

Town of Pomfret Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2024

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

Public: Cynthia Hewitt, Jim Potter, Tim Ulman, Jason Crance, Hillary White, Emma Murray, Richard Windish, Alan Graham, Mike Zube, Betsy Rhodes, Tracie Gunion, Andy Mann, Andrew Snow, John Moore, Bill Emmons

1. Ben called the meeting to order at 6:31 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)(F) and (a)(3) to discuss confidential attorney-client communications and the employment of public employees. Unanimous. The Selectboard entered executive session at 6:32 pm.
 - b. The Selectboard exited executive session at 7:29 pm, with no decisions having been made therein.
3. Agenda Review – Delete Item 6A (Employment of Public Employees).
4. Public Comment – None.
5. Road Foreman’s Report – Jim discussed speed limit traffic studies with Chris Bump; Jim will next follow up with Rita Seto at Two Rivers re: the same. Jim will solicit road salt quotes from various vendors for review at the September 4 meeting. The tractor is again on the fritz; Jim has dismantled the problem area and will take the parts to be examined/repaired. Jim obtained an estimate for wing walls at the new Wild Apple Road culvert, should they be needed in the future.
6. Items for Discussion or Vote
 - a. Employment of Public Employees – Deleted during “Agenda Review.”
 - b. Hearing re: Highway Access Permit (Dinsmoor Road)
 - i. Ben announced the hearing on approval of the Highway Access Permit Application submitted by Andy Mann.
 - ii. No conflicts of interest or ex parte communications were disclosed.
 - iii. Ben asked if anyone present wished to claim interested party status who had not done so at a previous hearing on this matter. Ben then placed the interested parties who were present under oath (Dr. White and Messrs. Crance, Snow, Mann and Ulman).
 - iv. Andrew Snow on behalf of his client and Jason Crance on behalf of his client explained why the Selectboard should approve or deny (respectively) Andy Mann’s permit.
 - v. After discussion, questions from Selectboard members and responses from witnesses to the same, the Selectboard indicated it would deliberate after adjournment of the regular meeting and revert to the parties as soon as possible thereafter.
 - c. Fuel Supply Agreements (2024-25 Season) – Emily presented bids from Dead River and Irving. John moved and Ben seconded contracting with Irving for fuel oil, propane and road diesel. Unanimous.
 - d. Permit to Hold Event on Public Road (Artistree, September 21) – Steve moved and John seconded approval, with the following conditions: Artistree to (1) coordinate with

Abbott Memorial Library to provide suitable alternate parking during closure, (2) provide personnel for traffic control at either end of closure, and (3) install barricades, signage, etc. to alert traveling public of closure. Unanimous.

- e. Large Event Permit (Artistree, September 21) – Steve moved and John seconded approval. Unanimous.
 - f. Large Event Permit (Artistree, August 23) – The estimated event attendance is less than 100 persons. As such, no large event permit is needed for this event.
 - g. Selectboard Communications – The Selectboard discussed communications among Selectboard members between meetings to ensure everyone remains apprised of goings on in town.
 - h. Municipal Code of Ethics (Act 171) – Ben reviewed the Municipal Code of Ethics recently enacted by the state legislature and described the new policy and training requirements that will take effect as a result.
 - i. Settlement Agreement Confirmation (Broad Brook Road) – Ben moved and John seconded confirmation that all requirements of the Settlement Agreement dated November 22, 2023, by and between Michael Zube, Callie Brusegaard and the Town of Pomfret have been satisfied. Unanimous.
 - j. Town Hall Porch Repair – Two bids have been received; one includes redoing the perimeter and floor joists. The second bidder will be contacted to include this information in cost estimate. Discussion to be continued at the September 4 meeting.
 - k. Town Building Routine Maintenance – Emily will check with John Moore about any recommendations for a person to perform routine inspections, as well as anyone who might be available for some touch up painting. The town office south wall should be done before winter.
 - l. Warrants – John moved and Emily seconded approval for payment of the following warrants:

25013	\$ 176.24	Tax Refund
25015	7,935.77	Payroll
25016	25,024.97	A/P (incl. July and August debit card transactions)

Unanimous.
 - m. Approval of August 7, 2024 Minutes – John moved and Emily seconded approval of the August 7, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Unanimous.
7. Meeting Wrap Up
- a. Correspondence – The Selectboard received correspondence regarding Abracadabra. Ben will follow up with Karen regarding the zoning issues raised and with Jim regarding the highway issue raised.
 - b. Review of Assignments – Ben will speak with Abracadabra, sign and return fuel supply agreements before midnight; Steve will speak with Jim re: town office painting; Emily to speak with John Moore re: general building maintenance; Cynthia will ask Tom Frizzell to adjust his town hall port replacement estimate to include joists; John will speak with Jacob Astbury about dry hydrants and update job description; Meg will investigate final ARPA expenditures.
 - c. Agenda for Next Meeting – Executive session re: employment of public employees, salt supply agreement, parking lot paving, town building routine maintenance, Artistree highway access permit, ARPA expenditures.
8. Adjournment – Emily moved and John seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 pm.