

Town of Pomfret Selectboard
Special Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2024

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

Public: Cynthia Hewitt, Amelia Peters, Cathy Peters, Lindsey Hyde, Maureen Martin, Steve Brown, Christina Chamberlin, Matt Boutellier, Frank Perron, Michael Reese, Greg Hartford, Cathy Emmons, Neil Lamson, Gordon Modarai, Tim Reiter, John Flynn, George Flynn, Kelly Barger, Jeff Barger, Bailey Markwell, Endine Peters, Todd, Bob Crean, Marie Robinson, Gerry Fields, Richard Martin, Joe Defoor, Ed Scheuermann, Jordana Jusidman, Seton McElroy, Kevin Rice, Upper Valley Mutual Aid, Cara, Dana, Linda, Jen, Carol, "iPhone"

1. Ben called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Agenda Review – None.
3. Public Comment – Ben spoke briefly regarding the meeting last Tuesday and encouraged commenters to be civil and respectful in their comments. Frank Perron offered historical perspective from his time on the Selectboard; he feels Jim is an asset to the town. Cathy Peters thanked the Selectboard for handling complex decisions and topics. Christina Chamberlin withdrew her public records request. Michael Reese, another former Selectboard member, feels that conflicts from employees may damage the community and that the Selectboard should remember its role and not tolerate such behavior.
4. Items for Discussion or Vote
 - a. Employment of Public Employees – Steve suggested the Selectboard respect Jim’s decision and accept his resignation. John moved and Meg seconded acceptance of Jim’s resignation, effective October 2, 2024. Unanimous. Ellen will assist with Jim’s transition; Ben will inquire with VLCT for any other resources that can be made available to Jim. Art and Justin will be invited to the next meeting to discuss transition of the road crew.
 - b. Public Records Request – As Ms. Chamberlin withdrew her request during Public Comment, there was no further discussion.
 - c. Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) Application – Meg spoke with Harry Falconer at Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission who strongly urged the town to apply for this grant. Harry is available to prepare and submit the application, which is due by midnight. This is ARPA related funding and requires no matching funds from the town. Twenty percent of the awarded funds may be used for ADA compliance; the funds must be used by 2026. Meg moved and Steve seconded approval of the application. Unanimous.
5. Meeting Wrap Up
 - a. Correspondence – Bob Crean sent a letter to the Selectboard regarding Tuesday’s meeting; this is similar to the message Mr. Crean posted to the listserv earlier in the day. Tess Hunter (Vermont Standard) requested a copy of Jim’s resignation letter.
 - b. Review of Assignments – Meg to reach out to Harry Falconer re: MERP application and post help wanted ad to the Local Roads listserv; Cynthia to run help wanted ads for another week.
 - c. Agenda for Next Meeting – Town Office Parking Lot Paving, Truck RFP, Road Crew Matters

6. Executive Session
 - a. Ben moved and Emily seconded that the Selectboard enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(3) to discuss the employment of public employees. Unanimous. The Selectboard entered executive session at 8:07 pm.
 - b. The Selectboard exited executive session at 9:29 pm, with no decisions having been made therein.
7. Adjournment – Steve moved and Emily seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.