

Town of Pomfret Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2025

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

Public: Frank Rogers, Cynthia Hewitt, Alan Graham, Bob Crean, Jon Harrington, Dave Balter

1. Ben called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Agenda Review – None.
3. Public Comment – Alan Graham, Pomfret’s representative to the ECFiber governing board, addressed the recent open letter from GWI, ECFiber’s operating company, regarding an upcoming transition to a new operating company later this year. Alan explained that the decision to change operators was discussed at length at several ECFiber governing board meetings and was unanimously approved by all towns in the telecommunications district.
4. Road Foreman Report – Frank reports the grant-in-aid work on Sugarbush Road is nearly complete; all that remains is hydroseeding. The grant-in-aid work on Allen Hill Road is expected to begin next week. The new equipment trailer has been delivered and is working great. Grading continues. Blaktop is awaiting a membrane before scheduling work on the Wayside Road bridge. The town office parking lot paving is anticipated to start in early August; the crew will do the prep work. Both paving projects remaining on track for this season. Frank has spoken with Hartford’s road crew and learned they do not anticipate making major repairs to Hartford’s segment of River Road; Pomfret’s road crew will continue maintaining Pomfret’s segment of River Road to Class 3 Highway standards. The highway garage generator is not working. John will contact Brookfield for immediate servicing and to request a new service contract for review and approval at the August 6 meeting. Frank received new pricing for materials from Pike Industries. He will also obtain a quote from Twin State for review at the August 6 meeting. It was noted that the online signup form for ditching material is not working, with submissions going nowhere. The issue was identified as an empty recipient field for the email. The issue has been resolved, and submissions now go directly to Frank. Frank will assess the need for part-time road crew help after the current grading work is complete in the coming weeks.
5. Items for Discussion or Vote
 - a. Town Highway Crack Sealing – Frank reported no response from multiple vendors. Joel from Indus is expected to provide a proposal for crack sealing, with pricing to be per gallon. Nikon has not responded. The Selectboard suggested that if Indus’ price is reasonable and no other options emerge, the Selectboard may proceed with them as a single-source provider. Frank will circulate the estimate upon receipt.
 - b. Town Garage Roof Painting – It was agreed that quotes should also include painting the south side of the town office building and the rear and “Kitchen L” of the Town Hall building. Bob Crean suggested Greg Olmstead and Peak Painting as potential painters. Bob Crean volunteered to contact Peak Painting, and Steve volunteered to contact Greg Olmstead to obtain comparable quotes for review at the August 6 meeting.
 - c. FY 2026 Paving Scope – The Pomfret Road Class 2 Roadway Program grant was not funded by the state this year, resulting in significantly less funding for paving. The Wayside Road Bridge and Town Office Parking Lot projects will still proceed. Steve

consulted with Caleb at Pike Industries and is awaiting a summary of their discussion. Frank will also consult with Blaktop for their professional opinion on cost-effective use of available funds. Joel from indus was also considered for a comprehensive preventive maintenance plan. The Selectboard discussed communicating with the public that delaying paving can be more cost-effective and potentially slow down traffic. It is unlikely that any Class 2 roads will be repaved this fiscal year. Discussion to continue at the August 6 meeting.

- d. Pomfret Road Slide Construction Contract and Schedule – The Selectboard discussed an email from Northwoods indicating a mid-September start date or completion date for the Pomfret Road slide project. This is problematic as the RFP specified completion before September 1. Ben will follow up with Northwoods to clarify the ambiguity. Frank will contact Chris Bump at VTrans regarding scheduling, fairness to other bidders, and options to switch contractors. Jon Harrington suggested that the work could be phased, with the most critical portions completed this year, and the remainder completed in 2026.
- e. Pomfret Town Line Road Signs – Bob Crean provided an update on the condition of the town’s welcome signs and general estimates he obtained for repainting and replacement work. Bob will prepare an estimate for replacement by Advanced Innovations for the August 6 meeting. Jon Harrington obtained a general estimate from Woodworks for urethane replacements.
- f. Request to Cater Permit Application – Applicant Dave Balter presented his application for a request-to-cater permit for an event at 1162 Galaxy Hill Road on August 2. The event is scheduled from 3:00 pm to 10:30 pm, with a live band starting around 7:00 or 7:30 pm. Approximately 180 RSVPs have been received, with a goal of 200, and many neighbors are attending. TRAIL BREAK is providing a taco truck and will serve alcohol from the truck, with alcohol service ending by 9:00 pm. John moved and Meg seconded approval of the application. Unanimous. Ben will notify Becky.
- g. Schedule Road Crew Member Application Interviews – Screening interviews for Applicant A and Applicant B will be scheduled with Frank, Steve and John.^[1] Frank was contacted by a potential third applicant, but that application has yet to be received.
- h. Law Enforcement Services Contract – A draft contract from the Sheriff’s Department was presented. The hourly fee for patrol services will remain at \$60 per hour until at least the end of December 2025, after which it will increase to \$75 per hour. This temporary rate freeze is due to the town being short on hours last year. John moved and Meg seconded approval of Law Enforcement Services Contract as presented. Unanimous. Ben will sign the contract on behalf of the Selectboard and return to the Sheriff’s Department.
- i. Warrants – John moved and Meg seconded approval for payment of the following warrants:

26004	\$	20,863.53	A/P
26005		15.00	A/P
26006		19,982.50	A/P

^[1] **Editor’s Note:** On advice from the VLCT, to protect Applicant A and Applicant B’s current employment, the names of “Applicant A” and “Applicant B” are being withheld unless and until an offer of employment has been made and accepted by one or the other.

- Unanimous.
- j. Approval of July 2 and July 10, 2025 Minutes – John moved and Steve seconded approval of the July 2 and July 10, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Unanimous.
6. Meeting Wrap Up
- a. Correspondence – Cynthia volunteered to attend the Vermont Evaluation of Rural Technical Assistance (VERTA) introductory meeting tomorrow, July 17. Hunter Ulf is scheduled to present two new design proposals/concepts for the Town Hall at the next meeting on August 6, requiring approximately half an hour. The Town Hall Revitalization Committee members will also be present.
 - b. Review of Assignments – Ben to follow up with Northwoods to schedule Pomfret Road slide work, return the signed WCSD contract, and inform Becky about the approved request-to-cater application. John to contact Brookfield about generator servicing and a new service contract. Frank, Steve and John to schedule screening interviews for Candidate A and Candidate B. Frank to arrange paving consultations, obtain materials quote from Twin State.
 - c. Agenda for Next Meeting – Town Welcome Signs, Pomfret Road Slide Construction Contract, Road Crew Applicants Update, FY 2026 Paving Scope, Town Garage Roof Painting, Town Highway Crack Sealing, Green Stormwater Infrastructure, Generator Service Agreement.
7. 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 contracts, the premature general public knowledge of which would clearly place the Selectboard at a substantial disadvantage, and pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(3) to discuss the employment of public employees. The Selectboard entered executive session at 8:39 pm.
 - b. John moved and Emily seconded exiting executive session. The Selectboard exited executive session at 9:16 pm, with no decisions having been made therein.
8. Adjournment – Steve moved and John seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm.