

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020 AT 8:00 AM
POMFRET COMMUNITY/SENIOR CENTER**

In Attendance: First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, Selectmen Patrick McCarthy, Ellsworth Chase. Also Present Joy and Paul Nelson, Bob Wood, Cheryl Grist, Tim Morrarty and Rich Klemola from Cemetery Boards, and John Charest, Chair and Walter Hinchman from Historical Society

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

- 1. Approve Minutes of March 2, 2020 -** E. Chase moved to approve and P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor.
- 2. Items to Add to Agenda -** None
- 3. Citizen's Comments and Correspondence -** None

II. New Business

- 1. Discussion with Cemetery Boards –** M. Nicholson stated that the Board was meeting with groups that receive town funding to better understand budget concerns and to discuss projections out five to ten years. Discussion followed with each of the cemetery boards regarding the limited fees that they collect and the burial and maintenance cost of these cemeteries. Their labor is all on a volunteer basis. The Pomfret Cemetery Corp. has conducted an annual appeal but proceeds from this have been receding. Volunteer time and funding is becoming more difficult and is expected to also recede over time. Raising rates was discussed but was not a favorable alternative as burial costs to the families are already high and the additional revenue would be minimal. Upkeep of abandoned cemeteries was also discussed. Some mowing and maintenance have been done by the town with some grant funding. P. McCarthy will look into having some of the community service offered by Pomfret and Rectory Schools pointed toward some needed groundwork at the local cemeteries. This topic will need further consideration to meet the needs in future years.
- 2. Discussion with Historical Society Representatives –** The Historical Society has many of the same concerns. They own and maintain the Old Town House and are responsible for the Brayton Grist Mill. The insurance was switched onto the town insurance a few years ago and that has saved some cost. The Old Town House is occasionally rented to outside groups. Winter closure was discussed to save heat and plowing expenses. A long-range plan for the building was discussed including the possibility of securing grant funding for upkeep/maintenance items. The Society has a small group of members and additional volunteers are difficult to find. This topic will need further consideration to meet the needs in future years.
- 3. Reappointment – Municipal Veteran Service Representative –** M. Nicholson moved to re-appoint Garry Brown as the Municipal Veteran Service Representative. E. Chase seconded. All in favor.
- 4. Eversource/Temporary Access Permit at 434 Killingly Road –** Eversource has approached the town for a one-year temporary access onto

the Murdock property while the conduct pole work. They will pay the town \$2500 for 12 months of access. M. Nicholson moved to approve this access and accept the \$2500. E. Chase seconded. All in favor.

III. Other Business

1. **General Discussion** – Due to growing concerns regarding COVID-19 the Senior Center will be closed until April 7th. The Food Pantry will remain open, following State protocols. The Town Hall and library will maintain limited access. Pomfret Community School will close and information regarding their plans will be distributed. An abundance of caution will be used regarding town buildings and activities due to growing concerns of public health.
2. **Project Updates** – The construction trailer for the TAP project has been placed on Audubon land near where the barn was recently taken down. There have been some trees cut where the crossings are, and construction will begin soon.
3. **Sewer Ordinance Discussion/Possible Action** – Tabled to next meeting.
4. **Tax Refunds/Abatements:** None

IV. Current Business

1. **FY 2020/2021 Budget Discussion** – P. McCarthy stated that he is comfortable with the decisions the Board has made regarding the budget. Some discussion regarding a few items that continue to be looked at. Approximately 80 people have completed the budget survey and more are coming in.
2. **Citizen's Comments**

V. Adjournment