

POMFRET FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
11/19/2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Emily Grube (Selectboard, Ellen Desmeules (Treasurer), Nancy Matthews (Auditor)

The meeting came to order at 3:00 p.m.

The minutes of the last meeting were discussed with a recommendation to revise and fine tune the discussion of Reserve Funds.

The committee discussed the introduction of VLTC's (Vermont League of Cities and Towns) Model Financial Handbook which provides reasons why Financial Policies are adopted and how to begin. The following was noted by the Committee:

- Because the responsibilities of various town officials overlap, it is important that they be involved jointly in policy development. Joint involvement will also insure that the policy is reasonable and realistic. It can also clarify who is responsible for what and make it more likely that all those involved in financial decision-making will abide by a common set of rules.
- It is recognized that there are gaps in Vermont's municipal finance statutes. VLTC suggests: "Well-crafted local financial policies can overcome some of these shortcomings".
- Adopting municipal financial policies can increase transparency, accountability, and consistency in town government as well as helping local officials make more informed decisions about providing services, acquiring and managing capital assets, safeguarding the town's resources, and promoting financial stewardship, all of which may result in a more stable tax rate. It can also promote strategic thinking in tough economic times.
- Policies should be annually reviewed to make sure they remain current, are understood and supported by all board members especially if they are new to the boards.

The VLTC Model Financial Handbook includes various Policy Templates. Other sources can include policies from other Vermont towns.

Nancy Matthews offered to match the VLTC Policy Templates with the Selectboard's recommendations for the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.