

**TOWN OF POMFRET
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MAY 19, 2022 AT 7:00 PM – POMFRET COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

In Attendance: First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, Selectmen Patrick McCarthy, Ellsworth Chase.
Also present – Approximately 70 citizens and interested parties.

Opening remarks by First Selectman Maureen Nicholson and presentation of Municipal Service Award to volunteers – Maureen Nicholson opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and welcomed all. She stated that Pomfret had submitted a nomination for the Small Town America Civic Volunteer Award as sponsored by CivicPlus. There were over 700 nominations submitted nationwide and 100 winners chosen across the nation. She then presented Walter Hinchman with this award for service spanning over 50 years with various Boards, Commissions, and Committees and continuing to this day.

Article 1: To choose a Moderator for said meeting – J. Folsom moved to nominate Ray Wishart as moderator and T. McNally seconded. There were no other nominations and Ray Wishart was approved as moderator by unanimous vote.

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, 2022 – R. Wishart read Article 2 into record and T. McNally moved to approve. Motion was seconded by C. Grist. There was no discussion and Article 2 was approved by unanimous vote.

Article 3: To see if the Town will consider and adopt the Five-Year Local Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal year 2022–2023 as proposed by the Board of Selectmen – R. Wishart read Article 3 into record and T. McNally moved to approve. Motion was seconded by D. Thompson. There was no discussion and Article 3 was approved by unanimous vote.

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, 2021 – R. Wishart read Article 4 into record and T. McNally moved to approve. Motion was seconded by L. Grossman. There was no discussion and Article 4 was approved by unanimous vote.

Article 5: To see if the Town will accept the following cemetery funds for perpetual care:
Pomfret Cemetery Corporation: Charlotte R. Berman, Yard 3, Lot #211, \$100.00; Judith LaFreniere, Yard 3 Lots #98 & #99, \$200.00; Lincoln & Paula Mayo, Yard 3 Lots #228 & #229, \$200.00; Abington Cemetery Association: Jan & Maryann Szela, Grave #459 deTallyrand Annex, \$100.00; Alec Chvirko & Meghan Chvirko Stengel, Grave #460 deTallyrand Annex, \$100.00; Susan Vacek, Grave #461 deTallyrand Annex, \$100.00; Brian Trask & Aria Czajkowski, Graves #462 & #463 deTallyrand Annex, \$200.00; Laurie Audette, Grave #464 deTallyrand Annex, \$100.00; Celeste Bernards, Grave #458 deTallyrand Annex, \$100.00; Helmut Eisele, Graves #1034 & #1035 deTallyrand Annex, \$200.00; and Catherine Vollweiler, Graves #1036 & #1037 deTallyrand Annex, \$200.00 – R. Wishart called the attention of those present to Article 5 and T. McNally moved to approve. The motion was seconded by L. Grossman. There was no further discussion and Article 5 was approved by unanimous vote.

Article 6: To see if the Town will approve to participate in, and serve as liaison for, the Neighborhood Assistance Act, and as such approve and support the application made by CT Audubon Society for Energy Conservation Modifications at the Pomfret facility as a viable project. Said application is on file with the Pomfret Town Clerk, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret, CT – R. Wishart read Article 6 into record and T. McNally moved to approve. Motion was seconded by L. Grossman. There was no discussion and Article 6 was approved by unanimous vote.

Article 7: To see if the Town will ratify and accept the following easements granted and to be granted to the Town in connection with the Town of Pomfret/Board of Selectmen Sanitary Sewer Extension Project: 1.) Easement Agreement Re – Sewer System Components from The Rectory School, Incorporated to the Town of Pomfret, dated September 23, 2020, and recorded in Pomfret Land Records, Volume 380, Pages 207-216. 2.) Easement Agreement Re – Sewer System Components from Pomfret School, Inc., to the Town of Pomfret, dated September 23, 2020, and recorded in Pomfret Land Records, Volume

380, Pages 194-206. 3.) Sewer Easement from the State of Connecticut, acting by Robert J. Klee, Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to the Town of Pomfret, dated August 9, 2018, and recorded in Pomfret Land Records, Volume 375, Page 196-202. 4.) Sewer Line Easement from Sylvia Hankin as Trustee of the Sylvia Hankin Revocable Intervivos Trust, to the Town of Pomfret, dated August 14, 2018, and recorded in Putnam Land Records, Volume 823, Page 200. 5.) An easement to be granted by Joan T. Loos to the Town of Pomfret, as set forth and described in a certain Easement Agreement Re: Sewer System Components, by and between the Town of Pomfret; Joan T. Loos and Loos and Co., Inc., an unsigned copy of which is on file in the Pomfret Town Clerk's Office – R. Wishart called the attention of those present to Article 7. T. McNally moved to approve. The motion was seconded by L. Grossman. There was no further discussion and Article 7 was approved by unanimous vote.

