

Town of Pomfret Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2024

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

Public: Becky Fielder, Ellen DesMeules, Neil Lamson, Ogden Hunnewell

1. John Called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
2. Executive Session
 - a. Ben moved and Emily seconded that the Selectboard enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1)(B) to discuss employee agreements, the premature general public knowledge of which would clearly place the Selectboard or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Unanimous. The Selectboard entered executive session at 6:31 pm.
 - b. The Selectboard exited executive session at 7:01 pm, with no decisions having been made therein.
3. Agenda Review – Ben moved and Emily seconded deletion of Capital Program and Budget Policy and Procedure, Town Garage Boiler Replacement, Road Crew Communications Devices, and Wild Apple Culverts Replacement RFP. Unanimous.
4. Road Foreman’s Report –Before the meeting Jim reported to John that the materials budget is nearly exhausted due to the winter mud seasons. It was discussed the amounts spent on materials during the year that are expected to be reimbursed (i.e., by FEMA) will be added back to the materials budget. Jim would like to post a sign at the Town Hall that no overnight parking is permitted. Emily noted that some overnight parking may be by residents unable to reach their homes to road conditions. A message will be posted to the list serve that parking for this purpose is allowed at the Brick Building. The crew will continue roadside tree cutting and removal of dead trees as conditions allow. The crew is working on repairing Sessions Meadow Road.
5. Items for Discussion or Vote
 - a. 922 Barber Hill Road Town Highway Access – Ogden Hunnewell attended the meeting to discuss culvert removal at 922 Barber Hill, which was required in his 2021 highway access permit. He would prefer not to remove the culvert since the area is grown up nicely and a large hemlock would need to be removed. Kevin Rice is also interested in access to Mr. Hunnewell’s pond via the culvert for fire prevention. The Selectboard will discuss with the Road Foreman and a site visit may be scheduled at a later date.
 - b. Wheel Loader Bid Award – Steve moved and Emily seconded approval of the United Construction and Forestry (John Deere Model 524P) bid, including the 7-year full machine warranty, for a total cost of \$155,223 after trade-in, and authorizing Jim to sign the bid acceptance for the town. Unanimous. Steve will notify both bidders and Ben will mark the request for proposal as “awarded” on the state bidding site.
 - c. FY 2025 Budget Discussion – Using 60% of the available fund balance results in a 4.87% increase in taxes (compared to 5.66% last year). All other figures are nearly final. Once the social services petitions are confirmed, the budget will be ready for final approval.

- d. Appointment of Public Officers
 - i. Town Health Officer – Ben moved and Emily seconded that Dr. Hugh Hermann, M.D. be recommended to the Vermont Department of Health for re-appointment as Town Health Officer for a 3-year term expiring January 31, 2027. Unanimous. Ben will prepare the necessary paperwork for Dr. Hermann to sign and submit to the state.
 - ii. Zoning Board of Adjustment – Ben moved and Emily seconded the appointment of Lindsay Hyde to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, to complete the 3-year term expiring March 31, 2024. Unanimous.
 - e. FY 2023 Town Report Deliverables – Ben circulated the documents for any final editing. All to be finalized and approved at the January 17 meeting.
 - f. 2024 BRIC Program Grant Application – The town has no suitable shovel-ready projects. Emily suggested the Selectboard work on developing projects that can be put forward next year.
 - g. Warrants – Ben moved and Emily seconded approval for payment of the following warrants:

24058	9,260.99	Payroll
24059	22,788.63	A/P

Unanimous. John will confirm the Vermont Standard charge with Ellen.
 - h. Approval of December 20, 2023 Minutes – Ben moved and John seconded approval December 20, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Unanimous.
6. Meeting Wrap Up
- a. Correspondence – Town Highway 24 relocation, Peace Field Farm litigation, Mountain Views School Board request to present at the January 17 meeting, Town Hall energy assessment, VLCT member list update were discussed.
 - b. Review of Assignments – Ben to email with Karen re: delinquent taxes, Dr. Hermann re: appointment paperwork, mark loader bid as awarded on the state website, update VLCT membership; Steve to notify loader bidders of award; John to confirm School Board attendance with Bob Coates, confirm VT Standard invoice with Ellen, send listserv message re: overnight parking at the Brick Building.
 - c. Agenda for Next Meeting – School Board presentation at 7 PM, Town Garage boiler replacement, Barber Hill Road culvert removal, Wild Apple culvert RFP, finalize FY 2025 budget and FY 2023 town report deliverables, discuss disbanding of defunct Selectboard committees.
7. Adjournment – Ben moved and Steve seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.