

Pomfret Selectboard Meeting Draft Minutes  
March 18, 2020

Present: Emily Grube, Steve Chamberlin, Scott Woodward (via phone), Chuck Gunderson (via phone), Frank Perron

Public Hugh P. Hermann, M.D. (Health Officer), Kevin Rice (Emergency Management via phone), Ben Brickner (ZBA). Amber Erkiletian(via phone), Cynthia Hewitt (SB Asst)

Executive Session

1. Call to order at 6 PM
2. Public Comment none
3. Discussion with Town Attorney and Planning Commission re: Sound Provision, Scott Woodward moved, and Emily seconded, that the board make a finding that premature public knowledge would place the board at a substantial disadvantage, and that the board therefore enter into executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F) to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body.” Unanimous
4. Adjournment 7:04 pm

Regular Meeting

1. Called to order at 7:05 pm
2. No Public Comment
3. Agenda Review: Becky would like to waive dog licenses and late fees; Ellen submitted a warrant to transfer unpaid tax balances to the tax collector; Cancel Silo Permit (Artistree is closed); no Road Foreman report Jim has a personal matter to attend; Remove FEMA financial audit, add TA 60. Postpone roles and responsibilities, etc., postpone Financial Management Committee. Reappoint Karen Hewitt Osnoe. Roll-call vote – unanimous.
4. Hugh P. Hermann, M.D., the town Medical Officer, joined the meeting this evening to speak about the COVID-19 virus. He reports there are currently 19 cases in Vermont, 11 natives and 7-8 visitors have tested positive. Have tested over 200. All negative. Symptoms: Up to 70% all will have a cold. Fever, sore throat, weakness are further developing warning signs – 10-20% will suffer a painful cough, and are sick enough to require medical care. Lungs is the primary site. The worst-case symptoms might bring in sepsis, involvement of other organs i.e., kidneys. The more at-risk and susceptible population is those over 70, those with chronic disease such as diabetes, MS, cancer, compromised immunity. There are at-risk people within our community. There are no vaccines or specific treatments in place. Dr. Hermann reports Mt. Ascutney Hospital has a room set aside for nasal/mouth swabs for possible diagnosis. Only staying at home will mitigate the risk. He does not know of any serum tests available.

Kevin Rice, Town Emergency Manager, reiterated the State directives for social distancing and self-isolation. He had a conference call with EMTs in the state. Kevin affirms that he has contacted by phone the older-at-risk population. They tend to refuse any help, but will be encouraged to allow home delivered groceries, medications, and other necessary provisions, etc. Keeping people at home is only way to slow down the

spread. He has 30+ volunteers standing by. Chuck Gundersen added that the Thompson Senior Center is in need of Meals-on-Wheels drivers as they are offering take-out meals only

Kevin also reported an LEMT Webinar on Monday, 03/23/2020. He will meet with Emily and Steve on Tuesday to discuss any changes etc., at 6:30 pm, at the fire station.

5. Recurring Items (025:30 on recording)

a. Approval of Minutes—Emily moved to accept the minutes of 02/19 & 25/2020; Steve seconded. Unanimous roll-call vote. . Scott will email edits to Cynthia for the 03/04/2020 draft.

b. Emily moved and Steve seconded the approval of payment for the following warrants:

19094	\$331,136.96	Accts payable
19093	1,668.48	Replacement checks
19092	2,308.75	Payroll
19090	8,590.09	Payroll

Roll-call vote unanimous. Scott will drop by in the morning for the necessary signatures.

19095	322,995.28	Unpaid balances to Delinquent Tax Coll. (Agenda add-on)
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Scott moved and Steve 2<sup>nd</sup>; unanimous roll-call.

6. Items for Discussion or Vote

a. Scott moved to approve Town Meeting Minutes; Steve seconded. Unanimous roll-call.

b. Emily moved and Chuck seconded add to agenda, unanimous reappointment of Karen Hewitt Osnoe as Zoning Administrator and Delinquent Tax Collector. Unanimous roll-call.

c. Energy Committee. (42:00 on recording) Scott has heard from three citizens who are interested in serving on an Energy Committee. Scott moved and Steve seconded that Ann Bower, Amos Esty, and Heidi Gennaro be appointed to the Energy Committee. Unanimous roll-call.

Emily moved and Scott seconded that appointments be staggered for continuity; thus, the following appointments will be confirmed by letter: Bower to a 3-year term, Esty to a 2-year term, and Genaro to a 1 year term. Roll-call; passed

d. Planning Commission Appointments. Emily moved and Chuck 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Emmons and Sy Benoit to be reappointed to 3-year terms. Unanimous roll-call vote. Scott moved and Steve seconded that all appointments are for 3 years, staggered in groups of 2 for one year, 2-2-2; should a fourth member be added it could be 2-2-3.

Appointments will run from 04/01/2020 through 03/31/20XX. Nelson Lamson and Orson St. John's terms will end in 2021; John Moore and Ann Raynold's terms in 2022. All members will be notified by letter re: the length of their terms beginning 04/01/2020.

e. ZBA Appointments. (56:00 on recording) Loie Havill resigned and Michael Reese's term ended. The ZBA was reduced from 7 to 5 members in 2010. Scott moved and Emily seconded that the ZBA appointments will be for 3-year terms, staggered 2-1-2. Unanimous roll-call. Scott volunteered to serve on the board. Emily stated that just doesn't work – conflict of interest. Alan Blackmer's term will end in 2021; Ben

Brickner's and Shawn Pickett's in 2022. Emily moved and Chuck 2<sup>nd</sup> that Phil Dechert and Seth Westbrook be appointed to three-year terms beginning 04/01/2020 through 03/31/2023. Unanimous roll-call vote. Scott moved and Steve seconded that the board expiration date be 03/31/20xx. Lengths of terms and dates of terms will be sent to all via letter re: change in appt. date (i.e. to 04/01 vs. June). Ben requested Scott share his spread sheet of appointments with him and with Becky. (is on Sharepoint)

- f. Paving Grant. (16:20 on Tape 2). VTrans has awarded a paving grant in the amount of \$175,000 to begin on 05/01/2020. This is a gift for us because we need to start Howe Hill Project earlier than 07/01/2020.
  - g. (22:00 on Tape 2) Emily moved and Chuck seconded approval of a waiver for dog licensing to 05/31/2020 since vets are only accepting emergency appointments and all rabies clinics have been cancelled. Unanimous roll-call.
  - h. FEMA Audit: Scott reports there were no major issues, however, our Conflict of Interest Policy needs to be updated to include Federal Guidelines.
  - i. Zoning hearing. The board needs to discuss Atty. Mclean's recommendations prior to scheduling a zoning hearing. Zoning hearing must be scheduled after Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.
  - j. TA-60 Annual Financial Plan – Town Highways. Emily completed the report, based on previous reports, which she circulated to the board. Will work on it at next meeting. Jim and Emily are the point people for talking with VTrans. Emily would like board approval to sign VTrans reports, conduct VTrans business, etc. as Chair, in the absence of a road commissioner. Scott moved that we authorize Emily as Chair to conduct business with Vtrans; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve, unanimous roll-call vote. We should have further discussion of the road commissioner job description. Ellen has taken over the drug testing scheduling, etc.
7. Meeting wrap up
    - a. No correspondence
    - b. Review of Assignments
    - c. Agenda Items: TA60
    - d.
  8. (51:58 Tape 2) Steve moved and Scott seconded Adjournment at 9 PM. Passed