

Town of Pomfret Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2024

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

Public: Betsy Rhodes, Alan Graham, Neil Lamson, Jim Potter, Cynthia Hewitt

1. Ben called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
2. Executive Session
 - a. Ben moved and Meg seconded that the Selectboard enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1)(F) and (a)(3) to discuss confidential attorney-client communications, the employment of public employees, and the appointment of public officials. Unanimous. The Selectboard entered executive session at 6:04 pm.
 - b. The Selectboard exited executive session at 7:24 pm, with no decisions having been made therein.
3. Agenda Review – None.
4. Public Comment – Betsy Rhodes followed up with Jim re: invasive plant disposal; More Waste Solutions has the best rate for a dumpster and already provide a dumpster at the Town Garage. Betsy will post to the listserv about collection and disposal of the detritus.
5. Road Foreman's Report – The cost of gravel to complete the Stage Road paving came in higher than expected due to the need for additional tonnage above the estimate. The tractor is repaired and Art has resumed roadside mowing.
6. Items for Discussion or Vote
 - a. Employment of Public Employees – No decisions to be made at this time. Neil Lamson commented on the potential conflict of interest should a Selectboard member apply for a position on the Road Crew.
 - b. Better Roads Grant Agreement – Emily moved and Meg seconded that Ben be authorized to sign and return the Grant Agreement #BR1156. Unanimous.
 - c. Class 2 Highway Speed Limits – Following numerous complaints about excessing speeding on town roads, the Selectboard will explore reducing speed limits on all Class 2 highways. Ben will confer with Jim and Jim may contact Two Rivers or the Agency of Transportation for more information.
 - d. Emerald Ash Borer Management – Alan Graham reports that the emerald ash borer is present in Pomfret. He estimates as many as 2,000 trees will need to be removed from the town right-of-way over the next 10 years. GMP will handle trees that pose a risk to power lines, but it is difficult to know when GMP will act and if they will remove entire trees or only branches near the lines when they do (leaving the rest for the town to take care of). Alan suggests establishing a reserve fund for the associated costs so that funds may be accumulated and rolled over from year to year. This will be addressed during FY 2026 budging and preparation of the 2025 annual meeting warning.
 - e. Appointment of Public Officers (Zoning Board of Adjustment) – Michael Schmell has volunteered to fill the vacancy on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Steve moved and Emily seconded that Mr. Schmell be appointed to the ZBA to complete the term expiring March 2026. Unanimous.

- f. Labounty Trust Summary of Account – Emily moved and Steve seconded the Summary of Account and Motion to Allow Account be approved and submitted to the Windsor County Probate Court. Unanimous.
 - g. Town Hall Front Porch Repair – Hillside Builders previously submitted an estimate. An estimate from Hasson Construction is expected shortly. Both will be considered at the August 21 meeting.
 - h. Town Buildings Routine Maintenance – The Selectboard will solicit proposals from local contractors. Discussion to be continued at the August 21 meeting.
 - i. Large Event Permit (August 17, Cloudland Road) – John moved and Emily seconded approval of a Large Event Permit for an August 17 wedding on Cloudland Road with the condition that all parking be off-street. Unanimous (Meg recused).
 - j. Local Economic Recovery Grant (DR-4720) – Steve moved and Emily seconded that Neil’s prior acceptance of the Local Economic Impact Grant funding be approved. Unanimous. Neil noted that these funds may be used for any purpose, other than projects which are eligible for reimbursement by FEMA. As such, Neil recommended not using these funds for anything town highway related.
 - k. Warrants – Steve moved and Emily seconded approval for payment of the following warrants:

25007	\$ 8,259.58	Payroll
25008	13.62	AP (Disability Insurance Premium)
25011	8,623.99	Payroll
25012	26,501.62	AP

 Unanimous.
 - l. Approval of July 17, 2024 Minutes – Emily moved and John seconded approval of the July 17, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Unanimous.
7. Meeting Wrap Up
- a. Correspondence – None.
 - b. Review of Assignments – Emily and Cynthia will review the personnel policy regarding benefits for parttime employees and Emily will prepare a revised job description for Jim. Ben will follow up with Jim regarding Class 2 speed limit changes and will inform Mr. Schmell of his appointment to the ZBA. Emily will solicit fuel quotes for approval on August 21.
 - c. Agenda for Next Meeting – Highway Access Permit (Dinsmoor Road), Settlement Agreement (Broad Brook Road), fuel contracts, employment of public employees.
8. Adjournment – Steve moved and Meg seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.