

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2020 AT 8:00 AM
ON-LINE VIRTUAL MEETING**

In Attendance: First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, Selectmen Patrick McCarthy, Ellsworth Chase. Also present – Historical Society President John Charest, BOF Chair Margie Huoppi.

I. Regular Meeting – Open Meeting – M. Nicholson opened meeting at 8:03 am.

- 1. Approve Minutes of July 6, 2020** - E. Chase moved to approve as submitted. P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor.
- 2. Items to Add to Agenda** – M. Nicholson moved to add discussion with Pomfret Historical Society to New Business, #2. E. Chase seconded. All in favor.
- 3. Citizen's Comments and Correspondence** - None

II. New Business

- 1. Land Acquisition Fund/Wyndham Land Trust** – M. Nicholson stated that area residents have partnered with the Wyndham Land Trust to purchase 9 acres of land on Harrisville Road. The Land Trust currently owns the acreage that surrounds this piece. The group is asking for a town contribution in the amount of \$10,000. M. Nicholson moved to approve the expenditure of \$10,000 from the land acquisition fund to the Wyndham Land Trust to use toward the purchase of this property. P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor.
- 2. Pomfret Historical Society/Discussion** – John Charest stated that as the town provides some funding each year to the Society, he felt providing an update was reasonable. The Society has recently received a grant from the Last Green Valley that has allowed for the purchase of equipment to digitize their photos. They are also investigating an update/revision of their web page and these photos will be uploaded onto the web for full public access. They are talking about some funding sources as the expectation exists that town budgeting will continue to tighten. Discussion followed regarding future plans for the Old Town House, logo design, and the possibility of using a page on the town web page instead of the cost of new web design and support.

III. Other Business

- 1. General Discussion - COVID-19 Impacts to Town - Government/Modifications to Town Facilities** – Modifications to the Town Hall and the library are almost complete. There is still no date to open the doors at the Town Hall, however business is moving along successfully. The Tax Office has opened a window and a modified office to collect payments from the front porch.
- 2. Project Updates – Sewer, TAP Grant updates** – The TAP Grant is proceeding as scheduled. They are starting the bridge abutments and the precast for Modock Road should arrive in a week. Modock and Holmes Roads are expected to re-open by Labor Day. The bridges are coming in the Fall.
- 3. Sewer Ordinance Discussion/Possible Action** - Tabled
- 4. Tax Refunds/Abatements:** Karen Chambrello, O/P, \$2,034.22 – M. Nicholson moved to approve as presented. P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor.

IV. Current Business

- 1. Budget Priorities** – M. Nicholson stated that she felt it a good time to begin thinking about this as there is plenty of time to consider options. The expectation is that State funding will continue to be reduced. Areas to consider were discussed during the budget process and should be considered again along with other suggestions. M. Nicholson will ride town roads with the Public Works Director next week to assist in prioritizing road projects.
- 2. STEAP Grant Application** – The STEAP application process has opened again and the submission of an application is under consideration. The first priority is the Bulky Waste site with possibly a regional application for an Environmental Depot.
- 3. Citizen's Comments** – M. Huoppi stated that she joined the meeting as she was curious to hear about the land acquisition with Wyndham Land Trust and she was interested in the budget discussion. She felt it was a good idea to begin thinking about budget concerns now. Blake Wolanin thanked the group for the experience. This is the last BOS meeting he will host due to return to school. The Board thanked him for his professionalism and a job very well done.

V. Adjournment - P. McCarthy moved to adjourn. E. Chase seconded. All in favor and meeting was duly adjourned at 8:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved_____