

October 21, 2020

Town of Pomfret
Selectboard Meeting
Approved Minutes

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

Public: John Moore (Planning Comm), Ben Brickner (ZBA, Auditor), Cathy Peters, Todd Holmes, Jim Potter (Road Foreman), Cynthia Hewitt (SB Asst)

1. Call to Order --7:02
2. Public Comment – none
3. Agenda Review – Scott asked to strike the Capital Planning Committee discussion because John Moore had sent an email update to the Board. Emily requested the addition of Town Meeting procedure. Steve moved and Chuck seconded to accept these modifications. Unanimous roll-call vote.
4. Recurring Items
 - a. Approval of 09/16/2020 Minutes. Scott requested that we add “the Board discussed Clearlane formulated salt, which Jim prefers.” Steve moved and John seconded the minutes be accepted with this change. Unanimous roll-call vote.
 - b. Warrants

21032	\$ 7,934.80	Payroll
21033	40,835.35	A/P
21034	120,428.00	Clark Truck

Emily moved and Scott seconded payment of these warrants. Unanimous roll-call vote
 - c. Road Foreman’s Report

The crew continues to work cleaning out ditches, blowing leaves, etc.; Jim is smoothing washboards and touching up other road issues. They have begun replacing road signs. The pedestrian crossing signs are up at the Town Hall. Jim asked if Private Road signs were the financial responsibility of the landowner. Emily will research this question. John believes if there are more than 2 houses on the road that the town does pay. Painting of the garage is coming along nicely and should be done within a week. Tomorrow Adam Ricker from Two Rivers will view with Jim the upcoming projects and a ditching grant. Jim asked why the Suicide-6 radios are in on his frequency. John explained this was due to the ability to scan. He will check with the company. The problem can be rectified when the new truck comes in and needs a radio. Jim has gone to Viking to view the truck and set up controls etc. The body should be delivered by the 3rd week of November. The grader has been serviced and Jim asked for a list of potential problems/repairs. They amount to ±\$60,000. Scott explained that John Deer is offering “Power Accounts” which spread out larger service bills over several months without interest. Jim is working closely with the Capital Planning committee regarding current and future options re: equipment. The crew is also working on equipment to get ready for winter.
5. Items for Discussion or Vote

- a. Road Salt – Jim spoke with Chris Bump at VTrans and found the State Contract Salt Bid is higher than ordering ourselves from the vender. Cargill has given the best estimate. Scott moved and Steve seconded that the board approve Jim ordering 850 ton of salt and 800 ton of Clearlane. Unanimous roll-call vote
- b. Greene Driveway Permit – Mr. Greene has amended his plan by moving the driveway down by one tree (in order to save a maple tree. Jim states that this is fine, actually a better alternative, with clear sight distance. Mr. Greene will be asked to provide an amended permit and map. Emily moved and Steve seconded approval. Unanimous roll-call vote
- c. Road Commissioner & Foreman Job descriptions are attached to the agenda; Emily states that, though similar, neither of these actually depict what is currently happening. She asked the Board to make suggestions for change towards “Working Road Commissioner.”
- d. Pike Final Payment -- It still is not clear if the 18.2 tons that was used in Sharon is still billed to Pomfret. Jim is sure the subcontractors have been paid. It was decided that Ellen should contact Caleb of Pike directly to solve this issue.
- e. Feral Pigs -- The USDA Wildlife Services is conducting a feral swine research project throughout the state of Vermont to determine the presence of this highly destructive and invasive species. Feral swine are non-native to Vermont and can be very destructive to native species and their habitats. Feral swine can transmit as many as 30 different pathogens and 40 different parasites, many of which pose threats to humans, livestock, wildlife, and pets. In Pomfret they will undertake this study at the Town Forest (Joe Ranger property). This study will be focusing on areas with suitable feral swine habitat and possible travel corridors for likely emigration into the state. USDA biologists will be deploying trail cameras along survey grids inside of suspected swine habitats, travel corridors, and areas where public submissions have originated in an effort to find any existing populations of feral swine. This process will present bait (fermented mash) for the swine (which no animal can actually eat – it is just to lure them to the cameras). Emily spoke with Bill Emmons, whose property abuts the Joe Range Town Forest, neither of them believe there is a feral pig problem. After discussion, Scott moved and John seconded we give permission to the USDA to conduct the study. The Board would like to see a copy of the results. Unanimous roll-call vote
- f. Teago Decision – Ben Brickner and Joe McLean have presented the finalized document to the Board for approval. It was decided to have Kevin Worden present a final site plan that reflects all the changes as stated. Scott moved and Steve seconded that the memorandum of decision and permit be approved as drafted. Unanimous roll-call vote. Ben Brickner will be in touch with Kevin Worden regarding the site plan; once that has been achieved and approved the decision letter will be presented.
- g. School Board Letter – John reports that things are deteriorating as far as seeking information from the school/school board. Scott assured him that the Selectboard may certainly speak for concerned residents, and he feels more strongly that the Board should send a letter. John will provide content to Scott, who will WordSmith the letter. The motion to send the letter was carried at the 10/07/2020 meeting.
- h. HR Consultant -- Scott moved and John seconded that the Board approve Theresa Miele be engaged to work on top 2 issues she identified, Personnel Policy/Employee

Handbook, and Combined Time-off Policy at the cost of \$1450. Unanimous roll-call vote. Theresa will be able to start work on this in December

- i. Town Meeting Methodology – Emily would like to the Board to determine how to run Town Meeting in March, in view of the Covid 19 restrictions. Emily has been in touch with Carl Andeer, Atty for VLCT and he cannot encourage a Zoom meeting but feels Australian ballot would work well. Discussion to be continued.
 - j. Schultz family burial ground – Chuck and Scott performed a site visit and found no issues with the location. It is high up on a hill and poses no ground water problem and no surface water problem. They plan a green burial. Scott will get the GPS coordinates. John moved and Scott seconded the permit be approved. Scott moved and John seconded that the permit be approved. Unanimous roll-call vote.
6. Meeting Wrap-Up
- a. Selectboard Correspondence – WISE has asked permission for waiver of petitions for their appropriation in 2021. It is likely Town Meeting will be held via Australian ballot; Emily moved and Steve seconded WISE be granted permission to waive petitions. Unanimous roll-call. Vote. (NB. Cynthia spoke with the director of Wise on 10/22/2020 and notified her of this decision; she would still be asking for \$400.)
 - b. Review of Assignments – Emily Private Road signs, Feral Pigs, Greene driveway; Ben Kevin Worden new site plan; Jim road salt contracts; Scott, John, & Cathy School Board letter, HR contract; Ellen email to Caleb at Pike.
 - c. Agenda items for Next Meeting: Town Meeting Procedure; Budget Planning, road signs,
 - d. Scott moved and Steve seconded adjournment at 8:45 pm. Unanimous roll-call vote.