

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019 AT 7:00 PM
POMFRET COMMUNITY/SENIOR CENTER**

In Attendance: First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, Selectmen Patrick McCarthy, Ellsworth Chase. Also present – Approximately seven citizens and interested parties.

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

- 1. Approve Minutes of March 18, 2019** - P. McCarthy moved to approve. E. Chase seconded. M. Nicholson, E. Chase in favor. P. McCarthy abstained as was not present.
- 2. Items to Add to Agenda** - None
- 3. Citizen's Comments and Correspondence** - None

II. New Business

- 1. Mike Goodenough – Hemp Presentation** – Mike Goodenough was present to discuss the opportunities in the production of hemp. Passage of the agricultural bill by the State of Connecticut will allow growers to move forward. He provided an overview of the many benefits of this crop and the opportunities that could be available for area farmers on an acre or two of land. Some discussion and questions followed.
- 2. Appointments for Consultant Selection Panel for TAP Grant Engineering/Inspection Firm** – M. Nicholson stated that a Selection Panel is necessary to determine the engineering/inspection firm for the TAP Grant project. She suggested Elaine Sistare, Ellsworth Chase, Maureen Nicholson, and Bonnie Ryan for the Selection Committee. So moved by E. Chase. P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor.
- 3. Annual Town Meeting Date** – The Board of Finance has tentatively set the Public Hearing date for April 29th. M. Nicholson stated that she would like to consider Thursday, May 16th for the Annual Town Meeting. P. McCarthy moved to schedule on that date at 7:00 PM at Pomfret Community School. E. Chase seconded. All in favor.

III. Other Business

- 1. Road Issues** – Dirt roads are still difficult due to the nature of this winter's weather. A sweeper will be going through town to clear the sand and clean the catch basins.
- 2. General Discussion** – The Senior Center generator has experienced a second issue in not turning on when the power failed. The Contractor evaluated it and recommended it be rebuilt at a cost of approximately \$2,000. The Director of Public Works and one of his staff completed some repairs for little cost and it is testing fine, realizing some cost savings.
- 3. Project Updates** – The RFP has gone out for the heating system and solar array at the ERC building. The interior work there will begin soon. The new septic is going in at the Public Library and the new parking should be paved in next months. The septic work has realized significant cost savings over tying-in with the sewer line as originally planned. Elements of the TAP Grant are currently under DOT review. The ramps should be corrected on the sidewalks this spring. This grant has been extended and completing the walk down to the Vanilla Bean is planned. The pump

stations for the sewer are almost installed. Grading is currently taking place at Modock Road. An RFP for a Solar Array on the Murdock property has recently gone out. As proposed the generation will cover the electrical costs of municipal buildings and some additional savings as well.

4. **Tax Refunds/Abatements:** Tom Garrett, COC, \$115.94; Frank & Christine Robbins, COC, \$148.63 – E. Chase moved to approve. P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor.

IV. Current Business

1. **Citizen's Comments** - None
2. **Budget Discussion** – M. Nicholson stated that budgets presented to the Board of Finance in March were reasonable in that no specific direction was given. Budgets have remained flat for so long that increases have become unavoidable. The General Government and BOE budgets as presented would incur a mill increase of over two. She therefore expects cuts from the Board of Finance likely. E. Chase noted that he has been hearing many of the surrounding towns have realized significant increases this year as well due to many prior years of flat budgets.

- V. **Adjournment** – E. Chase moved to adjourn. P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor and meeting duly adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date Approved_____