

Town of Pittsford SELECT BOARD – January 18, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: W. Joseph Gagnon, David Mills, Mark Winslow and Thomas Hooker.

ABSENT: Alicia Malay. OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Woodard, Mike Stewart, Ann Reed, Kelly Giard – Recording Secretary.

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

Vice Chair Mills stated that there was a need for Executive Session for Personnel concerns (D. Mills – 2; J. Gagnon - 1) and contracts. Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by J. Gagnon to enter into Executive Session for Personnel and Contracts. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Vice Chair Mills stated that there was a need to amend the agenda to add Fire Hill dogs (old business). Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by J. Gagnon to accept the agenda as amended. Motion passed 4 – 0.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 4, 2023; January 5, 2023 and January 9, 2023 meetings were signed with no corrections.

ORDERS:

The orders in the amount of \$238,348.66 and payroll in the amount of \$30,939.98 were signed with the following discussion:

J. Gagnon inquired the expense at Earl's Truck Repair. Ann Reed read the lengthy list of work and parts needed for the repairs to the truck. J. Gagnon also inquired the expense at Central Vermont Truck Repair for the Fire Dept. 550. A list was read for this repair as well.

T. Hooker inquired the expense A & J Auto for the Water & Sewer truck suspension bags. This will be researched and discussed at a future meeting.

ASSISTANT TO THE TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Ann Reed reported on the following highlights:

- The Highway truck was received on January 6, 2023 and the truck is white.
- A complaint was received regarding trash along Route 7 south of the Mobil station. According to the citizen, it appears to be paint from the white lines of the road that is the debris. Ann has contacted VTrans to find out a solution to the mess.
- The paperwork has been finalized for the Village Farm Grant processing.
- Ann Reed and Shawn Hendee recently met with Otter Creek Engineering.
- Atty. Kupferer has the list to begin work on the tax sale.
- A. Reed attended the FEMA Tabletop Discussion recently.

- Rutland Mental Health now has a crisis help line that can be texted. This information will be included on the website.
- CEDR will be hosting a Legislative breakfast on January 30, 2023 at 7:30 AM.
- OMYA has agreed to the rate change for the police department detail.

SELECT BOARD COMMENTS:

D. Mills stated that he attended the recent Rutland Regional Planning Commission meeting and there are grants available for weatherization of municipal buildings. This is something that was previously discussed and Ann is working to get in before the deadline.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dan Kiphaut was present to discuss the ongoing junk ordinance offenses in his neighborhood. Mr. Kiphaut presented photos that were taken after his last visit to the Select Board and the photos included a burn pit in the front yard, a refrigerator that was turned upside down, bags of Mt. Dew bottles and trash piled at the back door of the tenant house. Mr. Kiphaut included copies of the junk ordinance in the packet that was presented to the Select Board. M. Winslow stated that the Health Officer should visit the area again and a letter be written. T. Hooker agreed and continued by saying that the Town Attorney should also be contacted for a letter. D. Mills stated that this is now a health and safety issue with the refrigerator. Ann Reed will contact the Health Officer and draft the letter to be sent, as well as contact the town attorney.

OLD BUSINESS

Act 250 Permit – State of Vermont Route 7 Bridge and Adjoining Intersections:

Rick Conway has filed an appeal with the State of Vermont regarding the proposed bridge project. Following discussion, a motion was made by M. Winslow and seconded by J. Gagnon to appeal the ruling based on the proposed intersection. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Truck Transfer Between Highway and Water Department:

The Select Board previously voted to transfer this truck and now it just needs to be done in the books.

Tax Sale – Potentially Parcel 0906:

This is not personal property as it is an unlanded mobile home. This will be referred to the Zoning Administrator for review and inspection.

Abatement of Parcel 1629:

Atty. Kupferer stated that only the Board of Abatement can abate property taxes and that more parcels may qualify.

Fire Hill Dogs:

D. Mills stated that the dogs have not been moved and are still barking and disturbing the neighbors. Ray Forrest stated that he has spoken with Rich Bowman, which Ann Reed stated

that he has been in contact with Mr. Bowman 3 times. The Select Board agreed to forward the situation to Atty. Kupferer for review of the ordinance and, if necessary, to begin the fining process and possibly take the dogs.

NEW BUSINESS

VAST Snowmobile Police Patrol Request:

Kim Woodard, Rutland liaison for VAST, was present to discuss the need for assistance at road crossings. Mike Stewart, a member of the Rutland County VAST, was also present to discuss the policing for insurance, TMA's, and loud pipes on snow mobiles. Mr. Stewart stated that he has spoken with Chief Warfle regarding this and stated that VAST will provide the necessary training through the Fish and Game Department. T. Hooker inquired what equipment would be needed. Ms. Woodard stated that no equipment would be needed as it is road coverage. M. Winslow inquired how many contract hours would be required. Mr. Stewart stated that the organization has funding for the time spent on the enforcement. D. Mills inquired the cost for the training, which Mr. Stewart stated would be free. M. Winslow inquired a timeframe that this work would be necessary. Ms. Woodard stated that there is no specific hours required, just following a heavy snow, weekends, and some weekdays. M. Winslow inquired what areas would be involved. Ms. Woodard stated that she would provide this list. Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by M. Winslow to authorize Chief Warfle to enter into an agreement with VAST for policing at road crossings. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Ms. Woodard and Mr. Stewart exited at 7:03 PM.

