

Town of Pomfret Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2026

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

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

1. **Call to Order** – Ben called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **Agenda Review** – None.
3. **Public Comment** – None.
4. **Road Foreman Report** – Frank reported that the road crew has been busy with frequent inclement weather and nuisance snowstorms. Truck #5 was taken out of service for broken springs and is undergoing repairs. The three larger trucks have required minimal maintenance, with only minor brake and hose repairs. Fisher Auto Parts was contracted to install new hydraulic systems, which were completed during the meeting week. Regarding salt supplies, Frank reported that Cargill delivered only slightly over 300 tons against a quote for approximately 1,400 tons during the season. Salt deliveries appear to be constrained nationwide due to widespread winter weather. The town currently has 30-40 yards of salt in storage, sufficient for a few more applications pending arrival of additional contracted supplies. The Selectboard also discussed the road stubs that Pomfret maintains in other towns due to inadequate turn-arounds at the town line. Frank will contact Barnard's highway foreman regarding Pomfret's maintenance of roads in Barnard.
5. **Items for Discussion or Vote**
 - a. **Law Enforcement Services** – Discussion continued regarding whether to place a warning article on the town meeting warning to reinstate law enforcement authority to the town constable (authority that was removed by town vote in 2015). A decision deferred pending further consultation with the constable about the scope and implementation of such authority and whether it remains appropriate and feasible. It was noted that the relevant budget line item was changed to the more generic "Law Enforcement Services" so that the Selectboard may consider different service providers when current contracts expire.
 - b. **North Pomfret Cemetery Association Lands** – John Moore presented warranty deeds for properties held by the North Pomfret Cemetery Association and Moore Family Partnership, which lands the grantors propose to transfer to the town for no monetary consideration so that they may continue to be used for cemetery purposes. Ben moved and John seconded approval of the language of the Warranty Deed of the Moore Family Partnership, LLC and the Warranty Deed of the North Pomfret Cemetery Association as presented to the Selectboard on January 21, 2026, and to accept said deeds upon every listed signatory of the Grantors on said deeds applying their signature before a notary and presenting the fully executed deeds to the Clerk for recording with the associated Property Transfer Tax Returns in the Town Land Records. Unanimous (Emily not voting).*

[*] **Editor's Note:** Emily Grube was recused due to her position as a grantor in each proposed conveyance. Emily did not participate in the discussion and did not vote. The remaining board members voted unanimously to accept the conveyances and approve the final deeds.

- c. **FY 2027 Budget Review and Approval** – Following discussion, Emily moved and John seconded approval of a combined FY 2027 budget of \$2,147,772 for general purposes (\$679,470) and for highway purposes (\$1,468,302), of which \$1,505,180 will be raised by current year taxes and \$642,592 by other sources. Unanimous. The Annual Meeting Warning will note that the foregoing does not reflect revenue that would be generated by the proposed local option tax (Article 5), nor the separately voted appropriations (Articles 6 through 17).
- d. **2026 Annual Meeting Warning Review and Approval** – Ben reviewed the preliminary warning for the 2026 annual town meeting. In addition to routine articles, the 2026 warning also includes (1) a proposal that Vermont residents who are not Pomfret residents be eligible for election or appointment to certain local offices (Article 2) and (2) a one percent (1%) local option tax on sales, meals and alcoholic beverages, and rooms (Article 5). The “note” after the budget article (Article 4) was revised to clarify the relationship between the proposed local option tax and the budget as presented. Emily moved and Meg seconded approval of the 2026 Annual Meeting Warning. Unanimous.
- e. **2025 Annual Report Deliverables Review and Approval** – Ben reviewed the deliverables required for the 2026 Annual Report, including the town asset list and municipal officer list. The combined Selectboard report and FY 2027 Budget Narrative were also reviewed. Emily moved and Steve seconded approval of the town asset list, officer list, and combined Selectboard report and FY 2027 Budget Narrative, subject to Ben editing the narrative to further clarify the relationship between the proposed local option tax and the budget as presented. Unanimous. Ben will revise the budget narrative accordingly and will finalize all annual report deliverables.
- f. **VTrans Small Scale Local Highway Safety Grant** – The Selectboard discussed the \$50,000 grant (no local match required) for road safety improvements. The application remains under development with Emily and Frank working with Rita at Two Rivers. The deadline for submission is February 2. Ben moved and John seconded approval of the application for submission on or before the February 2 deadline. Unanimous.
- g. **VTrans Emergency Grant Application (Pomfret Road Slide)** – Emily moved and Steve seconded approval of the emergency grant amendment, TA-65 Request for Reimbursement and TA-66 Report of Expenditures as presented. Unanimous. Ben will submit the same to VTrans so that the town can be reimbursed for expenses incurred on this project.
- h. **Large Event Permit Application (CBHM Pre-Race Supper)** – Emily moved and John seconded approval of the large event permit application for the Woodstock Area Chamber of Commerce’s annual pasta supper at Saskadena Six the night before the Covered Bridges Half Marathon. Unanimous.
- i. **Certificate of Town Highway Mileage** – The updated highway mileage certificate reflects a slight increase in Class 3 town highway mileage due to remeasurements taken by VTrans last year. This will result in an additional \$125 in annual highway aid. Emily moved and Steve seconded approval of the certificate as presented. Unanimous.
- j. **Warrants** – Emily moved and Steve seconded approval for payment of the following warrants:

26066	\$	13,724.20	Payroll
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26068 46,825.87 A/P

Unanimous.

- k. **Approval of January 7, 2026 Minutes** – Meg moved and Emily seconded approval of the January 7 meeting minutes as presented. Unanimous.

6. **Meeting Wrap Up**

- a. **Correspondence** – Marge Wakefield brought to Meg’s attention that the Woodstock History Center is currently storing valuable Thomas Ware paintings that are owned by the Town of Pomfret and are listed on the town’s asset inventory. There is an upcoming meeting where the History Center and the Abbott Library will discuss potential transfer of ownership of the paintings. Marge will attend and report back. It was noted that transfer of town property generally required a Selectboard vote. Ben reported on preliminary updated FEMA flood maps. The updated maps are based on recent field studies and newer mapping technology. The maps have been made available to towns for comment, with a comment period running until mid-February. Ben will circulate the maps to Selectboard members for review.
- b. **Review of Assignments** – Frank to follow up re: salt and sand delivery; connect with Cy Benoit re: tree removal; Cynthia to contact Doug Tuthill re: law enforcement; Ben to finalize town meeting deliverables and the warning; submit grant paperwork and mileage certificate to VTrans.
- c. **Agenda for Next Meeting** – Two Rivers presentation on Tier 1B areas.

7. **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 8:59 pm.
- b. Steve moved and John seconded that the Selectboard exit executive session. Unanimous. The Selectboard exited executive session at 9:59 pm, with no decisions having been made therein.

- 8. **Adjournment** – John moved and Meg seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 pm.