

TOWN OF POMFRET – MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – April 30, 2009

In Attendance: First Selectman James Rivers, Selectmen Timothy McNally, David Smutnick.
Approximately 120 citizens and interested parties.

- Article 1:** **To choose a Moderator for said meeting** – J. Rivers opened the Annual Town meeting with some remarks of greeting and thanks to many who have contributed over the past year. Nora Johnson made a motion to nominate Walter Hinchman as moderator. Maureen Nicholson seconded. Tim McNally moved to close nominations. Nora Johnson seconded. Approved by unanimous vote of aye. Walter Hinchman approved as moderator by a unanimous vote of aye.
- 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, 2009** – W. Hinchman read article 2 to record. Maureen Nicholson moved to approve. Motion duly seconded by Nora Johnson. Article 2 approved by a majority vote of aye but one nay heard.
- Article 3:** **To see if the Town will consider and adopt the Five Year Local Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal year 2009 – 2010 as proposed by the Board of Selectmen** – W. Hinchman read Article 3 to record. M. Nicholson moved to approve and duly seconded by N. Johnson. John Bala asked how much in the past had been allocated to Covell Road Bridge. J. Rivers answered \$125,000 in fund throughout previous appropriations. Article 3 approved by unanimous vote of aye.
- Article 4:** **To hear and act upon the report of the Selectmen, Town Treasurer, Treasurer of the Local School Fund, Board of Education, and Auditor, as published by the Board of Finance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008** – W. Hinchman read Article 4 to record. Approval of Article 4 duly moved and then seconded by N. Johnson. Approved by unanimous vote of aye.
- Article 5:** **To see if the Town will accept the following cemetery funds for perpetual care: Abington Cemetery Association – George and Mary Ellen Morrarty, Lots 169A and 169B, \$200; and Pomfret Cemetery Corp. – Bradley J. Beeler, Lot 64, and Mary Beeler, Lot 65, \$200** – W. Hinchman read Article 5 to record. John Bala motioned to approve. Seconded by Maureen Nicholson. Article 5 approved by a unanimous vote of aye.
- Article 6:** **To see if the Town will adopt an Ordinance regarding the annual waiver of property taxes due in the amount of less than \$2.00 commencing with the October 1, 2008 Grand List and in each succeeding year** – W. Hinchman read Article 6 to record. Maureen Nicholson moved to approve with an effective date of July 1, 2009. Motion was duly seconded and approved by a unanimous vote of aye.
- Article 7:** **To see if the Town will adopt a budget appropriation in the total amount of \$11,070,198 with \$2,415,571 of said amount to be the General Government Appropriation and \$8,654,627 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** – W. Hinchman read Article 7 to record. Motion to approve by N. Johnson and seconded by M. Nicholson. Discussion regarding Board of Education appropriations. John Bala asked why electricity was up when the Town had recently voted in favor of Solar Panel installation. State funding is currently on hold. Current projection is for project to start next summer and electric line should then drop by approximately 50%. Charlie Densmore asked if the re-roofing talked about concerning the Solar Panels was part of the budget. It is not, that cost would be part of the project. Henry Woodbridge asked about Towns working together and regionalization to save expenses. The BOE currently combines services and purchases, the use of EastConn being a good example. They also act regionally with the Woodstock Academy. John Bala asked about reserves for Special Education. Not currently. Lisette Rimer asked about the Health Insurance increase. Dr. Packman stated that the projected increase for the coming year is at 13%. Discussion regarding General Government. John Bala stated that continued closure of Covell Road Bridge could save \$100,000 in this year’s budget. Tony Emilio stated traffic not now on Covell has moved to Babbitt Hill. Charlie Densmore stated he timed trips going around the bridge and depending on route came up with 15 to 45 seconds. Richard Dunn stated that if a life could be saved in that 45 seconds it would be worth fixing the bridge. Scott Downer with Pomfret Fire stated he checked the time to go around the bridge and the trip is increased by 2.5 to 5.5 minutes. Sally Johnson stated it seemed like keeping this bridge closed caters to just that area. There are people walking and kids on bikes everywhere. Kathy Stevens asked about putting speed bumps in. Charlie Franklin stated this project has been ongoing for years.

There were no complaints when the easement money was paid out. Jim Rivers reviewed the history and costs of this project. The money currently in the budget will combine with money already in the fund to pay the Town's portion and what is not needed will be turned back to the General Fund. If the bridge is not done this money will all be needed to reimburse the State per signed contract. Margie Huoppi asked who received rights of way monies and how much. **John Bala motioned to amend the motion to approve Article 7 as it pertains to the General Government proposed appropriations by the deduction of line item 482.21 found under Capital Non-Recurring 8501 in the amount of \$145,000 and making the new General Government budget total \$2,270,571** Charlie Densmore seconded. Maureen Nicholson stated she was the Board of Finance chair and felt it fiscally responsible to fix the bridge and beyond that to think in terms of community. Traffic not on one road will move to another. Gentleman called for vote on amendment and call was duly seconded. W. Hinchman asked for voice vote to call question and cease discussion. Approved by unanimous vote of aye with one nay heard. W. Hinchman asked for voice vote to the Article 7 amendment. Ayes heard but many more nays heard. Amendment fails. W. Hinchman stated that Article 7 had been moved and seconded. He asked if there was any more discussion and if not, the vote would be by paper ballot as noticed in the legal call of the meeting, unless a voice vote is voted. **Jim Rivers motioned to vote by voice and not by paper ballot.** Richard Schad seconded. Motion approved by a majority of ayes although a handful of nays were heard. Call for voice vote on Article 7, Article 7 approved by a majority of ayes although a few nays were heard.

Article 8: **To do any other business proper to come before said meeting** – Motion duly made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote of aye at 9:00 PM.

Duly Recorded: _____
Cheryl A. Grist, Town Clerk

Attest: _____
Cheryl A. Grist, Town Clerk