

Pomfret Planning Commission Meeting

8/18/25

Approved 9/8/25

Present: John Moore, Doug Tuthill, Bill Emmons, Tyler Wellington, Nelson Lamson

Absent Cy Benoit, Jack Pearsons

Guests:

Call To Order/Agenda Changes/Public Comment:

Bill Emmons called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

Public Comment. None

Nelson Moved and Doug Tuthill 2nd to approve the minutes of 6/2/25 and 7/7/25. Motion Carried.

Town Plan hearing scheduled for 8/25/25. TRORC assisted in warning the State Housing and the abutting towns... John to put another reminder on the list serve... Kevin Rice wanted a comparison

We reviewed the email from Susan Burgess sent regarding the Cemeteries. See attached.

Some unjustified complaints about the looks of a porta potty on private land on Skyline Drive. Not a town issue.

After Burner, sniffer, not yet installed at Abracadabra Coffee.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Moore, Clerk

Hi John.

I noticed this in the draft plan:

Cemeteries

There are currently three Pomfret cemeteries: Burns, Hewittville, and Bunker Hill. Space in them is extremely limited, and the Town must plan to use existing space efficiently and acquire more cemetery space. Interest from the perpetual care accounts currently pays for all Town cemetery maintenance.

A couple of comments for you to take into consideration:

1) the Town Cemetery maintenance is paid for primarily by allocation from the Town, voted on at Town Meeting each year. The annual interest from perpetual care account is about \$600. This year we requested and were granted an allocation of \$16,500. The cost for maintenance has gone up dramatically. Last year we couldn't find anyone to contract for this work, and got a lot of complaints about cemetery maintenance. This year we got no response to our request for bids, but finally Justin Ricard agreed to do it. The current contract for mowing alone in the next fiscal year is \$18,000. Other expenses (occasional tree removal, fence and gate repair, purchase of flags etc) are additional. Although these are operating expenses, we will have to use reserve funds to make up the difference this year, and will undoubtedly have the increase our allocation request next year. FYI Barnard's allocation is about \$45K/yr.

Perhaps too much information, but here's a review of the P&L:

FISCAL YEAR	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 budget	2025 actual to date	2026
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual to date 6/15/2025	Proposed
Income										
Appropriation	\$9,500	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$16,500
Sale of lots	\$400			\$1,000					\$1,950.00	
Misc revenue	\$200			\$200	\$250					
Donation			\$200			\$450	\$200.00		\$250.00	
Interest	\$615	\$625	\$608	\$455	\$482	\$463	\$744.10		\$542.17	\$600
Total income	\$10,715	\$12,625	\$12,808	\$13,655	\$12,732	\$12,913	\$13,444.10	\$12,500.00	\$15,242.17	\$17,100

Expense										
General maintenance	\$9,038	\$8,800	\$6,300	\$5,500	\$7,595	\$8,579	\$6,340.00	\$8,000.00	\$5,450.00	\$12,000
Restoration of headstones				\$300						\$2,000
Purchase of corner stones		\$100		\$550					\$300.00	
Flags	\$450	\$550				\$550			\$864.00	\$400
Misc	\$1,264	\$28					\$2,695.58		\$87.96	\$700
Total expense	\$10,752	\$9,478	\$6,300	\$6,350	\$7,595	\$9,129	\$9,035.58	\$8,000.00	\$6,701.96	\$15,100
To reserves								\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$2,000
Surplus (deficit)	-\$37	\$3,147	\$6,508	\$7,305	\$5,137	\$3,784	\$4,408.52	\$0.00	\$4,040.21	\$2,000.00
Beginning fund balance	\$45,969	\$45,932	\$49,080	\$55,586	\$62,891	\$68,028	\$71,812.78	\$76,221.30	\$76,221.30	
Ending fund balance	\$45,932	\$49,079	\$55,588	\$56,385.00	\$68,028.00	\$71,812.78	\$76,221.30	\$76,221.30	\$80,261.51	

2). It's not clear to me that there is an urgent need for additional space. based on my review of the data. In the past fifteen years, there have been an average of 4.2 interments per year (downward trend), however most of these are to established family plots. So far this year, five interments to existing plots. In the past ten years there have been four plots sold and one repurchase. We recently replotted Bunker Hill and there are now 27 6x9 cremation only plots. At Hewittville, there are possibly 40 six-foot plots. There are a few plots at Burns, but we won't know for sure until we finish a survey of the South section. We could increase the number of available plots by further dividing the plots into cremation-only plots (perhaps 4.5 x 4.5). I don't foresee running out of space soon.

I'd very much welcome your thoughts about this.

Susan Burgess, Pomfret Cemetery Commission Chair