

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

Draft Minutes of the September 6, 2017 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Frank Perron (Selectboard Member), Michael Reese (Selectboard member – by phone), Scott Woodward, (Selectboard Member), Emily Grube (Selectboard Member), Ellen DesMeules (Treasurer), Art Lewin, Sr. (Road Foreman), Jonathan Williams (Assistant to the Selectboard), Curt Peterson (Vermont Standard) and Kevin Rice (Fire Chief), John Peters, John Moore, Neil Lamson, Bruce Johnson, Jack Peters, Josh Trimpi, Finnie Trimpi, Ryan Townsend, Steve Chamberlin, Brendan Whittaker, Carol Lamson, Tom Gubbins, and Zack Bowley,

1. Call to Order: Frank Perron called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. Public Comment: There was a public comment related to Selectboard correspondence.
3. Review of Agenda: Michael Reese moved, and Emily Grube seconded, to make several amendments to the agenda (as outlined in the minutes below). The Board unanimously approved the motion.
4. Selectboard Seat Vacancy: Frank Perron briefed the Selectboard on this item and there was discussion. Two potential candidates were discussed. One candidate has withdrawn their name. John Peters reiterated his interest in the position.
5. Review, Discussion, and Approval the Minutes (8/30 Special Meeting, 8/18 Special Meeting, 8/16 Regular Meeting): Michael Reese moved, and Scott Woodward seconded, to approve the 8/30 special meeting, 8/18 special meeting, and 8/16 regular meeting minutes as written. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.
6. Review, Discussion, and Approval of Various Municipal Reports: Michael Reese moved, and Scott Woodward seconded, to approve and accept the municipal reports as submitted. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.
7. Warrants for Payment (1) Accounts Payable (2) Payroll: Michael Reese moved, and Scott Woodward seconded, to approve AP warrants #17019, #17020, and #17021. There was discussion and a summation of the expenditures provided. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
8. Fire Department Discussion: Fire Chief Kevin Rice briefed the Selectboard on a recent Fire Department meeting. A letter, composed by Frank Perron and which concerned not the draft town/fire department contract but rather a distinct, separate agreement between Pomfret and the town of Hartford on expanding

coverage in North Pomfret, was read aloud by Michael Reese concerning recent contract negotiations, as requested by the Fire Chief. The letter shall be attached to the minutes. There was further discussion by the Selectboard, members of the public, and the Fire Chief. Negotiations regarding the town/fire department contract and the associated process were discussed. The Pomfret Selectboard has requested that Fire Chief Kevin Rice provide the letter he drafted and read in response so that it may also be attached to the minutes of the meeting.

Note: Because the letter Chief Rice provided differs from what was said at the meeting and includes information developed after the meeting's occurrence, it has not been included as an attachment to the draft minutes.

9. Transportation Items:

- (a) Better Roads Agreement & Signing: The Selectboard Assistant briefed the board on this item and there was discussion. Emily Grube moved, and Scott Woodward seconded, to approve and sign the Better Roads Agreement for Allen Hill Road. The Board unanimously approved the motion. The Selectboard Assistant shall copy, scan, and submit the scanned grant agreement on Thursday.
- (b) TRORC TAC Appointment: The Selectboard Assistant briefed the Board on this item and there was discussion. The Selectboard Assistant shall remain the TRORC TAC representative despite not being able to attend all of the meetings due to a change in his schedule. The Selectboard Assistant shall continue to track and monitor future TAC meeting agendas for issues relevant to Pomfret.
- (c) Helping Hands Initiative/Wood Use: Scott Woodward briefed the Selectboard on this item and there was discussion. Helping Hands is an initiative designed to provide lower income residents with needed firewood.
- (d) Road Commissioner Update: Frank Perron and Scott Woodward briefed the Selectboard on this item and there was discussion. A contractor is grading the roads so that the Pomfret Road Crew can continue to work on storm damage repair. The completion of FEMA paperwork is imperative. There has been a delay in FEMA services/processes due to other weather-related events they are handling.
- (e) Teago Intersection: Frank Perron briefed the Selectboard on this item and there was discussion. A proposal was displayed and explicated by Frank Perron for the public and the Selectboard's viewing on the town office's projector screen.
- (f) River Road Slide Bank: Frank Perron briefed the Selectboard on this item and there was discussion. Frank shall speak with the Better Roads team. Emily Grube moved, and Scott Woodward seconded, to authorize Frank Perron to pursue the Better Roads grant agreement being amended to cover the additional work on River Road, and if that is not possible, to enable the town to cover the additional associated costs (\$6,500) itself. There was discussion by the Selectboard and the Road Foreman. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

