

Town of Pomfret Informational Meeting  
February 19, 2022 Draft Minutes

Present: Emily Grube, Kevin Geiger, John Peters, Jon Harrington, Chuck Gundersen, Steve Chamberlin

Public: Alan & Kris, Astbury Jake, Brickner Ben, Clifford Vern, Emmons Bill, Fields Jerry, Fox, Nira & Steve, Hewitt C, IPAD 3, L&P, Lamson Neil, Long Joanna, Mark L, Matthews Nancy, Milne Scott, Olmstead Greg, Pearce Scott, Perrron Frank, Peters Jack, Pizzano Ellie, Potter, Jim, Randles Christian, Raynolds Ann, Reese Michael, Rhodes Betsy, Rice Kevin, Ricketson John, Schuerman Ed & Sue, Schmell Michael, Smith Corey, Sue, Wakefield Marge, Williams Sean

1. Emily called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and turned the meeting over to Moderator Kevin Geiger, who explained he would go through the Warning, item by item. He asked participants to stay on mute until recognized, to talk only to Kevin, no back and forth; be nice
2. Kevin directed the audience to page two – tributes to Orson St. John, and to Hugh Herman, longest serving medical officer in the state of Vermont. He then read the names of residents who have passed in 2021 and asked for a moment of silence.
3. Warning
  - To elect town officers
  - Change terms of select board-Emily
  - Authorize treasurer to collect taxes
  - Approve budget
    - Michael Reese had questions about the “double digit” increase in taxes; addition of 4<sup>th</sup> road crew member. Emily responded
    - Approve appropriation of \$60,000 Fire Truck Vehicle Reserve
    - John Ricketson asked about this item – Kevin Rice answered
- Appropriations Items 6-17
  - Taxes collected in two installments 08/19/2022 and 02/03/2023.
4. Further Discussion of Fire Department Funding – Kevin Rice stated they have hired a First Respondent Grant Writer. Greg Olmstead explained they have drawn up a comprehensive capital plan which is on the town website. The select board members are supportive of the fire department plans. Mr. Ricketson asked about lease alternatives. Kevin also introduced the new FD patch, which was designed by Woodstock student Owen Crossman.  
Neil Lamson praised Mr. Ricketson for his phenomenal spread sheet skills.  
Chuck stated that creating the budget is a thankless task – the board has revisited it time after time to cut, reduce, etc. Betsy Rhodes pointed out the library budget has been the same for three years. The cemetery budget also has no increase.

Kevin Geiger reminded voters the school district has its own informational meeting on Thursday 2/24 at 6:30 pm and their budget can be found on page 61. Emily reminded

voters to call the clerk for a school ballot or vote in person at the town office on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Jim Potter announced that the Select Board is very well rounded and has been great to work with.

Chuck moved and Steve seconded for adjournment at 10:12am