

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017 AT 8:00 AM
POMFRET COMMUNITY/SENIOR CENTER**

In Attendance: First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, Selectmen Patrick McCarthy, Pamela Lewerenz. Also present – Peter Mann, Craig Baldwin, Carolyn Gerrity, Michael Gerrity, John Lewerenz.

Regular Meeting – Open Meeting – M. Nicholson opened meeting at 8:00 AM.

1. **Approve Minutes of December 4, 2017** – P. McCarthy moved to approve. P. Lewerenz seconded. All in favor.
2. **Items to Add to Agenda** – M. Nicholson moved to add approval of signature form for the Seely-Brown Grant. P. Lewerenz seconded. All in favor.
3. **Citizen's Comments and Correspondence** – M. Gerrity stated that he was present to support Carolyn Gerrity as Chair of the Board of Finance. He commented on her hard work over many years and the number of classes and workshops she has attended. She has served as Vice-Chair of that Board for the past 6 years. P. Mann stated that he was present to support Carolyn Gerrity as Chair of the Board of Finance. Carolyn came on the Board when Peter was still a member. Carolyn has typically volunteered to go over and above what is asked. As the current Vice-Chair he felt this was a logical step. C. Baldwin stated that he was also present to support Carolyn as Board of Finance Chair. As Vice-Chair she has done good work and supported the previous Chair. Her attendance record has been high and she understands how the Board of Finance works and interacts with other Town aspects. He hopes this Board will consider her as Chair. C. Gerrity stated that she would like to comment on her own behalf. She has been a Board of Finance member for 12 years. She has participated in a number of sub-committees and studies such as the Budget Round Table, Strategic Planning Committee, Policy and Procedure Review, PCS Steering Committee. She has presented reports to the Board each month and has recently completed the Management letter for the 2016/2017 audit. She has Chaired meetings when Ken Kristal could not be present. The Board of Finance is responsible for the fiscal checks and balances for the Town.
P. Mann asked about the signatures for Seely-Brown Grant. This will allow the new Board to sign for payments on this grant.

II. New Business

1. **Review/Possible Approval – Authorizing Resolution for FFY 2017 Homeland Security Grant Program** – This Resolution supports the EMPG grant for the upcoming year. The grant is in support of the Town's Emergency Manager. P. McCarthy moved to approve as presented. P. Lewerenz seconded. All in favor.
2. **Acceptance of Resignations/NDDH, Conservation Commission** – Donna Smith has submitted a letter of resignation as alternate to NDDH, JoAnn Baldwin has notified the Town of her resignation as NDDH representative and has submitted a letter to the District's office. Walter McGinn wishes to not be re-appointed to the Conservation Commission. P. Lewerenz moved to accept resignations. P. McCarthy seconded.

Resignations accepted with thanks for their service. M. Nicholson stated that she had received a letter of resignation from P. Lewerenz from the Council on Aging due to conflict with the Board of Selectmen. M. Nicholson has reviewed the possibility of a conflict and discussed with the Town Clerk. The First Selectman can sit as Ex-Officio. As there is no evident conflict she asked if P. Lewerenz would consider staying on with the Council of Aging. P. Lewerenz agreed to remain on the Council.

3. **Appointments: NDDH, Deputy Fire Marshal** – M. Nicholson stated that she has had a number of inquiries regarding NDDH and would like to appoint Donna Grant as the Town Representative. P. Lewerenz moved to approve. P. McCarthy seconded. Donna worked for years as the Executive Director at TEEG which should assist in her knowledge of NDDH. All in favor of appointment. A Deputy Fire Marshal appointment will be considered at a later date.
4. **Re-Appointments: EPDC, IWWC, Town Attorney** – M. Nicholson moved to re-appoint John Folsom to a 5-year term on the Economic Planning and Development Commission. P. Lewerenz seconded. All in favor. M. Nicholson moved to re-appoint John Folsom to a 4-year term on the Inland Wetlands Commission and to re-appoint Joe Stoddard to a 4-year term on that same Commission. P. Lewerenz seconded. All in favor. M. Nicholson moved to re-appoint Edwin Higgins as Town Attorney. P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor.
5. **Approval of Chair, Board of Finance** – M. Nicholson stated that she has been reviewing State Statutes regarding this appointment. If the Board of Finance does not appoint a Chair and a Clerk within one month of being seated the First Selectman or Board of Selectmen should appoint the same. It is now beyond the 30 days and a consensus has not been reached by the Finance Board. This is the only Board with an even number of members which adds to the problem. P. Lewerenz stated that in light of the positive recommendations for Carolyn Gerrity, as well as her first-hand knowledge of Carolyn, she would make a motion to appoint Carolyn as Chairman. There was no second heard. P. McCarthy moved to nominate Margie Huoppi as Chairman. M. Nicholson seconded. She stated that Margie has been on the Board for as long as Carolyn. P. McCarthy stated that it was unfortunate that this Board had to decide and he had hoped the Board of Finance could resolve. Vote on nomination: M. Nicholson, P. McCarthy in favor. P. Lewerenz opposed. Motion passes. M. Nicholson stated that they could resolve the other question of the clerk and nominated B. Ryan as the Board of Finance clerk. P. Lewerenz seconded. All in favor. It is not required that the Board of Finance seat a Vice-Chair but if they wish to they can determine at their next meeting.

III. Other Business

1. **Road Issues** – P. Lewerenz stated that there was a recent accident on Wade Road. Traffic speed is excessive on this road and slippery conditions will increase the hazards. Tractor trailer traffic from the winery also travels this road. M. Nicholson stated that the speeding signs recently purchased are planned to initially be posted on Wrights Crossing and Quassett Roads. She can contact Sharpe Hill to inquire if they can address the speed of employees and tractor trailers. M. Nicholson stated a recent

accident on Needles Eye was due to black ice. P. McCarthy stated that perhaps an increase in State Police presence could slow some traffic.

2. **General Discussion** – Pomfret Library has formed an exploratory committee to look into library expansion. The Town of Woodstock will be offering 50 transfer station permits to Pomfret residents. The Brooklyn transfer station is also available to Pomfret residents on a pay as you go basis. Both of these options are in addition to the Bulky Waste event that continues to be scheduled three times per year. The auditor was in last week and asked for some adjustments to some forms and fiscal policy. This will be addressed at a January meeting.
3. **Project Updates** – A site plan is underway for the EOC. Ed Higgins has approved the MOU for the easement understanding with the State regarding the Sewer. The Maintenance Agreement and the easements are close to completion. Once the MOU is signed the project can go to bid. The hope is for mid-January. There is a concern regarding increasing construction costs. There is some discrepancy regarding the asphalt supplied on the Sidewalk Project. Syl Pauley, engineer with NECCOG, is working to resolve this. The grant was extended thru to the spring of 2018 for loam and seeding. Eversource has been made aware of the adjustments needed on the guidewires. M. Nicholson has met with Pomfret and Rectory Schools regarding the crosswalks. These permits must be applied through the Town. Each school wants one crosswalk. Engineered plans are required and Syl Pauley is working on this. There is some concern as the annual engineering contract was not purchased with NECCOG and Pauley is consequently billing by the hour. Monies paid have exceeded what the cost of the annual contract would have been. She has contacted NECCOG to see if a late buy-in can be worked out.
4. **Tax Refunds/Abatements: As Attached** – None
5. **Seely-Brown Grant Account/Signatures** – P. Lewerenz moved to approve the authorized signers for this account. P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor.

IV. Current Business

1. **Citizen's Comments** – C. Gerrity stated that she was disappointed with the outcome of the vote for Board of Finance Chair but it was expected. She has repeatedly received a high number of votes during election cycles.

V. **Adjournment** – P. Lewerenz moved to adjourn. P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor and meeting duly adjourned at 8:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved _____