

Pomfret Selectboard Special Meeting Draft Minutes
December 23, 2020

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

Public: Neil Lamson (Lister), John Moore (Planning Commission), Cathy Peters, Nancy Matthews (Auditor), Ben Brickner (Auditor, ZBA), Cynthia Hewitt (SB Assistant)

1. The Meeting was called to order at 6 PM
2. Public Comment – none
3. Agenda Review – Add Warrant – Emily moved, Steve seconded – unanimous roll-call vote
4. Approval of 12/09/2020 minutes. Corrections: 4C \$2500 for OHC be added to the warning for appropriation; 4E change wording for warning of non Social Service petitions; 4D no high dollar items.
5. Items for Discussion or Vote:
 - a. Budget. The proposed General Budget and Highway budget were gone over line-by-line and necessary adjustments applied. Notably the zoning fees will be adjusted to more realistically cover actual expenses. Also, the NEMRAC fees were budgeted way too high and they were changed from \$5000 to \$2500. After discussion and deliberations Scott moved and John seconded that the Board approve the budget of \$1,535,296 with \$69,579 in voted appropriations, to be contingent upon voter approval of total amount of taxes to be raised of \$936,509. Unanimous roll-call vote.
 - b. Emily moved and John seconded approval of Accounts. Payable warrant #21050 in the amount of \$2310.17, which includes the first installment to Teresa Miele. Unanimous roll-call vote.
 - c. Chuck moved and John seconded that the Board establish the Teago Village Fund with the donation from Kathleen Dolan. The paperwork will be approved by an attorney, the fund to be invested by the Trustees of Public Funds, and the Board has control of how the money is spent. They have decided the first distribution will be used for improving pedestrian and vehicular traffic in the So Pomfret "downtown" area. Ben Brickner is happy to help with the paperwork. John Moore read the terms of the Dorothy Moore donation for illustration of the management of the fund. Unanimous roll-call vote.
 - d. USDA Loan Application
Scott prepared this application towards purchasing a new grader. There had been no vote previously to apply. We were in the question phase. Chuck wondered why we would want to finance the purchase while we have the cash on hand. Scott explained it will be increasingly difficult to keep a level budget in years to come. Borrowing some money creates some head space and room to maneuver. He would like to voters to choose whether we finance or pay cash. The town was in the practice of borrowing money in years past. Steve stated he felt the Capital Planning Committee was charged with making such determinations. The board did not approve the application. Steve thanked Scott for all the time he has put into the paperwork. Scott was disappointed; he felt he had gone ahead with this application with the Board's

support. He had suggestions of where we might try to find some grant money for future.

6. Meeting Wrap-Up

- a. Selectboard Correspondence – none
- b. Review of Assignments. Emily continues to play phone tag. Emily asked Scott to write the Budget Narrative and Chuck to write the Selectboard Narrative for the Town Report.
- c. Agenda for next meeting (01/06/2021): Winter road maintenance, Dog officer, Road Commissioner Job Description.
- d. Scott moved and John seconded for Adjournment at 8:48 pm. Unanimous roll-call vote.