

POMFRET

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

March 3, 2009

Moderator Robert J. O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. The Rev. Jennifer Donaldson was asked to begin the meeting with a prayer.

Articles:

- 1. Robert J. O'Donnell was elected Moderator for a 1 year term. He was given the oath of office by the Town Clerk, Andrew A. Mann, and then reviewed the procedures and rules of order for the meeting.
- 2. Lynne A. Leavitt was elected Town Clerk for a 1 year term and given the oath of office by Robert O'Donnell.
- 3. Bill Emmons moved to accept the reports as submitted. Orson St. John seconded.

It was noted that in the vital statistics report, the death of Dean Tracy was omitted. He died on March 3, 2008 at the age of 70.

There was discussion on the Town Report booklet on how to save money. No conclusion was reached. The motion to accept the reports as submitted passed by voice vote.

- 4. The following officers were elected:

Selectboard	3 year term	Robert S. Harrington	Unopposed
Treasurer	1 year term	Hazel B. Harrington	Unopposed
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1 year term	Jay L. Potter	Unopposed
Cemetery Commissioner	3 year term	Charles Gunderson	Unopposed
Lister	3 year term	Christine A. Cole	Unopposed
Auditor	3 year term	Carlene M. Hewitt	Unopposed
Grand Juror	1 year term	Michael S. Reese	Unopposed
Town Agent	1 year term	William B. Emmons	Unopposed
Library Trustee	3 year term	Jennifer C. Satterfield	Unopposed
Library Trustee	3 year term	Betsy A. Siebeck	Unopposed

Daphne Gratiot was recognized for her 22 years of service as lister and as a leader of the town. She received a standing ovation and Douglas Tuthill presented her with a glass bowl from Simon Pearce.

- 5. Keith Blake was elected for a 3 year term as Trustee for the Russ, Hawkins, and Hutchinson funds.
- 6. Kevin Geiger was elected for a 5 year term on the Pomfret Emergency Services Commission.
Mark C. Warner was elected for a 2 year term on the Pomfret Emergency Services Commission.
Anthony Thacher was elected for a 1 year term on the Pomfret Emergency Services Commission.
- 7. Anne Bower moved to see if the Town will amend the terms of office for future members of the Pomfret Emergency Services Commission from the existing five year terms to three year terms, beginning with election of the next open position and with terms staggered so that two terms will expire every year for two years and one term will expire the third year. Lydia Spitzer seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.
- 8. Kevin Geiger moved to see if the Town will amend the present condition that members of the Pomfret Emergency Services Commission may not serve for more that two term to there being no limit on the number of terms a member of the Pomfret Emergency Services Commission may serve. William Emmons seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.
- 9. Anne Bower moved to see if the Town will amend the present condition that the Pomfret Emergency Services Commission shall meet at least every month at a regular time and place to the condition that the Pomfret Emergency Services Commission shall meet as it deems appropriate at times and places duly noticed and shall meet at least once during each quarter of the calendar year. Elizabeth Rhodes suggested that monthly bills be processed throughout the year. Douglas Tuthill suggested that group elect a person to pay the bills. Lydia Spitzer seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote..
- 10. Kevin Geiger moved to see what sum the town will appropriate for the Emergency Services Organization account administered by the Town Treasurer to be used for operating expenses. The sum of \$37,700 was requested. Orson St. John said articles #10, 11, 12 & 13 may be covered under article 16. Sherman Kent asked how much money was raised last year in donations? Richard Cherella thought the amount raised in donations was between \$10,000 and \$11,000. Hazel Harrington responded and said she doesn't see the donations. Marjorie Wakefield explained how the funds were accounted for. Ann Bower seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

11. Daphne Gratiot moved to see what sum the Town will appropriate for the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund. The sum of \$15,000 was requested. There was a wide range of discussion on from the stimulus package to the capital budget. Mark Warner seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote..
12. Ann Bower moved to see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$30,000 out of the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund to be used to purchase a new pumper truck for the Teago Fire Department. This sum is to take the place of the \$30,000 appropriated last year to be used by the Teago Fire Department to purchase a tanker truck. William Emmons seconded. Kevin Rice, representing the Teago Fire Department gave a brief explanation on why \$30,000 appropriated from last year was never used. He also stated that the Fire Department was not requesting funding at this time and after discussion moved to make a motion to indefinitely postpone article 12. Anthony Thacher seconded that motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote and the article was indefinitely postponed.
13. Ann Bower moved to see what sum the Town will appropriate for the Abbott Memorial Library. The sum of \$27,667 was requested. Joanna Long said that they finally have hot water and this was made possible by a grant. Douglas Tuthill seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

District Representative Mark Mitchell appeared and spoke about the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant and the stimulus package. Robert Merrill, Lydia Spitzer, Andrew Mann had questions for Mark Mitchell about Vermont Yankee. Orson St. John had questions about tax increases.

Motion was made by Loreda Sola to change order of business to move to Article 19. Anthony Thacher seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

19. Robert Merrill moved to see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to act in it's behalf in proceeding with plans from the EC Fiber network, as voted and approved in last year's Town meeting. Loreda Sola talked about the EC fiber project and is still optimistic that it will happen. Anthony Thacher seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Kevin Geiger moved to recess for lunch and reconvene after The Pomfret School District Annual meeting. Nancy Judge seconded.

LUNCH BREAK

Following completion of The Pomfret School District Annual Meeting we resumed the Town Meeting with Article 14.

14. Anne bower moved to see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$3,950 to support the home care and hospice care of patients in their homes by staff and volunteers of the visiting Nurse Alliance of Vermont and New Hampshire, Inc. (by petition). Anne Bower expressed her appreciation for their services. Nancy Bassett seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.
15. Douglas Tuthill moved to see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$1,500 to support programming of the Ottauquechee Community Partnership which includes the Spectrum Teen Center and the Shining Light Mentoring program. (by petition). Joann Webb said her friend is a mentor and it is a wonderful program. Robert Merrill seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.
16. Kevin Geiger moved that the Town vote the budget of \$1,169,984 for town and highway expenses as shown in the town report. There was a \$1,000 increase due to a misprint in the budget. Hazel Harrington seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.
17. Hazel Harrington moved that the town raise \$904,512 in taxes. There was a \$1,000 increase over the warned article as explained in the previous article. Douglas Tuthill seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.
18. Anne Bower moved to see if the Town will have the treasurer collect taxes in two installments, on August 15, 2009 and on November 5, 2009. Late payments will be subject to interest of 1% per calendar month or part thereof. All taxes outstanding on November 6, 2009 will be delinquent and subject to a penalty of 8% for the Town. Hazel Harrington seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.
20. To do any other proper and necessary business.
Norm Buchanan spoke on behalf of the listers regarding the reappraisal. William Emmons thanked the road crew for a wonderful job. Douglas Tuthill thanked Daphne Gratiot for her persistence on the new building project for the Town Offices. Douglas Tuthill also thanked James Havill for his persistence on the new building project as well as his dedication and work in the Town. Orson St. John commented on the Capital & School Budget hoping that the Selectman would follow through on it. Elaine Chase thanked the Historical Society for putting up the pictures in the new Town Offices.

William Emmons moved to adjourn and Orson St. John seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.
Several new officers were sworn to their duties by Lynne A. Leavitt.

Lunch was served by The Lamson Family to benefit the 4H Group.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne A. Leavitt, Town Clerk

Minutes approved by:

Date:

NOTE: A full transcript of the Town Meeting minutes are available on CD at the town office for \$10.00.