

Town of Pittsford SELECT BOARD – January 4, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alicia Malay, W. Joseph Gagnon, David Mills, Mark Winslow and Thomas Hooker. OTHERS PRESENT: Chad Eugair, Ann Reed, Police Chief Mike Warfle, Rich Bowman, Laura Moulton, Rick Conway, Sandy Conway, Lisa Wright, 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 concerns (Chair Malay – 3; D. Mills – 1), Legal (Ann Reed – 1) and contracts (Ann Reed – 1). Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by D. Mills to enter into Executive Session for Personnel, Legal, and Contracts. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Chair Malay stated that there was a need to amend the agenda to add Act 250 Environmental Court decision and discuss/add appointed officers. Motion by D Mills and seconded by J. Gagnon to accept the agenda as amended. Motion passed 5 – 0.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 1, 2022; December 13, 2022 and December 21, 2022 meetings were signed with no corrections.

ORDERS:

The orders in the amount of \$20,904.38 payroll in the amount of \$30,939.98 were signed with the following discussion:

J. Gagnon inquired the purchase of hydraulic oil. Chad Eugair stated that this was for 3 barrels.

ASSISTANT TO THE TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Ann Reed reported on the following highlights:

- The Public Warnings for the ordinance updates has been published in the Reporter.
- The Water & Sewer billings have been sent to customers.
- A. Reed met with Brian Sanderson from VTRANS.
- There will be a Staff Meeting on January 19, 2023 at 9:00 AM. The guest speaker will be from Invest EAP, which the employees were not aware was available to them as part of their benefit package.
- There will be a Safety Committee meeting following the Staff meeting. The PACIF grant information has been received and this will be the topic of this meeting.
- There will be a CEDR Mixer on January 10, 2023 from 5 – 7 PM.
- A. Reed would like to move the Winter Newsletter to at least mid-February for this year due to the need to compile the Town Report and get the information to the printers per the deadline. Motion by J. Gagnon and seconded by M. Winslow to move the Winter Newsletter date to March 1. Motion passed 5 – 0.

- VTRANS Mileage reports are due by February 20, 2023.
- There are free Covid 19 tests available at the Municipal Office, however, the current supply expires soon. The documentation will be submitted to have the town remain as a place for residents to obtain these tests. J. Gagnon inquired if this should be advertised.
- Discussion regarding an annual subscription to the Reporter. Members agreed to have this subscription delivered.

SELECT BOARD COMMENTS:

None presented at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None presented at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Road Discontinuations from State of Vermont:

The Certificate of Highway Mileage was received, which includes the .02 mile for access from Corn Hill Road to Route 3. There is a process that needs to be followed with regard to discontinuation of roads and this information was received. The process was tabled.

Delinquent Taxes:

This topic was deferred to Executive Session

Reclassification of Roads:

The process for this was tabled to a future meeting.

Road Speed Limit Postings:

Chad Eugair has driven the roads in question and felt that 25 mph was fast enough for the shorter narrow roads; 30 mph for village roads, and 35 mph for other roads, per speed ordinance. D. Mills inquired if there was a need to have a traffic study conducted. C. Eugair stated that the drive around was sufficient, per the state guidelines. J. Gagnon inquired if there was an issue with the roads. C. Eugair explained that all roads do not have signs and signs will allow enforcement. Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by A. Malay to post the following roads at 25 mph: Mechanic Street, Cross Street, Pleasant Street, Field Avenue, Randall Park, Orchard Hill, Brookside Drive, Woodland Drive, Terounzo Road, Windy Hill, Hendee Lane, Town Hill, Mountain View, Allen Mills Road, Blue Quarry Road, Old Hubbardton Road, Goat Farm Road, Ager Road, Martin Road, Syndicate Road and Humphrey Road. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Moderator for Town Meeting:

Chair Malay reported that she has spoken with Robb Spensley and he agreed to serve as the Moderator at Town Meeting and has read the manual and will be attending the preparation

class. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by T. Hooker to appoint Robb Spensley as Moderator for Town Meeting. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Otter Creek Communications Union District Alternate:

This will be advertised and included in the newsletter.

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District Alternate:

This will be advertised and included in the newsletter.

Personal Property Valuation Appraisal Continuation:

The contract to continue the Personal Property Valuation Appraisal was included in the packets for review and discussion . Motion by A. Malay and seconded by T. Hooker to approve the contract as presented. Motion passed 5 – 0.

