

Town of Pomfret

5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Draft Minutes of the October 21, 2015 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Eric Chase (Selectboard Member), Phil Dechert (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Arthur Lewin, Sr. (Road Foreman), Betsy Siebeck, Ellen DesMeules, Emily Grube, Scott Woodward, Andrew Hutt, Keith and Ona Chase, Sherman Kent, Laura Kent, Bob Merrill, Melanie Williams and Orson St. John.

1. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
2. Public Comment:
 - (a) Melanie Williams expressed her concern that last meeting's process for entering executive session was not done according to the law, and she encouraged the Board to follow a better process.
 - (b) Town Constable, Ona Chase, reported that after tomorrow all known dogs will have been registered.
3. Review of Agenda: The Board, by informal consensus, approved the following change to the agenda: add to 6.d. the liquor control permit issued by the Town Clerk.
4. Minutes of Prior Meetings: Phil Dechert moved, and Eric Chase seconded, to approve the draft minutes of the October 7, 2015 meeting. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
5. Treasurer's Report:
 - (a) Warrants for Payment:
 - i. Phil Dechert moved, and Michael Reese seconded, that the Board approve the following check warrants:
 - A. Accounts Payable Warrant number 15027 in the amount of \$20,148.44; and
 - B. Payroll Warrant number 15026 in the amount of \$6,839.43.
 - ii. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
 - (b) Fiscal Year 2015 Financial Statements: Board received final FY 2105 statements. Treasurer will post summary on Town website. Board will review the FY 2015 statements at the next meeting. Treasurer noted fund balance at end of FY 2015 was \$24,000 beyond recommended fund balance, but these funds may be necessary for FY 2016 if we continue to experience a slow receipt of delinquent tax payments and an increase in delinquency in general, which left us with \$60,000 less in tax revenue than budgeted for FY 2015.
6. Road Foreman's Report:
 - (a) General Update:
 - i. Ditch work on Webster Hill Road; replaced culvert at end of Rudge Road and end of Hewitt Hill Road from 12 inch to 19 inch;
 - ii. Preparing for winter by bringing the snowplows in; still work remaining to prepare winter equipment;
 - iii. Fixed mower spindle, so that when tractor returns from repairs, it will be ready to go; tractor will be used to blow out leaves from ditches and ends of culverts to be ready for fall and next spring rains.

- iv. No progress on temporary road employee; Road Foreman and Commissioner will consider options.
 - v. No contact with Nicom for their successful bid on cracksealing. Michael Reese will provide Road Foreman with Nicom's contact information. Board and public discussed timing on cracksealing.
- (b) Disability Insurance Update: Phil Dechert reported that the price of disability coverage will be \$1,266 per year for three employees which price will be good for two years and will start January 1, 2016.
- (c) Salt Purchase: Michael Reese moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, to arrange salt purchase through the state bid from Cargill. The motion was unanimously approved. Road Commissioner will contact Cargill. He will let us know if Cargill offers an alternative.
- (d) Tree Removal: Phil Dechert moved, and Michael Reese seconded, to authorize the Road Foreman to arrange to have the three pine trees in the area of the Pomfret Road and Bunker Hill Road taken down to be partially paid for by a gift of \$1,000 from two landowners (Moore and Azar). The Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (e) Request to Trap on Town Property: Road Foreman forwarded a request to trap. Board took no action.
- (f) Stump Dump Gates: Road Foreman suggested the purchase of two gates to be installed at entrance to Town land off Joe Ranger Road to prevent unauthorized dumping. Board agreed.
- (g) Speed Limit Changes:
- i. The Board and members of the public discussed the advisability and process for reducing the speed limit to 25 mile per hour in certain sections of the Stage Road and Pomfret Road in South Pomfret.
 - ii. The Board discussed the advisability and process for reducing speed limits on the back roads including Cloudland Road. A speed study would be required.
7. Fire Truck Purchase: Consultant, Alan Saulsbury, explained his suggested changes to the Request for Proposal (RFP) following input from the Fire Chief Kevin Rice. The Board discussed identifying potential bidders and holding a pre-bid meeting. The Board will consider approval of the RFP following any additional comments from the Fire Chief.
8. Administrative Assistant: Phil Dechert moved, and Michael Reese seconded, to advertise for the Administrative Assistant position as drafted with the following changes: 1. Replace 2.a. with "relay questions and concerns from the public"; and 2. Delete "and the media" in 3.f. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
9. Delinquent Tax Collection: Phil Dechert will continue to try to contact the current delinquent tax collector.
10. EC Fiber easement for telecommunications "hub":
- (a) Phil Dechert moved, and Michael Reese seconded, that the Board give EC Fiber permission to install underground conduit from the utility pole located southeast of the town hall to the proposed hub location. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
 - (b) Phil Dechert moved, and Eric Chase seconded, that the Board post the notice of terms of proposed conveyance and publish it in paper and post it in three places to start the 30 day period prior to the date of the proposed conveyance. The Board discussed service to the Town Garage and other issues. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
 - (c) The Town's Representative to EC Fiber, Bob Merrill, noted that people living along the new fiber route along Howe Hill Road to Pomfret Road to the Prosper Valley School and the Stage Road to Suicide Six Ski Area can and should, if interested, sign-up for service online

at ECFiber.net.

11. Town Plan: Phil Dechert will prepare the notices and arrange for publication in the newspaper for a public meeting to be held on Monday, November 16th. Phil and Planning Commission Member, Scott Woodward, discussed solar siting.
12. Budget: Phil Dechert has prepared the worksheet and will distribute them along with the Board's instructions to Town Department. Temporary Lister, Laura Kent, raised the issue of staffing the Lister office.
13. Selectboard correspondence: The Board received:
 - (a) Letter from Margarete Pierce regarding speed limits on Cloudland Road; and
 - (b) Letter from Green Up Vermont requesting us to include \$50 in our budget.
14. Next meeting's agenda: Possible items include health insurance, heating oil contract, EC Fiber, budget, new fire truck, update on delinquent tax collection, status on administrative assistant and salt purchase update.
15. Adjournment: Phil Dechert moved, and Eric Chase seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The Board unanimously approved the motion at 9:36pm.

Date: 10/29/2015

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Reese