Article 8: To see if the Town will approve an Ordinance Providing for the Appointment of the Town of Pomfret Town Clerk, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 9-185, as amended, the office of the Town Clerk shall be filled by appointment by majority vote of the Board of Selectmen, commencing with the term beginning November 2025, or earlier upon a vacancy. A copy of proposed Ordinance is on file with the Pomfret Town Clerk, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center – R. Wishart read Article 8 to the record and T. McNally moved to approve. Motion was seconded by L. Grossman. Article 8 passed with majority of ayes although one nay was heard.

Article 9: To see if the Town will approve an Ordinance Providing for the Appointment of the Town of Pomfret Treasurer, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 9-185, as amended, the office of the Treasurer shall be filled by appointment by majority vote of the Board of Selectmen, commencing with the term beginning November 2025, or earlier upon a vacancy. A copy of proposed Ordinance is on file with the Pomfret Town Clerk, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center – R. Wishart read Article 9 into record and M. Nicholson moved to approve with a revision to Section 5 of the proposed Ordinance that would eliminate 'or appointed' in the final sentence. T. McNally seconded motion with the proposed revision. There was no further discussion and Article 9 passed, with revision, by a majority of ayes although one nay was heard.

Article 10: To see if the Town will approve a revision to the Ordinance extending the elected term of office for the Registrar of Voters and Town Treasurer, adopted at a Special Town Meeting dated February 24, 1987 to reference 'Elected Term of Office for the Registrars of Voters'. A copy of proposed revision is on file with the Pomfret Town Clerk, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center – R. Wishart read Article 10 to the record and T. McNally moved to approve. Motion was seconded by L. Grossman. There was no further discussion and Article 10 passed with a majority of ayes although one nay was heard.

Article 11: To see if the Town will adopt a total appropriation in the amount of \$13,868,103 for the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget with \$3,160,260 of said amount to be the General Government Appropriation and \$10,707,843 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 – R. Wishart read Article 11 to the record and B. Tuttle moved to approve. Motion was seconded by T. McNally. M. Nicholson thanked and recognized members of the Board of Finance, Board of Education, and Board of Selectman for all the hard work put into the budget. J. Folsom asked if ARPA money is included in the budget. It is not. It is in a separate fund as required. J. Boland asked about zero or reduced funding for historical purposes. This was per request of the Historical Society. A few years ago the Abington Library, Cemeteries, and Historical Society were approached by the Board of Selectmen, being non-town facilities, to discuss long-range planning and how they may raise more of their funding in order to sustain activities and reduce dependance on town funding. J. Boland also asked if budgeted amount for Carter Road was sufficient for its repairs. It is anticipated that it is. A man asked if the ARPA funding would be used for road and bridge work. An Advisory Committee has been reviewing proposed projects and an on-line public survey was done. There is some infrastructure included but most will be proposed with the Infrastructure, Investments and Jobs Act that is geared more toward roads and bridges. He also asked about the population at Woodstock Academy, buses, and the long line of parents picking up kids. State law requires that enough buses must be provided to accommodate all students.

Article 11 was then approved by a majority vote of aye although one nay was heard.

Patrick McCarthy stated his thanks and asked for recognition of the faculty and staff of Pomfret Community School who have worked each day throughout the past two years of pandemic to continue a quality education to all students. He also thanked Superintendent Stephen Cullinan, who will be retiring at the end of this school year.

Article 12: To do any other business proper to come before said meeting. And to act upon the following non-binding questions as recommended by the Pomfret Planning and Zoning Commission:

M. Nicholson stated that these questions are non-binding but are designed to get a feel of public sentiment. The Planning & Zoning Commission has placed a six-month moratorium on the questions and no action will be taken before that time.

1.) Should the Town permit/allow the retail sale of recreational Cannabis within the Town? – A number of those present had comments regarding the question including: A poor example would be set for Pomfret youth, Pomfret should strive for a higher level of example, is the question up to Zoning, marijuana use is on the rise with area youth – still too young to choose responsibly, impact of property values, apply precautionary principles, edibles impacting kids, Colorado saw somewhat of rise in crime,

2.) Should the Town permit/allow the cultivation of Cannabis within the Town? – Several discussion items were brought up including: this is a unique opportunity for growers to grow a lucrative crop. It would be limited due to the difficulty of the crop and the intensive knowledge necessary to successfully grow. How is the crop accessed locally, precautionary principles should apply, Pomfret does not have the resources to deal with possibilities, what is the impact of lighting needed for these crops.

M. Nicholson stated that no options would be decided during this six-month moratorium. Planning and Zoning will be researching both questions, holding public hearings, and encouraging citizen feedback before any type of action is taken.

T. McNally moved to adjourn and motion was duly seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM by a majority vote of ayes although a few nays were heard.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Attest: Cheryl A. Grist, Town Clerk