

Town of Pittsford SELECT BOARD – March 16, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: W. Joseph Gagnon, David Mills, Thomas Hooker, Alicia Malay. ABSENT: Thomas “Hank” Pelkey. OTHERS PRESENT: John Binhammer, Donna Wilson, Lorrie Byrom, Chief Mike Warfle, Barbara Noyes-Pulling, Helen McKinlay, John Haverstock – Town Manager, Kelly Giard – Recording Secretary.

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

J. Haverstock stated that there was a need for Executive Session for Personnel (Town Manager), Liquor Board (discussion of Wesco permit request). Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by D. Mills to enter into Executive Session. Motion passed 4 – 0.

J. Haverstock stated that there was a need to amend the agenda to include update on new cruiser purchase (old business); Highway Right of Way Access Permit request (new business); School District Budget (new business); Fire Department coin drop (new business); Liquor Board (Sugarwood Partnership dba Kamuda’s Country Market). Motion by D. Mills and seconded by J. Gagnon to approve the agenda, as amended. Motion passed 4 – 0.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the February 28, 2022 special meeting and the March 2, 2022 regular meeting were signed, with no corrections.

ORDERS:

The orders in the amount of \$27,551.89 and payroll in the amount of \$13,559.05 were signed, with the following discussion:

J. Gagnon inquired the expense for the grader’s radiator. J. Haverstock read the invoice that outlined in detail the work that was performed. J. Gagnon also inquired about the expense for a door. J. Haverstock explained that this was for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Chemical Room. J. Gagnon inquired about the expense for the Depot Hill Road Bridge. J. Haverstock explained that the work was completed in 1 day as opposed to the quoted 3 days, so the bill was lower than the quote.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT:

J. Haverstock reported on the following:

- The Assessor Clerk position was posted for 1 month with only 1 applicant. It was decided to continue the search for more candidates.
- The Fire Department and the Historical Society will be hosting a Memorial Day parade and reception.
- The First Response has received bids for the replacement of the siding and windows at the Arch Street building. These bids will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- The Town Manager will be out of the office from March 24, 2022 – March 31, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None presented at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Transition for New Town Manager:

J. Haverstock reported that the new Town Manager will begin work on April 18, 2022 with John Haverstock assisting with her transition through April 29, 2022.

Discuss Proposed Purchase of Arm Mower:

J. Haverstock stated that West Rutland is interested in exploring a shared purchase. There will be more information at a future meeting.

Remarks on The Nature Conservancy Efforts to Acquire and Conserve a Pittsford Parcel:

Mr. Binhammer was present representing The Nature Conservancy. J. Haverstock gave a bit of history regarding this proposal. D. Mills explained that he has heard opposition that others must follow the rules of Current Use and residents do not feel that it is fair that The Nature Conservancy could avoid some of these rules. There was discussion that a Non-profit organization has the right to enroll land in this program. J. Gagnon inquired about the timber harvests envisioned for the property. Mr. Binhammer stated that there would be log trucks leaving the property based on an ecological inventory. D. Mills stated that some residents have concerns about hunting access. J. Gagnon stated that the property is being purchased with taxpayer dollars and should be handled like other property owners. Motion by J. Gagnon and seconded by D. Mills to not approve the request unless Current Use regulations are followed as would be required of other Town residents. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Mr. Binhammer exited at 7:59 PM.

Discussion of Mask Wearing on Town Property:

J. Haverstock stated that the Town Select Board adopted the mask wearing recommendation in August, 2021, based on CDC recommendations. Now the CDC is easing the masking requirements. The Select Board agreed that the masking recommendation signs can be removed from Town-owned buildings.

Update on New Police Cruiser Purchase:

Chief Warfle explained that the original purchase request was for a Dodge Durango, which was believed to not being available, so the purchase changed to another pick-up truck. Currently, a pick-up truck is not available. However, a Police Package Dodge Durango was located and the Chief is recommending the purchase of this vehicle. Motion by A. Malay and seconded by D. Mills to purchase the Dodge Durango with no increase in the originally-agreed price. Motion passed 4 – 0. Chief Warfle is contacting vendors to prepare for the outfitting of the vehicle.

NEW BUSINESS

Remarks from Pittsford Village Farm on Grant Application:

Lorrie Byrom was present to update the Select Board on the Pittsford Village Farm grant application. Ms. Byrom stated that the Pittsford Village Farm had received a \$50,000 grant from Lets Grow Kids for the child center, in addition to a \$400,000 Sanders Grant. Donna Wilson stated that PVF had applied for a Planning Grant but there was not funding available at that time as there was no housing component included. However, the PVF plan now has a housing component, which is making the current application more competitive. The Pittsford Village Farm is seeking support from the Town for the grant application. J. Haverstock explained that the Town is the official applicant for the funding. Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by D. Mills to support the PVF grant application. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Ms. Byrom exited at 6:52 PM.

Consider Cooperating with State on Stormwater Management Study:

J. Haverstock a that 8 municipalities were contacted for this project, with 3 located locally. The municipalities work with State consultants and are on a prioritized list of projects. Pittsford is part of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission for Lake Champlain Clean-Up. Ms. Noyes-Pulling stated that there is no cost to the Town, but the Town should submit a letter of commitment. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by A. Malay to sign the letter of commitment. Motion passed 4 – 0. Ms. Noyes-Pulling stated that she would contact the Addison County Planning Commission to encourage them to visit the Pittsford Select Board.

Ms. Noyes-Pulling exited at 7:04 PM.

Consider Filling Vacancy on Recreation Committee:

J. Haverstock stated that Robin Leight has resigned and left an opening on the Recreation Committee. The Recreation Committee recommends Linda Drummond to fill this position. Motion by D. Mills and seconded A. Malay to appoint Ms. Drummond to fill this position. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Request for Highway Right of Way Access:

J. Haverstock reported that Christopher Bistoni has requested a Right of Way Access Permit at his property on Furnace Road. Chad Eugair has inspected the property and approved with the stipulations that the driveway be sloped away from the road, a 15” culvert be installed and trees be removed for visibility. Motion by J. Gagnon and seconded by T. Hooker to approve the request with the stipulations presented by Chad Eugair. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Consider Request from Fire Department for Coin Drop:

T. Hooker stated that the Fire Department would like to have a Coin Drop on May 28, 2022 from 8:00 – 3:00 in the area of Lothrop School. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by J. Gagnon to approve the request. Motion passed 4 – 0.

OVUU School District Budget:

The Town Clerk has received a letter that was sent to all member towns to see if there was agreement for mail ballot process and dates to avoid when setting an Informational Hearing. H. McKinlay reviewed the expenses incurred for a mail in ballot election. T. Hooker expressed that the School District should be responsible for any expenses incurred. D. Mills inquired which option was cheaper for the Town. H. McKinlay stated that having open polls was the cheaper option. There was discussion on the options. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by T. Hooker to hold the voting by Australian ballot, at no cost to the Town. Motion passed 4 – 0.

H. McKinlay exited at 7:20 PM.

The Select Board recessed and convened as the Liquor Board at 8:07 PM.

The Select Board reconvened at 8:09 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

T. Hooker made the motion and seconded by D. Mills 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 8:29 PM. Town Manager Haverstock was invited to remain for Executive Session.

The Select Board exited Executive Session at 8:38 PM, with no action taken.

The Select Board adjourned at 8:38 PM.

The next Select Board meeting will be held on April 6, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Giard
Recording Secretary

Alicia Malay, Chair

David Mills, Vice Chair

Thomas Hooker, Selectman

ABSENT

Thomas "Hank" Pelkey, Selectman

W. Joseph Gagnon, Selectman