

**Town of Pomfret  
5218 Pomfret Road  
North Pomfret, VT 05053**

Draft Minutes of the January 18, 2017 Special Selectboard Meeting

Present: Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Sheila Hopkins (Selectboard Member), Melanie Williams (Selectboard Member), Frank Perron (Selectboard Member), Emily Grube (Selectboard Member), Jonathan Williams (Selectboard Assistant), Amanda Lafferty (Attorney - By Phone), Preston Bristow (Zoning Administrator), Phil Dechert, Peter DesMeules, and Peter Vollers

1. Call to Order: Michael Reese called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
2. Public Comment: There was a question related to the agenda and the appropriateness/timing of commentary provided. There was a comment made regarding town policy related to the handling of appeals, litigation, and attorney involvement.
3. Chipper's Case Executive Session:

- i) Sheila Hopkins moved, and Emily Grube seconded, that the Board enter into executive session, after a friendly amendment, pursuant to 1 VSA §313(a)(1)(E) and 1 VSA 1(a)(1)(F), related to confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body and pending or probable civil litigation or a prosecution, to which the public body is or may be a party. There was discussion. There was a public comment concerning the Chipper's Case. There was public comment concerning proper open meeting procedure. There was further discussion, and the motion was withdrawn. The Selectboard returned to the public comment portion of the agenda.

After a period of public comment, Sheila Hopkins moved, and Emily Grube seconded, that the Board enter into executive session, pursuant to 1 VSA §313(a)(1)(E) pending or probable civil litigation or a prosecution, to which the public body is or may be a party and 1 VSA 1(a)(1)(F) related to confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body. There was discussion by the public and the Selectboard: Peter Vollers provided public comment related to the Chipper's case. Peter DesMeules provided public comment related to the Chipper's case. The Board, in finding that premature general public knowledge of issues pertaining to the Chipper's litigation will clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing its legal strategies, unanimously approved the motion. The Assistant to the Selectboard and the Zoning Administrator were present for the executive session.

- ii) Melanie Williams moved, and Sheila Hopkins seconded, that the Board exit Executive session. The Board unanimously approved the motion at 7:11pm. No

motion was made or actions taken related to the subject discussed in executive session at this time.

5. Closing Public Comments and Adjournment: There were no public comments. Melanie Williams moved, and Sheila Hopkins seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:12pm. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Date: 01/20/17

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jonathan Williams, Selectboard Assistant