

Pomfret Selectboard Special Meeting  
December 9, 2020

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

Public: John Moore (Planning), Annie Bower (Library), Betsy Rhodes (Library), Neil Lamson (Auditor), Jim Potter (Road Foreman), Karen Hewitt Osnoe (ZBA), Ben Brickner (Auditor, Zoning), Nancy Matthew (Auditor), C. Hewitt (SB Assistant)

1. The meeting was called to order at 6 PM
2. Public Comment – no public comment
3. Agenda Review – Scott asked for the addition of whether the board would put on Town Meeting warning non-social services articles requested by individuals. John moved and Scott seconded; unanimous roll-call vote.
4. Items for Discussion or Vote
  - a. Grader RFP – Steve moved and Scott seconded the RFP for a grader be sent out. Jim and Steve are working on it. Unanimous roll-call vote.
  - b. Budget
    - 1) Fire Department – Kevin Rice, Chief, went line-by-line through his budget. The Training Budget is increased because he has 4 new people. Additionally, the hose was tested, which had been requested for 10 years. There was a loss of 1000 feet of LDH which must be replaced (\$6150). The tanks were inspected; he is buying one set of new gear per year.
    - 2) Zoning Administrator – Karen Osnoe was asked about increasing her stipend – She agreed that there has been a lot more work with the new bylaws and more hearings (40). She feels she needs some training regarding flood plains. Ben suggested the fees be raised also, the current fee barely covers the warning. Karen’s stipend was raised from \$5000 to \$8000. Karen has also been doing a lot of delinquent tax collection. Her rate in that capacity was increased from \$2500 to \$3500.
    - 3) Unpaid Ambulance Bills – The current unpaid balance is in excess of \$ 12000. John will check with the Woodstock service to obtain HIPPA training so that we can try and collect. Suicide 6 will be asked to take care of their share (\$3300). The bulk of the unpaid fees are from non-insured or out of state Medicare.
    - 4) Library – Annie Bower reports there are no increases and the budget remains at \$41,000. The building is 115 years old and some masonry needs repair. John Barnes has gone over the entire building and his estimate is \$14000. He has done all previous work. There is a \$9000 ± library reserve which should cover most of his work. Annie will check for any Historic Preservation Grants/Matching funds. Annie thanked the board for all their “intricate” work; Betsy thanked the residents for supporting the library.
    - 5) Reserve Funds – Nancy asked that all the reserve spending be included in the report.
  - c. Ottaquechee Health Foundation – John moved and Scott seconded that \$2500 be appropriated on the warning. Unanimous roll-call vote.

- d. Scott reported that the Governor and legislature may allow towns to delay Town Meeting. He feels this may be wise in order to carefully go over the line items while having some hard conversations. Emily asked what services might be eliminated to create level funding. John agrees we need better long-range planning. He also feels the Fire Department needs to provide more concrete information in their budget; why are independent though taxpayer funded? The Capital Planning Committee will not be recommending any high dollar ticket items, only some major and minor maintenance. The Garage needs an on-demand generator. It was suggested that the three culvert/bridge projects be prioritized and estimates obtained to determine how to best tackle them.
  - e. Scott would like the board to contemplate approving voluntary petitions placed on the Warning for non-social services. This will be discussed in more depth at the next meeting.
5. Meeting Wrap-Up
- a. Select Board Correspondence - none
  - b. Review of Assignments Emily will notify OHC of the no petition signature status.
  - c. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – RFP Grader Approval, Zoning Board Fees, on demand generator, where to allot charitable donation, unpaid ambulance bills, highway budget, municipal budget, reserve funds
  - d. Meeting Adjournment – John moved and Chuck seconded for adjournment at 9:40 pm. Unanimous roll-call vote