

Town of Pomfret Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2025

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

Public: Cynthia Hewitt, Frank Rogers, Bill Emmons, Bob Crean, Neil Lamson, John Moore

1. Ben called the meeting to order at 6:01 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)(A) and (F) to discuss contracts and 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 and the appointment of public officials. Unanimous. The Selectboard entered executive session at 6:02 pm.
 - b. The Selectboard exited executive session at 7:05 pm, with no decisions having been made therein.
3. Agenda Review – Ben moved and Emily seconded deleting Item 6G (Appointment of Public Officers). Unanimous.
4. Public Comment – None.
5. Road Foreman Report – Frank reports things continue going well for the new crew members. The F550 will be back in service tomorrow.
6. Items for Discussion or Vote
 - a. Highway Truck Bids – The Selectboard reviewed three bids for a 10-wheel tandem truck to replace an aging 10-wheeler. Frank will update pricing with 5- and 7-year warranty costs included, for the Selectboard to make an apples-to-apples comparison and decision at the January 22 meeting. Frank will also research the cost of a new 6-wheeler versus 10-wheeler for purposes of finalizing the FY 2026 budget, including the amount to be set aside in the Highway Vehicle Reserve next year.
 - b. Highway Access Permit (Cherry Hill Road) – Emily moved and John seconded approval of the highway access application with a condition that the existing driveway be abandoned prior to beginning use of the new driveway, as required by the Highway Ordinance. No culvert is necessary. Unanimous.
 - c. Town Highway Mileage Certificate – John moved and Emily seconded approval of the certificate showing a 0.01-mile increase in Class 4 highway mileage as a result of the minor relocation of Hewitt Hill Road (T.H. 24) last year. Unanimous.
 - d. FY 2026 Budget Discussion – The Windsor County Sheriff appropriation was reduced to the FY 2025 amount; Ben will speak with the Sheriff about receiving the correct number of patrol hours in town. An additional amount was added for signs; Frank will research prices for portable flashing speed limit signs. A final decision on the amount to be set aside in the Highway Vehicle Reserve will be made at the January 22 meeting; Frank will research the cost of a new 6-wheeler versus 10-wheeler for this purpose. The Teago Village Reserve amount was zeroed in order to reduce the increase in taxes to be raised; Ben will confirm with Ellen the current balance in this fund.

- e. Review Annual Report Deliverables – Ben moved and Emily seconded approving the Selectboard Report, Town Asset List, and Officer List in their current form. Unanimous. Ben will forward the same to the Auditors. The Annual Meeting Warning, Budget Narrative and Budget Worksheets will be approved at the January 22 meeting.
 - f. Employment of Public Employees – Discussion continued on how best to accommodate the health benefit of a new Road Crew member. Frank will discuss with the new employee and Ben will coordinate with Ellen to implement the employee’s preference. Ben moved and John seconded that if the new employee opts to remain on Medicare (rather than enroll in the town’s Blue Cross Blue Shield plan), the employee’s hourly rate be increased by \$2.00 for the rest of 2025 to offset the new employee’s out-of-pocket cost of the same. Unanimous.
 - g. DLL License Renewal (Teago Store Commercial Caterer) – John moved and Steve seconded approval as presented. Unanimous.
 - h. Warrants – John moved and Emily seconded approval for payment of the following warrants:

25065	\$	181.38	Payroll (Pay Rate Correction)
25066		976.88	A/P

 Unanimous.
 - i. Approval of January 8, 2025 Minutes – John moved and Emily seconded approval of the January 8, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Unanimous.
7. Meeting Wrap Up
- a. Correspondence – None.
 - b. Assignments – Ben to speak with Ellen re: new highway employee pay rate and confirm Teago Village Reserve balance; Ryan Palmer re: Sheriff patrol hours; Cherry Hill Road landowner re: driveway permit; Ben and Cynthia to determine HIPAA training and certification steps; Frank to discuss insurance coverage with new employee, obtain truck pricing information, research mobile speed sign prices; Steve to research uniform prices.
 - c. Agenda for Next Meeting – New highway truck bids, appointment of public officers, FY 2026 budget and 2024 annual report deliverables approval.
8. Adjournment – John moved and Emily seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.