

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 AT 7:00 PM
POMFRET COMMUNITY/SENIOR CENTER**

In Attendance: First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, Selectmen Patrick McCarthy, Ellsworth Chase. Also present: John Filchak, Executive Director NECCOG; Hoween Flexor, NECCOG, Nick Zuber, CT Green Bank; Charlie Tracy, Linda Timman, Brent Tuttle.

Regular Meeting – Open Meeting – M. Nicholson opened meeting at 7:00 PM.

1. **Approve Minutes of August 6, 2018** – E. Chase moved to approve minutes as presented. P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor.
2. **Items to Add to Agenda** – M. Nicholson moved to add Conservation Commission Resignations to New Business, item 5. P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor.
3. **Citizen's Comments and Correspondence** - None

II. New Business

1. **John Filchak, Branding Study Presentation** – John Filchak provided a hand-out and gave an overview of how a Branding Study would work. It is not intended as a Marketing Study but the beginning step to determine how the town, or the region, identifies itself and where future focus should fall. Feedback is solicited from all areas of the community and a core committee reviews to determine how best to move forward. Discussion ensued with no action taken.
2. **Nick Zuber, CPACE, CT Green Bank Presentation** – Nick Zuber managers the CPACE Program (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy) for the CT Green Bank. Commercial properties and most multi-family units are able to apply for funding through the Green Bank for retro-fitting and energy efficiency projects. The completed project is paid back through a tax to the town. It can serve as an economic development tool and leverages public dollars with private investment. Town Meeting approval would be necessary for Pomfret to become a participating town and to allow the agreement for Green Bank to administer the program. There are currently 130 CT towns participating in the program.
3. **Temporary Health Care Structures/Discussion & Possible Action** – Towns have the option of opting-out of this Public Act. Planning and Zoning has reviewed it and voted to opt-out as the timeline requirements would be difficult to meet. A discussion took place where a local ordinance may better meet this need. Brief discussion and M. Nicholson moved to approve opting-out of the act concerning Temporary Health Care Structures. P. McCarthy seconded. The Board consensus was in agreement with the Planning and Zoning Commission. All in favor.
4. **Approval of Pomfret Public Library Grant Application** – This grant application is for a building expansion at the library. The current application is for \$800,000 and if approved, half of the projected project amount will be required to come through library fund-raising. The Board reviewed the application and plans of proposed project. M. Nicholson moved to approve the application and its official submission to the CT State Library. E. Chase seconded. All in favor.

5. **Conservation Commission Resignations** – M. Nicholson received a letter today from the remaining 4 Conservation Commission members. She read the letter into the record which stated the resignations of Pamela Cartledge, Mary Eliza Kimball, Richard Telford, Cheryl Kapelner-Champ. Declining membership has made it difficult for the Commission to be effective in its tasks. M. Nicholson moved to accept these resignations with regret and thanks for the many years of service. P. McCarthy seconded. The Board was saddened to see this Commission temporarily halted and noted that diminishing membership is a problem throughout community groups. All in favor to accept resignations with regret.

III. Other Business

1. **Road Issues** – Brief discussion of town roads recently refinished. An Eversource arborist has been identifying dead and dying trees along roadways for removal. Much work has been done in this area but there is still much expensive work to be done. NECCOG has been exploring a removal program that would include the 16 participating towns.
2. **General Discussion** – The Historic Abington sign has been hung on Route 97. The Sewer Project is set to begin construction at the Rectory School site soon. Stump clearing and septic work has begun at the EOC site and the foundation plan is expected soon. The Sidewalk ramps that have been in question due to incorrect slopes will likely be removed and replaced with asphalt. This option is cheaper to correct and has been discussed with a DOT representative. The Agriculture Commission is hosting their Farm to Table event on Thursday, September 20th at Grill 37. Advance tickets are available. Positively Pomfret Day is September 22nd from 10 AM to 4 PM. Celebrating Agriculture is also being held that day from 9 AM to 3 PM. The Town was approved for the 2018 Neighborhood Assistance funding as applied for by CT Audubon and the Town has been awarded Neglected Cemetery funding in the amount of \$2500.
3. **Project Updates** – As noted above.
4. **Tax Refunds/Abatements: As Attached** – M. Nicholson moved to approve as presented. P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor.

IV. Current Business

1. **Discussion/Possible Action-Recuperation of Sewer Administration Expense to Possible Fund** – The administrative fees that are being charged against the sewer project can be transferred to a designated town fund. M. Nicholson stated that as budgets grow tighter and tighter there leaves few places to pay for many public outreach and enrichment opportunities. Bulk mailings, budget news, commission event promotions, public education opportunities, training opportunities for board/commission members, and the like, are often not completed due to limited funding. Discussion. This money is finite and once bonded will be billed to participants and payments will wash the expense. If current reimbursements transfer into an approved fund this money can be spent down on these enhancements over time. P. McCarthy moved to approve the establishment of a Community Outreach and Enrichment Fund to be used for the types of projects discussed. E. Chase seconded. All in favor. This item will be presented at the next Board of Finance meeting for their approval.

- 2. Citizen's Comments** – L. Timman asked about John Filchak's role and if there is a cost to the Branding Study. The Economic Planning & Development Commission has approved up to \$2500 to cover any expenses for the study. C. Tracy stated that he thought this had been a great meeting and a good example of democracy in action. He asked about encouraging student attendance in an effort to involve the next generation.

V. Adjournment – P. McCarthy moved to adjourn. E. Chase seconded. All in favor and meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved _____