

POMFRET

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

March 2, 2010

Moderator Robert J. O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. He stated that this is the 237th Annual Town Meeting of Pomfret. The Rev. Jennifer Donaldson was asked to begin the meeting with a prayer.

Articles:

1. Robert J. O'Donnell was elected Moderator for a 1 year term. He was given the oath of office by the Town Clerk, Lynne A. Leavitt, and then reviewed the procedures and rules of order for the meeting.
2. Lynne A. Leavitt was elected Town Clerk for a 1 year term and given the oath of office by Robert O'Donnell.

Robert O'Donnell made an announcement for Orson St. John to circulate a sign in sheet for any one who would like to be added to the email list for the distribution of the Selectboard Meeting Agendas and Minutes.

3. Bill Emmons moved to accept the reports as submitted. Orson St. John seconded.

There was a discussion on getting a town website. Douglas J. Tuthill stated that Kristoffer J. Hansen set up a website for the Town of Pomfret and there is more work to be done. Loreda B. Sola and Alan C. Graham made suggestions as to items they would like to see on the website. JoAnn Webb asked why the electricity in the Town Hall has gone up. Douglas J. Tuthill responded that an electrician is looking at it for the Town Hall and the Brick building and that the Town did switch providers for the propane.

The motion to accept the reports as submitted passed by voice vote.

4. The following officers were elected:

Selectboard	3 year term	Neil I. Lamson	Unopposed
Treasurer	1 year term	Hazel B. Harrington	Unopposed
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1 year term	Jay L. Potter	Unopposed
Cemetery Commissioner	3 year term	William T. Cole	Unopposed
Lister	3 year term	Norman M. Buchanan	Unopposed
Auditor	3 year term	Elizabeth L. Rhodes	Unopposed
Grand Juror	1 year term	Michael S. Reese	Unopposed
Town Agent	1 year term	Michael S. Reese	Unopposed
Library Trustee	3 year term	Anne L. Bower	Unopposed
Library Trustee	3 year term	Peter R. Gebhardt	Unopposed

5. Bettina L. Lewin was elected for a 3 year term as Trustee for Public Funds.
6. Anthony Thacher was elected for a 3 year term on the Pomfret Emergency Services Commission.
7. Kevin Geiger moved that the Town appropriate the sum of \$37,700 for the Emergency Services Organization account administered by the Town Treasurer to be used for operating expenses. Leon J. Stetson stated that he has been Fire Warden for 36 years and this is the first year there have been zero fires. Fred S. Doten, Sr. thought that the Emergency Services could cut their expense even more. Kevin

Geiger said when they first did their budget it was \$53,000 and they brought it down to \$37,700. Sherman T. Kent asked about fundraising programs. Anthony Thacher explained that the money goes to three department (Pomfret & Teago Volunteer Fire Departments and Fast Squad) and the sum of \$37,700 they are asking from the town pays their expenses and the rest of their money comes from donations. Kevin Geiger also explained some of the cost of their equipment. Kevin A. Rice said after the ISO inspection the approval rating went from 9 to 8B. Orson L. St. John seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

8. Kevin Geiger moved that the Town will appropriate \$35,000 for the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund. Douglas J. Tuthill stated that last year the selectboard asked the Fire Department to cut back their request by \$10,000 and to put it back in for this year to get back to where they are suppose to be. There was a discussion on the 1993 engine. Marjorie Wakefield seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.
9. Joanna R. Long moved that the Town appropriate \$30,903 for the Abbott Memorial Library. Joanne R. Long said their situation is the same as Emergency Services, the price of everything has gone up. She also stated that people use the public library more in hard times and the circulation in Pomfret has tripled. Anthony Thacher said he supports the requested amount. Betsy A. Siebeck said they have gone after some grants and have funded some of their expenses with grants. Eleanor M. Pizzani thanked the Library for being open and said she was happy that she could get books and CD's. Alan C. Graham wanted to know what was happening with replacing the roof. Douglas J. Tuthill responded that the Selectboard put \$35,000 in this year's budget under special projects for the roof. Anne L. Bower seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.
10. Judith A. Repp moved that the Town appropriate the sum of \$3,950 to support the home care and hospice care of patients in their homes by staff and volunteers of the visiting Nurse Alliance of Vermont and New Hampshire, Inc. Nancy J. Bassett stated their were 211 visits last year and \$10,000 was uncompensated. Marjorie Wakefield seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.
11. Anne L. Bower moved that the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,500 to support programming of the Ottauquechee Community Partnership which includes the Spectrum Teen Center and the Shining Light Mentoring program. Fred S. Doten, Sr. made a motion to amend the amount of \$1,500 to \$500. The motion failed for lack of a second. Anne L. Bower feels we need to support our teens. Jennifer D.H. Donaldson said the teens have raised \$4,000 to \$5,000 for the Food Shelter. Marie D. Harrington stated on page 39 there is an article explaining everything they have done. Cathleen C. Donath seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.
12. Anne L. Bower moved that the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,200 for the Woodstock Area Council on aging to run the Edwin J. Thompson Senior Center. Sherman T. Kent commented there was no discussion on this last year. Robert J. Anderegg said last year they asked for \$975. Elizabeth L. Rhodes explained organizations requesting under \$1,000 don't need to be warned by separate article. Anne L. Bower explained their services. Marjorie Wakefield seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.
13. Kevin Geiger moved that the Town authorize the Selectboard to spend unanticipated funds such as grants and gifts. Constance DeWitt would like the Selectboard to explain. Douglas J. Tuthill said we have done this for the last 230 years without a vote. Robert J. Anderegg said this was approved in March 2008. Anthony Thacher explained how we go forward with grants. Anne L. Bower seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.
14. Kevin Geiger moved that the Voters authorize the Selectboard to borrow money, if necessary, for the payment of current expenses of the Town pending receipts of payment of taxes. Mark C. Warner seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.
15. Orson L. St. John moved that the Town vote the budget of \$1,322,165 for town and highway expenses as shown in the town report. Jennifer J. Kirkman asked why the sand cost dropped by \$30,000? Douglas J.

Tuthill responded this has been a mild winter and they feel this is a good amount. There was a discussion on green salt vs white salt. Marjorie Wakefield seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

16. Hazel B. Harrington moved that the Town raise \$1,007,354 in taxes. Marjorie Wakefield seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

District Representative Mark Mitchell appeared and spoke about the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant and he said that the decommissioning cost could be as much as 1 ½ billion dollars. Leon J. Stetson, Janet Salzman, Loreda Sola, Betsy Seibeck and Douglas J. Tuthill had questions for Mark Mitchell about Vermont Yankee. Orson St. John asked Mark to speak about the budget and what this would do to our taxes. Victoria Jas commented on the environment and said the Vermont Yankee needs to be shut down.

17. Kevin Geiger moved that the Town collect taxes in two installments, on the first Friday of August (6th), 2010 and the first Friday of November (the 5th), 2010. Late payments will be subject to interest of 1% per calendar month or part thereof. All taxes outstanding on November 6th, 2010 will be delinquent and subject to a penalty of 8% for the Town. William B. Emmons seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.
18. Janet Salzman moved that the Town authorize the Selectboard to act in it's behalf in proceeding with plans for the EC Fiber network, as voted and approved in last year's Town meeting. Loreda Sola explained that in February 2010 their loan was denied and now they are applying for RUS (Rural Utility Service) Round 2 funding as well as Google's Fiber-to-the-Home effort. Loreda also said that there is no financial risk to the town. Laura Kent said that we need high speed internet. Robert Merrill seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.
19. To do any other proper and necessary business.

Norwood Long commented on the wonderful job the highway department has done. Alex Henzel wanted everyone to look at the Town's Charter on stage. Connie Dewitt thanked Neil Lamson for his work on the computer. Joanna Long thought the town should make the website top priority.

Dick McCormick appeared and spoke about Vermont Yankee Power Plant shutting down and the reasons why it fell apart.

Robert Merrill moved to adjourn and Alan Graham seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m. Several new officers were sworn to their duties by Lynne A. Leavitt.

Lunch was served by The Lamson Family to benefit the 4H Group.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne A. Leavitt, Town Clerk

Minutes approved by:

Date:

NOTE: A full transcript of the Town Meeting minutes are available on CD at the town office for \$10.00.