

Town of Pomfret Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2024

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

Public: Cory Smith, Betsy Rhodes, Christina Chamberlin, Steve Brown, Karen Osnoe, Art Lewin, Cathy Peters, Endine Peters, Bob Crean, Jeff Barger, Neil Lamson, Justin

1. Ben called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Executive Session
 - a. Ben moved and Meg seconded that the Selectboard enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1)(A) to discuss confidential attorney-client communications, the premature general public knowledge of which would clearly place the Selectboard and/or another involved at a substantial disadvantage, and pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(3) to discuss the employment of public employees. Unanimous. The Selectboard entered executive session at 6:02 pm.
 - b. The Selectboard exited executive session at 7:07 pm, with no decisions having been made therein.
3. Agenda Review – Steve moved and Emily seconded adding Delinquent Tax Review and Warrants immediately before Item 7 (Meeting Wrap Up). Unanimous.
4. Public Comment – Christina Chamberlin asked about Cynthia’s resignation last Tuesday and her subsequent return to service as the Selectboard’s assistant. Cynthia explained her resignation had been a spur-of-the-moment decision that she regretted the following day. Selectboard members indicated that Cynthia’s resignation had not been formally accepted by the Selectboard before she conveyed her desire to withdraw it. Christina also asked if Jim’s letter of resignation would be attached to the meeting minutes. Ben explained the minutes were to be adopted later in the evening and that any changes to the current draft could be considered then.
5. Road Foreman’s Report – None.
6. Items for Discussion or Vote
 - a. Employment of Public Employees – No discussion or decisions made.
 - b. Selectboard Organization re: Highway Department – No discussion or decisions made.
 - c. Wild Apple Close-Out Documents – The Selectboard reviewed the Certificate of Completion submitted by the project engineer. Of the two invoices received, one (for the project engineer) was included on the warrant for approval later in the evening. The other (for the project construction contractor) still needs to be approved for inclusion on a warrant. Emily moved and Steve seconded approval of the project construction contractor invoice and authorized Ben to sign the same for the Selectboard. Unanimous.
 - d. Town Office Parking Lot Paving – A proposal/quote for this work is anticipated imminently. To be discussed at the next meeting.
 - e. Abbott Library Parking Area -- Betsy Rhodes submitted photos of the chalked areas to be painted: seven regular spaces (9 feet wide and 18 feet deep) perpendicular to Library Street and one diagonal space at the north end; paint a bulb-out next to the guardrail at the intersection of Library Street and Stage Road to delineate a walkway for pedestrians and travel way for north bound traffic on Library Street, directing it

away from the parking area. The Library will place hemlock parking stops at the head of each space to prevent driving off the pavement. It was noted that most work would occur on the Library's property and some may occur outside the town's right-of-way. Meg moved and Steve seconded approval of this plan to the extent it will occur within the town's right-of-way. Unanimous.

f. Delinquent Tax Review – Karen Osnoe reported on property tax delinquencies. After discussion, Karen will proceed as follows:

- **Parcel 0188** – Initiate tax sale proceedings;
- **Parcel 1802** – Enter into a payment plan agreement;
- **Parcel 4608** – Send warning letter indicating that failure to resolve delinquent balance may result initiation of tax sale proceedings;
- **Parcel 4801** – Initiate tax sale proceedings;
- **Parcel 4801-B** – Initiate tax sale proceedings;
- **Parcel 4801-C** – Initiate tax sale proceedings; and
- **Parcel 4801-D** – Initiate tax sale proceedings.

Parcel 0124, which is also delinquent, is on the market and the delinquent balance is expected to be paid at closing. If the property does not sell in the next few months, tax sale proceedings will be initiated on that parcel as well.

g. Warrants – Steve moved and John seconded approval for payment of the following warrants:

25028	\$ 117,188.72	A/P
25029	8,241.48	Payroll

Unanimous.

h. Approval of September 18 and September 24, 2024 Minutes – Meg moved and John seconded approval of the September 18, 2024, meeting minutes with Mr. Potter's resignation letter attached. Unanimous. Steve moved and John seconded approval of the September 24, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Unanimous.

7. Meeting Wrap Up

- a. Correspondence – Meg was informed of the successful submission of the MERP grant application; Cynthia completed paperwork with the Judicial Bureau to obtain an officer number for the Constable; Cynthia also submitted four advertisements for road crew worker; Ben received an interview request from Good Morning America regarding an on-location segment about fall foliage; Ben also received a message from a member of Barnard's citizen road committee with questions about Pomfret's road maintenance.
- b. Review of Assignments – Ben will follow up with Good Morning America and the Barnard citizens road committee; Cynthia will speak with Becky re: assigning an email address to Art Lewin and changing the password on the garage computer. John will speak with Jake Astbury regarding fire department back up for the road crew when removing road blockages, etc. while the crew is understaffed; he will also contact Dave Green in Woodstock regarding anticipated FY 2026 emergency services pricing.
- c. Agenda for Next Meeting – FY 2026 budget, town office parking lot paving, employment of public employees.

8. Executive Session
 - a. Ben moved and Meg seconded that the Selectboard enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(3) to discuss the employment of public employees. Unanimous. The Selectboard entered executive session at 8:25 pm.
 - b. The Selectboard exited executive session at 9:16 pm, with no decisions having been made therein.
9. Adjournment – Emily moved and Meg seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm.