

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2015 AT 7:45 PM
POMFRET COMMUNITY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

In Attendance: First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, Selectmen Barry Jessurun, Peter Mann. Also present: Doug Gillette, Bond Counsel, and approximately 6 citizens and interested parties.

I. Regular Meeting

1. **Open Regular Meeting/Approve Minutes of June 15, 2015** – Meeting opened at 7:56 PM. B. Jessurun moved to approve minutes of June 15th. P. Mann seconded. All in favor.

2. **Items to Add to Agenda** – There were no items to add. M. Nicholson motioned to move New Business up to before Current Business. B. Jessurun seconded. All in favor.

3. **Citizen Participation & Communications** – John Carter had a number of comments regarding the newly re-opened Senior Center. There were some issues with the new chairs regarding size and comfort, a movie was shown on Thursday and the speakers were not loud enough making it difficult to hear, and the Grange items were still not back up on the wall. Sally Johnson commented on the proposed Ordinance for an appointed Tax Collector. Her initial feeling was that it would eliminate some of the public voice. She also understood the reasoning behind the proposal. She suggested making a temporary appointment until a Pomfret resident stepped up for election.

II. New Business

1. **To consider and act on resolutions recommending an appropriation and borrowing authorization for costs related to the design, construction, installation and equipping of sanitary sewer facilities along Pomfret Street / State Route 44 from the Pomfret School property to the Loos & Co., Inc. property, and then along Airline North State Park Trail from the trail's intersection with Pomfret Street / State Route 44 northeast along the trail to a connection at the inlet to the Town of Putnam's sanitary sewerage treatment plant, and related improvements and appurtenances; and for costs related to the financing thereof; and setting the date of a Special Town Meeting to consider and act upon a resolution with respect to such recommendations** – B. Jessurun moved to approve the Resolution as stated that recommends to the Board of Finance and to the Town Meeting the appropriation and borrowing authorization for the Sanitary Sewer Project. P. Mann seconded and asked if there has been conversation with the USDA. There has been much conversation with USDA and October 1st has been indicated for their funding. All in favor of Resolution as presented. B. Jessurun moved to approve the second part of Resolution that recommends appropriation and borrowing authorization, if approved by the Board of Finance, be presented at a Special Town Meeting

on July 21, 2015 to be held following the Public Hearing on that date, to commence no earlier than 7:00 PM. P. Mann seconded but noted that the Resolution should reference the 21st as a Tuesday. All in favor of Resolution as amended.

III. Current Business – M. Nicholson moved to add an additional Citizen's Comments item to allow those wishing to comment on the proposed Ordinance an opportunity to speak. B. Jessurun seconded. All in favor.

1. Citizen's Comments – Jim Rivers commented that making this office an appointed one has been talked about since before his time as First Selectman. There are many good reasons to do this. It's a three year process to become certified and a four year election cycle. The current Collector was initially appointed and then ran as a cross-endorsed candidate in subsequent elections. That is typical of this office – where there typically is not a choice of two candidates but the Collector that is in the office is endorsed by both parties. Carolyn Gerrity stated that she is in favor of this Ordinance. As the current Collector is not running in the Fall this is a good time to do this. Making this position appointed would provide some oversight and would allow for recourse by the Town if an individual was not doing the expected job. Gayle McElroy stated that she was in favor of the proposal. There have been numerous news articles of late concerning other towns have problems within their tax office. An appointed position would allow for oversight by the Town.

2. Ordinance for Appointed Tax Collector: Discussion/Possible Action – M. Nicholson stated that as the current Collector has indicated she is not running again this is an optimal time to bring this forward. She also stated that 'appointed' indicates a position that would be hired – ads would be run, interviews would be conducted by the Board of Selectmen, and a decision as to the best candidate would then be made and voted on by the Board. She read a long list of Town officials that are now all currently appointed. There were eight letters that had been submitted regarding this Ordinance. Seven in favor of it – for reasons relating to broadening the search beyond Pomfret, administrative oversight of the position, necessary qualifications and the time to become certified, examples in other towns where elected Collectors have not been equal to the job or have chosen not to come to work and the towns have had no recourse. There was one letter opposed stating the disruption of relationship between voters and officials. M. Nicholson read excerpts from each. B. Jessurun moved to approve the Ordinance as presented and to take the same to a Special Town Meeting. M. Nicholson seconded. P. Mann stated that he was not in favor of this Ordinance. He felt an elected person would have more invested in the Town. B. Jessurun stated that if viewed from a business standpoint this position would be best filled by the hiring process and an individual appointed. Vote taken: M. Nicholson, B. Jessurun in favor. P. Mann opposed. M. Nicholson moved to schedule the Special Town Meeting to consider this Ordinance on July 15, 2015 at 6:30 PM at Pomfret Community School. B. Jessurun seconded. All in favor.

3. Acceptance of Resignation from Library Board – M. Nicholson had a letter from Woody Woodbridge resigning from the Library Board. She

moved to accept with regret and a letter of thanks. P. Mann seconded. All in favor.

4. **Appointment – Recreation Commission** – M. Nicholson had a letter from the Recreation Commission requesting Nancy Rauh be appointed to fill one of the empty seats. B. Jessurun moved to appoint Nancy Rauh to the Recreation Commission. Motion duly seconded. All in favor.

IV. Other Business

1. **Road Issues** - None
2. **General Discussion** - None
3. **Pistol Permits Issued:** Shawn Hall, 254 Putnam Road, 6/16/15; Kevin Reagan, 17 Blossom Drive, 7/2/15; Patrick Graham, 2 Ruth Circle, 7/2/15
– Noted to record.
4. **Tax Refunds/Abatements:** None

V. Citizen's Comments – None.

- V I. Adjournment** – B. Jessurun moved to adjourn. P. Mann seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved_____