

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

Draft Minutes of the January 4, 2017 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Michael Reese (Selectboard Member), Sheila Hopkins (Selectboard Member), Frank Perron (Selectboard Member), Melanie Williams (Selectboard Member) Emily Grube (Selectboard Member), Art Lewin, Sr. (Road Foreman), Ellen DesMeules (Treasurer), Jonathan Williams (Assistant to the Selectboard), Karen Hewitt (Collector of Delinquent Taxes), Kevin Rice (Fire Chief), Neil Lamson, Scott Woodward, Sherman Kent

1. Call to Order: Michael Reese called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
2. Public Comment: (audio 0:30) None.
3. Review of Agenda: (audio 0:40) The Fire Department Insurance item was moved to the beginning of the 'Business Items for Possible Vote' section of the agenda.
4. Review, Discussion, and Approval of Minutes (12/21): Sheila Hopkins moved, and Michael Reese seconded, to approve the December 21st, 2016 Regular Selectboard meeting minutes with changes. The Board unanimously approved the motion with Melanie Williams abstaining.
5. Treasurer's Report: (audio 2:34)
  - (a) Warrants for Payment (1) Accounts Payable (2) Payroll: Michael Reese moved, and Sheila Hopkins seconded, to approve the warrants #16046, #16047, and #16048 as read. There was discussion concerning the Fire Department Insurance item. There was discussion regarding the rough draft 12/31/16 Treasurer's Comments document. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
  - (b) Diamond Mowers Bill: (audio 11:19) Frank Perron briefed the Board on this item and there was discussion by the Selectboard, the Treasurer, and the Road Foreman. Emily Grube moved, and Michael Reese seconded, to have the tractor paid for out of the highway surplus. There was discussion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. A representative from Diamond Mowers will be coming to town to train road crew members on the use of the tractor.
6. Delinquent Tax Collector's Report: (audio 19:11) The Delinquent Tax Collector Karen Hewitt briefed the Board on ongoing collection efforts, and there was discussion. Intent to Sell letters were mailed to two property owners on 1/3/2017. Prices were obtained.
7. Road Foreman's Report: (audio 20:20)
  - (a) General Update: The Road Foreman briefed the Board on ongoing sanding and plowing efforts. Town vehicle breakdowns have been minor (hydraulic

hoses and electrical problems). The fan clutch on one truck was fixed. One truck was stuck on 1/3/17 and suffered minor damage (nothing to stop it from running). The new tractor arrived on 1/3/17 at 9:30pm. Overall, the road crew is pleased with the new tractor. Eight loads of salt have been ordered – with the inclement weather the highway department has been using salt loads up quickly. Various/alternative materials used for clearing roadways of ice were discussed by the Selectboard and the Road Foreman.

8. Fire Department Insurance: (audio 25:58) Fire Chief Kevin Rice addressed the Board and there was discussion. The Fire Chief requested that the Selectboard return the fire department budget line item back to \$50,000 from \$40,000. There was discussion by the Selectboard and the Fire Chief. Fire department insurance costs and ongoing efforts to obtain a quote from VLCT-PACIF were discussed. The drafting of the contract between the town of Pomfret and the Pomfret – Teago Volunteer Fire Department was discussed. The Selectboard agreed by consensus to keep the fire department budget line item at \$40,000.
9. Budget FY18: (audio 56:56) There was discussion at length by the Selectboard and the public concerning the FY18 budget and Neil Lamson's feedback. There was discussion regarding the Prosper Valley School snowplowing budget item and the ongoing discussion with the town of Bridgewater. Correspondence from Seth Shaw, Bridgewater Representative to the Prosper Valley Schoolboard, concerning this item was read aloud. Emily Grube moved, and Melanie Williams seconded, to keep the \$4,000 in the FY18 budget and to have the town continue to contract with, and provide services for plowing, sanding and salting at the Prosper Valley School. The Board unanimously approved the motion. The paving budget was discussed. Surplus funds were discussed. Sheila Hopkins moved, and Frank Perron seconded, to approve the budget draft with the corrections Neil Lamson provided which were discussed by the Selectboard. There was discussion. A special meeting on Tuesday 1/10/17 at 6:30pm for the purposes of finalizing the FY18 budget and the budget narrative, and budget surplus discussion was scheduled. Sheila Hopkins rescinded her motion.
10. Budget Narrative: The draft budget narrative was discussed. Intended changes were discussed. The Assistant to the Selectboard shall draft the next edition of the Budget Narrative, incorporating Sheila Hopkin's notes and comments into the most recent edition.
11. Stump Dump Easement: (audio 1:59:00) Emily Grube briefed the Board on this issue and there was discussion by the Board and the public.
12. Grant(s) Update: (audio 2:10:33) The Assistant to the Selectboard briefed the Board on this item and there was discussion regarding upcoming grant opportunities for the town. The Assistant to the Selectboard will work on the VLCT PACIF Equipment grant application and will follow-up on efforts to improve the Historic

Preservation grant application.

13. Selectboard Correspondence: (audio 2:15:39) Correspondence received by the Selectboard concerning winter road maintenance was discussed. A Driveway permit violation form letter shall be drafted by the Assistant to Selectboard.
14. Next Meeting's Agenda: (audio 2:35:16) 'Finalizing Budget FY18' 'Budget Narrative' and 'Budget Surplus' were items scheduled for the 01/10/17 6:30pm Special Selectboard Meeting. 'Town Meeting Warning' and 'Access Permit -Williams Skyline Drive' were scheduled for the second January Regular Selectboard meeting. Permit violations were discussed.
15. Closing Public Comments, Review of Assignments: (audio 2:06:00) There was a public comment made concerning the Selectboard's discussion with the Fire Chief.
16. Adjournment: Melanie Williams moved, and Emily Grube seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:40pm. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Date: 01/06/2017

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Williams, Assistant

Approved by the Board at \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting