

# Town of Pomfret

5218 Pomfret Road

North Pomfret, VT 05053

Approved Minutes of the December 2, 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, Scott Woodward, Greg Greene (School Board), Emily Grube, Ona Chase, Laura Kent (Auditor), Shawn Pickett, and Greg Tuthill.

1. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
2. Public Comment: Condolences were made to Jeff Robinson's family, noting that his passing was a loss to the town. Time and location of funeral mentioned.
3. Review of Agenda: The Board approved the agenda by consensus with the following additions: Fire Truck Addendum; Administrative Assistant; EC Fiber Agreement; and Heating Oil.
4. Minutes of Prior Meetings:
  - (a) Phil Dechert moved, and Michael Reese seconded, to approve the draft minutes of the November 19, 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 15038 in the amount of \$13,283.58 with the exception of a \$1,950 payment for school snow removal to be reviewed at a later time. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
    - ii. Phil Dechert moved, and Michael Reese seconded, that the Board approve warrant number 15037 in the amount of \$753,666.95 and warrant number 15036 in the amount of \$6,216.44. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
  - (b) Budget Status Report:
    - i. Was briefly discussed. Auditor Laura Kent raised concerns regarding shifting categories.
6. Road Foreman's Report:
  - (a) General Update:
    - i. Leaf blowing in ditches and culverts finished.
    - ii. Tractor is leaking oil; unsure of where the oil is coming from, will be investigated.
    - iii. Ditching work ended due to ground freezing.
    - iv. Winter equipment ready;
    - v. Starting trimming trees and cutting brush.
    - vi. Muddy ruts in a few locations to be fixed.
    - vii. Insurance claim for dump truck damage still on the list.
    - viii. Installing speed limit signs.
  - (b) Speed Limit Rules: The Road Foreman noted that when reducing speed 10 miles or more, the Town needs to have a reduced speed limit signs.
  - (c) Tractor: Road Foreman is working on identifying the correct specs; can work on it after the first of the year.
  - (d) Road Crew Worker: Road Foreman and Eric Chase will work on putting out

advertisements.

(e) Snowplowing for Prosper Valley School:

- i. Prosper Valley School Chair Greg Greene asked the Town to pay the school snowplowing contract for the current fiscal year. He noted that expenses paid by school are subject to 1.5% markup.
- ii. Road Foreman noted Road Crew pushes back snow at the school; last year about three times a year taking about 3 hours; the work is done in the early morning to avoid vehicles during school hours.
- iii. Phil Dechert will meet with Greg Greene and the WCSU business manager.
- iv. Phil Dechert moved, and Eric Chase seconded, to pay the snowplowing bill. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

(f) Traffic Ordinance

- i. Eric Chase moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, to approve the amendments to the Traffic Ordinance as described in the Agenda package. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
- ii. Michael Reese agreed to arrange the notice.
- iii. Shawn Pickett thanked the board.

7. Delinquent Tax Collection: The Board discussed options.

8. Fire Truck Bids Evaluation Process:

- (a) Eric Chase moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, to accept paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft addendum extending question period and attendance at pre-bid meeting, but not paragraph 3, which addresses the stability of the truck. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (b) Scott Woodward suggested a process that includes having a committee create a short list among bidders; the Board took no action.

9. Town Highway Equipment List:

- (a) Michael Reese moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, that the Board adopt the Town Highway Equipment list prepared by Road Foreman for the Town Report. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
- (b) Phil Dechert will contact Ellen to coordinate with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to update the town's insurance.

10. Covered Bridges Half Marathon: Michael Reese moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, to approve the Covered Bridges Half Marathon request with the addition that the Town be included as a named beneficiary on the insurance policy. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

11. Hurricane Riders Snowmobile Club Request: The Road Foreman raised the issue of having to pack down snowbanks, especially Graves Road. Phil Dechert moved, and Michael Reese seconded, to approve the use of the roads listed in the letter (Joe Ranger and Bunker Hill Road) in the email, and supply us with a map of the roads the club is actually using, noting that there is an issue with the groomer packing down snowbanks and that the club please contact Road Foreman to discuss the issue. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Michael Reese will email them.

12. Administrative Assistant: Interviews scheduled for Tuesday December 8, 2015 at 6PM, with the 7PM budget meeting to follow.

13. Heating Oil/Propane: Phil Dechert will look into the issue.

14. EC Fiber HUB Agreement: Agreement is the same that was posted by the Town thirty days previous, excepting the addition of the starting date and period of thirty-year lease. Agreement will be presented at a subsequent meeting.
15. Budget: Phil Dechert got together with Fire Chief and Mark Warner helped; Fire Department, FAST Squad, and Listers discussed.
16. Correspondence: Invitation for luncheon in Montpelier and legislators; Green Up Day for \$50 in budget; Cloudland Road speed limits; Review of request for appropriation for Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force.
17. Next Meeting's Agenda: Discussion of Selectboard assistant interviews, the budget, and EC Fiber contract.
18. Adjournment: Eric Chase moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The Board unanimously approved the motion at 9:02 pm.

Date: 1/1/2016

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Reese

Approved on January 6, 2016