

Town of Pomfret Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2026

Present: Benjamin Brickner, John Peters, Eric Chase, Emily Grube

Public: Frank Rogers, Cynthia Hewitt, Bill Emmons, John Moore, Cy Benoit, Christie Crowe, Doug Tuthill, Ellen DesMeules, AJ Stevens, Greg Hartford, David Dorrance, Tamela Dorrance, Sara Cunningham, Jack Peters, Scott Milne, Arminda King, Michael Miller, Cathy Emmons, Jack Pearsons, Neil Lamson, Tyler Wellington

1. **Call to Order** – Ben called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **Agenda Review** – Ben moved and Eric seconded removing the following items from the agenda to be postponed until the August 5, 2026 meeting: 6D (Truck #1 Replacement RFP) and 6G (WCSD Patrol Contract Renewal). Unanimous.
3. **Town Plan Public Hearing** – Several members of the Planning Commission, including John Moore, Bill Emmons, Cy Benoit, Tyler Wellington, and Doug Tuthill, discussed the updated Town Plan. They noted that the regional commission has shifted from an advisory to a regulatory agency, and the Commission has created a plan for Pomfret that may not align with regional preferences. John Moore expressed concern regarding confusing language in the regional plan and stated that Pomfret does not agree that the regional plan trumps the town's plan. Residents were encouraged to attend regional meetings listed on the TRORC website. The hearing was closed at 7:32 pm.
4. **Public Comment** – Neil Lamson requested the Selectboard address road crew overtime pay in instances where employees are called in from vacation to work on a holiday or weekend.
5. **Road Foreman Report** – Frank reported that the first round of grading is finished and crack sealing will begin on July 16. Frank requested overtime approval to continue roadside mowing; Eric suggested the potential for hiring a part-time person for this task. Frank also noted that using independent trucking for materials purchased from Pike could result in cost savings. Allyn Ricker has questions regarding a time sheet and will be directed to Ellen.
6. **Items for Discussion or Vote**
 - a. **Residential Driveway Application (426 Sessions Meadow)** – Frank met with the property owners and found no issues with the proposed driveway. Eric moved and John seconded that the application be approved with the conditions of removing trees to create an adequate sight line and installing a culvert to manage runoff. Unanimous.
 - b. **Right-of-Way Crossing Permit Application (545 Starbuck Road)** – John moved and Eric seconded approval of this permit to install a 6" PVC pipe to carry a sap line across Starbuck Road. Unanimous.
 - c. **Replacement for Engine 1 (RFP)** – Greg Hartford presented cooperative and competitive RFPs for four apparatus, obtained via a bidding service, to replace a 1992 truck currently in use. The new truck will be a basic model with no frills. Greg will send the Selectboard a spreadsheet summarizing the RFPs.
 - d. **Sealing Town Office Parking Lot** – Frank presented a quote for seal coating the parking lot and repairing subsequent cracks. The Selectboard approved the quote.

- e. **Highway Operator Job Description** – Frank and Eric prepared job descriptions for a full-time Operator/Road Crew member and a part-time temporary crew member. Cynthia will run advertisements for both in local publications next week. Frank requested that salary ranges be added to the full-time position advertisement.
- f. **Selectboard Vacancy Update** – There are three candidates for the vacancy: Christie Crowe, Frank Perron, and Doug Tuthill. Christie and Doug spoke regarding their interests, and the matter will be discussed further in Executive Session.

The Selectboard held a brief recess from 8:35 pm to 8:39 pm to calculate tax rates.

- g. **FY 2027 Town and Local Agreement Tax Rates** – Based on the municipal grand list as of June 24, the amount of taxes to be raised by the budget approved by the voters at town meeting, and the number of veterans' exemptions claimed this year, Ellen determined that the FY 2027 town tax rate should be \$0.4308 per \$100 assessed value and that the FY 2027 local agreement rate should be \$0.0008 per \$100 assessed value. Emily moved and John seconded the foregoing. Unanimous. Tax bills will be mailed later this week and the first installment will be due at the town office on or before 2:30 PM on August 21, 2026.
- h. **Warrants** – John moved and Emily seconded approval of the following warrants for payment:

27002	\$ 8,448.71	Payroll
27004	28,197.84	A/P
27005	148.21	Payroll

 Unanimous.
- i. **Approval of July 1, 2026 Minutes** – John moved and Emily seconded approval of the minutes of the July 1, 2026 meeting as presented. Unanimous.

7. **Meeting Wrap Up**

- a. **Correspondence** – Ben received a letter of support request from Brattleboro Memorial Hospital for their birthing center. There was a discussion regarding a recent dog-bite incident on Broad Brook Road. Cynthia will contact the Vermont State Police (VSP) to clarify animal control contacts and explore potential service contracting.
- b. **Review of Assignments** – Frank will seek an additional quote for trucking services; Ben will send the Starbuck Road permit PDF to Frank; Cynthia will run ads for road crew vacancies and follow up with the VSP.
- c. **Agenda for Next Meeting** – Truck #1 RFP, WCSD Contract, Town Plan, overtime discussion, fire truck, and Brattleboro Hospital.

8. **Executive Session**

- a. Ben moved and Eric seconded that the Selectboard enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(3) to discuss the employment of public employees and the appointment of public officers. Unanimous. The Selectboard entered executive session at 9:15 pm.
- b. John moved and Emily seconded that the Selectboard exit executive session. Unanimous. The Selectboard exited executive session at 10:35 pm.

- 9. **Adjournment** – Emily moved and Eric seconded adjournment. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 pm.