

**TOWN OF POMFRET  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES  
DECEMBER 21, 2009 AT 8:00 AM  
POMFRET SENIOR CENTER**

In Attendance: First Selectman James Rivers, Selectmen Anthony Emilio, Maureen Nicholson. Approximately 25 citizens and interested parties.

**I. Regular Meeting**

**1. Open Meeting–8:00 AM/Approve Minutes December 7, 2009** – J. Rivers opened meeting at 8:00 AM. M. Nicholson moved to approve minutes of December 7<sup>th</sup>. T. Emilio seconded. All in favor.

**2. Items to Add to Agenda** - None

**3. Citizen Participation & Communications** – Peter Mann stated he has had no change of opinion since the last meeting concerning Barr, Inc. Seely-Brown has spent much money in corrections and Christ Church had a major flood after the first ice storm. The low bid isn't always the best. A man stated that the facts push to accepting Barr. The difference to the next lowest bidder is a lot of taxpayer money. Barr, Inc. has been in business for a long time and would not survive for that long if they were doing a bad job. Mary Smutnick stated that it seems there are facts out there saying that jobs are not done appropriately, the low bid may not be appropriate. She is glad to see the Selectmen's meetings are being recorded again. Paul LeBlanc, Barr employee and professional engineer with 20 years of experience stated that he has been involved with many bridge projects in more than one State. Barr has done many successful projects locally. They were recently awarded a major project thru the DOT that required a very rigorous approval process. He submitted a Pre-Qualification Certification from the State Dept. of Administrative Services and a letter stating Barr, Inc. would hold their bid price, as requested by Pomfret BOS, for 60 days. Morris Knoll stated that he is a Pomfret taxpayer and has worked for Barr for 6 or 7 years. They will do a fine job for the Town. Mike Lunt, Pomfret taxpayer stated he is pleased with the recent direction of the Town and the lower bid should be taken if it meets standards. He felt the totality of their work should be looked at and not all the rumor and innuendo. John Gowan, Pomfret resident and controller at Barr stated that much in the press is untrue. The company has been there for years and is in solid financial shape. Richard Cheney, Barr employee stated that Barr did the bridge on Day Road in Pomfret and that is still in fine shape. Sandra Flath stated that many positives have been listed but she has seen what's happened at Christ Church and she is on the Board of Directors at Seely-Brown and has seen the mess that is being fixed by tax dollars. She has found no positives with this company.

**II. New Business**

**1. Discussion – Solar Project and Roof Replacement at PCS** – The word has come from the State to move forward with this project. It has been recommended that some or all of the roof be replaced. The State Department

of Education has reimbursement money available for roof replacement. Dr. Packman, Superintendent, submitted a letter indicating approval for both the solar project and the roof replacement by the Board of Ed. It also asked the Selectmen to appoint a Building Committee to oversee the project. Discussion. M. Nicholson made a motion to go forward with this project and to reconvene the Building Committee, aka Solar Committee. T. Emilio seconded. All in favor.

### **III. Current Business**

1. **Road Issues** – None.
2. **Bid Discussion and Possible Selection-Covell Road Bridge** – J. Rivers thanked all for comments both good and bad. He stated that he has had no pressure at any point through this process from any side. He provided an overview of the information that he has reviewed. Discussion. The Board was in agreement that what was ultimately wanted was a project that was on-time, on-budget, and a quality job done that would leave taxpayers happy with the outcome. Further discussion. M. Nicholson made a motion to award the project to Barr, Inc. T. Emilio seconded. All in favor. J. Rivers will contact Paul LeBlanc to discuss the next step. Mr. Derigan, owner, expressed his thanks to the Board for all the work they have done regarding this process.

### **IV. Other Business**

1. **General Discussion** – T. Emilio stated that a sign may be down at Wrights Crossing and Route 101.
2. **Ethics Discussion** – Discussion tabled to next meeting.
3. **Discussion – ‘Voting on Selectmen Ordinance’** – Brief discussion. T. Emilio stated that typically the candidate put up for First Selectman has been involved with a number of areas in Town and it would be a shame to ‘lose the loser’. M. Nicholson felt it was difficult to get candidates now and that this change would be inconsistent with the way other Boards are elected. Ford Fay stated that the process has been tweaked many times and the State passed legislation in 1983 that would allow for this change. He would like the matter discussed at a Town Meeting. Further discussion. Tabled to next meeting.
4. **Pistol Permits Issued: Ryzard Sliwinski, 568 Pomfret St; John Dinsdale, 235 Valentine Road** – Permits issued in past month.

### **V. Tax Refunds/Abatements: None**

- VI. **Citizen's Comments** – Mr. Lunt stated that he felt the Town will find Bob Derigan to be a very smart man that pays much attention to detail. J. DiIorio stated that he was in agreement with J. Rivers in that this proposed Selectmen Ordinance would squeeze out the Independents. He thanked Jim for his handling of the Solar Project when that was proposed, stating it as an example of Jim listening to proposals and not shutting people down. He stated that the Building Committee should get the Solar Contractor involved if an architect is required for

the roof. Mary Smutnick stated that she does know people that have thought they could cast a vote for all three Selectmen and not just for two.

**VII. Adjournment** – T. Emilio motioned to adjourn. M. Nicholson seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved\_\_\_\_\_