

Town of Pomfret

5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Draft Minutes of the May 20, 2015 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Eric Chase (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Phil Dechert (Selectboard Member), Ellen DesMeules (Treasurer), Arthur Lewin, Sr. (Road Foreman), Nancy Matthews (Auditor), Laura Kent (Auditor), Kevin Rice (Fire Chief), Ona Chase (Cemetery Commissioner), Emily Grube, Paula Schwenk, Harold Schwenk, Zak Bowley, Scott Woodward, Keith Chase, Joanna Long, Norwood Long, Sherman Kent, Frank Perron, Marge Wakefield, Bob Merrill, Melanie Williams, Betsy Siebeck, Betsy Rhodes, Tina Feeney, and Greg Tuthill

1. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. Review of Agenda: The Board moved the discussion of late filing penalty for homestead declaration and property tax adjustment to the Treasurer's Report.
3. Public Comment:
 - (a) Ona Chase noted that a section of Bunker Hill Road near the cemetery will be closed tomorrow from 7am to noontime.
4. Minutes of Prior Meetings:
 - (a) Eric Chase moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of May 6, 2015 with "six loads of hardpack" to be replaced with "many loads of hardpack" in section 5.(a)x. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
 - (b) Eric Chase moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of May 13, 2015. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
 - (c) Michael Reese sought to clarify the April 15, 2015 minutes by noting he had not agreed to an exception from the Purchasing Policy for the fire truck, and that any agreement described in the minutes did not constitute a vote.
5. Treasurer's Report:
 - (a) Phil Dechert moved, and Michael Reese seconded, that the Board approve check warrants 275, 276 and 277. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
 - (b) The Board discussed the option of assessing an 8% penalty on unpaid property taxes when homestead declarations are filed late.
 - (c) The Treasurer will be working with Accountant Chad Hewitt tomorrow (5/21/15).
6. Road Foreman's Report:
 - (a) General Update:
 - i. Speed study data has been collected by Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission and results will be available the first or second week of June.
 - ii. Road Foreman and Eric Chase have identified two 2.5 mile sections of the Pomfret Road for repaving: 1. Freeman Road to Howe Hill Road; and 2. Bartlett Brook Road to Johnson Road. Three paving companies have been contacted for bids.
 - iii. One ton truck delivery has been delayed based upon an ordering error.
 - iv. Road Foreman has not heard from the large plow/dump truck assembler. The truck is expected by the end of May.
 - (b) Bridge inspection report by VTrans: The Board reviewed the State inspection reports for the five Town bridges over twenty feet. The only concern is scouring under a bridge over Mill Brook located next to Sugarhouse Road for which work is planned this summer.

7. Maintenance Agreement Between State of Vermont Agency of Transportation and Town of Pomfret for (state guardrail work on Route 12) Statewide HES GARD (2) EA/SUBJOB 5100013/100/200/300: The Agreement relates to maintaining guardrails installed by the State off Route 12 on Wayside Road. Eric Chase moved, and Michael Reese seconded, that the Board authorize the Chair to sign the agreement. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
8. New Fire Truck (on the audio recording from 39:21 to 2:36:50)
 - (a) Application of Purchasing Policy: The Board and others in attendance discussed at length the application of the Purchasing Policy to the purchase of the new fire truck. Phil Dechert moved to purchase an E-1 pumper/tanker fire truck from Desorcie Emergency Products, LLC without going through a competitive bid process. Following further discussion, the motion was withdrawn.
 - (b) Proposed Contract: The contract details were not discussed at length.
9. Vermont 100 Race: Michael Reese will research to determine if any Board action was taken last year for this event.
10. Landscaping for Town Office/Town Hall: Phil Dechert moved, and Eric Chase seconded, that the Board ask Bill Cole to continue providing mowing and spring clean-up services under the same conditions performed last year. Following discussion, the Board approved the motion unanimously.
11. Claim for motor vehicle damage (Milne): Michael Reese moved, and Eric Chase seconded, that the Board approve the recommendation from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns that the Town accept 50% responsibility, which would be covered by insurance subject to a \$1,000 deductible, for Scott Milne's motor vehicle damage stemming from a culvert obstructing the road. Following further discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
12. Alcohol consumption at Town Hall: Action on this matter was deferred to a subsequent meeting.
13. EC Fiber proposal for "Hub" at Town Offices: EC Fiber is offering to locate a telecommunications hub on Town property at an exact location to be determined. The Town would receive free high speed broadband for the life of the service. An attorney for the Town will review a long term lease agreement before action is taken.
14. Selectboard policy on distribution of agendas and notices for special meetings: In response to concerns by some residents, the Board will endeavor to distribute special meeting notices and regular meeting agendas earlier than the deadlines required by law.
15. Closing public comments and adjournment: No public comments. Upon proper motion, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 10:06pm.

Date: 5/27/2015

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Reese