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**POMFRET  
SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING  
March 6, 2018**


The School District Meeting was called to order at 11:15am by Kevin Geiger, Moderator.

1. Kevin Geiger was nominated as Moderator, and was unanimously elected.
2. Bob Merrill moved to accept the reports submitted, and Lisa Willems seconded. Patti Kuzmickas, School Board Chair, corrected a few errors in the numbers and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Jody Eaton was elected as School Director to the Pomfret School Board for a term to expire on the date the District ceases to exist (which was clarified as June 30, 2018).
4. Greg Greene was elected as School Director to the Woodstock Union High School District #4 Board for a term to expire on the date the District ceases to exist (which was clarified as June 30, 2018).
5. Melanie Williams moved and Michael Reese seconded that the voters of the Pomfret School District agree to transfer the deed of the Prosper Valley School and property to the Town of Pomfret. Patti Kuzmickas then made a motion to amend the article to read "Shall the Pomfret School District transfer the deed of the Prosper Valley School and property to the Town of Pomfret, pursuant to an Australian ballot vote by all member districts of the Windsor Central Modified Unified Union School District (WCMUUSD) which would modify the Articles of Agreement to allow lease of the property from the Town of Pomfret to the WCMUUSD?"; Doug Tuthill seconded. Patti then explained that the article needed to be amended in order to reflect the legal procedure that needs to be followed to properly convey the school property if the article passed. She read a prepared statement outlining the research the board had done with regards to this issue, with emphasis on the protections in place against school closure in the Unified District's voted Articles of Agreement. There was a great deal of discussion regarding benefits of the Town owning the school vs. benefits of the Unified District owning the school, including insurance and liability costs, the costs and complexity of a lease arrangement between the Town and the District, and the potential for issues surrounding necessary upgrades should the District have a less vested stake in keeping the school open. Concerns included the loss of local control of our school property, and the potential for the Town to take on an unmanageable amount of debt should the district close the school and return it to the Town. Benefits to the District ownership were discussed at length, with particular stress being placed on the 4-year protection against school closure that is offered if the school property is transferred to ownership of the Unified District. Those speaking both for and against the amended article and asking questions included Patti Kuzmickas, Gerry Fields, Scott Woodward, Lisa Willems, Emily Grube, Bill Overbay, Frank Perron, Doug Tuthill, Erik Peterson, Ellen DesMeules, Bob Coates, John Peters Jr., Carlene Hewitt, Melanie Williams, Betsy Rhodes, Seth Westbrook, Kevin Rice, Orson St. John, Betsy Siebeck, Finnie Trimpi, and Gennie Lawrence. A point of order was called and a voice vote in the affirmative ended the discussion of the amendment. The amendment to the article was then put to vote to replace the article as originally written, and the amended article language passed by voice vote. At this time there was more discussion of the ramifications of the vote, including questions about what other towns are doing, and the issues of trust with other members of the Unified District. Many people contributed to the discussion who had already spoken, and adding to the discourse were Bob Merrill, Elaine Chase, Deanna Jones, Nancy Matthews, Sheila Murray, Scott Milne, and Dana Kaye. The School Board stressed that as this is a very new process, things are becoming clearer as they learn new information about how the new District will work; the Board emphasized that they are unanimously in favor of transferring the school property to the Unified District. After some final clarification of the article, there was a motion made for a vote by paper ballot which was supported by the majority of the assembly. Article 5 failed to pass by a ballot vote of No – 63 / Yes – 23.
6. Other business: Caroline Shepard spoke about the high quality of education at our school. She also asked what the purpose of the town list serve is, as it seems to be used for a lot of information that should be in another public forum. Betsy Siebeck noted that recently it has served as a virtual information meeting. Bob Merrill clarified that the list serve is not an entity in any way of the Town of Pomfret, and is maintained and managed by Vital Communities. Joanna Long thanked the School Board for their diligence, eloquence, grace, and patience.


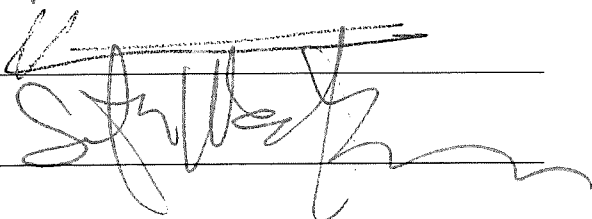
Bill Overbay moved to adjourn, and Bob Merrill seconded. The Moderator declared the meeting closed at 1:52pm.

Results of Pomfret vote for WCMUUSD Article 8: Budget of \$17,956,806 for the year beginning July 1, 2018:  
Yes – 72 / No – 30 / Blank – 2

Respectfully submitted,

  
Rebecca Fielder, Town Clerk

Minutes approved by:

  
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