

Town of Pomfret
Draft Minutes
Select Board Meeting
July 3, 2019

Present: Emily, Steve, John, Frank

Public Attendees: Ona Chase, Keith Chase, Christina Chamberlin, Neil Lamson, John Moore, Ellen DesMeules, Cynthia Hewitt

1. Emily called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM
2. Public Comment: Ona thanked John Moore for the road side mowing
3. Changes to the agenda:
Emily added the State Police Contract
Discussion of the Tax Rate will replace Easement Repeater
John asked the Board to consider using a SLACK communications system
4. The minutes of 06/19/19 do not reflect the \$60-100/hourly rate Scott mentioned for the HR assistance, nor the budget item for same. Ellen feels the Professional Consultation budget item is more than used up by the legal fees and accounting help currently in place; Cynthia will listen to the recording again to capture that information.
5. Warrants for approval: John moved the following warrants be approved for payment;
Frank 2nd. Unanimous approval
#19002 \$45,350.44 Accounts receivable
#19001 8,257.69 Payroll
#18122 49,623.17
6. Road Foreman's Report
All the culverts are in on the Rudge Road, expected to finish up. Next week. Scott Jensen did a site visit and approved moving one of the culverts away from the brook at Jim's suggestion. Jimmy graded Hewitt Road. Duffy Dana has asked permission to add a culvert at the Carson property on Joe Ranger Road (Fire pond) as he is repairing the pond. There will be no cost to the town. The Board approved. Jim reports Truck #2 (2013) needs to be towed in response to a check engine warning, which is an internal wiring problem. He called Sabil re: coming to the truck to run diagnostics and towing to Sabil or ATG. Frank said that ATG was having two computer technicians trained for such work and suggested it might be best to have it towed there. Jim will check with them to confirm the training. Jim has serious doubts about the Galaxy Hill culvert replacement. Since the new culvert is considerably bigger, he feels the need to dig a deeper trench has the potential of interfering with the DesMeules sewer lines. Keith Chase and Frank joined the discussion. Jimmy will call Mike Blakesly the engineer for District IV to get his input, suggestions.

Jeremy from Sunapee (aka Springfield) Paving will get the paving done at the end of August to early September. He anticipates two days of paving and 4 days for shoulder work. Steve has been looking over the paper work from ATG and feels they reflect a shortcoming in regards to greasing the equipment. Jim stated that his crew is now checking every piece of equipment used on a daily basis to be sure the greasing has been done, and any other issues. On Monday the grader and loader will be serviced

7. RFP Truck. Jim asked that disc brakes be added to the RFP. Steve suggest they also add exterior plow and wing controls
8. RFP Sand. Emily would like to get sand delivered before winter since last year the sand pile froze up in subzero weather. The board decided to submit an RFP for 3000 tons as well as to explore prices on aggregates, etc. Steve suggested we explore submission of a 2-year contract to gain a better price. Emily will prepare the RFP.
9. Designated FEMA representative for the spring storm damage. Emily moved that Neil Lamson be hired as the representative for the town. He has previous experience. John seconded. Unanimous agreement.
10. Cloudland Bridge contract has been received. They will be out of the water by 10/01/201/ and finished by 11/01/2019. Frank moved for approval of the contract; Steve 2nd. Unanimous
11. Highway garage repairs. Emily will solicit contractors for estimates for roof and soffit repairs.
12. Nicom crack sealing contract for \$4350 per day was approved
13. 4th Highway Crew Member. Jim is highly in favor of hiring another crew member. He says the state has set new standards for road maintenance/repair and there is a lot more work to get done. This item will be added for vote at Town Meeting. In the meanwhile, part time help will be sought to do the roadside mowing. There are several local people interested (Kevin Sawyer, Vern Clifford, Ron Weglarz). The job will be posted, such work to be done during normal work hours in order to have back up available. Jim will bring recommendation to the board. Keith Chase thanked John Moore for his recent endeavors in roadside mowing, what he has done is a great help.
14. Town Office Water Supply. Ellen had to call Ottaquechee. Plumbing recently regarding a pump/pressure tank issue. Emily suggested the pressure tank and switches to the well pump be moved to the Town Office building vs. the Brick Building. It would thus be covered by the generator. A plumber's advice will be sought in this matter since it is likely a new line must be dug; we need to get all plumbing and electrical aspects covered at the same time since a new line must be put in. There is silt in the water.
15. VT 100 Endurance Race, 07/20-22/2019 has provided proof of insurance. They are working on a plan to address congestion at the Edna Luce intersection. John moved the contract be approved as long as suggested caution signs are posted approaching both sides of the intersection. Emily second. Motion carried
16. State Tax Rate. Ellen reports the rate is .3616 for the town and .0004 for local agreement. Emily moved the board set this rate, Frank 2nd. Unanimous
17. Silo Distillery Catering Permit at Artistry, July 26, 5-9 PM. John moved this be approved, Emily seconded. Motion carried

18. State Police Contract. Emily has received the contract for the same number of hours in the amount of \$24,615.28; \$22,000 was budgeted. Frank moved we accept the contract for the budgeted amount, with hours adjusted accordingly; Steve 2nd. Motioned carried
19. Caper Street Dog complaint. No injuries to date; several people allegedly have issues. One citizen complained in writing. Emily will send a letter.
20. Select Board Clerk Election. Emily is annoyed that the agenda went out without the attachments she and Cynthia had submitted. She suggested the board needed to make a decision about access to the town website, in light of this and other unexplained alterations/deletions at the site. John moved and Steve seconded the website access be limited to Becky Fielder and Cynthia Hewitt, in text format vs. code; the Board made the unanimous decision. Bob Merrill will be apprised of these changes effective immediately.
21. Sunapee (aka Springfield) paving contract came through with some ambiguous wording. An "amount not to exceed" statement will be written in and submitted.
22. Special Meeting. The board scheduled a Special Meeting at 6 PM on 07/17/2019 to which Scott will invite the 3 potential candidates for HR assistance to present their options to the board in 20-minute segments.
23. Emily has contacted VLTC regarding payment in lieu of taxes arrangements. She has spoken with Ben Brickner who is on vacation. When he returns, a meeting will be scheduled with Artistry to hopefully set up a perpetual endowment in this regard. Frank stated it was time to bring the board in on his and Scott's deliberations with Purple Crayon, which may shed more light. He will see that the board gets "up to speed" on the current negotiations.
24. Meeting wrap up
No correspondence
Review of Assignments: Emily garage repairs, consolidate plumbing issues, RFP Sand purchase; John RFP Truck; Slack software; Jim Galaxy Hill culvert; Scott HR presentations
Agenda Items for next meeting: HR presentation, special meeting; Garage Repairs, plumbing issues, RFP sand; RFP Truck