

Town of Pomfret Selectboard
Approved Meeting Minutes
12/21/2022

Present: Emily Grube, John Peters, Benjamin Brickner, Steve Chamberlin, Jon Harrington

Public: Jim Potter (Road Commissioner), Doug Tuthill (Constable), Scott Pearce, Scott Barger, Carl Bulgini, Jake Astbury, Michael Schmell, Cathy Peters, Neil Lamson (Lister), Cyndy Hewitt (Selectboard Assistant)

1. John called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm
2. Public Comment – None
3. Agenda Review – Ben moved and Steve seconded adding of Storm Communications. Unanimous.
4. Road Foreman’s Report
 - a. Doug Tuthill has repaired the chipper. The loader has a new tube for the tire.
 - b. Brad Ruderman contacted Jim and requested another site visit after the holidays of the Estate of Eydt driveway access location. Emily explained that the prior proposed access had been denied by the board, and that unless the proposed access has been changed to address the board’s concerns, another site visit may not be worthwhile.
 - c. Jim reports the repeater seemed not to be attached to batteries, interfering with the Road Crew’s connectivity during the recent power outages. John and Jim will work to connect the repeater to backup battery power.
 - d. Chris Bump of Vtrans does not recommend replacing the Bartlett Brook Road sign with a granite post or moving the sign outside the highway right-of-way.
 - e. Jim asked Emily to post on Listserve his thanks to the residents for their patience during the past storm. He is very grateful to GMP for their response (they had 55 crews out) and to Keith Sawyer and Doug Tuthill for their help clearing downed trees from the narrow portion of Pomfret Road near the Harford town line. Jim stated this was a very dangerous storm and he was concerned for the safety of his crew. Scott Pearce suggested Jim could use a Pomfret Fire Department frequency in the event of emergency if Pomfret municipal frequencies were temporarily unavailable. Emily suggested that Jim use his judgment in the future whether the crew should remain in their trucks or at the garage for safety reasons.
 - f. There was further discussion about the amount of salt being used on the paved roads during winter storms. Jim indicated he was open to experimenting with new approaches to quantity, calibration and timing of salt applications, but that safety was his primary concern.
 - g. Highway Budget – The board went through the budget on a line by line basis. Jim was reminded the repairs to garage doors comes out of the building reserve, not highway budget. An anticipated 6.2% cost of living adjustment was added to road crew salaries; still need fringe benefit figures and Medicare. To be continued at the 01/04/2023 meeting.
5. Items for Discussion or Vote
 - a. Fire Department Budget – The Fire Department presented a revised budget that reduced expenses by about \$5,100, resulting in a year-over-year increase of about

- 6.5% (down from 15%). The board expressed its appreciation for the Fire Department's effort to find savings where possible. The Department will also examine assumptions in its capital plan prior to the 01/04/2023 meeting to determine whether a lower figure can be used in this year's budget.
- b. Municipal Budget – The board recognized the need for a town administrator who can take on some of their administrative work. This line item will be omitted from the FY 2024 budget, but the concept will be scheduled for further discussion at a special meeting. To be continued at the 01/04/2023 meeting.
 - c. Storm Communications – The board discussed how the town can better communicate with residents during long duration weather events and power outages. Emily will send a message to the listserv ahead of the incoming winter storm. Ben will prepare an initial draft for the board to review.
 - d. Warrants – Ben moved and Steve seconded payment of the following warrants:

23061	A/P	\$ 53,474.36
23062	Tax Refund	\$ 372.93

 Unanimous.
 - e. Approval of Minutes – Emily moved and Ben seconded approval of the 12/07/2022 and 12/14/2022 meeting minutes as presented. Unanimous (Jon Harrington abstained).
6. Meeting Wrap Up
- a. Correspondence – None.
 - b. Review of Assignments – John to check repeater battery. Jim to revise town equipment inventory for annual report; follow up with Mr. Ruderman. Emily to speak with Green Mountain Mowing; send a storm notice on the listserv. Ben to circulate warning Word versions of last year's annual report deliverables from the selectboard (selectboard report, budget narrative, annual meeting warning, officer list); prepare draft winter storm listserv email.
 - c. Agenda for Next Meeting – FY 2024 budget; SharePoint tutorial.
7. Adjournment – Ben moved and Steve seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 pm.