

POMFRET  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Saturday, May 20, 2023

Moderator Kevin Geiger called the meeting to order at 9:07am. 65 registered voters were present. The Moderator explained that the meeting was being recorded and also broadcast live as a Zoom webinar where folks could listen in but not participate or vote.

Discussion of the articles centered around two contrasting themes: the preservation of tradition with in-person Town Meeting vs. the accessibility that Australian balloting provides for all voters. Several people spoke to the loss of direct democracy by no longer being able to nominate candidates from the floor, while others liked the idea that candidates had to declare their intentions in advance of the voting. The general consensus was that even those who were in favor of Australian balloting were lamenting the loss of the social in-person meeting tradition. More concern was centered around being able to make amendments from the floor in an in-person meeting, which would be lost to Australian balloting, as no changes could be made once the articles were set. The suggestion of replacing traditional Town Meeting with other community-wide events was popular.

Article 1: Shall Pomfret elect its town officers by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. 2680(b)?

Moved by Jim Robinson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alan Graham. Voice vote was inconclusive and Kevin Geiger asked for a division of the house to determine the result. 44 stood for AYE, 19 stood for NAY, the article passed.

Article 2: Shall Pomfret adopt all budget articles by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. 2680(c)?

Moved by Anne Bower and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cathy Peters. Kevin Rice proposed the following amendment, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gordon Modarai, that Article 2 read as follows: "Shall Pomfret adopt all budget articles by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. 2680(c) **following an informational meeting by the Selectboard that occurs before the warning is finalized?**" The amendment passed by voice vote. The amended article passed by voice vote.

Article 3: Shall Pomfret vote on all public questions by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. 2680(d)?

Moved by Cathy Peters and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kris Graham. The article passed by voice vote.

Article 4: Shall Pomfret change the date of its annual town meeting to the third day preceding the first Tuesday in March pursuant to 17 V.S.A. 2640(b)?

Moved by Cathy Peters and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alan Graham. Due to the changes that had already taken place in Articles 1-3, the general consensus was that Article 4 was moot. The article was defeated by voice vote.

Bill Emmons motioned to adjourn at 11:37am. The motion passed by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Rebecca Fielder, Town Clerk

Minutes approved by  
the Pomfret Selectboard:

Date:


  
John R. Peters Jr., Chair

June 7, 2023

  
Benjamin Brickner, Vice-Chair

JUNE 7, 2023

Steve Chamberlin

  
Meg Emmons

June 7, 2023

  
Emily Grube

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