

**TOWN OF POMFRET**  
**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING/HYBRID MINUTES – MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021 AT 6:30 PM**  
**POMFRET COMMUNITY CENTER OR VIA ZOOM**

In Attendance: First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, Selectmen Patrick McCarthy, Ellsworth Chase. Also present – approximately 5 citizens in person and 43 citizens and interested parties via Zoom.

- Article 1:**      **To choose a Moderator for said meeting** – M. Nicholson opened the Special Town Meeting at 6:30 pm and welcomed the many attendees. She asked for nominations for Moderator and it was moved that Ray Wishart be Moderator. Tim McNally seconded. There were no other nominations and it was moved and duly seconded to close nominations. All in favor of Ray Wishart as Moderator.
- Article 2:**      **To see if the Town will approve the discontinuation of sections of Quarry and Swedetown Roads from the intersection of said roads heading approximately 670 feet (.13 miles) north to the Woodstock town line and approximately 1600 feet (.3 miles west to the Eastford town line.) Said discontinuation approved by the Board of Selectmen during their regular meeting of November 18, 2019** – Article 2 was read to record by R. Wishart. Tim McNally moved that Article 2 be approved and motion was duly seconded. Sara DiIorio asked if this closure would impact current residents of Swedetown Road. M. Nicholson stated that the two sections in question are not being maintained by the town and this just puts the closure on record, it will not change anything from what is currently done. J. Folsom clarified the road sections indicated on map. Lisette Rimer stated concerns regarding the closure. It is currently a nice trail and the road reverting to abutting landowners could jeopardize this for trail use. There was some discussion regarding the length of road being closed, legal implications in not discontinuing this unmaintained road, and upgrade requirements should a developer purchase abutting land for house lots. Article 2 was called to a vote with 32 ayes counted and 2 nays. Article 2 passes.
- Article 3:**      **To see if the Town will approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$200,000 to be placed in a capital fund transfer line for Bridge Repair and Replacement and for said appropriation to be funded from the Town of Pomfret undesignated fund. Appropriation approved by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance on August 10, 2020** – R. Wishart read Article 3 into the record and Tim McNally moved to approve. Motion was duly seconded. Peter Mann asked about the amount of money that would be left in the undesignated fund. M. Nicholson stated that the recent completion of the FY 2019/2020 audit left 1.8 million or just over 14% in that fund before use of this \$200,000. The State of CT is requiring the Taft Pond bridge be shut down for immediate repair. It is currently down to a single lane and a three-ton weight limit. M. Nicholson has been exploring the best and most economical way to remedy. The State 50/50 program estimates a 2 – 3-year completion and the Federal 80/20 program a 4 – 5-year completion – both with the bridge remaining closed. M. Nicholson has been working with State approved vendors in order to limit closure and control costs. Current estimates are under \$200,000. This fund would continue in the capital section of the budget for this bridge repair and future repairs of other bridges in town. Evaluation of them will soon be scheduled. Taft Pond bridge would likely be closed for a few weeks in April or May while repair is underway. There was some more discussion and Article 3 was brought to a vote. 44 ayes were counted and 0 nays, Article 3 passes unanimously.
- Article 4:**      **To see if the Town will approve an appropriation of \$150,000 from the Designated Open Space Land Acquisition Fund to the Wyndham Land Trust to be used by them toward the purchase of approximately 355 acres, of the 627 acres of land, and identified as the northern portion of the parcel located on Assessor's Map 6, Block B, Lot 1 and Assessor's Map 1, as approved by the Board of Selectmen on February 16, 2021 and Board of Finance on October 13, 2020** – Article 4 was read into record by R. Wishart and T. McNally moved to approve. Motion was duly seconded. Peter Mann stated that he is in favor of land conservation and asked about Wyndham Land Trust's ownership of the southern portion. They do not own the piece immediately south, but the piece that is south of Brayman Hollow Road. The Land Trust has secured State funding for most of this purchase, with this town contribution being the last piece. Discussion followed regarding use of the Open Space Fund as opposed to the undesignated fund, public access with Wyndham Land Trust ownership, and it's contributing place on the open space map. Lisette Rimer stated that Pomfret Horse and Trail have used this piece for many years and it is a lovely and significant piece of the trail system. There was some more discussion and Article 4 was called to a vote. There were 34 ayes counted and zero nays. Article 4 passes unanimously.
- Article 5:**      **To see if the Town will approve capital fund transfers within accounts for finished projects to clear said accounts. Transfers approved by the Board of Selectmen per schedule available at the meeting and copies of which are available at the office of the Pomfret Town Clerk, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret, Connecticut and on the Town of Pomfret website under News & Announcement** – Article 5 read into the record by Ray Wishart and Tim McNally moved to approve. Motion was duly seconded. M. Nicholson provided a brief overview of these transfers

that are a house-keeping issue, balancing out finished projects with those still underway. Article 5 was called to vote with 33 ayes counted and 0 nays. Article 5 passes unanimously.

**Article 6:** **To see if the Town will approve an Ordinance ‘Establishing Fees Payable Under Building, Fire, and Demolition Code, Fire Marshals and Fire Hazards, Safety of Public and Fire Marshal Inspections’.** Said Ordinance to establish the purpose and authority and establishment of fees for the Pomfret Fire Marshal. Ordinance approved by the Pomfret Board of Selectmen during regular meeting of January 19, 2021. A copy of said Ordinance is available thru the office of the Pomfret Town Clerk, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret, Connecticut and on the Town of Pomfret website under News & Announcements – Article 6 read into record by Ray Wishart. Tim McNally moved to approve and motion was duly seconded. M. Nicholson stated that the town has not been charging any fees for the Fire Marshal’s services. We share his time with Putnam, where fees are charged. There are other towns that charge fees as well. The Fire Marshal performs many inspections, reviews plans and fire suppression systems. The proposed Ordinance was reviewed by the Fire Marshal and the Town Attorney. There was some discussion. These fees will off-set some of the cost of the office. Article 6 was called to vote with 32 ayes counted and 1 nay. Article 6 passes.

**Article 7:** **To see if the Town will approve an Ordinance ‘Establishing Four-Year Terms of Office for the Pomfret First Selectman, Selectmen, and the Town Treasurer’ pursuant to Sections 9-187,9-187a, 9-189 and 9-189a of the CT General Statutes.** Ordinance approved by the Board of Selectmen during regular meeting of October 21, 2019. A copy of said Ordinance is available thru the office of the Pomfret Town Clerk, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret, Connecticut and on the Town of Pomfret website under News & Announcements – Ray Wishart read Article 7 into the record. Tim McNally moved to approve and motion was duly seconded. Peter Mann stated that he wished to speak in opposition. The 2-year term has worked well in the past and while he recognizes there is a learning curve, there is town hall staff that can assist with that. Walter Hinchman stated that this was a major change and he would like to see an opportunity for more public discussion. He would like to see the vote postponed until the Annual Town Meeting when perhaps more people would attend to vote. Sherry Grist, Treasurer, stated that this was not the first time something like this had come up. The Assessor, Tax Collector, and Town Clerk have had term length change or a change to appointments. There was some discussion regarding finding qualified candidates, the learning curve for the job, term length of other boards where some are up to 6 years. The Board terms would not be staggered and would go into effect with the next municipal election. After some more discussion Article 7 was called to a vote. There were 26 ayes counted and 7 nays. Article 7 passes.

**Article 8:** **To do any other business proper to come before said meeting** – Article 8 read into record by R. Wishart and P. Mann moved to adjourn. S. Grist seconded and meeting unanimously adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Attest: Cheryl A. Grist, Town Clerk