

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

Draft Minutes of the June 7, 2017 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Sheila Hopkins (Selectboard Member), Frank Perron (Selectboard Member), Scott Woodward, (Selectboard Member), Emily Grube (Selectboard Member), Art Lewin, Sr. (Road Foreman), Jonathan Williams (Assistant to the Selectboard), Karen Hewitt (Delinquent Tax Collector), John Moore, Austin Royal, Neil Lamson, Andrew Mann, Betsy Rhodes, Fire Chief Kevin Rice, and Anne Bower

1. Call to Order: Sheila Hopkins called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. Public Comment: There was a public comment related to signage on a class 4 town highway. There was a public comment thanking the town and the road crew for the early mowing.
3. Review of Agenda: (audio 10:00) ‘Hidden Ridge Signage’ was added to the ‘transportation issues’ section of the agenda. The ‘Town Hall’ Discussion was moved to the beginning of the agenda. “Delinquent Tax Collector Item” was added to the agenda, as was “Listers Discussion.” Scott Woodward moved, and Frank Perron seconded, to modify the 6/7/17 Regular Selectboard meeting agenda as discussed. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
4. Town Hall Discussion: (audio 15:00) John Moore briefed the Selectboard on this item and there was discussion. A Construction Permit Application submitted by Bruce Martin was reviewed. Frank Perron moved, and Emily Grube seconded, to submit and pay the permit fee of \$361.94 to the Fire Marshal’s Office and to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the permit submitted by Bruce martin. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
5. Delinquent Tax Collector: (audio 22:00) The Delinquent Tax Collector briefed the Board on various issues and there was discussion. The planned upcoming tax sale will not proceed.
6. Review, Discussion, and Approval of Minutes (5/17): (audio 23:00) Scott Woodward moved, and Frank Perron seconded, to approve the 5/17 Regular Selectboard meeting minutes as written. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
7. Review, Discussion, and Approval of Various Municipal Reports: (audio 24:00) Frank Perron moved, and Sheila Hopkins seconded, to accept the reports from the Highway Department and the Selectboard Assistant. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

8. Warrants for Payment (1) Accounts Payable (2) Payroll: (audio 26:00) Frank Perron moved, and Scott Woodward seconded, to approve warrants #16083, #16084, #16086 and #16087. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
9. Transportation Items:
 - (a) Hidden Ridge Road Signage: (audio 29:00) The Road Foreman and Austin Royal briefed the Selectboard on this issue and there was discussion. Signage on Hidden Ridge Road and the potential for increased traffic was discussed. This item shall be added to the next Regular Selectboard meeting.
 - (b) ArtisTree Driveway Issues: (audio 42:00) Frank Perron and The Selectboard Assistant briefed the Board on this issue and there was discussion by the Selectboard and the public. The ZBA's upcoming site visit and meeting were discussed. This item will be added to a future Selectboard meeting agenda.
 - (c) Paving RFP Bids Opening/Possible Decision: (audio 59:00) The paving bids were opened and read aloud. Three bids were received from Springfield Paving, Pike Industries, and Blaktop Paving. Pike Industries total: \$147,203.50. Blaktop Paving total: \$168,891.84. Springfield Paving total: \$148,997.40. There was discussion by the Selectboard, the Road Foreman, and the public. The town's purchasing policy was reviewed and referenced. Sheila Hopkins moved, and Scott Woodward seconded, to accept the bid from Springfield Paving for \$148,997.40. There was discussion. Scott Woodward requested that the motion be amended to note that the Springfield Paving bid is the lowest bid as properly submitted. The amendment was viewed favorably and accepted. There was further discussion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. The Selectboard Assistant shall scan and submit the signed bid, and will notify Springfield Paving that the town shall not pay and/or the work shall not begin until July 1, 2017.
 - (d) River Road Slope Stabilization RFP Approval: (audio 1:31:00) The Selectboard Assistant briefed the Board on this item and there was discussion. Frank Perron moved and Scott Woodward seconded to approve the RFP with the inclusion of the construction sketches. The Board unanimously approved the motion. The Selectboard Assistant shall incorporate the discussed sketches and post the RFP to the town website, the Vermont Bid System, and place a notice in the Vermont Standard.
 - (e) Fresh Coat Crack Sealing: This item was discussed by the Selectboard and the Road Foreman. Frank Perron shall review what documents need to be signed and submitted and will follow up.
 - (f) VLCT Transportation Policy Committee Appointment Approval: (audio 1:31:00) The Selectboard Assistant briefed the Board on this item and there was discussion.

(g) Wild Apple Road Property Access: (audio 1:37:00)

Frank Perron briefed the Board on this item and there was discussion. Scott Woodward moved, and Frank Perron seconded, to approve the permit application as submitted with the addition of recording an easement for maintenance purposes, extra 20 feet of 18" culvert at their expense, as well as proper compaction. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

The use of an access as a driveway was discussed by the Selectboard and the Road Foreman. A Selectperson will make a phone call to discuss this item with the persons in question.

