

Town of Pomfret

5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Approved Minutes of the December 21, 2015 Special Selectboard Meeting

Present: Eric Chase (Selectboard Member), Phil Dechert (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard Member) Emily Grube, Ona Chase, Art Lewin (Road Foreman), Betsy Siebeck, Melanie Williams and Scott Woodward.

1. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
2. Public Comment and Miscellaneous:
 - (a) Scott Woodward noted that he believes the whole fire truck evaluation should take place in an open meeting with public discussion.
 - (b) Phil Dechert noted that the Town received a Pay and Compensation Subcommittee Report from the town of Strafford.
 - (c) The Covered Bridges Half Marathon correspondence was discussed.
3. Hiring of Administrative Assistant: Michael Reese moved, and Phil Dechert seconded, to hire Jonathan L. Williams as the assistant to the Selectboard at \$17 an hour with a performance review to occur within 6 months. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
4. Addendum to the Fire Truck Request for Proposals: Copies of the draft addendum were distributed and reviewed. The Board agreed that more work on this item would be done at a later time.
5. Budget: The budget was discussed at length. No decisions were made on the budget.
6. Public Comment:
 - (a) Scott Woodward expressed concern relating the following: Comments he believed were inappropriate made by Phil Dechert relating to time spent by the Board on the fire truck request for proposal interfering with other tasks; Town's lack of aggressiveness in seeking grant funding; Board's rejection of offers from the public to assist in grant applications and other ways; and the need to clarify the change in funding of the privately controlled emergency services organizations from private to public funding.
 - (b) Melanie Williams expressed concern that many offers to assist the Board in various ways were rejected over the past three years. Also, the fire department has not accepted fundraising assistance while taxes to support them have increased.
 - (c) Betsy Siebeck believes when offers are made to assist with fundraising, they should be followed up on. Also, she was frustrated about Phil Dechert's response to her comments about the importance for town-wide information meetings about the direction of services and expenditures in Town.
 - (d) Ona Chase did not believe Phil Dechert's comments were inappropriate.
 - (e) Phil Dechert explained that his intent was to note that issues come up that interfere with getting other matters accomplished. Also, he is agreeable to community involvement.
 - (f) Michael Reese believes it's okay to disagree but not be disagreeable.
 - (g) Emily Grube encouraged the Board to consider having the delinquent taxpayer appointed rather than elected.

7. Adjournment: Phil Dechert moved, and Eric Chase seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The Board unanimously approved the motion at 9:15pm.

Date: 1/1/2016

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Reese

Approved on January 6, 2016