

**Town of Pomfret
5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053**

Draft Minutes of the March 18, 2015 Regular Select Board Meeting

Select Board members present: Phil Dechert, Michael Reese, Scott Woodward
Others present: Bill Emmons, Ellen DesMeules, Emily Grube, Neil Lamson, Melanie Williams, Betsy Siebeck, Laura Kent, Sherman Kent, Nancy Matthews, Ted Matthews

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Phil Dechert, at 7:01pm.

The Chair reviewed the published agenda at 7:04pm and added the following items:

- Additions
 - A review of a price quote from Pike Industries for hard-pack
 - A discussion and approval of exception from Town policy to hire Arthur Lewin's son as a temporary part-time employee during mud season
 - Ellen DesMeules added a change in the appointment of the E911 Coordinator
 - Though not an addition to the meeting agenda, Laura Kent urged the Board put a discussion of the future of the Listers on the next meeting agenda

The Board next heard a few minutes of public comment.

The Board next considered and approved past meeting minutes at 7:09pm.

- Minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting held on February 18, 2015: The Chair moved to approve the minutes, Michael Reese seconded and Scott Woodward abstained. The motion carried with two votes.
- Minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting held on February 24, 2015: The Chair moved to approve the minutes, Michael Reese seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- Minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting held on March 4, 2015 (with edits): Michael Reese motioned to approve, Phil Dechert seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Ellen DesMeules next provided the Treasurer's Report:

- Warrants 261 (Payroll) & 262 (Accounts Payable) were authorized and signed by the Board
- Paperwork related to the Labounty Trust was briefly discussed and signed. The signatures appointed two Select Board members to be the trustees – Phil Dechert and Michael Reese.
- The Board approved a change in appointment of the E911 Coordinator from Ellen DesMeules (Treasurer) to Becky Fielder (Town Clerk). Phil Dechert motioned to

approve the change in appointment and Michael Reese seconded the motion. The motioned carried unanimously.

Arthur Lewin next provided the Road Foreman's Report:

- The Board discussed and approved an exception to Town Conflicts of Interest policy against nepotism. Art requested that the Town hire his son as a part-time, temporary employee during mud season.
 - The Board imposed the following conditions on the hire:
 - A specific end date of May 15th, 2015
 - Should any kind of employment conflict arise, the Board will resolve the conflict rather than the Road Foreman.
 - Phil Dechert motioned to approve the exception to policy and Michael Reese seconded the motion. The motioned carried unanimously.
 - The Board next discussed and approved the pay rate for the hire. It was decided to set a rate of \$19.50/hr. Phil Dechert made the motion and Michael Reese seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.
- A lengthy discussion was had about the price quote from Pike Industries. The main concern raised was that the Town does not regularly seek competitive bids, informally or during a sealed bid process. It was acknowledged that the Pike Industries quote is favorable. The decision whether to accept the Pike Industries quote was deferred for two days while Michael Reese obtains additional quotes. One important issue is that the Town needs to go back to vendors to find out how much aggregate/hard-pack the Town has purchased in the past so we can have a better sense of usage.
- The Foreman next discussed an email from the State about developing a schedule for repair and retreatment so that VTRANS can come immediately thereafter to paint center line. Phil Dechert noted that we can't really respond to VTRANS yet until we have a better sense of the overall near-term paving plan.

The Board next considered the following business items requiring a vote:

- The appointment of a new Auditor was moved to the top of the appointments list.
 - Laura Kent spoke briefly Nancy Matthews' outstanding qualifications
 - Michael Reese motioned to make the appointment, with a term until the next Town Meeting. Phil Dechert seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- The Board next considered and approved an Energy Siting Resolution (Charlotte version of the Rutland Town version submitted)
 - Scott Woodward motioned to approve the Charlotte version of the resolution after a quick review by the Chair of the Planning Commission, Bill Emmons. Phil Dechert seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- Town Meeting Minutes

- Michael Reese moved to approve Town Meeting minutes with changes. Phil Dechert seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Michael will contact the Town Clerk to see if the changes can be made without difficulty.
- Phil Dechert next moved to approve the School Meeting minutes. Michael Reese seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- A discussion of Meeting Rules of Procedure was deferred.
- Other Town Appointments:
 - Solid Waste District Representatives
 - Vern Clifford is the current primary representative and will stay on for another term, but would like to find a replacement next year.
 - Phil Dechert motioned to appoint Vern Clifford. Scott Woodward seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
 - Doug Tuthill is the current alternate, but the Board does not know if he's interested in serving another term. The appointment was deferred until the Board contacts Doug. Michael Reese agreed to do so.
 - Emergency Management Director
 - Kevin Rice is the current appointee and is willing to stay on in the role. The Board needs to clarify the term of the appointment and whether Kevin Rice will need to be appointed again if the term is indefinite.

The following business items were discussed:

- Phil Dechert will contact Tom Havill to find out if he wants to make a formal claim for damages to his fence that was destroyed when the snow banks were recently "winged" back.
- Phil Dechert next provided an update on Radio Repeater project
 - Phil recalled the expenditures: \$12,000 spent so far; another \$2,600 remains for an electrician; there are a few other charges from Wells Communication, but not substantial; there is \$16,000 in the Radio Reserve fund.
 - The easement with the property owners will come to Select Board for discussion and approval.
- The Board next considered a Plan of action on the Town Budget revision
 - Phil Dechert presented a timeline he developed with the Town Clerk
 - The next action item: set weekly budget meetings.
 - Melanie Williams raised an issue about a budget line item of \$1,500 for a reporting service for Emergency Services that we may not need. The Board will look into whether that line item is necessary.
 - Emily Grube made a number of points that the Board should consider in its redrafting of the budget.
- The Board briefly discussed use of Pomfret listserv for distributing public information
 - The Board agreed that it is a good way to distribute information, but is not a substitute for disseminating information through the required means.

- Select Board correspondence
 - Phil Dechert acknowledged a few email messages received by the Board about the March 16, 2015 Special Meeting expressing positive feelings about having held the meeting.
- The Board next hear final public comment
 - Melanie Williams raised the issue of South Pomfret P.O. box where Town bills are received. Phil Dechert noted that the box has been closed out and a process to deal with the bills has been established, including notifying vendors to send bills straight to the Treasurer at the Town Offices.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56pm.

Date drafted: March 19, 2015

Date approved: TBD

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Woodward
Clerk