

Town of Pomfret Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2026

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

Public: Frank Rogers, Art Lewin, Eric Chase, Beriah Smith, Neil Lamson, "Michael"

1. **Call to Order** – Ben called the meeting to order at 7:03 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)(F) to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services. Unanimous. The Selectboard entered executive session at 7:03 pm.
 - b. John moved and Steve seconded that the Selectboard exit executive session. Unanimous. The Selectboard exited executive session at 7:30 pm.
3. **In Memoriam, Marge Wakefield** – Ben acknowledged the passing of Selectboard member Marge Wakefield, noting her commitment, preparation, and extensive service to the town as a Selectboard Member, Trustee of Public Funds and Justice of the Peace. The Selectboard held a moment of silence in her memory.
4. **Agenda Review** – *None.*
5. **Public Comment** – *None.*
6. **Road Foreman Report** – Frank reported that a cooler for the tractor mower costs \$4,500 for parts, which the crew can install. The 2015 Ford 550 is experiencing serious wiring harness issues; replacing the harness is estimated at \$3,000 for parts and labor. The Selectboard discussed the vehicle's age but agreed to the repair to preserve the investment. Frank noted that 12 town line signs are needed at \$1,185 total; the Selectboard approved the purchase. This week the crew removed approximately a dozen trees along Pomfret Road using hired flaggers, though work was occasionally interrupted by emergency calls for fallen trees elsewhere. The grader's 2,000-hour service was completed, which also required a new main wiring harness. The new Innovative spray unit is installed, and dust control with magnesium will begin next week. Frank also discussed pavement issues and speed limit sign placement in South Pomfret.
7. **Items for Discussion or Vote**
 - a. **Town Highway Crack Sealing** – Frank received two quotes (Nicom and Indus) but noted they were difficult to compare because one was a daily rate and the other was a per-gallon rate. He will ask Nicom for a per-gallon rate to allow for an equivalent comparison. Discussion to continue at the June 3 meeting.
 - b. **Sand Request for Proposals (2026–27 Season)** – The Selectboard reviewed the RFP prepared by Emily. John moved and Steve seconded that the RFP request a one-year contract only, citing the volatility of diesel and trucking costs. Unanimous.
 - c. **New Road Crew Hire** – John provided a preliminary analysis comparing a new full-time hire (estimated at \$178,000 annually including benefits and equipment) against contracting specific seasonal tasks like mowing or plowing. Steve expressed concern that the town has already fallen behind capital planning recommendations for equipment. The Selectboard decided to postpone the issue to June 3 to allow John and Frank to refine the cost analysis and job description.

- d. **Paving Engineering Services Contract** – The Selectboard clarified that VHB should handle its own flagging and proceed with optional additional core sampling to validate pavement thickness.
 - e. **Enforcing Rules of the Road** – Ben reported a resident complaint regarding bicyclists failing to stop at signs or ride single-file to allow traffic to pass. The Selectboard discussed safety concerns and legal requirements for cyclists. Ben will follow up with the Sheriff and local biking groups.
 - f. **WCSD Patrol Contract Renewal** – Postponed to June 3.
 - g. **Datamann Contract Renewal** – The Selectboard noted the annual contract cost has significantly increased. Emily suggested obtaining quotes from other firms to ensure the suite of services remains adequate and cost-effective. Becky and Ellen will be asked to attend the June 3 meeting to discuss service needs.
 - h. **Selectboard Vacancy** – Ben outlined options for filling the seat vacated by Marge Wakefield’s passing, noting the legal requirement to appoint a qualified voter “forthwith”. The Selectboard will post a legal notice on the listserv. The application deadline is June 15, with an appointment target for the June 17 meeting.
 - i. **Warrants** – Steve moved and Emily seconded approval of the following warrants for payment:

26106	\$	8,513.94	Payroll
26107		889,170.24	A/P

 Unanimous.
 - j. **Approval of May 6, 2026 Minutes** – Steve moved and John seconded approval of the minutes of the May 6 regular meeting as presented. Unanimous.
8. **Meeting Wrap Up**
- a. **Correspondence** – Ellen presented a CD renewal (\$190,000); the Selectboard recommended rolling it over for three months. The Abbott Memorial Library Board requested a decision on the Thomas Ware paintings currently in storage; a library representative will be invited to the next meeting.
 - b. **Review of Assignments** – Frank will update the job description, obtain an updated crack sealing bid, and work with John on financials; John will meet with Frank; Ben will contact VHB, send the sand RFP, post the vacancy notice, and forward FEMA funding info to the Fire Department.
 - c. **Agenda for Next Meeting** – VSO permit; Large event permit; WCSD contract; Data Management; Ware paintings; Sand RFP review.
9. **Executive Session**
- a. Ben moved and John 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 9:11 pm.
 - b. Steve moved and John seconded that the Selectboard exit executive session. Unanimous. The Selectboard exited executive session at 10:16 pm.
10. **Adjournment** – John moved and Steve seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 pm.