

# Town of Pomfret

5218 Pomfret Road  
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Draft Minutes of the October 7, 2015 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Eric Chase (Selectboard Member), Phil Dechert (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Arthur Lewin, Sr. (Road Foreman), Gaal Crawl, Keith Chase, Ona Chase, Emily Grube, Laura Kent, Sherman Kent, Bill Emmons, Greg Tuthill and John Moore.

1. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.
2. Public Comment:
  - (a) Ona Chase advocated for more outdoor lighting at the Town Hall as a safety measure following her experience at the Turkey Supper. She also noted the handicapped access ramp needs to be fixed.
  - (b) Gaal Crawl expressed concerns about large trucks blocking Joe Ranger Road relating to a house construction project. The Road Commissioner will look into addressing this issue.
3. Review of Agenda: The Board, by informal consensus, approved the following changes to the agenda: 1. Add an executive session to end of meeting regarding an employee issue; 2. Add Town Plan update; and 3. Add speed limit on Cloudland Road.
4. Minutes of Prior Meetings: Eric Chase moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, to approve the draft minutes of the September 16, 2015 meeting with the following change: replace “struggling” with “attempting” in paragraph 5.(b)i.. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
5. Treasurer's Report:
  - (a) Warrants for Payment:
    - i. Michael Reese moved, and Eric Chase seconded, that the Board approve the following check warrants:
      - A. Accounts Payable Warrant number 15025 in the amount of \$50,486.20;
      - B. Payroll Warrant number 15022 in the amount of \$6,774.19;
      - C. Accounts Payable Warrant number 15021 in the amount of \$3,508.06; and
      - D. Accounts Payable Warrant number 15020 in the amount of \$1,945.50.
    - ii. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
  - (b) Update on FY 2015 accounts: Phil Dechert noted the Treasurer has spoken with the accountant and has resolved the issues. She will provide a report for the next meeting.
6. Road Foreman's Report:
  - (a) General Update:
    - i. Tractor went to Blackmount Equipment for repair of transfer case leak;
    - ii. Dump truck headboard was fixed and is back in service;
    - iii. Finished shoulder work on new pavement on Pomfret Road;
    - iv. Work begun on repeater conduit; should be finished by noon tomorrow (October 8<sup>th</sup>);  
and
    - v. Next week, will be replacing certain culverts and putting up snow fence.

- (b) Pomfret Road Slope Project:
    - i. Eric Chase believes the project is not likely to be completed this year.
    - ii. Michael Reese expects to have the permanent easement from landowner in place shortly.
    - iii. Michael Reese moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, to authorize the Road Commissioner (Eric Chase) to sign the agreement in the Fairpoint Communications letter dated September 28, 2015 as attached to the agenda. The agreement provides for the company to install taller utility poles to allow for the slope work. State officials informed the Town that the upfront payment of \$4,541.25 will be reimbursed. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
  - (c) Mill Brook Bridge: Eric Chase noted this project will be addressed next construction season.
  - (d) Sand Purchase:
    - i. The Board opened sealed bids from Pike Industries, Inc, Twin State Sand & Gravel Co., Inc., D&D Excavating Inc., Markowski Excavating, Inc., and Casella Construction Inc..
    - ii. The lowest bidder was D & D Excavating Inc. at \$13.50 per cubic yard or \$10.80 per ton.
    - iii. Michael Reese moved, and Eric Chase seconded, that the Town purchase sand from D&D Excavating Inc.. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
  - (e) Disability Insurance: Phil Dechert presented information on the options.
  - (f) Cracksealing Purchase:
    - i. The Board opened sealed bids from Sealcoating Inc. and Nicom Coatings Corporation.
    - ii. Nicom offered a lower per day price at \$4,000 per day.
    - iii. Michael Reese moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Town arrange cracksealing with Nicom. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
  - (g) Disability Insurance (continued): Phil Dechert moved, and Eric Chase seconded, that the Town arrange for the long and short term disability insurance option that costs a total of \$1,250. If it turns out to cost more, then Phil will bring it back to the Board. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
  - (h) Speed Limits:
    - i. The Board and the public discussed reducing the speed limit to 25 mph in a section of the village in South Pomfret as marked by orange stakes. Michael Reese will look into the procedural requirements and prepare a draft of proposed changes to the Town's Traffic Ordinance.
    - ii. Phil Dechert noted letters from two residents (Doton & Saul) advocating a speed reduction to 25 mph on Cloudland Road. The Board and the public discussed speed limits on the backroads.
7. Liquor Control Permits: The Chair noted two recent permits issued by the Town Clerk to Black Krim Tavern at Artistree for art openings.
8. Fire Truck Request for Proposal: No update. Phil Dechert will follow up with the Fire Chief and the consultant, Alan Saulsbury.
9. Administrative Assistant: Following discussion, the Board agreed to review the job description for discussion and possible action at the next meeting.
10. Budget Planning: The Board and Laura Kent of the Audit Board discussed the budget schedule.
11. Delinquent Tax Collection: Phil Dechert anticipates a resignation letter shortly from the delinquent tax collector. Phil believes the Board needs to appoint a replacement tax collector and revisit how the Town compensates this position.

12. Correspondence Received:

- (a) Notice of application to construct or alter a dam – Martin Pond at Evergreen Glen off Barber Hill Road;
- (b) Email from Will Wright expressing concerns about safety at the intersection of Caper Street and Pomfret Road. Eric Chase will look into it.
- (c) Michael Reese received an inquiry from the school snowplowing contractor (Steve Chamberlin) about the first installment this year. Phil Dechert said the invoice should be sent to the Prosper Valley School Board.

13. Next Meeting's Agenda: Set Town Plan hearing.

14. Public Comment: John Moore applauded Eric Chase's suggestion to post yellow warning signs near hazardous sections of roads. John believes these signs may be more effective than changing speed limits.

15. Executive Session:

- (a) Phil Dechert moved, and Michael Reese seconded, that the Board enter into an executive session for an employment issue with a public employee pursuant to 1 VSA § 313(a)(3). The Board unanimously approved the motion. The Chair requested the Road Foreman to join the Board.
- (b) The Board entered into an executive session at 9:20pm and came out of executive session at 9:35pm.

16. Employee Issue: Phil Dechert moved, and Eric Chase seconded, that the Town grant a medical leave of absence to a highway employee until December 1, 2015 and the Town will continue to provide health insurance during the leave of absence. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

17. Adjournment: Phil Dechert moved, and Eric Chase seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The Board unanimously approved the motion at 9:37pm.

Date: 10/9/2015

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Reese