

Town of Pomfret Special Selectboard Meeting
Approved Minutes
October 7, 2020

Present: Emily Grube, Steve Chamberlin, Scott Woodward, John Peters, Chuck Gundersen

Public: Jim Potter (Road Foreman), Ellen DesMeules (Treasurer), John Moore (Planning Comm), Ben Brickner (ZBA and Auditor), Karen Osnoe (ZBA), Bob Coates (School Bd), Cathy Peters, Curt Peterson, Allen Stein (Standard), Dan St. Cyr, Barb Kessler, Cy Benoit (Tree Warden), Cindy LeHoullier, Barb Kessler (VSP)a, Cynthia Hewitt (SB Assistant)

1. Call to Order Executive Session 6:00
2. Public Comment – none
3. Agenda Review – none
4. Right of Way Decisions
5. Adjourn Exec. Session 7:00
6. Call To Order SB Meeting – 7:05
7. Public Comment – none
8. Agenda Review – Include authorization for Chair for signage of Teago Documents (10.h)
9. Recurring Items
 - a. Steve moved and Chuck seconded Approval of the 09/16/2020 Minutes. Unanimous roll-call vote.
 - b. Warrants for Approval

21028	\$ 9,022.78	Payroll.	(Emily moved, Scott seconded, unan r/c vote)
21024	10,264.56	A/P	(Emily moved Chuck seconded, unan r/c vote)
21025	9,568.88	A/P	(Emily moved Chuck seconded, unan r/c vote)
21029	87,054.50	A/P	(Emily moved Chuck seconded, 4 Ayes, 1 nay)

John moved and Scott seconded that we delay the vote on warrants until after a pertinent item on the agenda is discussed. Unanimous roll-call vote
 - c. Road Foreman's Report
Jim reports that painting of the garage is moving right along. The Crew continues ditching and grading. Jim has ordered road signs.
10. Items for Discussion or Vote
 - a. Truck Bids – Steve resubmitted the RFP to all venders asking them to match the specs exactly as requested. He prepared a spreadsheet outlining the final bids. Steve moved and John seconded the contract be made with Clark's for the International. Scott moved and Chuck seconded that Steve be authorized to sign the documents. Unanimous roll-call vote.
 - b. The new truck's Cab and Chassis are finished and payment is needed, Ellen will do so with the next warrants.
 - c. Grant In Aid: Two Rivers has offered a grant in aid program for hydrological road amendments. We are to return the letter of intent and Two Rivers will work on a plan with Jim. Steve moved and Chuck 2nd we pursue this financing. Unanimous roll-call vote. As an aside, Emily reported VTrans is not funding any structures grants this year, but we will remain at the same position in the queue for future years.

- d. Rock Salt Bids – Jim has obtained several bids but it was determined the State Salt Contracts needed to be considered as well. He prefers using Clear Lane. This will be on the agenda for the 10/21/2020 meeting.
- e. Barbara Kessler from Vermont State Police was invited to join the meeting tonight so that the Board could inform her of some of the problem areas in town as well as to present to the Board recent activity logs of the VSP troopers when they spend time here (attached). She explained that one of her troopers has been out with a back injury for many weeks, thus their usage has been down. The troopers have been visible checking for speeders on the flat places; Emily is concerned with speeding on Howe Hill; we've had many signs vandalized and/or stolen recently; we've had complaints of speeding ATVs and dirt bikes on many of the back roads, to the point some residents do not feel safe going out for a walk or bike ride. Barbara suggested that problems be reported directly to her in the future and she will do her best to get them addressed. Allen Stein from the VT Standard wanted to know how many signs had been removed and what the cost? Jim reports he just ordered 32 signs at the cost of ± \$1600, which does not include posts or labor.
- f. Carey Driveway Permit. This will require a joint site visit with the Board and ZBA, since there is a Flood Lane involved. Karen Osnoe has sent out the appropriate forms and will coordinate a site visit.
- g. Greene Driveway Permit – Steve moved and Chuck seconded this permit be allowed. Chuck, Steve, Emily and Jim attended a site visit and found a viable alternative as long as they install an 18" culvert and cut some trees and bushes. Unanimous roll-call vote.
- h. Teago Store Decision Approval. Scott moved and Steve seconded that the Board authorize Emily, as Chair, authority to sign the final form of the decision. Unanimous roll-call vote.
- i. Options. For School Division
John asked to put this item on the Agenda because he does not believe his children are receiving an adequate education within the current system. He regrets agreeing to the merger. He finds it disturbing how the School Board conducts their business and their meetings. John also knows this is not the forum for this discussion, however, he brings it up because there is a lack of communication with the school board.
Bob Coates, one of Pomfret's School Board members, attended the meeting to try to address some of the complications, the biggest, of course, being Covid-19, which has "turned life upside down." Additionally, the Online Option, VTVLC, has been oversubscribed. There is an ongoing search for a Superintendent and has been frequent turnover in administration. The school is planning to send out questionnaires for students, parents and teachers. Most parents find it upsetting to have \$200,000 spent on the Prosper Valley School and it just sits. Bob suggested it may possibly open to 6th graders (or 5th and 6th). Bob and Bill are working with several Pomfret families, trying to work programs out, etc. Scott moved and John seconded the board Draft a letter to address concerns. Unanimous roll-call vote; John to draft a letter.
- j. Scott moved and Chuck seconded that we apply for the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Grant. This is 75% funded by FEMA and 25% (\$14,150) funded by Town. Unanimous roll-call vote.

- k. Scott moved and Chuck seconded Adoption of the Final Conflict of Interest Policy; Ben to send PDF. Unanimous roll-call vote.
 - l. Scott moved and Chuck seconded new Appointments to the Capital Planning Committee -- Neil Lamson and John Dickerson. Unanimous roll-call vote.
 - m. HR – Tabled to future meeting
 - n. Budget Planning – Neil Lamson will track the budget and provide worksheets for various sections.
11. Meeting Wrap-Up
- a. Selectboard Correspondence: none
 - b. Review of assignments: Emily -- Mitigation grant, VSP reports. Jim – Salt contracts. Chuck – Speak with Kathleen Dolan. John – draft school board letter.
 - c. Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Rock Salt bids, HR
 - d. Scott moved and Steve seconded Adjournment at 9:04 pm. Unanimous roll-call vote