

POMFRET

SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

March 3, 2015

The School District Meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM by Kevin Geiger, Moderator.

1. Kevin Geiger was nominated as Moderator, and was unanimously elected. He was given the oath of office by Rebecca Fielder, Town Clerk.
2. Mark Warner moved to accept and act on the reports submitted. Deanna Jones seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Mark Warner moved that the voters authorize the Pomfret Board of School Directors to contract with the Bridgewater School District to operate a school for legal pupils of the Pomfret and Bridgewater districts for grades K through 6 ("Joint School"), subject to terms and conditions as substantially set forth in a proposed Joint Board Agreement between the Town School Districts of Bridgewater and Pomfret Vermont Dated January 14, 2015. Anne Bower seconded the motion. Greg Greene opened up the question to discussion, and WCSU Superintendent Alice Worth distributed copies of the agreement. Doug Keleher asked if we as a Town would be able to change our minds on the agreement in the future, and Bill Emmons asked if it could be discussed at a town meeting. Greg replied that the agreement was very flexible after the first 2 years, if either town decided that the Joint District was not working out then it would just take a vote at a town meeting to dissolve the union, provided the issue was properly warned. Michael Reese asked what would happen if the 6-member Joint School Board became deadlocked on any decision. Greg explained that having an even-numbered board was a conscious decision, and if there is a tie vote then the issue at hand obviously needs more work. Andy Mann noted that if it is a tie vote, then the issue did not pass. The motion was voted by ballot and passed by a vote of: 84 – yes / 2 – no / 1 – blank.
4. Jennifer Kirkman moved that the voters of the Pomfret School District approve a budget of \$1,516,348 as the amount necessary for the support of the Joint School for the year beginning July 1, 2015 (the estimate based on current information is that the Pomfret School District assessment will be \$862,647 of the total Joint School budget). Bill Emmons seconded the motion. Greg Greene noted minor mistakes in the budget lines on pages 51 and 54 of the Town Annual Report where the third column of numbers did not properly compute, as Alice Worth made corrected copies of the budget available. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
5. Melanie Williams moved that the voters of the Pomfret School District appropriate \$5,000 as the amount necessary for the operation of the Pomfret School District, as a legal entity with continuing responsibilities, for the year beginning July 1, 2015. Bill Emmons seconded the motion. Greg Greene explained that this was recommended as a small operation expense in case the board (separate from the Joint District) needed funds as legal consultation fees. Doug Keleher asked if \$5,000 would be enough in case someone sued because they were not in favor of the district. Greg clarified that those types of fees would be covered by the Vermont School Boards Association, and that the \$5,000 would be for consulting fees rather than any litigation that may arise. Bob Hatfield asked what happens to the money should it go unused, and Greg stated that it would be put into reserve for use later on or be used to reduce costs in the subsequent budget year. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
6. Bill Emmons moved should the voters of either Bridgewater or Pomfret NOT authorize the formation of the Joint School District, that the voters of the Pomfret Elementary School District appropriate \$1,118,596 as the amount necessary for the support of the Pomfret Elementary School for the year beginning July 1, 2015. Betsy Siebeck seconded the motion. Melanie Williams asked if this Article was necessary to be voted on, as both Towns have already voted to form the Joint District. Kevin Geiger explained that it was necessary as a fall-back, in case something comes up that changes the agreement in Article 3. Bill Emmons asked when the Joint District would become official, and Greg Greene replied that it would be official as soon as it was signed by both School Boards, likely within the next 48 hours. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
7. Mark Warner nominated Jody Eaton as School Director to the Pomfret School Board for a term of three years. Bill Emmons moved to have the clerk cast one ballot for Jody Eaton, and Liz Hatfield seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
8. Bill Emmons moved to authorize the School Directors to borrow money in anticipation of taxes, and Liz Hatfield seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Other business:

Greg Greene expressed his appreciation to the voters of both Pomfret and Bridgewater for their support of the joint school, and looks forward to the future and other schools joining us. He then asked retiring teacher Sarah Woodhead to stand and be recognized for her years and efforts over her years teaching in Pomfret. Sarah received a rousing standing ovation, and she thanked everyone for their support of the school's new direction. Greg also thanked outgoing principal Tom McKone for his outstanding work in our school for the last 4 years; the Bridgewater School Board for their work, support, and vision in making the Joint School District a reality; and Alice Worth (Superintendent) and Richard Seaman (Finance Director) from WCSU for their hard work on the school budget.

Orson St. John thanked the School Board for their efforts to make this outstanding opportunity happen. The School Board (Greg Greene, Bob Coates, Jody Eaton) received applause and a standing ovation.

Bill Emmons moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mark Warner seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.

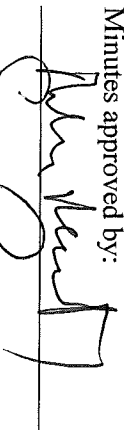
Results of Pomfret vote for WUHS District #4 Article 4: Budget of \$11,643,478.00 for the year beginning July 1, 2015: Yes - 104 / No - 31

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Fielder, Town Clerk

Minutes approved by:



Date:

3-18-15

3-18-15



3-18-15

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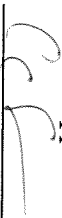
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Rebecca Fielder, Town Clerk

Minutes approved by:



Date:

March 16, 2015



3/16/2015

3/16/2015