

**TOWN OF POMFRET – MINUTES
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
JULY 15, 2015 AT 6:30 PM – POMFRET COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

In Attendance: First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, Selectmen Barry Jessurun, Peter Mann. Also present – approximately 70 citizens and interested parties.

Article 1: **To choose a Moderator for said meeting** – First Selectman Maureen Nicholson called the Meeting to order at 6:30 PM. T. McNally moved that David Patenaude act as moderator. Motion was duly seconded. T. McNally moved to close nominations. S. Devokaitis seconded. All in favor to close nominations. All in favor to name David Patenaude as moderator.

Article 2: **To see if the Town will approve an Amended Ordinance Regarding the Office of the Tax Collector that, pursuant to Section 9-189 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, the office of Tax Collector shall be filled by appointment by majority vote of the Board of Selectmen for a term of four years. A copy of the proposed Ordinance is on file with the office of the Pomfret Town Clerk** – D. Patenaude read Article 2 into the record. T. McNally moved to approve Article 2 as presented. Brett Sheldon seconded the motion. The floor was then open to discussion. R. Conrad asked if there has been any public discussion as to the competency or collection rate of the current Tax Collector. M. Nicholson stated that it has been repeatedly said that the current Collector does an excellent job. She has therefore been cross-endorsed for many years. However, she has announced she will not be running again. An appointed position allows for a larger pool of applicants to consider. R. Conrad moved that the vote on this Article be taken to a paper ballot. P. Mann seconded. Vote was taken by a show of hands that resulted in 26 in favor of motion and 40 opposed. Motion fails. Discussion continued. P. Mann stated that he was not in favor of this Ordinance. He felt that it took away opportunities for the voters and an elected resident would have a better feel for the Town and the people. R. Hall asked about the number of qualified candidates in Town, the length of time it took to train for the job, and if market rates were paid. Qualified people in Town can’t be known but interested parties could apply, the Certification process is a minimum of three years, and according CCM the current position pays just above market rates. J. Folsom asked if an Assistant was recently hired. This is an appointed position and the search took two advertising cycles that resulted in about 12 applicants. The Selectmen worked with the current Collector in screening the applications and conducting interviews. The person ultimately hired for the job does not live in town. N. Gardner asked about the 4-year appointment and oversight of that person. There would be Administrative oversight. There is no oversight for an elected position. T. Emilio asked what brought this change about at this time. This has been talked about for some time. As the current Collector is not running in the Fall it presented an opportune time to advertise the position and screen applicants. The timing would lend itself to a smooth transition. M. Nicholson stated that many positions in Town are appointed. The Assessors position was changed to an appointed one in 2003 and all has gone smoothly. The current Tax Collector supports this Ordinance as well as the previous Collector, two of the three Selectmen, and the previous First Selectman. L. Landry stated that as Pomfret is a small town somebody who is well-known could run for this position and be elected by name recognition even if they had no qualifications for the job. A woman commented on the cost of training if new candidates ran every four years, comments were made to the smooth transition when the Assessor’s position became appointed. C. Weedon moved to Call the Question. T. McNally seconded. Motion approved overwhelmingly by hand although two or three were seen against. Motion passes and question was called. The vote was taken by a show of hands that resulted in:

Those in favor of Article 2:	44
Those opposed to Article 2:	19

Article 2 passes.

Article 3: **To do any other business proper to come before said meeting** – Motion made and duly seconded to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Duly recorded: _____
Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Attest: _____
Cheryl A. Grist, Town Clerk