

Town of Pomfret Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2025

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

Public: Cynthia Hewitt, Frank Rogers, James Rattigan, Bob Crean, Liz Wellington, Mila Korobkova

1. **Call to Order** – Ben called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **Agenda Review** – Ben moved and Meg seconded adding the following items to the agenda: Town Line Signs before Item 5B (North Pomfret Cemetery Association Lands), and VTrans Meeting Debrief and Woodstock Ambulance Meeting Debrief before Item 5F (Warrants). Unanimous.
3. **Public Comment** – None.
4. **Road Foreman Report** – Truck #3 had the oil pan replaced; it rusted through and the vendor asserts it is not covered by warranty. Frank will check the warranty terms. Truck #4 (2015 one-ton) is going to Ted Green Ford on December 31 for inspection and brakes. Steve suggested that tree work be done if the weather cooperates. The soils report was reviewed. Emily suggested an RFP for engineering on the Pomfret Road paving project be conducted early next year, to allow the engineering work to be completed ahead of an RFP for paving in 2027.
5. **Items for Discussion of Vote**
 - a. **Letter of Support re: Local Schools** – This is a revised version of the draft considered at the December 3 meeting. It expresses Pomfret's commitment to maintaining a middle and high school in Woodstock as a regional hub. The revisions reflect Selectboard consideration of governance reform, state funding inequities, and maintenance of career and technical education opportunities. The letter references Pomfret's experience with Act 46, which resulted in the transfer of the town's elementary school to the supervisory union seven years ago without delivering promised education equity or efficiency. Public comment emphasized the importance of local schools to community economic vitality, family stability, and educational opportunity. After discussion, Ben moved and Meg seconded approval of the letter as presented. Unanimous. Ben will prepare an execution version for Selectboard members to sign and will circulate the signed copy to MVSU board members and state legislators.
 - b. **Town Line Signs** – Bob Crean sent photos of the newly designed town line signs. John moved and Steve seconded approval of **Vermont Green** (HEX #007834) as the color for the signs. Unanimous.
 - c. **North Pomfret Cemetery Association Lands** – During the meeting, John Moore emailed to say the deeds were not yet ready for review. As a result, discussion was deferred to the January 21, 2026 meeting.
 - d. **FY 2025 Town Report Deliverables** – Ben circulated a draft of the combined Selectboard Report and Budget Narrative report for review. The Selectboard was pleased with the draft and had no changes at this time. The initial draft of the warning was also discussed, and the Selectboard confirmed that the required informational hearing to discuss the articles to be voted upon will occur at the Pomfret Town Hall, 5233 Pomfret Road, and via Zoom on Saturday, February 21,

2026 at 9:00 AM. Other town departments and committees have begun submitting their reports to Cynthia as well.

- e. **FY 2027 Budget Discussion** – The Fire Department is switching insurance carriers, reducing their insurance cost by approximately one-third. The Selectboard continues to await final insurance pricing and other pending information needed to complete the budget for voter approval on town meeting day. Emily raised the concept of adding funding for a town administrator to assist with administrative functions and provide qualified municipal expertise. A line item for this was added and the Selectboard will discuss further at the January 7 meeting.
 - f. **Hydraulic Gate Changeover** – Frank reports that Fisher Auto Parts will purchase the old equipment and install new for the price of \$1,265.40. The Selectboard gave Frank the go-ahead to proceed with the changeover.
 - g. **VTrans Meeting Debrief** – Frank and Ben, along with project engineer Jon Harrington, met with VTrans staff to discuss the Pomfret Road Slope Stabilization Project. The primary issue discussed was a discrepancy between the quantities of work invoiced by Avery Excavation and the quantities calculated by Jon based on field surveys. VTrans indicated they likely will base grant reimbursement on Jon's verified calculations, which currently show a difference of approximately \$33,000 (representing approximately \$30,000 in additional town cost after accounting for the required 10% local match). Jon is re-verifying his numbers and will submit final calculations to VTrans. The tone of the meeting was generally constructive, with all parties attempting to resolve outstanding questions on project timing and expenses. Reimbursement of most or all project costs is expected in Q1 of 2026.
 - h. **Woodstock Ambulance Meeting Debrief** – Ben met with Woodstock finance staff regarding delinquent ambulance bills and difficulties encountered while attempting to collect past due amounts. They explained that they had turned collections over to an outside agency as of October 1. This year's delinquency now stands at approximately \$26,000, with six months of collections effort still remaining. The Selectboard will monitor collections results as the new outside agency process is implemented. Outstanding balances will be transferred to Pomfret in July 2026.
 - i. **Warrants** – Emily moved and John seconded approval for payment of the following warrants:

26053	\$	1,900.40	A/P
26055		12,845.00	Payroll
26056		57,546.89	A/P

Unanimous.
 - j. **Approval of December 3, 2025 Minutes** – John moved and Meg seconded approval of the December 3 meeting minutes as presented. Unanimous.
6. **Meeting Wrap Up**
- a. **Correspondence** – None.
 - b. **Review of Assignments** – Ben to circulate the approved local schools letter, invite Becky and Ellen to join the Selectboard at its January 7 meeting.
 - c. **Agenda for Next Meeting** – FY 2027 Budget Information Session, FY 2027 Budget Discussion, 2026 Annual Meeting Warning.
7. **Adjournment** – Steve moved and John seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 pm.