

## Town of Pittsford SELECT BOARD MEETING – May 3, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: W. Joseph Gagnon, Alicia Malay, Mark Winslow and Thomas Hooker.

ABSENT: David Mills. OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Marzec-Gerrier, Lawrence Marzec-Gerrier, Joe Repeturi, David Atherton – Town Manager, Kelly Giard – Recording Secretary.

The Select Board was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Malay.

Chair Malay stated that there was a need for Executive Session for Personnel and Legal. Motion T. Hooker and seconded by J. Gagnon to enter into Executive Session for Personnel and Legal. Motion passed unanimously 4– 0.

Chair Malay stated that there was a need to amend the agenda to add the discussion of extending the deadline for the Grand List submission. Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by J. Gagnon to accept the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

### **MINUTES:**

The April 19, 2023 regular meeting minutes were signed with no corrections.

### **TOWN MANAGER REPORT:**

Town Manager Atherton reported the following:

- The Wastewater employees with the assistance of the Highway Department employees replaced a fire hydrant on Plains Road that was initially placed in 1972. The landscaping will take place when the weather dries out.
- The culvert on the Humphrey Road was replaced following a grant award.
- Met at the VTRANS district office and discussed the condition of the sidewalks in the town. Has contacted Rep. Shaw and notified him of the pavers being scheduled in June, therefore, the project has to continue on schedule due to the pavers not being available until late fall, once school has begun.
- Ann Reed and Jen Popp have been purging the files in the basement and the Highway Department has been assisting with the construction of shelving.
- There will need to be drainage work at the Recreation Area, between the bathhouse and the pavilion.
- The Wastewater staff has been clearing grease build up at the Depot Hill pump station and have found syringes. Residents need to be aware of the syringes during Green Up Day and that they should not be flushed into the system.
- There will be a Regulators Round Table at the Fire Station at Noon on May 9, 2023.
- Discussion has begun with USDA to explore the possibility of a Revolving Loan Fund to aid with Economic Development. More information will be distributed when available.

**SELECTBOARD MEMBER REMARKS:**

Selectman Winslow stated that he has had a resident contact him with regard to the Kendall Hill Bridge. Town Manager Atherton stated that he and Chad Eugair have been discussing this and are waiting for Daniels Construction to set an inspection date.

Selectman Winslow inquired the status of the speed signs on Route 7 south of the Route 3 intersection. Town Manager Atherton stated that he is not aware of this project and will research and advise at a future meeting.

Chair Malay reminded members that Green Up Day is on May 6, 2023 beginning at 10 AM at the Municipal Office. There will be a dumpster available for the green bags and litter findings to be dropped.

Chair Malay also reminded members that the Crown Point Road Dedication Ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 7, 2023 at the Willis Towne Farm beginning at 1:00 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. and Mrs. Marzec-Gerrior, residents of Furnace Road were present to express their opposition of the proposed Outback Acres Solar project. Mr. Marzec-Gerrior stated that this area is a winter deer yard, the area was fished by President Eisenhower, this area is in a wetland and digging 6' will run into water, visibility and the corner are also concerns to the neighbors. Mr. Marzec-Gerrior stated that the project will be 10,000 solar panels and will be seen back to Oxbow Road.

Mrs. Marzec-Gerrior expressed that solar should not displace farmland. Another concern of Mrs. Marzec-Gerrior is the valuation of property as other houses are for sale on the Furnace Road and that they lost an offer on their home once the prospective buyers learned of the solar project.

M. Winslow explained that this project is state driven and not town driven. Chair Malay stated that the town has Party Status and the Planning Commission has been charged with working with the solar placement within town. There was discussion that the power is possibly being sold outside of Vermont. Town Manager Atherton stated that there is no net metering proposed for this project. M. Winslow stated that the project is exempt from school taxes and there is only a 66% taxation on the property valuation for 25 years and that there are only 3 members of the PUC that make the decisions. Town Manager Atherton copied the PUC information concerning the project that was available as of this meeting and discussed with the members. Barbara Noyes-Pulling has stated that she is willing to help the town with solar siting in the town.

Mr. and Mrs. Marzec-Gerrior exited at 7:30 PM.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **ATV ORDINANCE:**

Motion by M. Winslow and seconded by J. Gagnon to adopt the ATV Ordinance with the changes that were discussed previously. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

### **Personnel Policy:**

Town Manager Atherton reported that the Personnel Policy now includes information from the Union Contract; the Holiday Pay is clarified; Short Term Family Leave is included and the benefits will be attached and updated annually. Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by M. Winslow to adopt the Personnel Policy as presented. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Highway Access Policy and Form:**

Town Manager Atherton reports that Chad Eugair has reviewed the Highway Access Policy and form and has no further changes. Motion by M. Winslow and seconded by T. Hooker to adopt the Highway Access Policy and form as presented. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

### **Act on Orders (\$110,104.91) and Payroll (\$14,091.58):**

M. Winslow inquired the expense of \$5200 for backhoe tires. Town Manager Atherton stated that this purchase was in the budget. J. Gagnon inquired if there had been any price comparison prior to purchase. Town Manager Atherton stated that he will check with Chad. M. Winslow asked for a report to include the age of the equipment and the number of hours. This information will be provided at a future meeting.

M. Winslow inquired the expense to Green Lantern Solar monthly. Town Manager Atherton stated that the town purchases the credits from a solar array in Chester and is used by Municipal Buildings. These credits are used to offset the GMP billings to the Town and there is a “true up” done annually. Copies of the contract with Green Lantern Solar will be distributed for the Select Board members to review.

The orders were signed following discussion.

### **Extending the Grand List Deadline:**

Lisa Wright has requested an extension of 30 days to lodge the Grand List. Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by M. Winslow to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

The Select Board adjourned at 7:14 PM.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

T. Hooker made the motion and seconded by J. Gagnon to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Legal where premature knowledge could be damaging to the Town and may be jeopardized by public disclosure. Town Manager Atherton was invited to remain for Executive Session. D. Mills arrived for Executive Session.

In accordance with 1 VSA 312 (b), where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the Municipality or person involved at a substantial disadvantage, the Board unanimously agreed to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel and Legal at 7:14 PM.

Motion by M. Winslow and seconded by J. Gagnon to exit Executive Session at 8:40 PM with the following action taken.

Motion by J. Gagnon and seconded by D. Mills to rescind the Act 250 appeal concerning the Bridge #108 project due to legal costs. Motion approved 5 – 0.

Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by M. Winslow that all town committees, entities and employees must receive approval by the Select Board or the Town Manager prior to contacting the Town Attorney. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by D. Mills to adjourn at 8:45 PM. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

The next Select Board meeting will be held on May 17, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Giard  
Recording Secretary

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Alicia Malay, Chair

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David Mills, Vice Chair

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Thomas Hooker, Selectman

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W. Joseph Gagnon, Selectman

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Mark Winslow, Selectman