

Town of Pomfret Selectboard
Special Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2023

Attendance: John Peters, Benjamin Brickner, Steve Chamberlin, Meg Emmons, Emily Grube

Public: Jim Potter (Road Foreman), Nancy Matthews (Auditor), Doug Tuthill (Planning Commission), Neil Lamson (Lister), Betsy Rhodes (Library Trustee), Kevin Rice (Fire Chief), Payton Hurst

1. John called the meeting order at 7:02 pm.
2. Agenda Review – No changes.
3. Public Comment – Doug Tuthill expressed disappointment with the reappraisal process; he feels the new values are unrealistic and that most working people can no longer afford to buy a home in Pomfret. Betsy Rhodes asked if the Fuel Supply Agreements to be discussed later (see 5(f) below) include the Abbott Memorial Library (they do).
4. Road Foreman’s Report – The crew has been busy repairing damage from the recent flooding rain. Pomfret fared better than neighboring towns, having sustained little severe damage. The Wayside Road box culvert and bridge were damaged in the storm, and a new culvert will be needed on Stage Road (bridge B13, near the Hatfields). Abracadabra Coffee’s recent festivals have drawn large crowds and resulted in parking on both sides of Wayside Road. Jim will contact the Abracadabra owners regarding the need to keep parked cars off the traveled way. Roadside mowing continues, currently dealing with poisonous parsnip. Meg will ask Betsy Rhodes to circulate another invasive species listserv message asking residents to refrain from placing pulled invasives on roadways. The road crew was thanked for their excellent work to maintain and repair the roads.
5. Items for Discussion or Vote
 - a. Special Assistant re: FEMA Disaster Declaration – Neil Lamson offered to act as the special assistant to the Selectboard for matters related to the recent FEMA Disaster Declaration (DR-4720-VT). Ben moved and Emily seconded Neil’s appointment, to be paid at the town’s current hourly rate. Unanimous.
 - b. Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) Roles and Responsibilities – The Selectboard discussed who is authorized by the LEMP to approve expenditures during emergencies. While the Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) can be activated by the Emergency Management Director, Fire Chief or Selectboard, the LEMP designates the Selectboard as the sole purchasing agent. An emergency meeting of the Selectboard may be convened without prior notice in order to make the necessary approvals during an emergency.
 - c. Paving the Town Office Parking Lot – Jim presented this project to Pike Industries (Caleb). Caleb stated the work would be done with separate equipment and a separate crew, so there would be no efficiency gained by waiting until the adjacent segment of Pomfret Road is paved, likely in 2024. Jim will prepare specs and get quotes from two other providers for comparison purposes. Emily suggests an electrical conduit be buried prior to paving in order to connect the Town Hall to the generator at the Town Office; Jim will ask the generator company what is needed. Regarding the upcoming Stage Road paving, the Selectboard feels the west end

- (toward Barnard) is in worse shape and that paving should start there and run east as far as available funding allows. The Library Street pothole will be filled in any event.
- d. Credit and Debit Card Policy – Ben moved and Emily seconded approval of the Credit and Debit Policy as presented, but with the reference to Selectboard approval of all expenditures of \$1,000 or more deleted (copious documentation is still required for all purchases). Unanimous.
 - e. Declaration of Inclusion – Ben moved and Meg seconded adoption of the Declaration of Inclusion as presented. Unanimous. John will inform the organizers.
 - f. Fuel Supply Agreements – Irving and Dead River submitted quotes for fuel oil, propane, and diesel for the town and library, starting October 1 for one year (the fire department is contracting separately with Junction Fuels). John moved and Steve seconded approval of the Irving agreements. Unanimous. Ben will scan the contracts and Emily will email Irving to confirm.
 - g. Delinquent Dog Licenses – Ben moved and Emily seconded that Cynthia notify delinquent dog license owners of the need to license their dogs, and that licenses must be obtained by August 2, 2023 to avoid possible penalties. Unanimous.
 - h. Warrants – Ben moved and John seconded approval for payment of the following warrants:

24001	\$ 75,975.98	A/P (approved at last meeting)
24002	9,628.91	Payroll
24003	70,801.56	A/P (includes ambulance fee and unpaid ambulance bills)

 Unanimous.
 - i. Approval of Minutes – Ben moved and Meg seconded approval of the July 5, 2023 meeting minutes with the “N/A” warrant amount corrected. Unanimous.
6. Meeting Wrap-Up
- a. Correspondence – A Bridgewater resident on Wayside Road expressed gratitude to Pomfret and its Road Crew for helping Bridgewater reopen that road. Driveway permit and letter re: Dinsmore Road to be discussed on Wednesday. Quality of life issue re: rooster crowing on Sessions Meadow (sender will be referred to the Zoning Administrator to determine if any zoning violations have occurred).
 - b. Assignments – Emily to inform Irving re the fuel supply agreements; Meg to contact Betsy Rhodes re invasives on the traveled way; John to confirm adoption of Declaration of Inclusion, refer rooster matter to Karen Osnoe; Ben to scan and send fuel supply agreements, send Abracadabra contact information to Jim; Jim to contact Abracadabra owners re: event parking; Cynthia to contact delinquent dog license owners.
 - c. Agenda for Next Meeting – Already published.
7. Adjournment – Ben moved and John seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm.