

TOWN OF PITTSFORD SELECT BOARD MINUTES February 2, 2022

Members Present - W. Joseph Gagnon, David Mills, Alicia Malay, Tom Hooker, and Thomas "Hank" Pelkey. Others Present: Tom Shannon, Bill Hemple, Mike Warfle, Bill Pratico, Linda Drummond, Gail Gantick, Charles "Butch" Shaw, Beth Saradarian, Lisa Wright, Wayne Wilmans, J. Schell, Bob Foley, Stephanie Jerome, Baird Morgan, Donna Wilson, Lorrie Byrom, Town Manager John Haverstock, Kelly Giard - Recording Secretary.

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

J. Haverstock stated that there was a need to enter into Executive Session for Personnel (Assistant to the Town Manager; Town Manager search and the Emergency Management Director). Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by T. Pelkey to enter into Executive Session for Personnel. Motion passed 5 - 0.

J. Haverstock stated that there was a need to amend the agenda to add the discussion of the next Select Board meeting schedule; endorse the Historical Marker wording. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by J. Gagnon to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion passed 5 - 0.

Minutes:

The minutes of the January 19, 2022 regular meeting and the minutes of the January 24, 2022 and the January 26, 2022 Special Select Board meetings were signed, with no corrections.

Orders:

The orders in the amount of \$62,870.29 and Payroll in the amount of \$12,207.42 were signed, with the following discussion:

J. Gagnon inquired about the expense for a scoping study. J. Haverstock explained that there is a \$27,000 contract against which the consultant is billing.

Town Manager's Report:

J. Haverstock reported the following:

- The Sidewalk Scoping Study consultant will be hosting a second public hearing on February 2 in conjunction with the Select Board meeting. This special meeting has been posted around Town, through social media and on the Town website.
- Green Mountain Power has been contacted with regard to the intersection of Route 7 and Plains Road. There was an additional light installed on the north side of the road to help with the lighting concerns.
- Dollar General has received an extension of time to complete the "punch list" that has been issued by the State.
- The Tax Sale was canceled due to all delinquencies being resolved.

- Advertising for the Assessor Clerk has begun. The job description was compiled by the Town Manager and the Assessor.
- Barbara Noyes-Pulling from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission is researching the solar statistics for Pittsford and has issued a report.
- Residents are reminded that there is assistance available for those who have experienced financial hardship due to Covid 19. Residents are encouraged to contact VTHAP@VHFA.org or 833-221-4208 to apply.
- Emergency Management Director Jason Davis has stated that, due to his busy schedule, he has decided to step down from this position. Discussion of this topic of possible successors was deferred to Executive Session.
- Daniels Construction will be repairing the covered bridge on Depot Hill Road from February 23 - 25.
- The Town Manager will be in and out of the office during next week.

Select Board Member Remarks:

None presented at this time.

Public Comment:

None presented at this time.

Old Business:

Update on VLCT Retention and Efforts on Recruitment/Hiring of Town Manager:

This topic was deferred to Executive Session.

Update on Purchase of Police Cruiser:

Police Chief Warfle was present to explain that there will be no Durangos manufactured this year. A Dodge 1550 Crew Cab 4 X 4 is the proposed replacement vehicle. There was discussion concerning the purchase.

A motion was made by T. Hooker and seconded by D. Mills to approve the change in the purchase of the police cruiser from a Durango to a Dodge 1550 Crew Cab 4 X 4, with no change in the limit of the expense. Motion passed 5 - 0.

Town Legislature Re-Districting Update:

Reps. Jerome and Shaw were present to explain that the Government Operations Committee has been working with the local Boards of Civil Authority and discussing proposed redistricting plans. Final maps will be presented at the end of February. There was discussion of the rationales for district compositions.

