

Town of Pomfret  
Select Board Meeting  
October 20, 2021

### Draft Minutes

Present: Emily Grube, Steve Chamberlin, Chuck Gundersen, Jonathan Harrington

Public: Carmen, Melissa Baker, Neil Lamson (Lister), Cyrus Benoit, Kevin Rice (Fire Chief), Ben Brickner (ZBA, Auditor), Mike Doten, Jim Potter (Road Foreman), Cynthia Hewitt (SB Asst), Bill Emmons

1. Emily called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm
2. No public comment
3. Agenda Review: we must discuss Cloudland Road and Employee Handbook, thus some items may be postponed
4. Recurring Items
  - a. Steve moved and Jon seconded approval of the 10/06/21 minutes after correction of the spelling of Ona's name. Unanimous vote
  - b. Warrants for payment:

22036	\$ 8,125.92	Payroll
22037	17,880.98	A/P

Jon moved and Steve seconded. Unanimous
  - c. Road Foreman's Report

One of the Lafayette crew tested positive for Covid 19 so they are taking the week off. Jim has gotten two quotes for salt delivery, neither can guarantee prices. Steve moved and Chuck 2<sup>nd</sup> that Jim contract with Cargill for treated salt @ \$81.94/ton. Motion Carried. Two new dump trucks are both in order. Rich Beland has measured for the windows to ventilate the garage, however, they are on back order. Caleb will attend the 11/03 meeting.
5. Items for Discussion or Vote
  - A. Cloudland Road tourist/traffic Problem. Mike Doten asked to bring this item to the board for discussion. Sleepy Hollow farm has become the destination for foliage photographs. This issue has been worsening for the past three years. There were basically wall to wall people with cars parked both sides of the road, causing a situation in which emergency vehicles or wreckers were unable to pass. There was lack of respect for private property (i.e., wading in a pond, picnicking in a meadow, trampling hay bales). Opposing cars were not giving an inch. Lots of trash was left behind, as well as damaged driveways and ditches. Cyrus Benoit added that the "peak" peepers were in attendance from noon to 6 pm. He feels some of the tourists believed they were in a public park vs private property. Suggestions included were to make the road one way, to close the road, to have a sheriff's presence, etc. Cy also believes the owner of Sleepy Hollow is willing to do anything to help. Further attention and discussion is needed; we will ask Chris Bump for suggestions, etc.

- B. Carmen Noradunghian attended this evening at the suggestion of Jim Potter to describe a developing problem with her driveway, access to which is tied in with 3 neighbors. She feels more and more that she is denied access. The Board suggested she apply for an access permit to solve this issue.
  - C. Highway Ordinance update - postponed
  - D. Highway renumbering – postponed
  - E. Town Building Security Systems – Kevin would like to install lock boxes on the Town Hall, Town offices, and any Town Garage. He feels that is the best method for emergency response, Steve moved and Chuck seconded that Kevin be authorized to install up to 3 boxes. Motion carried
  - F. Emergency Services Charge – postponed
  - G. Repeater - Access to the Repeater needs to be cleared of new growth on the Webster property. Batteries may need replacement. Some radios are not working; need new radios. Kevin believes that the easements and rights of way have never been finalized. He will look into this.
  - H. Employee Handbook – Chuck will communicate with Teresa re: full/part time employee hours
  - I. Budget – Emily and Steve will meet with Jim re: highway budget; Ellen and Becky will work on the town offices budget. Ben and Neil will streamline the spread sheet.
  - J. ARPA Funds – Public Input – Chuck moved and Chuck seconded that Neil ask Sarah Wraight from 2Rivers to set up a forum for residents to join a discussion of how best to use the money. Motion carried
  - K. Opioid Settlement – Cynthia will determine from Atty General the next step in this process
  - L. Veteran’s Exemption – Chuck moved and Steve seconded the tax exemption for an eligible disabled Veteran be continued. Unanimous decision.
6. Meeting Wrap Up
- a. White River Road trash has been remove by the Watershed Dept.
  - b. Assignments: Chuck will communicate with Teresa; Kevin will look into the repeater status; Cynthia will send Charge to Emergency Services Committee
  - c. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – Highway ordinance and road numbering, emergency services, budget,