

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020 AT 7:00 PM
ON-LINE VIRTUAL MEETING

****Recording of this meeting will soon be available on the Board of Selectmen web page**

In Virtual Attendance – First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, Selectmen Patrick McCarthy, Ellsworth Chase. Also present – approximately 10 citizens and interested parties.

I. Regular Meeting – Open Meeting – M. Nicholson opened meeting at 7:00 pm. P. McCarthy provided a disclaimer regarding live transcript.

1. Approve Minutes of Special Meeting on March 11, 2020 and March 16, 2020

- E. Chase moved to approve minutes of March 11th and 16th. P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor.

2. Items to Add to Agenda - None

3. Citizen's Comments and Correspondence – M. Nicholson had received correspondence from Dan Nagy on Hampton Road. He owns 8 acres that are in a conservation easement. He does annual cleaning and clearing of the property and must notify the town per the easement. M. Nicholson has looked at the property and is comfortable with the activities. She will send a letter of response to Mr. Nagy.

II. New Business

1. Eversource/Temporary Access Permit at 434 Killingly Road/Approval of Funds to Open Space Fund – This access was approved at the last meeting but without specifics on posting of funds. M. Nicholson moved to apply the \$2500 fee to the Open Space fund. P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor.

2. Discussion with Abington Social Library – David Howe, Chairman of the Abington Social Library Board was present and stated his appreciation of that Board's last meeting with the Selectmen. Since then they have reviewed their purpose and function and identified a mission that reflects their history. He reviewed some of their ideas going forward. E. Chase stated that his earlier impression was that they would be trending back to more volunteerism in running the library and possibly limiting some of their hours in an effort to save costs. M. Nicholson stated that a 5-year plan is still a goal to help identify needs of town support over time. Some discussion continued regarding current town funding and what may be possible over time and ideas the library has discussed to improve fundraising. D. Howe stated that he would welcome an invitation to a future Selectmen's meeting to report on progress. The topic will be revisited in a few months.

III. Other Business

1. General Discussion - COVID-19 Impacts to Town Government – M.

Nicholson stated that Town Hall hours are still posted as Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 to 1:00 and all departments are open during that time. A bin is available outside doors for document drop off and pick up. The Town Clerk is in Monday thru Thursday morning, other staff members are in and out additional hours or working from home. The Recreation Park will remain closed for now. State parks are over-flowing and are falling under pressure to close. The Senior Center

remains closed although meal pick-up has been available. The Food Pantry remains open. A mobile food pantry will be available at the Town Hall on Tuesday, April 21st from 10:00 to noon. The Public Library remains closed but on-line programs are available. Public Works employees remain working with employees in separate vehicles. Weather may limit their scheduled days. The Assessor is not conducting on-site visits and the Building and Fire Officials are available via phone, emails, inspections, etc. but are not entering resident homes.

P. McCarthy stated that the Power Pack food program run in conjunction with TEEG is experiencing shortages of some foods. They currently need pastas, dry soups and canned goods. Donations can be left at the lower entrance of Christ Church from 8 am until 2 pm this week.

The budget survey remains available on-line thru April 20th. Over 130 responses have been received to date.

M. Nicholson stated that she is issuing a Declaration of a State of Emergency for the Town of Pomfret, effective today. This will help facilitate available FEMA and other funding as necessary and becomes available.

2. **Project Updates – Sewer, TAP Grant updates** – The Sewer is operational. There are a few more items to wrap-up and some final billing before a final close-out takes place. The TAP project on the Air Line trail is underway. Holmes Road was closed today for excavation with Modock Road soon to follow. Emergency Management and schools have been notified of the closures. Abutments will begin at Route 44 trailhead and on Needles Eye Road.
3. **Sewer Ordinance Discussion/Possible Action** - Tabled
4. **Tax Refunds/Abatements:** None

IV. Current Business

1. **FY 2020/2021 Budget Discussion** – M. Nicholson stated that she has given the approved budget another look. She has received some feedback and is proposing a few revisions. Some updated health insurance rates will allow for a \$15,000 reduction in that line and she would eliminate \$30,000 in the PCS capital line. The BOE does have some capital improvements in their budget. She is adding \$2200 in maintenance costs at the EOC and the \$79,788 in Woodstock Academy capital improvement cost. She plans to ask the Board of Finance to use undesignated funds to off-set the Woodstock Academy cost and \$30,000 budgeted for the salt shed. This would bring the new total to \$2,893,024. Some discussion and M. Nicholson moved to approve the revisions as stated to the FY 2020/2021 budget. P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor.
2. **Citizen's Comments** – A question had been received regarding the Bulky Waste scheduled for April. M. Nicholson stated that this should be determined by the end of the week. If the event is held residents will have to unload their own vehicles and there would be no swap spot. David Howe expressed his appreciation for the time and effort the Board has spent in consideration of the Abington Library.

V. Adjournment – E. Chase moved to adjourn. P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor and meeting duly adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Ryan, clerk

date approved_____