

**TOWN OF POMFRET – BOARD OF FINANCE
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2006 AT 7:00 PM**

In Attendance: Board Members-M. Nicholson, P. Mann, M. Huoppi, C. Gerrity, T. Emilio, J. DiIorio. Others Present-Jim Rivers-First Selectman, Richard Schad, Board of Education, Anne Hennen, Sherry Grist

I. Open Regular Meeting

- a. Approve Minutes, Meeting of January 9, 2006 – Tabled to March.
- b. Items to be added to Agenda – Maureen Nicholson stated she would like to add discussion of Open Space Acquisition fund to Unfinished Business and correction of workshop schedule to New Business. So moved by Peter Mann. Carolyn Gerrity seconded. All in favor.
- c. Citizen’s Participation – none

II. Unfinished Business

- a. Open Space Acquisition Fund – Anne Hennen stated that State Statute makes clear the Town’s duty to allocate money for this fund. The Conservation Commission would like to see the Selectmen put money for this fund into the budget. Sherry Grist stated there is a Town Ordinance regarding the Land Acquisition fund. Money does go into this fund as fees in lieu of Open Space thru the Planning and Zoning Commission. Discussion. The Board of Selectmen will review as the budget process continues. The Board of Finance will continue to review.

III. Current Business

- a. Treasurers Report – Sherry reported that a healthy amount is in accounts. 79% of revenues to budget have been collected YTD. Discussion
- b. Tax Collector’s Report – Report of the Tax Collector was distributed to Board for review. Discussion.
- c. Assessor’s Report – Jim Rivers stated that the Assessor has informed him that there is 2 ½ % growth showing on the Grand list.
- d. Board of Selectmen’s Report – Jim Rivers reviewed the following:
 - *The Governor’s State budget, if passed as presented, will allow for approx. \$4,000. less than last year to Pomfret from the State.
 - *Energy – Electrical and fuel increases will impact the budget by approx. \$4,000.
 - *Sand has been purchased this year for roads with an effect of approx. \$22,000. This should be off-set somewhat by some other things, sale of gravel being one example.
 - *Regarding the land across the street from the Town Hall – The principal owners have contacted Jim stating they would like to work with the town on a sale purchase. An appraisal has been done and the property appraised at 1.4 million. The asking price is 2.5 There has been no discussion at this point with the owners concerning price. There is 141 acres there but a

number of it is wetlands. Jim will speak with the other Selectmen about this at their next meeting. Discussion.

- e. Board of Education Report – Richard Schad reviewed the following:
 - *School safety and remedies taken regarding a recent incident with a pre-schooler.
 - *Bus company problems have been ongoing. The BOE has met with them. It was stated that service has not been good and must change. The Board has also been speaking with their attorneys regarding termination of contract at the end of this school year. They are also looking into competitive bids.
 - *He encourages Board members to do a tour of the school. There are many things in serious disrepair. Carolyn Gerrity has toured the building so far.
 - *Technology- Insurance should be available to replace lost equipment from recent power outage. A new server and software will be needed within the next 6 months. He believes this will cost approx. \$20,000 - \$25,000. Grants are being looked into. A Technology Committee will be started this spring.
 - *The BOE had a meeting last week with the School Building Committee. The Building Committee is ready to work with what the BOE asks. Currently there are 560 students enrolled at the school and the school is overextended. An addition, PreK thru 2, and PreK thru 8 are all on the table. Discussion. The possibility of regionalization was also discussed.
 - *There have been 2 sessions to date regarding the school budget. There has been a large increase in fixed costs. They are working on this and the increase percentage may yet go down.

IV. New Business

- a. BOE Meeting Assignments – Maureen has completed a schedule which will be distributed.
- b. Printer Quote – Annual Report – Gulemo offered a quote at a \$25. increase from last year. Peter Mann moved to accept. Carolyn Gerrity seconded. All in favor.
- c. BOF Budget Approval – Maureen distributed copies of proposed budget for the Board of Finance for 2007. John DiIorio made a motion to approve. Margie Huoppi seconded. All in favor.
- d. BOF Schedule – The posted schedule shows the Workshop Meetings as Wednesdays, but the corresponding dates are for Tuesdays. The dates will remain the same and the day will be changed to reflect Tuesday.

V. Correspondence – None

- VI. Adjournment** – Peter Mann made a motion to adjourn. Tony Emilio seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bonnie Ryan, clerk

date approved_____