcoming appointments that will need to be filled. The list will need to be refined and then posted to the Town website and listserv.

The eighth order of business was to receive final public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:47pm.

Dated: March 5th, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Woodward
Clerk