

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020 AT 8:00 AM
HYBRID ON ZOOM & AT POMFRET COMMUNITY CENTER**

In Attendance: First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, Selectmen Patrick McCarthy, Ellsworth Chase. Also present: One citizen.

I. Regular Meeting – Open Meeting – M. Nicholson opened meeting at 8:10 AM.

- 1. Approve Minutes of December 7, 2020** - P. McCarthy moved to approve minutes as sent. E. Chase seconded. All in favor.
- 2. Items to Add to Agenda** - None
- 3. Citizen's Comments and Correspondence** – M. Nicholson has received correspondence from Ron Coderre regarding the library fundraising. She will distribute for discussion at the next meeting. She has also received information from Marc Tremblay with Land Management Services. He has marked the trees on the Murdock property and tallied the board feet. He will put together a bid notice after the first of the year. Troop D reports for October and November were also distributed.

II. New Business

- 1. Review and Possible Approval/Highway Policies** – Polies regarding uniforms and use of safety equipment were submitted by the Director of Public Works. These were discussed briefly. Some modifications will be made and taken up again at the next meeting.
- 2. Fire Marshal, Building Official/Fee Review** – Inspections by the Fire Marshal are often quite extensive and currently no fees are charged. Fee structures of other towns were reviewed by the Fire Marshal and some suggestions made. These fees would off-set some of the costs of that office. An Ordinance outlining Pomfret fees will be presented at the next meeting for consideration. Building Office fees were also reviewed and currently they appear to be in-line with other area towns.
- 3. Rumble Strip Program** - The DOT is offering town participation with rumble strips down the center line of identified roads. Once installed the indication is that the town will incur the maintenance costs. Discussed briefly with more clarification needed from the DOT before the town could consider moving forward.

III. Other Business

- 1. General Discussion/Storm Review, Open Space Plan, Pomfret School Land Donation** - Snow removal went well during the recent storm with three new drivers out plowing roads. An Open Space map has been completed by NECCOG for review. The map may be used to identify future priority parcels. It still needs finalization. A plan has been completed depicting the land donation from Pomfret School that will allow for library expansion. Pomfret School has also donated land in the past that allowed for the library parking lot expansion. The current donation is being finalized.
- 2. Project Updates – TAP, Taft Pond Road Bridge, Timber Harvest Update** – A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow morning regarding the TAP grant. Route 44 bridge is installed with completion underway. The River Road

tunnel and Needles Eye bridge have not arrived yet. An RFQ will be coming for trail resurfacing, grading, and design of Putnam tie-in to River Trail. M. Nicholson has asked the Board of Finance for some funding to participate in a mapping program with seven other towns. This has been spearheaded by Thompson and will produce small, foldable maps that depict the Air Line on one side and area, accessible businesses on the other. The signage project with the Audubon is nearing completion. M. Nicholson reviewed the Taft Pond Road bridge activities to date. The Board of Finance has agreed to set aside \$200,000 toward replacement costs but the estimates continue to rise. The 80/20 Federal program seems to be the best option at this point. The DOT has recently reinspected the bridge and indicated that immediate action is needed. M. Nicholson is looking into bracing remediation to keep the road open. Timber Harvest – as previously discussed.

3. **Tax Refunds/Abatements:** None

4. **Preliminary Budget Discussion** – The Board of Finance has requested a flat budget for the upcoming year. This is becoming increasingly difficult as the General Government budget has remained flat for many past years. Brief discussion.

IV. Current Business

1. **Citizen's Comments** - None

V. Adjournment – M. Nicholson moved to adjourn and P. McCarthy seconded. All in favor and meeting duly adjourned at 9:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

date approved_____