10. Prosper Valley School Snowplowing Bids Opening: The bids were opened and

- read aloud. Steve Chamberlain - \$3,900 for the 17/18 season. Gadways Luxury Property Maintenance \$5,300 per season. Sidewalks were discussed. Scott Woodward moved, and Michael Reese seconded, to award the bid to Steve Chamberlin & co at the price proposed. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
11. Wandering Steers: Scott Woodward briefed the Selectboard on this item and there was discussion. A complaint from a property owner was discussed. The owner of the steers in question has agreed to take measures to resolve the situation.
 12. FEMA AFG Discussion/Meeting Attendance: Scott Woodward briefed the Selectboard on this grant opportunity from FEMA and there was discussion by the Selectboard and members of the public. The Selectboard Assistant shall attend the next FEMA AFG Briefing on September 21st in Montpelier.
 13. Conflict of Interest Policy Discussion & Possible Vote: Frank Perron and Scott Woodward briefed the Selectboard on this item and there was discussion. Additional changes to the Conflict of Interest were considered. The Selectboard Assistant shall generate a redraft based on the edits and comments provided by the Selectboard and the public, and submit it for review. This item shall be added to the next regular agenda meeting in September.
 14. Selectboard Newsletter: Michael Reese briefed the Selectboard on this item and there was discussion.
 15. Vermont Standard Questions: The Vermont Standard had submitted questions which the Selectboard read aloud and addressed.
 16. Selectboard Correspondence:
 - (a) Catering Permits: Liquor catering permits have been issued to Belly Up LLC (The Barnard Inn Restaurant) for events at the Grange Theater/ArtisTree from August 24th through September 10th. A permit has also been issued to The Monkey House for a wedding at 1007 Johnson Road on September 9th.
 17. Review of Assignments:
 - (a) Purchasing Policy Update: The Capital Planning Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday 9/11. There was discussion.
 - (b) Budgeting Strategic Planning: Scott Woodward will continue to work on this. This item will be added to the next regular Selectboard meeting under 'Review of Assignments.'
 - (c) Road Discontinuance: Emily Grube briefed the Selectboard on this item and there was discussion. Research is ongoing.
 - (d) Agricultural Access Permit Site Visit Scheduling: Frank Perron briefed the Selectboard on this item and there was discussion.
 18. Closing Public Comments: There was a public comment regarding the Scoping Study Local Concerns meeting, to be held on September 13, 2017. The Selectboard Assistant shall generate another announcement for the listserv.

19. Adjournment: Michael Reese moved, and Scott Woodward seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:12pm and the Board unanimously approved the motion.

Date: 09/11/2017

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Williams, Assistant

Approved by the Board at _____ Meeting

From: Frank Perron <Frank.Perron@pomfretvt.us>

Date: September 1, 2017 at 8:31:21 AM EDT

Subject: Explanation of frustration

Pomfret Teago VFD members,

You may or may not have heard that I blew up at Chief Rice at a Selectboard meeting. While some viewed my remarks as a breach of decorum, I feel it displayed the depth of my frustration. The following letter is an attempt at letting you hear my side as the President of the FAST Squad.

Earlier in the year Chief Rice showed up at a SB meeting (with a Hartford fire officer) to pitch the idea of expanding the McKenna agreement to other areas of town. Since this was viewed as good idea, Chief Rice was instructed by the SB to work with me and the fire chiefs of Hartford and Woodstock to come up with a plan. He was tasked with setting up the meetings. He came back maybe 6 weeks later with a plan on what areas he wanted to turn over to Hartford. This was all without my participation or input. Now I know he has preached to you all on how he feels the SB has been sticking their noses in your fire department business (and I know that some of you feel this way). Well, compare his complaint with the fact that he has been making (and brokering) plans that affect the operational capabilities and responsibilities of the FAST squad without consulting us in the least. If I had not been on the Selectboard I probably wouldn't have even known this was going on. In what the our squad views as a power play, Chief Rice has it set up so that the FAST squad members have to wait for Hartford or the Pomfret Teago VFD to show up to unlock the gate at the McKenna property before we can gain access to the home. I asked him about this and his reply was "Oh someone from the house can let you in." If that is the case then why does Hartford and PTVFD need keys? What happens if the person with the keys is the subject of the call and is incapacitated? Do we just stand around? Hence this is part of the source of my frustration. During the FD/SB meeting Kevin Geiger stressed how important trust would be moving forward. I don't feel this was a trustworthy effort.

Frank Perron

President of the Pomfret FAST

In my opinion, this incident is no reflection of my feelings about the contract process we have been working on. It is still my hope (as one SB member) to

come up with something that will satisfy both sides. Even if it is a simple document that states that the FD will provide emergency service to the Town and the Town will provide financial support to the FD. Maybe we have been over thinking this whole situation.

Thanks, Frank