

# Town of Pomfret

5218 Pomfret Road  
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Draft Minutes of the November 4, 2015 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Eric Chase (Selectboard Member), Phil Dechert (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Arthur Lewin, Sr. (Road Foreman), Ellen DesMeules (Treasurer), Betsy Siebeck, Emily Grube, Scott Woodward, Keith Chase, Ona Chase, Sherman Kent, Laura Kent, Gaal Crawl and Shawn Pickett.

1. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
2. Public Comment:
  - (a) Betsy Siebeck expressed her concerns about the impact of winter plowing in front of her home causing the loss of trees and shrubbery. She also expressed concerns generally about better balancing highway maintenance with respect for private property.
  - (b) Shawn Pickett noted he asked the speed limit be reduced to 25 mph in front his home over a year ago, and he requested that it be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
3. Review of Agenda: The Board approved the agenda as posted by consensus.
4. Minutes of Prior Meetings: Phil Dechert moved, and Eric Chase seconded, to approve the draft minutes of the October 21, 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 warrant number 15031 in the amount of \$18,534.06 with the exception of the payment to Mark Warner for payment of \$554.37 for meals, hotel and mileage for a conference at Jay Peak Resort. The Board approved the motion with Michael Reese and Eric Chase voting yes, and Phil Dechert voting no.
    - ii. Phil Dechert moved, and Michael Reese seconded, that the Board approve payroll warrant 15032 in the amount of \$327.25. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
    - iii. Phil Dechert moved, and Michael Reese seconded, that the Board approve warrant 15029 for 3 signs for cemeteries. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
    - iv. Phil Dechert moved, and Michael Reese seconded, that the Board approve payroll warrant number 15029 in the amount of \$5,425.51. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
  - (b) Fiscal Year 2015 Financial Statements: The Board and Treasurer discussed the FY 2015 financial statements including delinquent taxes, unanticipated expenses and undesignated fund balances.
  - (c) Employee Health Insurance for 2016: The Board discussed health insurance coverage. Phil Dechert will present options at the next meeting.
6. Road Foreman's Report:
  - (a) General Update:
    - i. Last 2 weeks, road crew installed another culvert; also cleaned out several culverts with only one plugged culvert; snow fence erected; tractor repaired, but if it starts leaking

- again, housing will require replacement instead of just the gasket; put leaf blower on tractor and been clearing ditches and culverts of leaves; still have 4 culverts where outlet needs to be dug out.
- ii. Road crew will try plowing channels in fields for a natural snow fence in a couple of places.
- (b) Tree Removal: Road Foreman received quotes from Henderson's and Chippers. Phil Dechert moved, and Eric Chase seconded, that the Board go with Henderson's for the tree cutting project. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (c) Temporary Employee: No applications yet.
- (d) Cracksealing: Eric Chase reported that Nicom plans to start Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, or Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, depending upon weather.
- (e) Salt Purchase: Eric Chase reported Cargill is offering two options: one is a guarantee and the other is more of an informal agreement where we would save \$8.00 a ton. Eric advocated for storing sufficient quantities in the event of a shortage. Cargill does not expect a shortage and if there is one, the state will have priority. Phil Dechert moved, and Eric Chase seconded, to go with the non-guaranteed option for purchase at \$78.54 per ton. Michael Reese proposed to amend the motion that the Board is excepting the bid from the Purchasing Policy because of the confidence we have the bid is appropriate in that it is \$8.00 less than the state bid and the past experience of the Town that Cargill is a dependable supply source; and, further, to authorize Eric Chase to sign any necessary documents on the Town's behalf. The amendments were agreed to. The Board unanimously approved the amended motion.
- (f) Tractor Purchase: The Road Foreman strongly suggested the Board continue to move on with a replacement tractor purchase.
7. Fire Truck Purchase: Michael Reese will work with the consultant to prepare a final draft, including the addition of a pre-bid meeting, to the request for proposal. The Board plans to keep the consultant involved in the process.
8. Administrative Assistant Update: Michael Reese updated the progress of the search and suggested we continue to solicit applications.
9. Delinquent Tax Collection:
- (a) Phil Dechert described his challenges in contacting Jay Potter, the elected delinquent tax collector. He also noted the history of compensation and amounts outstanding in prior years. He will review options to improve collection of delinquent taxes.
- (b) Michael Reese moved, and Eric Chase seconded, to authorize Phil Dechert to write a letter to Jay Potter, the delinquent tax collector, regarding the collection of taxes. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
10. EC Fiber Telecommunications Hub: No update.
11. Heating Oil: Phil Dechert moved to authorize Michael Reese check prices for delivery of oil and propane and prepare a request for proposal. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
12. Ethics/Conflict of Interest Policy: Phil Dechert wants to have a conflict of interest policy, but not an ethics policy. A member of the public advocated for an ethics policy as a tool to deal with issues instead of relying upon politics.

13. Budget FY 2017: The Board is still collecting proposals from Town departments. The Board will meet next Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, to review the budget.
14. Correspondence: Letter from Woodstock regarding fees for emergency dispatch services.
15. Adjournment: Michael Reese moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The Board unanimously approved the motion at 10:00pm.

Date: 11/16/2015

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Reese