

**TOWN OF POMFRET
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MAY 8, 2014 – 7:00 PM – PCS CAFETERIA**

In Attendance: First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, Selectmen Barry Jessurun and Peter Mann.
Also present: Approximately 50 citizens, Board members, staff, and interested parties.

- Article 1:** **To choose a Moderator for said meeting** – First Selectman Maureen Nicholson opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and asked for nominations for a moderator. M. Huoppi moved to appoint Walter Hinchman as Moderator. K. Casey seconded. No other nominations were heard. K. Casey moved to close nominations. Duly seconded and all were in favor. All in favor to appoint Walter Hinchman as moderator.
- Article 2:** **To see if the Town will consider and act upon the following resolution:**
“Resolved” that the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation and the Office of Policy and Management, State of Connecticut, for the expenditure of all Highway funds under the provisions of Chapter 240 and the expenditure of all Local Capital Improvement Funds under the provisions of Chapter 7-536, CT General Statutes, for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 – W. Hinchman read Article 2 into the record. R. Schad moved to approve and K. Casey seconded. There was no discussion. Article 2 passed unanimously.
- Article 3:** **To see if the Town will consider and adopt the Five Year Local Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal year 2014–2015 as proposed by the Board of Selectmen** – W. Hinchman read Article 3 into the record. R. Schad moved to approve and M. Huoppi seconded. There was no discussion. Article 3 passed unanimously.
- Article 4:** **To hear and act upon the report of the Selectmen, Town Treasurer, Treasurer of the Local School Fund, and Board of Education, as published by the Board of Finance, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013** – W. Hinchman read Article 4 into the record. R. Schad moved to approve and M. Huoppi seconded. There was no discussion and Article 4 passed unanimously.
- Article 5:** **To see if the Town will accept the following cemetery funds for perpetual care: Abington Cemetery Association-Lisa Currier-Grave Number 1031, deTallyrand Annex, \$100.00; Joanne LaFlamme-Graves Number 437 & 438, deTallyrand Annex, \$200.00; Dale and Elaine Currier-Grave Number 1032, deTallyrand Annex, \$100.00; Loretta Foisey-Grave Number 1033, deTallyrand Annex, \$100.00; and Pomfret Cemetery Corporation: Ann Simmons Hill-Yard Three (3) West Lot 40, \$100.00; Milton R. Rollinson-Yard Three (3) West Lot 33, \$100.00; Mark C. Rollinson-Yard Three (3) West Lot 34, \$100.00; Christine Dufort-Yard Three (3) West Lot 41, \$100.00** – W. Hinchman read Article 5 into the record. So moved by S. Devokaitis and seconded by K. Casey. There was no discussion and Article 5 passed unanimously.
- Article 6:** **To see if the Town will adopt a revision to the Ordinance approved at a Special Town Meeting of May 10, 2000 regarding Tax Abatements for Volunteer Firefighters as pursuant to Public Act 99-272. A copy of proposed Ordinance is available for inspection at the office of the Pomfret Town Clerk** – W. Hinchman read Article 6 into the record. So moved by S. Devokaitis and motion duly seconded. Brief discussion followed. K. Casey asked reconsideration of the proposed Ordinance as she felt the Statute was for the recruitment and retention of the firefighters. She outlined some of her background with the department and asked that long-term impacts be considered. S. Williams stated her feelings that the families of the firefighters donate much as well – often from home while spouses are gone on calls. S. Johnson thought an abatement was a good idea for the firefighters but not necessary to expand to the families. There was no further discussion and Article 6 was called to a vote. The ayes carried but there were some nays heard. Article 6 passes.
- Article 7:** **To see if the Town will authorize the expenditure of \$ 80,000 from the ‘Land Acquisition Fund’ for the purchase and acquisition, by the Town of Pomfret, as purchaser, and Margaret E. Platt as Executrix of the Estate of Malcolm R. Platt, as seller, of a certain parcel of land located at 614 Mashamoquet Road, depicted as Pomfret Assessor’s Map 28, Block E, Lot 5 comprised of approximately 24 acres; for the purchase price of \$80,000.00, as approved by the Pomfret Board of Finance on April 3, 2014 and the Pomfret Board of Selectmen on April 7, 2014; and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to take all action necessary to complete such transaction** – W.

Hinchman read Article 7 into the record. R. Schad moved to approve and M. Huoppie seconded. Some discussion followed. M. Baum asked if there were wetlands on the property. There is some in the back area. A woman asked if it was correct that the town had this money and the purchase would not reflect a tax increase. This is correct. The parcel would be purchased with money already in-hand from ‘Fees in lieu of Open Space’ that have been required by the Planning and Zoning Commission oftentimes when approving sub-divisions. There is a deeded Right of Way off of Route 44. S. Grist asked if any building would be planned for this parcel? A septic and driveway might be located on it but the planned EOC would be near the existing building. R. Hall asked about potential development on this parcel? It could be one house lot. The property could be accessed by the public for trails. There was no further discussion and Article 7 was called to a vote. The ayes carried but there were some nays heard. Article 7 passes.

Article 8: **To see if the Town will adopt a total appropriation in the amount of \$12,313,458 for the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget with \$ 2,465,580 of said amount to be the General Government Appropriation and \$ 9,847,878 of said amount to be the Board of Education Appropriation, the same to be funded by estimated revenues as recommended by the Board of Finance –** W. Hinchman read Article 8 into the record. Article moved and duly seconded. A woman asked what the effect would be to the mil rate if these budgets passed as presented. As presented would equate to an increase of .34 mils. There was no further discussion. Article 8 was called to a vote. The ayes carried but there were some nays heard. Article 8 passes.

Article 9 : **To do any other business proper to come before said meeting –** M. Nicholson thanked attendees for coming out to this meeting. She reminded all of the Memorial Day Parade coming up on May 26th. Please join in as participants or spectators! K. Casey moved to adjourn and R. Schad seconded. Ayes carried and meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully recorded: _____
Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Attest: _____
Cheryl A. Grist, Town Clerk