

Town of Pomfret Selectboard  
Approved Special Meeting Minutes  
February 25, 2023

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

Public: Andrew Mann, Annie Bower, Becky Fielder, Betsy Rhodes, Bob Hatfield, Cathy Emmons, Cathy Peters, Cory Smith, Deanna Jones, Dottie Deans, Elly Pizzani, Joanna Long, John Moore, Kevin Geiger (Moderator), Liza Bernard, Lynn Rauch, Margaret Maynard, Michael Doten, Nancy Bassett, Nancy Matthews, Neil Lamson, Ruth Brooke, Theresa Antal, Tim Dowd, Vern Clifford, “Charlotte’s iPad”, “iBook4”, “Richard & Deb”, “14102183918”, “18023690001”

1. Call to Order – Emily called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
2. Public Comment – None.
3. Agenda Review – None.
4. Annual Meeting Informational Hearing – Emily introduced Kevin Geiger, our Moderator, who will facilitate the hearing portion of the meeting.
  - a. The Moderator listed the members of the Pomfret community who passed away in 2022 and asked for a moment of silence.
  - b. The Moderator then explained that voting will occur by Australian ballot again this year, that ballots have now been mailed to all registered voters, and that voters may return their completed ballots to the town office by 7 pm, Tuesday, March 7, or they may vote in person between 8:30 am and 7 pm at the town office on Tuesday, March 7. School ballots were mailed only by request. School ballots may be obtained from the town office.
  - c. The Moderator then proceeded through the articles to be voted on at the Annual Meeting, in the order in which they appear on the Annual Meeting Warning.
    - i. *Article 1* – Election of Town Officers. The Moderator offered each candidate present a moment to introduce themselves. Benjamin Brickner (Selectboard, 3-year term), Emily Grube (Selectboard, 2-year term), Neil Lamson (Lister) and Betsy Rhodes (Library Trustee, 3-year term) did so.
    - ii. *Article 3* – Approval of Town Budget. A short discussion about salt expenditures, road maintenance policy, and line item versus bottom line budgeting ensued.
    - iii. *Article 7* – Appropriation to the Thompson Senior Center. Deanna Jones, Pomfret resident and Executive Director of the Thompson Senior Center spoke in favor of the proposed appropriation.
    - iv. *Article 15* – Reappropriation of Unallocated General Fund Balance (a/k/a the “surplus”). Ben briefly explained why the board has proposed reappropriating only a portion of the available surplus this year, primarily to reduce the likelihood that a significant municipal tax increase (and/or expenditure reduction) will be necessary to replace this non-recurring revenue source next year.
  - d. Anne Bower thanked those who volunteer to serve the town in elected and appointed office.

- e. Betsy Rhodes thanked Tina Clifford, outgoing chair of the Abbott Memorial Library Trustees, for her service to the Library. Betsy also reminded attendees that spring is around the corner and to be on guard for invasive plant species.
  - f. Mike Doten encouraged attendees to support Marge Wakefield for Trustee of Public Funds.
5. Emily reminded attendees about the upcoming school district informational hearing and encourage everyone to attend. The school budget composes most of the local tax bill (~ 80% school versus ~ 20% town) and has the greater impact on property taxes.
  6. Responding to recent commentary on the listserv, Ben noted that the non-homestead (i.e., second home) educational tax rate is set by the state and is not affected by the school or town budgeting process. Changing how the non-homestead educational tax rate is calculated would require action at the state level.
  7. Adjournment – Ben moved and John seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 am.