Reps. Jerome and Shaw exited at 7:15 PM

New Business

Discuss Town Meeting Preparations:

J. Haverstock stated that there will be a Town Report dedication ceremony on February 16 at 9:00 AM, which will be done both via Zoom and in-person; there will be a virtual budget discussion on February 28, 2022, beginning at 6:30 PM with voting to be held via Australian Ballot at the Fire Station on March 1, 2022 beginning at 7:00 AM. Chairman Malay and Selectman Gagnon will be making budget presentations to the general public at the virtual meeting.

Discuss Personal Property Reassessment Plans:

Lisa Wright was present to discuss personal property re-assessment plans. Ms. Wright stated that she was not able to obtain any competing bids and the one bid that was received from Gail Gantick was presented to the Select Board members for review. There was discussion concerning the benefits to the Town from this exercise. Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by T. Pelkey to accept the quote as presented. J. Haverstock stated that there is approximately \$155,000 available in the Reappraisal Fund for this project. Motion passed 5 - 0.

Introduction to New OMYA Verpol Plant Manager:

OMYA Plant Manager Wayne Wilmans was present to introduce the new plant manager, John Schell. Mr. Wilmans gave an update on the happenings at the facility since his last visit, which was before the Covid 19 pandemic. Mr. Schell was previously employed at the Florence facility and is familiar with the community.

Mr. Wilmans and Mr. Schell exited at 7:22 PM.

Consider Request to Support Coin Drop by Rutland County Humane Society:

Beth Saradarian, representing the Rutland County Humane Society, was present to request that a Coin Drop be held on October 8, 2022 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by T. Hooker to approve the request, subject to State approval. Motion passed 5 - 0.

Consider Seasonal Posting of Town Highways:

J. Haverstock stated that this is an annual exercise to avoid damage to Town roads from heavy loads. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by T. Hooker to accept the posting as presented. Motion passed 5 - 0.

Discuss Potential Uses of Town's ARPA Funds:

J. Haverstock explained that there are 3 years to commit the funds and 2 years to spend the funds. He has compiled a non-exhaustive list of potential capital investments for the Board to consider. Lorrie Byrom was present to discuss the possibility of including funding for the Pittsford Village Farm as it is an asset to the Town and could include a child care center.

Discuss State Emergency Dispatch Operations and Alternatives:

Fire Chief Bill Hemple stated that he has been part of a group that has been attending meetings with the State's Commissioner of Public Safety with regard to the State's plans to move away from its current E-911 Dispatch Centers. Rep. Shaw stated that the Legislature has passed a budget over the next 3 years to help regions develop new systems. Chief Hemple explained that there will be a County Chief's meeting at which this will be discussed and a Committee will be formed to proceed with planning. Killington Fire Department has offered their location as a possible regional dispatch center, however, this may not be an acceptable place due to it being out of the way for most towns. The County Chiefs would like the Select Boards involved in the discussion. There was further discussion and there will be more information presented as it becomes available.

Consider Selection of Date for Pittsford Day:

J. Haverstock stated that the Pittsford Day Celebration was held on Labor Day weekend last year and the general feedback was positive. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by T. Hooker to hold Pittsford Day on Saturday, September 3, 2022. Motion passed 5 - 0.

Discussion of Upcoming Select Board Meeting Schedule:

Chair Malay suggested that the School Board be contacted to see if there would be interest in moving their meeting days so that there is not an overlap of the meetings. A. Malay will reach out and advise at a future meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by T. Pelkey to go into Executive Session for Personnel, where premature knowledge would 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 Personnel at 7:58 PM. Town Manager Haverstock and Linda Drummond were invited to remain for Executive Session.

L. Drummond exited Executive Session at 8:37 PM.

The Select Board exited Executive Session at 8:38 PM.

Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by D. Mills to pay L. Drummond a retention bonus for staying on until June 2022, during transitions of New Town Manager and Assistant to the Town Manager successors. Motion passed 5 - 0.

The Select Board adjourned at 8:38 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Select Board will be held on February 16, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Giard
Recording Secretary

Alicia Malay, Chair

David Mills, Vice Chair

Thomas Hooker, Selectman

W. Joseph Gagnon, Selectman

Thomas "Hank" Pelkey, Selectman