

Town of Pomfret Selectboard  
Approved Special Meeting Minutes  
01/21/2023

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

Public: Nancy Matthews (Auditor), Kevin Rice (Fire Chief), Marge Wakefield (Trustee of Public Funds), “Liza’s iPad”, Cynthia Hewitt (Selectboard Assistant)

1. Emily called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Public comment – None.
3. Agenda Review – No changes.
4. Items for Discussion or Vote
  - a. Legal Counsel for Delinquent Tax Sales – Ben moved and John seconded that Stitzel, Page & Fletcher be authorized to work with the Delinquent Tax Collector to conduct the town’s tax sale process. Unanimous (Steve and Jon absent).
  - b. 2023 Town Meeting Format – Kevin Rice expressed a preference for returning to a floor vote town meeting. Emily explained that with so much respiratory illness still going around it would be safer to vote by Australian ballot for another year. Liza agreed with Emily. Ben moved and John seconded that the 2023 Town Meeting be held by Australian ballot; *provided* that House Bill 42 is signed into law by 5 P.M. Wednesday, January 25, which is the date by which the Auditors need the final warning in order to meet their annual report print deadline.<sup>[\*]</sup> Otherwise, the 2023 Town Meeting will be held by floor vote. Unanimous (Steve and Jon absent). Emily will email the listserv informing residents that if the 2023 Town Meeting is held by Australian ballot, candidates for local office will need to gather at least 8 signatures from registered Pomfret voters before their name can appear on the ballot.
  - c. 2023 Town Meeting Warnings – If the 2023 Town Meeting is held by Australian ballot, an informational hearing will be held on Saturday, February 25, by Zoom only. If the 2023 Town Meeting is held by floor vote, an informational meeting will be held concurrent with the Selectboard’s meeting on Wednesday, February 15, at the Town Office and by Zoom. In either case, Kevin Geiger will be invited to moderate. Three articles were added to the floor vote version of the warrant, asking voters whether Pomfret shall at subsequent town meetings (i) elect its town officers by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. 2680(b), (ii) adopt all budget articles by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. 2680(c), and (iii) vote on all public questions by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. 2680(d). John moved and Ben seconded that the Australian ballot version of the warning be approved as amended. Unanimous (Steve and Jon absent). John moved and Ben seconded that the floor vote version of the warning be approved as amended. Unanimous (Steve and Jon absent). On or before Wednesday evening, Emily will email the listserv informing residents whether the 2023 Town Meeting will be by Australian ballot or by floor vote.

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\* **Editor’s Note:** House Bill 42 was signed into law before 5 P.M. Wednesday, January 25. As a result, the 2023 Town Meeting will be held by Australian ballot.

5. Meeting Wrap Up
  - a. Correspondence – None.
  - b. Review of Assignments – Emily to contact Kevin Geiger regarding moderating the informational hearing/meeting, email the listserv regarding the candidate petition requirement and deadline. Ben to contact Stitzel Page regarding their authorization to assist with delinquent tax sales, finalize the two warrants and communicate the same to the Auditors.
  - c. Agenda for next meeting – Jenn Conley regarding the South Pomfret Scoping Study recommendations; driveway access permits; open culverts replacement engineering work proposals.
6. Adjournment – Ben moved and Emily seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous (Steve and Jon absent). The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm.