

Town of Pomfret

5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Approved (on 7/15/2015) Minutes of the July 1, 2015 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Eric Chase (Selectboard Member), Phil Dechert (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member) (arrived after Paragraph 9), Ellen DesMeules (Treasurer), Arthur Lewin, Sr. (Road Foreman), Kevin Rice (Fire Chief), Marge Wakefield, Emily Grube, Keith Chase, Ona Chase, Melanie Williams and Betsy Siebeck.

1. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Chair noted the Executive Session planned for 6:30pm did not occur.
2. Public Comment: None.
3. Review of Agenda: Phil Dechert noted a technical correction to the Agenda: Section 6.a. should read "June 16th meeting minutes." The Board unanimously approved the motion.
4. Minutes of Prior Meetings: Eric Chase moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Board approve the draft minutes of June 16, 2015. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
5. Treasurer's Report:
 - (a) Warrant for Payment:
 - i. Phil Dechert moved, and Eric Chase seconded, to approve warrant for payment number 289 in the total amount of \$64,675.25. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
 - ii. Phil Dechert moved, and Eric Chase seconded, to approve warrant for payment number 15002 in the total amount of \$118,489.62. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
6. Road Foreman's Report:
 - (a) General Update:
 - i. Tractor fixed and back in service for roadside mowing; finished mowing along paved roads and starting on the back roads;
 - ii. Started grading back road and will continue so long as weather cooperates;
 - iii. Received one ton truck;
 - iv. New dump truck should be delivered next Monday or Tuesday;
 - v. Culvert repaired on Caper Street; and
 - vi. Next couple of weeks, road crew will be grading, ditching, fixing and cleaning out water bars/cut-outs, roadside mowing, and temporary fix to culvert on River Road.
 - (b) Paving: Paving Freeman Road to Howe Hill Road expected between July 20 and August 1st ; hope to have firmer date by next week; need at least one week's notice to fix section of sunken road with underground pipes; no other culverts or issues to address before paving.
 - (c) Guardrails: Received another quote which Road Foreman will review.
 - (d) Road signs: Larger road signs will be ordered to comply with law; start with paved roads, then bigger intersections. Also, new speed warning signs to be ordered.
 - (e) Tractor & Roadside Mower Request for Proposal (RFP): Eric Chase moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that Road Foreman prepare an RFP on the Board's behalf and solicit bids for new tractor and roadside mower in accordance with the Purchasing Policy and the specifications presented by the Road Foreman, and allow the Board to review and make

comments individually to him before sending out to potential bidders. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

- (f) Resident Claim for Damages: Phil Dechert noted that a resident requested compensation for a damaged oil pan on vehicle resulting from driving over a raised culvert on Bartlett Brook Road. The Board will check with the Town's insurance representative.
 - (g) Speed Limits:
 - i. Eric Chase moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, to reduce the speed limit around Teago Store on the Pomfret Road and the Stage Road from the current speed of 35 miles per hour to a speed limit of 30 miles per hour. It was noted this is the first step in the process of making the change. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
 - ii. Phil Dechert moved, and Eric Chase seconded, to increase speed limit on Howe Hill Road from the Sharon/Pomfret town line to the Martin's Driveway from 35 miles per hour to 40 miles per hour. It was noted this is the first step in the process of making the change. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
7. Fire Truck Request for Proposal (RFP): Eric Chase moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, to authorize Chief Kevin Rice solicit bids for a 1500 gallon pumper-tanker as approved by voters and in accordance with the Town's Purchasing Policy. Scott Woodward offered to distribute an RFP draft he had prepared. Eric Chase amended his motion, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Board review the draft RFP for approval before publishing to potential bidders. Following further discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
8. Catering Permits: Phil Dechert noted the Board had previously voted to allow the Town Clerk to approve catering permits to serve alcohol. A list of recently approved permits were included in the agenda package.
9. EC Fiber "Hub" Update: Phil Dechert and the Road Foreman met with EC Fiber technicians to identify a location for a telecommunications "hub." The proposed location is marked by 4 orange stakes. It would be constructed six feet off the ground. A draft contract has not been prepared due to vacations.
10. Fireworks Approval: Chief Kevin Rice reported that he approved an application by Northstar Fireworks for a fireworks display for the Vermont Symphony Orchestra performance at Suicide Six Ski Area on July 9th.
11. Resolution Requesting Membership in the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District and Appointing a Representative to the Governing Board:
 - (a) Irv Thomae, Chairman of the existing EC Fiber (under the Interlocal Contract) and the newly formed East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, and Bob Merrill, Pomfret's Representative to EC Fiber, explained the Resolution.
 - (b) In 2008, 24 municipalities formed EC Fiber through an Interlocal Contract. The subsequent financial crisis limited its ability to raise the capital necessary to achieve its goal of providing fiber broadband service to all homes and businesses in the region within its originally anticipated timeframe.
 - (c) EC Fiber has raised over \$5 million mostly from individuals in amounts of \$2,500. It has connected about 1,050 customers paying an average of \$100/month for services.

- (d) In order to build a telecommunications infrastructure more quickly, EC Fiber wishes to change its legal structure from an Interlocal Contract to a Communications Union District, as provided for by recent Vermont legislation (*See Title 30, Chapter 82 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated – attached to the Agenda package*). This district is similar to standard utility districts which currently exist for such purposes as solid waste disposal, water supply and sewage disposal.
- (e) Irv Thomae presented a chart comparing attributes of the Interlocal Contract, Communications Union District and standard utility districts (*See Agenda with attachments*). Unlike standard utility districts, the Communications Union District may not raise taxes or can it pledge the full faith and credit of the individual municipalities to seek conventional bonding. Instead, it may issue bonds based upon anticipated revenue from its telecommunications services. Further, the debt obligations of the new communications union district will not be joint and several obligations of the member municipalities.
- (f) Irv Thomae noted that the new type of entity is recognized and understood by institutional investors, unlike the existing Interlocal Contract.
- (g) The new entity is comprised of eight towns and is engaged in the early stages of formation including the development of bylaws and committee structure.
- (h) The Town's review of the resolution does not affect EC Fiber's service to Town residents and businesses.
- (i) Phil Dechert moved that the Board approve the resolution. There being no second, the motion was not voted upon. Other Board members agreed to consider the issue at a subsequent meeting once they have had more time to review it.

12. Sheriff Contract: Phil Dechert moved, and Michael Reese seconded, that the Board approve the proposed contract with the Windsor County Sheriff for 4 hour patrols per week. The Board would consider expanding these hours if additional funds are available. Following further discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

13. Next Meeting's Agenda: The following items were mentioned for next meeting's agenda:

- (a) Alcohol ordinance;
- (b) Town Hall policy and rules;
- (c) EC Fiber HUB;
- (d) Homestead declaration late or no filing penalty;
- (e) Constable appointment;
- (f) Delinquent Tax Collector; and
- (g) Administrative Assistant job description.

14. Public Comments: None.

15. Adjournment: Eric Chase moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Date: 7/8/2015

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Reese

Approved with changes by the Board at its July 15, 2015 Meeting