

POMFRET
SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING
March 4, 2014

The School District Meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Kevin Geiger, Moderator.

1. Kevin Geiger was nominated as Moderator, and was unanimously elected. He was given the oath of office by Rebecca Fielder, Town Clerk.
2. Hope Yeager moved to act on the reports submitted. Mark Warner seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Jody Eaton nominated Bob Coates as School Director to the Pomfret School Board for a term of three years. Mark Warner moved to have the clerk cast one ballot for Bob Coates, and Bob Merrill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Greg Greene nominated Bob Crean for a two year term as School Director to the Woodstock Union High School District #4. Mark Warner moved for the clerk to cast one ballot for Bob Crean, which was seconded by Marjorie Wakefield. The motion passed unanimously. Jody Eaton then nominated Brian Marsicovetere for a three year term as School Director to the Woodstock Union High School District #4. Jody Eaton moved to have the clerk cast one ballot for Brian Marsicovetere, and Mark Warner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Mark Warner moved that the voters of the Pomfret School District appropriate \$1,186,265 as the amount necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1, 2014. Bill Heston seconded the motion. Doug Tuthill expressed thanks to the School Board for all their hard work, and supported the current budget as laid out. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Other business:

Greg Greene thanked all of the teachers at the Pomfret School for their dedication, and specifically recognized retiring teacher Jeanne Souter for all her years in our schools. The assembly gave her a standing ovation.

Greg Greene discussed the Elementary School Consolidation Study that is being conducted for Barnard, Bridgewater, Pomfret and Woodstock. The committee in charge hopes to submit a report of their findings to the school boards by the end of the year. Norwood Long asked about possible restructuring of the school district.

Representative Teo Zagar spoke about local job creation, specifically Act 250 changes that will make it easier for development to occur through tax incentives for businesses. He also talked about water quality issues (specifically mentioning Lake Champlain) and Acceptable Agricultural Practices such as runoff. Orson St. John asked how the runoff bill would affect small farming operations like his own. Zagar replied that that bill would not make it to the State Senate.

Greg Greene referenced a recent meeting with School Board members and local realtors in which they were trying to determine why people aren't moving to town. The number one reason the realtors found was that there was no access to high speed internet. Doug Tuthill said that the downside of EC Fiber (high speed internet) is that it will cause a rise in property values that will make the homes even less affordable for families with school aged children. Brad Burrington stressed the importance of local economic development in bringing families into our area, and also development of housing areas with attractive affordable homes. Finnie Trimpi echoed these statements, saying that new businesses are essential to bring families into our community.

Mark Warner moved to adjourn the meeting, and Doug Tuthill seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 PM.

Results of Pomfret vote for WUHS Budget Article 4: \$11,722,322 for the year beginning July 1, 2014:
Yes – 60 / No – 22 / Blank Ballot – 1

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Fielder, Town Clerk

Minutes approved by:

Date:
