

Town of Pomfret
Select Board Meeting Approved Minutes August 3, 2022

Present: Emily Grube, John Peters, Ben Brickner
Absent: Steve Chamberlin, Jonathan Harrington

Public: Jim Potter (Road Foreman), Cynthia Hewitt (SB Asst), Pam Pickett, Christina Dolan (Vermont Standard), Neil Lamson (Lister), Connor Rigney (Two Rivers)

1. Emily called the meeting to order at 7 pm
2. Public Comment – Connor Rigney stated that he is available to assist the Planning Commission in Revising the Town Plan; he assisted in obtaining a Town Planning Grant
3. Agenda Review: Karen Osnoe would like to talk about Zoning Penalty vs. Late Fee. A resident complained about speeding on Pomfret road; John moved and Ben seconded adding these two items to the agenda. Motion carried
4. Road Foreman's Report –the price of chloride has gone from \$0.87 to \$1.06/gallon. And it is scarce; Jim will order what he can. Pike will commence paving the week of August 29th. Justin and Jim would like to know the cost of Dental insurance; Ellen to provide costs. Jim has received one application for the new full time road crew position, with two other applications expected.
 - a. Ben has prepared a draft Hazard Mitigation Grant Application using the Vermont Emergency Management template. Emily is registered to post application to the State bid site. The town will be responsible for 25% in kind; the grant will cover 75%. Two Rivers has already expressed interest in the work and Ben will send them a copy of the approved RFP. Ben moved and John seconded the application be approved with minor edits, including moving the due date to 10/05/2022. Unanimous vote.
 - b. Cloudland Road Foliage Traffic – Jim believes we should close the road from Woodstock to Barber Hill to all but local traffic. Emily will check with Woodstock about this
 - c. Release of Liens on Cloudland Project – our contract with Northwoods requires that payment in full be made upon project completion; the payment bond protects the town from claims by subcontractors for nonpayment; warrant approved.
5. Items for Discussion or Vote
 - a. ARPA – Neil reports he received notification today for the second payment of \$127,492. He is working on new laptops for Karen and Jimmy, A/V update, and handicap access to town offices.
 - b. Tree Policy – will be adopted at next meeting when all five SB members are present
 - c. Wolf Tree Hospitality Catering Event at Cloudland Farm, September 13, 2022. Ben moved and John seconded this permit be approved; motion carried.
 - d. Zoning Permit – During recent negotiations over zoning permits, Karen is having difficulty distinguishing between late fees and penalties. She feels she needs clearer guidelines. For instance, she had a permit submitted for an ADU which was completed, i.e., had no permit; another request for a garage which had been started without a permit. Karen will reach out to other zoning administrators to see how they approach this distinction; following that, Ben may reach out to Joe McLean to

discuss.

- e. September 10, Charity Event—Jordana Jusidman and Leah Skypeck attended the meeting to firm up plans for their multi-sport charity event on 09/10/2022, which consists of a run, bike, and mountain bike activity. They brought the requested insurance rider, a map of the 3 courses, and plans for traffic control by volunteers at 4 intersections of dirt road with paved highway. Ben moved and John seconded for approval; unanimous vote
 - f. FY 2022 final results. Ben noted that the town ran a significant surplus in FY2022, due primarily to unanticipated delinquent tax collections that are unlikely to recur in future years. He suggested the Board think ahead of budget season about the best use of these one-time funds. Historically we have used some to reduce the tax burden and some to shore up reserve funds.
 - g. VMERS – Ben will contact VMERS regarding the different retirement plan groups available to town employees; there are questions about what plans the town can offer and how benefits are calculated for employees with history in multiple plan groups.
 - h. Warrants – Ben moved and John 2nd approval. Unanimous
 - 23005 \$ 116.80 A/P
 - 23006 11,484.91 P/R
 - 23009 19,265.00 A/P
 - 23010 451.02 A/P
 - 23012 188,876.50 A/P
 - 23013 3901.08 A/P
 - i. Ben moved and John seconded approval of 07/20/22 minutes; unanimous
6. Meeting Wrap-Up
- a. Correspondence
 - b. Review of Assignments: Emily speak with Ellen re: dental insurance, check with Woodstock re: Closing Cloudland, post Hazard Mitigation paper work on State site, follow up regarding unpaid ambulance bills;
Ben revise LHMP RFP and send to Emily for posting; contact VMERS; revise ambulance services contract
 - c. Agenda items for next meeting Tree policy, Town Plan,
7. Executive Session – Ben moved and John seconded that the board enter Executive Session per 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1)(A) to discuss contracts. Unanimous. The board entered executive session at 8:45 pm.
8. Executive Session was adjourned at 9:16 pm, and no decisions were made therein. Emily noted that negotiations will continue with Woodstock regarding ambulance service, and that discussions will continue regarding unpaid ambulance bills.
9. Ben moved and John seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 pm.