10. Emergency Services Sharing: (audio 1:52:00) Fire Chief Kevin Rice briefed the Selectboard on this item and there was discussion by the Selectboard, the Fire Chief, and members of the public. An informational meeting was discussed. A tentative informational meeting will be scheduled. Fire Chief Kevin Rice will notify the Selectboard regarding available dates.
11. Vermont 100 Race: (audio 2:20:00) The Selectboard Assistant and the Fire Chief briefed the Board on this item and there was discussion. Correspondence from the Vermont 100 Race group was read aloud and considered. Sheila Hopkins moved, and Scott Woodward seconded, that the Selectboard Assistant shall inform the Vermont 100 Race group that, without law enforcement/county sheriffs supervising the flaggers and traffic flow the Pomfret Selectboard will not approve or sign off on the race. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
12. Auditors Discussion: No auditors were present at the meeting. This item shall be tabled until a subsequent Selectboard meeting.
13. Listers Discussion: (audio 2:30:00) Frank Perron briefed the Selectboard on this item and there was discussion. Worker's Compensation issues were considered. Frank Perron will follow up on this item. This item will be added to the next Regular Selectboard meeting.
14. Executive Session – Chipper's Case: (audio 2:36:00) There was no executive session. Emily Grube briefed the Board on this item and there was discussion. Emily Grube moved, and Frank Perron seconded to have the town hire the attorney for the Zoning Board of Adjustment that worked with the ZBA during the last Chipper's appeal. There was discussion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. The Selectboard assistant shall email Jim Barlow notifying and ask if he's available to represent ZBA. Email Allen Blackmer indicating that the town has contacted Mr. Barlow for his services.
15. Selectboard Correspondence: (audio 2:41:00) A resignation letter from Ona Chase was discussed. The Selectboard assistant shall attach the resignation letter to the 06/07 meeting's draft minutes. A letter from Gaal Crowl was discussed. The 'Fire Department Draft Contract' shall be added to the next Regular Selectboard meeting; the letter

shall be attached to the minutes and included in the next meeting's agenda packet. Multiple bills for the town hall were discussed. Emily Grube moved, and Sheila Hopkins seconded, to pay the bill for the contractor to do the windows and to pay for them out of the town hall reserve fund and to pay the two small insulation bills also.

Correspondence concerning potholes was discussed. Correspondence from the TRORC meeting concerning the Municipal Roads Grants in-Aid Pilot Project was discussed. This issue shall be discussed at the next Regular Selectboard meeting.

16. Closing Public Comments, Review of Assignments: a public comment was made regarding inviting the auditors/listers to the next Regular Selectboard meeting. The Selectboard assistant shall invite the auditors, listers, and the town Treasurer to the next Regular Selectboard meeting.

Howe Hill Road was discussed. Act 64 was discussed.

17. Adjournment: Frank Perron moved, and Scott Woodward seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:55pm. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Date: 06/09/2017

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Williams, Assistant

Approved by the Board at _____ Meeting

Michael

June 5th, 2017

To the Selectboard:

Last evening the Pomfret Fire Department had their monthly meeting and a group of about 10 firefighters met to go over, in depth, the draft contract submitted to them by the Selectboard. I intentionally arrived late to allow the initial discussion to be uninhibited.

Kevin Rice had a Power Point visual display of the document. There was much general comment about individual sections of the draft that were troubling to individuals and discussion about past agreements, with attention to extensive changes made in the SB's draft. Individuals testified about practices of other neighboring FDs in order to compare what they were currently doing, what was being asked of them, and what other volunteers managed. The NFPA standards were also compared to the draft contract requests. The group agreed that the tenor of the contract demanded as much of the FD as if they were salaried employees.

It was decided, for expediency, to have members categorize, in descending order of importance, changes they either objected to or had questions about. They once again went back to rank their difficulties with the verbiage.

However, in the process of ranking—and due to the late hour—the consensus became that the lower-ranking items were not worth categorizing if the three major “non-negotiable” obstacles to the FD's agreement were fatally objectionable to the Selectboard. Therefore, for now, the FD decided to spell out those three sticking points:

1. Concerning Section 2.5

The Department believes the hydrants are Pomfret's responsibility in two regards: the acquiring of easements for hydrants and the cost of maintenance (including plowing.)

2. Concerning Section 3.1

The Department believes that, in the case of a disagreement with the SB over budget, and in light of the Selectboard having no mechanism in the contract for failure to resolve such disagreements, the FD must have the power to warn its own article at the annual Town Meeting.

3. Concerning Section 6.3 (of the original FD contract) Disbursement of the Reserve Fund

The Department believes that, in light of the fact that the FD has no objection to the submission of all information to the SB and thus to the voters, and has no objection to using the Pomfret Bid Process for procurements over \$25,000, as long as the entire bid process including the RFP, bid evaluation and the final selection of the apparatus or equipment must ultimately be controlled by the Department and not the Selectboard.

Having illuminated the issues which will prevent the Fire Department from signing a contract with the SB, they asked that I submit these important objections before proceeding to the lesser issues and negotiable points.

Respectfully submitted,

Goal

5/22/17

To the Select board,

Let me MAKE this so simple!
I Quit. (As constable)

Effective AS of the 2nd meeting
After the 2017 Town Meeting's

Ona Chase

1. Concerning Section 25
The Department believes the Board has the authority to...
2. Concerning Section 24
The Department believes the Board has the authority to...
3. Concerning Section 23
The Department believes that, in light of the fact that the Board has the authority to...
Having identified the issues which will prevent the Board from entering a contract with...
the Board would that, without these important objections being presented to the Board, it would not be in the best interests of the Town.

Respectfully submitted,
[Signature]