

POMFRET

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

March 1, 2011

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.

1. Robert J. O'Donnell was elected Moderator for a 1 year term. He was given the oath of office by the Town Clerk, Lynne A. Leavitt, 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. William Emmons moved to accept the reports as submitted. There was no discussion. Mark Warner seconded. The motion to accept the reports as submitted passed by voice vote.

Robert J. O'Donnell commented on the great job the Auditors did.

4. The following officers were elected:

Selectboard	3 year term	Kevin H. Lessard	75 votes
		Amy E. Robb	41 votes
Treasurer	1 year term	Hazel B. Harrington	Unopposed
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1 year term	Jay L. Potter	Unopposed
Cemetery Commissioner	3 year term	Patricia A. Allen	Unopposed
Lister	3 year term	Lynne A. Leavitt	Unopposed
Auditor	3 year term	Laura L. Kent	Unopposed
Grand Juror	1 year term	Michael S. Reese	Unopposed
Town Agent	1 year term	Michael S. Reese	Unopposed
Library Trustee	3 year term	Anna M. Kehler	Unopposed
Library Trustee	3 year term	Douglas S. Yeager	Unopposed
Trustee of Public Funds	3 year term	Fred S. Doten, Sr	Unopposed

Note: While the ballots were being counted Alan Graham announced that the Pomfret Historical Society has a meeting scheduled on March 3rd, 2011 to discuss for the 250 year celebration of the Town in the Brick Building. He said the quilt hanging on the back wall was donated to the Pomfret Historical Society by Lois Moore of Sharon, Vermont. The quilt was made in the 1800's. Loreda Sola gave an update on EC Fiber.

5. Kevin Geiger moved that the Town dissolve the Pomfret Emergency Services Commission and advise the Selectboard to appoint, in an advisory capacity, a committee to assist them on emergency services related issues, whose members and duties shall be decided in consultation with the existing commission members and the three emergency services. Kevin Geiger stated he was chair of the Pomfret Emergency Services Commission and found out that the commission could not exist in this form. He thanked Mark Warner for all his work on the grants and all the current members. Anthony Thacher seconded. Douglas Tuthill thanked the present Commission for the excellent job they have done. The Selectboard will decide how to go on from here with the present issues. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
6. Elizabeth Rhodes moved that the town vote to permit the town to provide notice of availability of the auditors' town report, in lieu of mailing or otherwise distributing the report itself, as authorized by 24 VSA § 1682. The notice of availability will be posted on the Town web site (www.pomfretvt.us), at the Town Office Building, the Post Offices and the Abbott Memorial Library at least 30 days before the annual meeting. Upon request, a copy of the full report will be mailed or otherwise distributed to a voter or resident of the town. Mark Warner seconded. There was a long discussion on this issue. Elizabeth Rhodes said we are trying to respond to what the people want in this new electronic age. Those who want a hard copy need to let the Town Clerk know before the end of the year. Michael Doten amended the motion to add the following words "to have the Auditors send out a post card at the end of the calendar year to everyone on the checklist." It was seconded, but failed on a voice vote. The motion as it is, passed. Robert Andergegg said on Page 1 it explains the process. The motion passed by voice vote.

7. Anne Bower moved that the Town appropriate \$32,840 for the Abbott Memorial Library. Jennifer Satterfield seconded. Jennifer Satterfield thanked the outgoing board members and said the Library was blessed with a great board. She stated that the circulation numbers are up and last year they got new computers and a copier. She also stated they are \$2,000 short of their fundraising goal. They are looking for funding for the roof tiles. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
 8. Judith Repp moved that the Town 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. Marjorie Wakefield seconded. Judith Repp said last year they did 310 visits by the Visiting Nurse Alliance and hospice. This is a 47% increase and there is \$12,239 in un-reimbursed charges. Douglas Tuthill said he got a letter from Jane Adelson and she said she did not have a good experience with them, when she had to call them concerning her husband. He said he would vote against this article. Robert Harrington said when he called them for his parents they did help and he would vote for this article. The motion passed by voice vote.
 9. Cathleen Donath moved that the Town 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. Anne Bower seconded. Anne Bower said the mentoring program does make a difference in kids and it is directed at the middle school kids. She also said they are trying to expand their programs. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
 10. Deanne Jones moved that the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,500 for the Woodstock Area Council on aging to run the Edwin J. Thompson Senior Center. Leon Stetson seconded. Deanna Jones said she is the new director and started in September 2010. She explained the services they have and said the meals program is up 49% and the use of the van is up 140%. They are in North Pomfret 4 days a week and if anyone would like more information they can call her or the Center. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
 11. Mark Warner moved that the Town authorize the Selectboard to spend unanticipated funds such as grants and gifts. William Emmons seconded. Douglas Tuthill explained how this allows the Town to use money at the time they need it, knowing it will be coming in at a later date, such as approved grant money. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
 12. William Emmons moved that the voters authorize the Selectboard to borrow money, if necessary, for the payment of current expenses of the Town pending receipts of payment of taxes. Mark Warner seconded. Douglas Tuthill commented on what occurred last year when the town was short on funds and wanted to borrow \$50,000 from the School and they said no. The Town had to get a loan and pay 3.1% interest. He went on to say this really burned him more than anything else, since he has been on the Selectboard. Robert Harrington stated for example if we had a flood and didn't have enough money at the time, we would have to borrow it. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
 13. Orson L. St. John moved that the Town vote the budget of \$1,355,710 for town and highway expenses as shown in the town report. Orson St. John complimented the Selectboard on the budget. Hazel Harrington seconded. Leon Stetson and Robert O'Donnell thanked James Potter and the road crew on their excellent work on the roads. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
 14. Hazel B. Harrington moved that the Town raise \$802,945 in taxes. Anthony Thacher seconded. There was a short discussion concerning the budget. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- District Representative Mark Mitchell appeared said he is a member of the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee. He spoke about Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant and what is happening with it presently. There was some discussion on education and the cost to the taxpayers. John Donaldson, Leon Stetson, Douglas Tuthill, Michael Doten, Robert Harrington and Terry Kenison had questions and comments for Mark.
15. Robert Harrington moved that the Town collect taxes in two installments, on the first Friday of August (the 5th), 2011 and the first Friday of November (the 4th), 2011. Late payments will be subject to interest of 1% per calendar month or part thereof. All taxes outstanding on November 5th, 2011 will be delinquent and subject to a penalty of 8% for the Town. Norman Buchanan seconded. Scott Milne asked that the Town not put delinquent taxes in the town report. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
 16. To do any other proper and necessary business.

Jack Peters was recognized for his 37 years of service with the Fire Department and presented with a plaque.

Scott Milne said he did not think the delinquent taxpayers should be listed in the Town Report.
There was more discussion on EC Fiber and high speed internet.
Loredo Sola expressed his deep gratitude to the Visiting Nurses for saving his life 15 year ago.
Robert Merrill spoke about the website and wanted the residents of Pomfret to get more involved by posting photos of Pomfret in the banner on the home page.

Dick McCormack appeared and spoke about Vermont Yankee Power Plant.

Robert O'Donnell moved to adjourn and Ona Chase seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:53 A.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.