

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2011 AT 8:00 AM
POMFRET SENIOR CENTER**

In Attendance: First Selectman Jim Rivers, Selectmen Tony Emilio, Maureen Nicholson.
Also present – approximately 12 citizens and interested parties.

I. Regular Meeting

1. **Open Regular Meeting/Approve Minutes August 1, 2011** – J. Rivers opened meeting at 8:30 PM. M. Nicholson motioned to approve minutes. T. Emilio seconded. All in favor.
2. **Items to Add to Agenda** – J. Rivers motioned to add to New Business, item 2 a discussion regarding the Energy Project at the Town Hall and bids received. M. Nicholson seconded. All in favor.
3. **Citizen Participation & Communications** – None

II. New Business

1. **AGVocate Program and Possible Agricultural Commission** – Mary Patenaude was present to speak for the Economic Planning & Development Commission. Jennifer Kaufman with the AGvocate Program was at their last meeting. Her expertise has been awarded to the Town thru a grant to promote agriculture. The formation of an Agricultural Commission has been discussed and the suggestion has come up to combine this with the existing Economic Planning & Development Commission. This group would be expanded to include active farmers in the area. She also provided an overview of a plan that has been presented by Rick Hermonot with Ekonk Hill Farm in Sterling regarding the Steak-Ums plant and the formation of an agricultural cooperative that runs out of that building. The EPDC supported both of these ideas. There was some discussion regarding the AGvocate Program and the cooperative idea. M. Nicholson suggested that the Board put some language together to revise the Economic Planning & Development Commission Ordinance to combine an Agricultural Commission. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.
2. **Senior Center – Discussion** – J. Rivers noted that in absence of objection this item would move up on agenda. He then provided a brief history regarding the Senior Board and the intent in forming this. They had been charged with developing Policies and guiding the big picture at the Center. Many discussions have come up since that time regarding conflicts between this Board and the Senior Coordinator. All but one of the Board has consequently resigned. J. Rivers stated he would welcome input from Seniors regarding what they would like to see as the next step and to voice any concerns they currently have. There was much discussion regarding the possible use of an Advisory Board or guidance provided by a Senior Coordinator only. There were also concerned with who is currently in

charge as the Senior Coordinator is out for an extended time. Many comments related to friction in the past, lack of communication, and the fact that they viewed the Center as a place to come for fellowship and to have a good time. They did not want to have to deal with stress and conflict. Donna Grant with TEEG was present. They would be able to provide someone a few days a week for a few hours a day. This person could also help coordinate volunteers as necessary. They can offer more support if needed as time goes on. TEEG already has a relationship with the Town and is currently serving Pomfret residents. She can have a representative at the Senior Center tomorrow afternoon to brainstorm with those interested regarding the direction they would like to see at the Center. This idea was well received by the group in attendance. M. Nicholson moved to approve the temporary use of TEEG's offer to supply staff twice per week to work with volunteers. T. Emilio seconded. Some discussion regarding expanding this offer if warranted. All in favor of motion. This will continue review at next meeting.

- 3. Energy Grant Project at Town Hall – Window Bids** – Two bids were received to replace the windows at the Town Hall under this grant. TM Builders provided the low bid at \$51,000 with \$6,000 that could be subtracted if some vinyl siding were subtracted. Some adjustment will likely need to be made regarding the amount of windows to be replaced. In absence of any objections Jim will contact this vendor to review and move forward.

III. Current Business

- 1. Road Issues** –M. Nicholson noted some stone wall work on Wrights Crossing Road where a drain appeared to be blocked.
- 2. General Discussion** – M. Nicholson looked to get some clarification regarding Animal Control and their Town of responsibility. Someone called there over the weekend and they were referred to Ashford. Ashford then stated they do not service Pomfret. T. Emilio asked about any movement regarding the Ambulance Garage. Word has not yet been received from the State regarding the STEAP Application regarding this. The possibility of holding a Town Meeting in late Sept. was discussed in order to wrap up the land purchases and bundle the bonding. T. Emilio had been contacted by someone regarding the corn maze and the possibility of the eighth grade coordinating and running this event. The Recreation Commission did not plan on it this year as Larry Gregoire has moved from Town. There was some discussion regarding this. The eighth grade has used this to help fund their Washington trip. J. Rivers will talk to the Recreation Director and the farmer that has planted the field.
- 3. Pistol Permits Issued:** Ruth Bourassa, 137 Valentine Rd., 8/3/11 - Noted
- 4. Discussion – Covell Road Bridge** – A grand opening of Thursday, August 18th was tentatively discussed.
- 5. Discussion – Proposed Post Office Closing** – Two packages of letter have been mailed out.

IV. Other Business

1. Review & Possible Approval of Bids – Recreation Park Courts – The Selectmen have viewed some other courts done by this contractor.

Completion of courts will use the remainder of grant funds and some other funding that has been put aside for the park from the town and donations and fund raisers. M. Nicholson moved to approve Willis as the contractor as presented. J. Rivers seconded. T. Emilio asked about guarantees and there was some discussion regarding clarification of bid. M. Nicholson revised her motion to state approval with alteration of payment schedule and clarification that Willis will do final grade with no need to bring in additional materials or charge additional money. J. Rivers seconded with modification. All in favor.

2. Discussion – Application for Zoning Text Amendments – No input received from J. Rabbit. Item tabled.

V. Tax Refunds/Abatements: See Attached – T. Emilio moved to approve as presented. M. Nicholson seconded. All in favor.

VI. Citizen's Comments – J. Carter commented on a water issue still apparent in the basement and the need of correction to the gutters.

VII. Nicholson moved to adjourn. T. Emilio seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved _____