

Town of Pomfret Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2024

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

Public: Jason Crance, Hillary White, Alan Graham, Andrew Mann, Alison Sander, John Moore

1. John called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
2. Agenda Review – Ben moved and John seconded that Item 5D (MRGP Annual Report) be deleted and formation of a Vermont 250th Anniversary Committee be added before Warrants. Unanimous.
3. Public Comment – None.
4. Road Foreman Report – Jim is concerned about obtaining enough crushed rock for mud season, given the remaining budget; there is funding available from other unused categories. The crew has been rebuilding stone walls.
5. Items for Discussion or Vote
 - a. Town Garage Boiler Replacement – Steve moved and Meg seconded acceptance of Mike Bartlett’s proposal. Unanimous.
 - b. Tandem/Truck 3 Replacement – Given the current delay in availability and manufacturing it will likely take two years to receive a new truck. Steve moved and Ben seconded proceeding via the state RFP process to obtain the same. Unanimous.
 - c. Highway Materials for Mud Season – It was determined there is sufficient anticipated underspending on other highway items that the purchase of additional materials for mud season is prudent. John will inform Jim of the same. In addition, a substantial FEMA reimbursement of materials expenses incurred earlier this fiscal year is anticipated in the coming months.
 - d. Highway Access Permit (Dinsmoor Road) – Most Selectboard members indicated that the work done by Mr. Mann, while not precisely meeting the Selectboard’s prior directive, was nonetheless sufficient as the work is intended to last only through May. Nonetheless, as Northwoods previously indicated they are available next week to fully meet to Selectboard’s directive, and Hillary White and Phil Dechert have offered to pay for the same, Ben moved and Meg seconded that Northwoods be permitted to work within the town’s right-of-way of Bartlett Brook Road at the foot of Dinsmoor Road to execute the Selectboard’s prior instructions of January 24 (as emailed to the parties on January 25), to do so on or before Friday, February 16, at no cost to the town, but subject to the town’s supervision and approval. Motion carried 3-2 (Brickner, Chamberlin and Emmons in favor; Grube and Peters opposed).
 - e. TH 24 Hewitt Hill Road Relocation – The town has received a preliminary survey map depicting the existing physical location of Hewitt Hill Road near its intersection with Hidden Ridge Road. The next steps are to (1) schedule a site inspection and hearing to formally relocate the road to its existing physical location, (2) notify the abutters and Planning Commission of the same via certified mail at least 30 days prior, and (3) publish a notice of the same in the newspaper at least 10 days prior. This will be scheduled for after mud season. In the meantime, Ben will prepare the notices.

- f. Covered Bridges Half Marathon Road Permit – All required paperwork has been submitted for this repeat event, to be held on June 2 this year. Ben moved and John seconded approval of this race to use Pomfret roads, with a notation that if Old River Road remains closed on the race day, the organizers may use High Pastures Road instead. Unanimous.
 - g. Woodstock Chamber of Commerce Large Event Permit – Ben moved and Meg seconded approval of the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce large event permit for a pasta dinner at Saskadena Six on June 1. This is also a repeat event. Unanimous.
 - h. Vermont 250th Anniversary Committee – Following the creation of Governor Scott’s 250th Anniversary Commission to commemorate the semiquincentennial of the Declaration of Independence and founding of the Vermont Republic, towns across the state have been asked to form liaison committees to coordinate local activities. Ben’s listserv message yielded several volunteers. Ben moved and John seconded that the Selectboard create a “Vermont 250th Anniversary Committee” as the Town’s liaison to the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission, and that the initial members be Benjamin Brickner, Alan Graham, Greg Hartford and Regina Lawrence, each appointed for a term expiring March 31, 2028, or until such earlier date as the Committee completes its work and is dissolved. Unanimous.
 - i. Warrants – Ben moved and Emily seconded approval for payment of the following warrants:

24066	\$63,243.12	A/P
24067	11,413.39	Payroll
24068	1,591.21	Tax Refund

 Unanimous. Ellen will be asked to pay the Bethel Mills invoice for garage repairs from the ARPA fund.
 - j. Approval of February 7, 2024 Minutes – Ben moved and Meg seconded approval February 7, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Unanimous.
6. Meeting Wrap Up
- a. Correspondence – Following last week’s tax payment deadline, the Selectboard will need to determine how it wishes to handle payment agreement defaults and new multi-year delinquencies. Karen will be consulted about this. Chris Bump sent notice of Pomfret FY 2025 Town Highway Grants / Bridge Inspections / Annual Town Financial Plan and Meeting / Town Road and Bridge Standards Certification of Compliance / Class 2 Centerline Line Pavement Marking Letter. Acceptance of the Wild Apple Culvert plan from the Army Corps of Engineers; Tyler may now prepare the RFP.
 - b. Review of Assignments – Emily will work with Sarah Wraight and Neil re: submission of final LHMP update paperwork; Meg will ask Ellen to pay the recent garage repair from the ARPA fund and pay the Fire Warden and Deputy Fire Warden stipends. John will follow up on the paving grant, with Tyler re: the Wild Apple Road culvert construction RFP, with the Hunnewells re: culvert removal, and with Jim re: the town garage boiler work. Ben will speak with Becky regarding sale of the Salmon parcel, prepare the TH 24 hearing notice, confirm whether the annual meeting informational hearing needs to be published in the newspaper, email Joe regarding Dinsmoor Road, and stand up the Vermont 250th Anniversary Committee.

- c. Agenda for Next Meeting – LHMP Approval, Delinquent Tax Matters, Wild Apple Culvert Replacement RFP, FY 2025 Town Highway Grants.
7. Executive Session
 - a. Ben moved and John seconded that the Selectboard enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(3) and (a)(1)(F) to discuss (1) the employment of employees and (2) confidential attorney-client communications 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 9:27 pm.
 - b. The Selectboard exited executive session at 10:15 pm, with no decisions having been made therein.
 8. Adjournment – Ben moved and John seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 pm.