Transfer Station Ordinance:

The draft of the Transfer Station Ordinance was included in the packets for review. D. Mills expressed concern that the size of the bags should be included. This will be reviewed at a future meeting.

Transfer Station Fees and Permit Renewal Date Change:

Ann Reed stated that the fees have not increased in a very long time. Helen McKinlay is proposing that the permit increase to \$30 with a punch card and the additional punch cards be \$25. Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by M. Winslow to increase the permit fee to \$30 and the additional punch cards to \$25. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Helen McKinlay is requesting that the permit renewal dates change from November 1 to January 1 annually. Motion by M. Winslow and seconded by T. Hooker to change the renewal dates from November 1 to January 1 annually for the Transfer Station. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Municipal Roads General Permit Notice of Intent:

Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by J. Gagnon to appoint Helen McKinlay as the signer for the Municipal Roads General Permit for the 2023 calendar year. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Speed Limit Ordinance:

D. Mills stated that, in reviewing the speed limits, Hollister Quarry Road is listed as 35 mph and he feels that for safety reasons, due to the contour and narrowness of the road that this should be dropped to 25 mph. Chad Eugair will be asked to drive this road and give his feedback at a future meeting.

ATV Ordinance:

This ordinance follows portions of the Speed Limit Ordinance and was tabled at this time.

Truck Signs – Train Trestle Height Signage on Proctor/Pittsford Line:

Ann Reed reported that there were 3 lost trucks for OMYA in 1 day. She has been in contact with Proctor to discuss height restriction signs at the Proctor/Pittsford town line that leads to the train trestle. There was discussion and further research will be done, including contacting Center Rutland.

Library Trustee from 1 year to 3 year Term:

Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by M. Winslow to place this on the Town Meeting Warning. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Town Meeting – In Person versus Hybrid:

There was discussion regarding having a hybrid Town Meeting via Zoom, which would not allow for any voting on the floor, comments, or questions from the Zoom participants. Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by M. Winslow to host an in-person only Town Meeting. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Town Meeting Warning:

The Members of the Select Board reviewed and unanimously approved the following Town Meeting Warning:

**WARNING
TOWN OF PITTSFORD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
March 6, 2023**

The legal voters of the Town of Pittsford are hereby warned and notified to meet in the Lothrop School Gymnasium in said Town on March 6, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. to transact the following business from the floor:

Article 1: To hear the reports of the Town Officers.

Article 2: Shall the voters authorize general fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,880,430, of which the sum of \$1,460,695 is to be raised by property taxes and \$419,735 by non-tax revenues?

Article 3: Shall the voters authorize highway fund expenditures of \$1,196,484, of which the sum of \$1,046,734 is to be raised by property taxes and \$149,750 by non-tax revenues?

Article 4: Shall the voters authorize Village District Expenses of \$17,000, of which the sum of \$17,000 is to be raised by property taxes payable by Village property owners?

Article 5: Shall the voters authorize collection of taxes on real and personal property by its Treasurer in three equal installments, due on or before August 15, September 15, and November 15, 2023 by physical delivery to the tax collector on that date?

Article 6: Shall the voters authorize the change for the Maclure Library Board of Trustee Town Representative from a one-year term to a three-year term?

Article 7: Discussion of other non-binding business.

At the close of the above business, the meeting shall be recessed until Tuesday March 7, 2023 at 7:00 a.m. at the Town Offices, located at 426 Plains Road, Pittsford to vote by Australian ballot on the following

matters, to wit:

Article 8: To elect the following officers of the Town:

- a. A Town Moderator for a term of one (1) year*
- b. A Selectman for a term of three (3) years*
- c. A Selectman for a term of two (2) years*
- d. A Town Clerk for a term of (3) years*
- e. A Town Treasurer for a term of (3) years*
- f. A Trustee of Public Funds for a term of three (3) years*
- g. A Maclure Library Trustee for a term of one (1) year*

Polls open Tuesday March 7, 2023 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00p.m.

Dated this 19th day of January, 2023.

By the Selectboard members of the Town of Pittsford:

Hydraulic Study Authorized Representative and Reimbursement Request:

The only person authorized to sign the documentations for the grants and loan reimbursement is former Town Manager John Haverstock. Currently, there is \$42,000 that is waiting for reimbursement. Motion by M. Winslow and seconded by T. Hooker to authorize Ann Reed to sign the documentation. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Opportunity:

Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by M. Winslow to apply for this grant to cover PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) purchases. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Extended Warranty for New Truck – Purchase?:

This topic was tabled until Chad Eugair was present.

Affordablehealthinsurance.com Request for Medicare Info on Website:

Ann Reed was contacted to include this information on the town website under resources. This topic was tabled.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

T. Hooker made the motion and seconded by J. Gagnon to go into Executive Session for Contracts and Personnel, where premature knowledge could be damaging to the Town and may be jeopardized by public disclosure.

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 legal and personnel at 8:00 PM.

The Select Board exited Executive Session at 8:43 PM with no action taken.

The Select Board adjourned at 8:43 PM.

The next Select Board meeting will be held on February 1, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Giard
Recording Secretary

ABSENT

Alicia Malay, Chair

David Mills, Vice Chair

Thomas Hooker, Selectman

W. Joseph Gagnon, Selectman

Mark Winslow, Selectman