

**TOWN OF POMFRET
MINUTES - SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

The Special Town Meeting of May 1, 2007 was opened at 7:00 PM by James Rivers, First Selectman. Approximately 250 citizens attended.

Article 1. To choose a Moderator for said meeting. – Mr. Rivers asked for a motion for a Moderator. Nora Johnson nominated Walter Hinchman. Tim McNally seconded. Nora Johnson motioned to close nominations, Tim McNally seconded. Unanimous vote of aye closed nominations. A unanimous vote of aye approved Mr. Hinchman as Moderator.

Article 2. To see if the Town will adopt the following ordinance: "An Ordinance Concerning Property Tax Relief for Eligible Elderly Homeowners" pursuant to authority granted to the Town of Pomfret under Public Act No. 06-176 of the State of Connecticut as approved by the Board of Finance on March 12, 2007. – Mr. Hinchman read Article 2. Tim McNally moved to approve Article 2 and motion was duly seconded. Ann Hennen asked who would be eligible. Bonnie Duncan explained this would be available to citizens aged 70 and over that fall within certain income guidelines. It works similar to the current Circuit Breaker. Article 2 was voted on and approved by a unanimous vote of aye.

Article 3. To see if the Town will approve the following resolution: "Resolution for a STEAP Grant for Fiscal Year 2006/2007 in the amount of \$140,000.00 to assist in the purchase of 13 Railroad Street, land associated with the Airline State Park Trail, a public recreation area located within the territorial limits of the Town of Pomfret, by the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection – B.O.R., Land Acquisition and Management". – Mr. Hinchman read Article 3. Tim McNally moved to approve and motion was duly seconded. Peter Mann asked about the liability to the Town. Mr. McNally stated that the State of Connecticut will own the property and bear the responsibility. The property is approximately two acres. The STEAP money is from the State of Connecticut and there will be no additional money required from the Town, other sources within the DEP will provide the difference. Article 3 was voted on and approved with a majority vote of aye and a small amount of nays.

Article 4. To see if the Town will approve the purchase of the property and building(s) thereon located at 207 Mashamoquet Road, owned by the Wolf Den Grange No. 61, Inc., for the amount of \$1.00. The purpose for the purchase would be to accommodate a Senior Center and municipal and community groups for meetings and related functions as approved by the Board of Finance on November 13, 2007. – Mr. Hinchman read Article 4 and noted the date of Board of Finance approval should reflect 2006. Tim McNally moved to approve Article 4 as amended by Moderator and motion was duly seconded. There was no discussion and the Article was approved with a unanimous vote of aye.

Article 5. To see if the Town will approve a Resolution for a STEAP Grant awarded in Fiscal Year 2005 in the amount of \$275,000.00 for the purpose of renovations and/or addition(s) to the building known as the Wolf Den Grange No. 61, Incorporated, located at 207 Mashamoquet Road, for use as a Senior Center by the Town of Pomfret, contingent on approval of Article 4. – Mr. Hinchman read Article 5. Motion to approve was made from the back of the room and motion was duly seconded. One citizen stated that \$275,000. was an insufficient amount to meet State standards for this type of facility. Jim Rivers provided some of the project background and stated no money has been spent yet, and work has been waiting for approval. David Abbamonte asked about parking. There is currently a gravel lot that would accommodate about 35 cars. The motion was voted on and approved by a unanimous vote of aye.

Article 6. To see if the Town will approve the discontinuance of Quaker Road as a Town road, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen on February 21, 2007. – Mr. Hinchman read Article 6. Tim McNally moved to approve and motion was duly seconded. A citizen asked what the motivation was to discontinue as a Town road. Glenn Postemski stated that the motivation is that the road currently services only one home. The cost of the truck to maintain and plow is costly for one residence. Mrs. Nelson stated that George Lawrence owns the residence and he will not mind the discontinuance of road. Charles Boster asked if the Town will still have access to the cemetery off of Quaker Road. Attorney Ed Higgins stated that the Town will still have access. The landowners will be responsible for the culverts under Quaker Road. Glenn

Postemski stated that the State of Connecticut owns 75 feet of the road. They do not want to maintain. The Town has been responsible for approximately 170 feet. Article 6 was voted on and carried with a majority of ayes and 3 or 4 nays.

Article 7. To see if the Town will repeal the following ordinance: "An Ordinance Regarding Tax Delinquency Reports to the Department of Motor Vehicles", adopted at Special Town Meeting of September 17, 2003. State of Connecticut Public Act No. 04-126 has deleted this fee provided by ordinance. – Mr. Hinchman read Article 7. Tim McNally moved to approve and Nora Johnson seconded. Mr. Hinchman stated this would clean up a Town Ordinance to what the State has already approved. There was no further discussion. Article 7 was voted on and approved by a unanimous vote of aye.

Article 8. To see if the Town will adopt the following ordinance: "An Ordinance Regarding Refund of Excessive Tax Payments". The ordinance would authorize the Tax Collector of the Town of Pomfret to retain payments in excess of the amount due provided the amount of the excess is less than five dollars, as stated in C.G.S. Sec. 12-129. – Mr. Hinchman read Article 8. Tim McNally moved to approve and Mr. Butner seconded. Bonnie Duncan stated that the Tax Collector would attempt to apply the excess payment to the following year. Article 8 was voted on and approved by a majority of ayes and 2 nays.

Article 9. To see if the Town will ratify and approve a Purchase and Sale Agreement between the Town of Pomfret, as purchaser, and Sherman P. MacDaniel, Alfred M. MacDaniel, Gibbs MacDaniel, Jr., and Putnam MacDaniel, as Sellers, for the purchase and sale of Development Rights pertaining to a certain 102 acre (more or less) parcel of land owned by the Sellers and located on the north side of Rich Road, in Pomfret, Connecticut, for the purchase price of \$600,000.00; to authorize the appropriation and expenditure of such funds; to authorize the issuance of debt instruments by the Town to meet said appropriation and, pending the issue thereof, the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose; and the acceptance of conveyance of such development rights as set forth and provided in said Purchase and Sales Agreement, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take all such further necessary action to execute said Agreement and complete such borrowing. – Mr. Hinchman read Article 9. Tim McNally moved to approve and Mr. Butner seconded. Jim Rivers introduced the owners of the property who were all present. He then introduced Jim Robbins with the Conservation Commission who completed part of their Open Space Presentation. Jim Rivers then reviewed the history of his contacts with the owners of this parcel and how this proposal was arrived at. It is one of the important parcel in Town that are at risk, it is a pre-Revolutionary homestead and is part of a wildlife corridor. The Development Rights were appraised at \$718,000. and the Town has negotiated the price to \$600,000. A citizen asked if the Development Rights are an asset that can be negotiated. The Development Rights could be sold at a later date with Town approval. Peter Mann stated he did not feel this proposal was a bad thing but an expenditure of this size should go to referendum. Maureen Nicholson stated that the Board of Finance did not rubber stamp this proposal but they did approve it and are confident it is in the best interest of the Town. The Conservation Commission has approved it as well. Mr. Hinchman read Article 9 again and it was called to a vote. Article 9 passed with a majority of ayes, some nays could be heard.

Article 10. To do any other business proper to come before said meeting. – Nora Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Tim McNally seconded. The meeting was duly adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Duly Recorded: Cheryl A. Grist, Town Clerk

Attest: Cheryl A. Grist, Town Clerk