VTRANS Grants Signatures Needed:

TA 65 and TA 66 were needed for the paving grant and the second segment of West Creek Road. The appropriate signatures were obtained and the documents will be submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

Village Farm Grant Support – Current and Future Grant Opportunities:

The Select Board discussed the appointment of A. Reed as the Municipal Authorized Official (MAO) for the grant process to continue for Village Farm. Motion by A. Malay and seconded by D. Mills to make the appointment of Ann Reed as MAO. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Administrative Assistant – Police Department:

Chief Warfle introduced Laura Moulton as the Administrative Assistant to the Police Department.

Animal Control Officer:

Chief Warfle stated that Dave Soulia has left the Police Department and this has left a vacancy as the Animal Control Officer. Rich Bowman has volunteered to fill this position. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by T. Hooker to appoint Mr. Bowman as the Animal Control officer effective immediately. Motion passed 5 – 0. A. Reed explained that Mr. Bowman will need to take classes and Chief Warfle stated that Mr. Bowman will need to receive a vaccine. J. Gagnon inquired if there would be any impact on the budget. A. Reed stated that this was currently included.

Chief Warfle, Ms. Moulton and Mr. Bowman exited at 6:50 PM.

Fence with Branches – neighboring property:

Chad Eugair reported that there is a pine tree at the adjoining property on Plains Road. The owner has inquired the removal of this tree due to his construction of a new fence and there have been some branches that recently came off the tree, narrowly missing the fence. There had been previous communication with John Haverstock regarding this tree and there was no clear determination as to the owner of the tree. Mr. Eugair showed a map that shows that the tree is the property of the town. T.

Hooker believes that this tree was planted when the municipal office was constructed. Mr. Eugair will communicate with the property owner to get the background and what his desires are from the town.

Common Level of Appraisal Percentage Necessitates a Real Property Reappraisal:

Lisa Wright was present to discuss the reappraisal percentages that will be coming out soon. As it appears, Pittsford is one of the many towns in Vermont that are below the CLA determining factor. Ms. Wright asked the Select Board for a letter of reconsideration from the Chair. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by T. Hooker to have the Chair write the requested letter. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Paying for Senior Care for Seniors request to be on resources link on website:

A. Reed reported that this is a request to have the information added to the town website at no cost to the town. The Select Board agreed to add this information to the website.

Assessment Errors and Omissions:

There was a request received from Lisa Wright for a name change that did not involve any value change. The general consensus was to accept as presented.

Appointed Officers:

Chair Malay stated that Brenda Fox-Howard previously held the titles of Delinquent Tax Collector and Fuel Coordinator and these positions are now vacant. Motion by A. Malay and seconded by T. Hooker to appoint Ann Reed to these positions. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Act 250 Environmental Court Decision:

M. Winslow read a presentation that stated clearly that the agreement is that the bridge is needing replacement, and ASAP, due to neglect on the part of the state. There was a bias decision that the state made over the citizens/town request on the intersection that took 26 months to resolve. The testimony was considered “hearsay” that there were little to no issues at this intersection. M. Winslow feels that this is a terrible decision and not what the people of Pittsford wanted.

Rick Conway stated that he will be meeting with his attorney on January 5, 2023 to seek a remedy through appeal of the December 27, 2022 decision. Mr. Conway stated that T. Hooker testified in the initial hearing that, if the intersection is changed, response time for emergency services will be greatly impacted, which is not included in the Findings of Fact. VTRANS has offered a lighting system for the intersection in their December 27, 2022 decision. The Rutland Regional Planning Commission has shown support of the 2015 plan that was initially presented. There were also in excess of 400 local signatures in support of the 2015 plan and the State has not acted in good faith. There was 1797 historical evidence found under the bridge and a historical marker has been approved for the area. The Conway’s have been denied Final Party Status, however, the town has Party Status. D. Mills stated that the intersection safety is a concern, however, the bridge should be replaced and address the road configuration in the future. T. Hooker stated that the proposed Route 7 & 3 intersection is not safe in the event of detours.

Mr. Conway offered to help gather information for the town to file an appeal. There was further discussion regarding the 2015 video and meetings. The topic was tabled to a future meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

D. Mills made the motion and seconded by T. Hooker 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 9:00 PM.

Motion by D. Mills and seconded by M. Winslow to send a letter to OMYA requesting an increase to \$50 an hour for traffic control due to rising costs. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by M. Winslow to forward properties to tax sale and to begin the process. Motion passed 5 – 0.

The Select Board adjourned at 9:03 PM.

The next Select Board meeting will be held on January 18, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Giard
Recording Secretary

Alicia Malay, Chair

David Mills, Vice Chair

Thomas Hooker, Selectman

W. Joseph Gagnon, Selectman

Mark Winslow, Selectman