

Town of Pomfret Selectboard  
Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2024

Present: Benjamin Brickner, John Peters, Steve Chamberlin, Meg Emmons, Emily Grube

Public: Jim Potter, Jeff Barger, Scott Pearce, Betsy Rhodes, Jim Robinson, Mary Worrell,  
Scott Barger, Michael Barger, Bill Emmons, Kelly Barger, AJ Follensbee

1. Ben called the meeting to order at 6:18 pm.
2. Executive Session
  - a. Ben moved and John seconded that the Selectboard enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(3) to discuss the evaluation of public employees and the appointment of public officers. Unanimous. The Selectboard entered executive session at 6:19 pm.
  - b. The Selectboard exited executive session at 6:59 pm, with no decisions having been made therein.
3. Ben called the meeting back to order at 7:00 pm.
4. Agenda Review – Ben moved and Emily seconded adding Wayside Road and Broad Brook Road hydraulic studies immediately before Warrants. Unanimous (Meg not voting).
5. Public Comment – Betsy Rhodes asked when would be the appropriate time to comment on the Pike Industries Paving Proposal impact on the library. Ben indicated that public comment on that topic would be welcome when it is discussed later in the meeting.
6. Road Foreman’s Report – Pike would like to begin paving in early May. We may not learn whether our paving grant application is approved until early May. Jim will inform Chris Bump of our timing so that perhaps we can learn of our grant status before Pike begins work. Betsy will alert the library that any improvement to their parking lot should wait until after paving is complete. Jim has received all necessary easements from Wild Apple Road residents. He would like to begin prep work on Wild Apple Road Class 4 section that will be part of the temporary detour. He will seek out affected residents to inform them of the impending road closure, detour, etc. The new loader is expected to arrive at Nortrax on Friday; Jim will go there on Monday or Tuesday to discuss any adjustments, additions, etc. The road crew has been working on cleaning up tree debris from recent winds. Jim is also inventorying trees to be removed by a third-party service using funds allocated in the budget. Jim would like to have a list serve message posted thanking residents for their patience during this difficult mud season. He and Ben will drive Stage Road to determine placement of new speed limit signs, etc.
7. Items for Discussion or Vote
  - a. Pike Industries Paving Proposal – Steve moved and John seconded approval of Pike’s proposal for additional paving of Stage Road and Pike’s proposal for paving the town office parking lot. Unanimous (Meg not voting).

- b. FY 2025 Highway Grant Applications – John previously submitted the FY 2025 Class 2 Roadway (paving) grant application and we are waiting to hear if this has been approved. Emily moved and John seconded approval of the FY 2025 Structures grant application for the Pomfret Road culvert replacement. Unanimous (Meg not voting).
- c. River Road Closure Status – John contacted Hartford to discuss whether and when River Road can be reopened to vehicular traffic. There will be a site visit on March 28 at 2 pm to review the road condition and discuss remaining work. Residents of High Pastures Road expressed gratitude for these efforts.
- d. Fire Department Activities Update – Scott Barger reported that the Fire Department will apply for two FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program grants. They wish to replace Engine #1 (North Station) which is 31 years old, at an estimated cost of \$636,000, and upgrade radio equipment at an estimated cost of \$72,000. If awarded, each grant would require a 5% local match. The Fire Department also would like to purchase three portable radios at a cost of \$500 each, one of which will be used by the FAST Squad. Ben moved and Emily seconded that the Fire Department be authorized to purchase three portable radios, that two units be charged to the Communications Reserve, and that the third unit be charged to the FAST Squad budget. Unanimous (Meg not voting).
- e. Town Forest Management – AJ Follensbee, Windsor and Orange County Forester, offered at no cost to the town to prepare forest management plans for the two town forests: the 40-acre Joe Ranger lot (a/k/a the “Stump Dump”) and the 100-acre School Lot. The two town forests were last managed twenty years ago. Mr. Follensbee will work with New England Forestry Foundation and Vermont Land Trust to arrange access easements, etc., and will develop a management plan by the end of the year describing inventory, boundaries, etc.
- f. Lawn Maintenance Proposals – John has received one proposal and expects to receive more. Discussion to be continued on April 3.
- g. Annual Financial Plan, Town Highways (TA-60) – Steve moved and Emily seconded approval of the Annual Financial Plan (TA-60). Unanimous.
- h. Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory – Emily moved and John seconded adoption of the Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory. Unanimous.
- i. DLL License Renewals (Teago Store Second Class, Tobacco) – Emily moved and Steve seconded approval of Second Class liquor and Tobacco sale licenses for Teago General Store. Unanimous.
- j. Large Event Permit Application (VMBA Member Party) – Steve moved and John seconded approval of VMBA’s Large Event Permit Application with the standard condition that all activity cease no later than one hour after sunset. Unanimous.

- k. Appointment of Public Officers – Steve moved and Emily seconded the following appointments, each for a one-year term expiring March 31, 2025 unless otherwise noted:
    - i. Collector of Delinquent Taxes – Karen Osnoe
    - ii. Constable – Doug Tuthill
    - iii. Zoning Administrator – Karen Osnoe (3-year term expiring 2027)
 Unanimous.
  - l. Wayside Road and Broad Brook Road Hydraulic Studies – Neil solicited two proposals for hydraulic studies to be performed on Wayside Road and Broad Brook Road culverts as the first step toward seeking FEMA funding to replace the same. Emily moved and Steve seconded approval of the proposal submitted by East Engineering. Unanimous.
  - m. Warrants – John moved and Steve seconded approval for payment of the following warrants:
 

24079	\$ 15,030.94	Payroll
24081	26,878.32	A/P

 Unanimous.
  - n. Approval of Minutes – John moved and Steve seconded approval of the March 6, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Unanimous.
8. Meeting Wrap Up
- a. Correspondence – None.
  - b. Review of Assignments – Meg to follow up with Ellen re: ARPA funds; John to complete and submit the Structures grant application. Ben to submit the TA-60 and Certificate of Compliance to Vtrans.
  - c. Agenda for Next Meeting – Sand RFP Bid Opening, Wild Apple Road RFP Bid Opening, Large Event Permit Application - Barger-Weschler Wedding, Lawn maintenance proposals.
9. Adjournment – Steve moved and Emily seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.