

Town of Pittsford SELECT BOARD MEETING – July 19, 2023 – DRAFT

MEMBERS PRESENT: W. Joseph Gagnon, Alicia Malay, David Mills, Mark Winslow and Thomas Hooker. OTHERS PRESENT: Charles “Butch” Shaw, Mary Shaw, Liz Soulia, Shelly Williams, Mary Marzec-Gerrior, Larry Marzec-Gerrior, 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 to amend the agenda to add Executive Session for 2 Personnel concerns; add the discussion of ARPA funding; add the Solar Siting Language. Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by D. Mills to accept the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

MINUTES:

The July 5, 2023 regular meeting minutes were approved and signed with clarification that the town has until December 31, 2024 to obligate the spending of the ARPA funds and December 31, 2026 to actually expend the funds.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Town Manager Atherton reported the following:

- The Highway Department, Water & Sewer Department, Fire Department, Police Department and other members of the community worked under the direction of Emergency Management Director Tim Cornell following the recent heavy rains and flooding. The team met to discuss the event and all felt that the town was very lucky with minimal damage. The Depot Hill Bridge decking warped from the flooding and a VLCT adjuster will visit the area in the near future.
- The sidewalk paving is complete.
- The speed signs have been ordered. The 1111 permit was previously approved. More information will be required with a traffic study before the moving of the 25 mph zone. The cost of the signs was \$6,520 and they are solar powered.
- G. Stone Commercial delivered the new loader and are able to service all equipment that is not in warranty.
- There is possibly grant funding available for the installation of 2 crosswalk beacon lights on the corner by Kamuda’s Market. These currently cost roughly \$3,300 each. There will also be an addition of more crosswalk signs and possibly lights in town.
- The staff has begun work on the Fiscal Year 2023 audit.
- Letters are being sent to delinquent taxpayers. The total delinquent taxes total \$95,000 with \$55,000 from Fiscal Year 2022.

SELECTBOARD MEMBER REMARKS:

None presented at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Marzec-Gerrior inquired the possibility of installing a crosswalk in the area of the 19th Hole to the western side of Route 7. Town Manager Atherton stated that he will look into this and explained the process.

Rep. Shaw gave an update on the Legislative actions in Montpelier. The flooding has been a big topic. Rep. Shaw recommended that Pittsford should be drawing attention to the bridges in town because if either the Depot Bridge or worse, the Kendall Hill Bridge were to go out, that would have a huge impact on commerce in Pittsford. Rep. Shaw explained that towns surrounding Pittsford have enacted a 1% option tax, and if Pittsford chose to do this, the funds raised could be put into a bridge repair fund. Rep. Shaw explained the process, which would involve a charter change before the Legislature. Town Manager Atherton is familiar with this process and will look into the possibility of the option tax.

OLD BUSINESS

Recreation and Economic Development Hiring Update:

Town Manager Atherton reported that there have been 4 interviews with a decision coming in the next week. Ms. Popp will remain on the Recreation Committee.

ARPA Discussion:

Chair Malay inquired if there was an updated sewer project estimate. Town Manager Atherton reported that Shawn Hendee received the current estimate of \$525,000 in October 2022 and following discussion, it was decided to round up to \$600,000 with \$90,000 previously spent for the sidewalk paving; \$6500 for the speed signs, etc. Town Manager Atherton and Ann Reed will develop a spreadsheet to track the current state of the funds to be reviewed at a future meeting.

Shelly Williams from the Maclure Library was present to discuss the library request for ARPA funding. Ms. Williams stated that the library may not need as much funding as previously anticipated due to the availability of grant funding for some of the projects. There was also discussion regarding the request from the Historical Society. Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by A. Malay to allocate \$25,000 to the Historical Society for building maintenance. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0. Motion by A. Malay and seconded by T. Hooker to allocate \$25,000 to the library for building maintenance. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

Planning Commission Solar Siting Language:

There was discussion regarding the Solar Siting Language for the Town Plan. The Brandon segment was in the packets for review. There was discussion on the information that should be included in the Town Plan updates. Chair Malay recommended a committee be formed to include members of the Select Board to work on the verbiage to be included in the Town Plan. Selectman Winslow and Chair Malay have volunteered to serve on the committee. Town

Manager Atherton will also contact Jeremy at the Rutland Regional Planning Committee for his assistance in this exercise.

NEW BUSINESS

Marzec-Gerrior Request for PUC Letter:

Town Manager Atherton stated that the Town sent an initial letter to the PUC to intervene with regard to the Outback Acres Solar Project slated for the Furnace Road. D. Mills stated that there is a 10% capacity surplus on the grid currently from solar production and this number does not include the Rutland Regional Planning Commission overages. Town Manager Atherton explained that the proposed development upgrade on the grid would be paid for by the solar development company. Ms. Marzec-Gerrior stated that the people need to have a say as to what is going on and asked the Select Board to give testimony to include the intent of the updating of the Town Plan. Ms. Marzec-Gerrior stated that “for profit” organizations are different than personal solar installation and that the larger projects are making it difficult for the personal projects. Ms. Marzec-Gerrior read her proposed letter and thoughts. The Select Board agreed to send a letter as well. M. Winslow stated that the letter should address the grid capacity. Town Manager Atherton stated that the letter should be based on factual evidence and that the Select Board is looking to better the interest of the Town and that the projects do not benefit the town monetarily. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by T. Hooker to write a letter and review at the next Select Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

Green Mountain Power Substation Capacity:

This topic was discussed in the Marzec-Gerrior Request for PUC Letter section.

Set FY 2024 Tax Rate:

The Select Board was presented with the following tax rate proposal:

<u>Homestead</u>		<u>Non-Homestead</u>	
General Fund	\$0.3885	General Fund	\$0.3885
Highway Fund	\$0.2761	Highway Fund	\$0.2761
Village	\$0.0329	Village	\$0.0329
Local Agreement	\$0.0023	Local Agreement	\$0.0023
Education	\$1.4194	Education	\$1.6372

Motion by D. Mills and seconded by T. Hooker to approve the FY 2024 tax rate as presented. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

Act on Orders (FY '23 \$87,549.74; FY '24 \$56,346.25; Payroll \$18,454.86):

J. Gagnon inquired the expense for PD stand lights. Town Manager Atherton stated that these are portable lights that are replacements.

The orders were signed with no further discussion.

The Select Board recessed at 8:01 PM to convene as the Water & Sewer Commission.
The Select Board reconvened at 8:14 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

T. Hooker made the motion and seconded by D. Mills to go into Executive Session to discuss the appointment, employment, or evaluation of a public officer or employee, provided that a public body must make the final hiring or appointment decision, and explain its reasons for the decision, in open meeting. 1 VSA §313(a)(3) where premature knowledge could be damaging to the Town and may be jeopardized by public disclosure.

In accordance with 1 VSA§ 313 (a), 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, to include the Town Manager at 8:20 PM.

Motion by J. Gagnon and seconded by T. Hooker to exit Executive Session at 9:02 PM with no action taken. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by D. Mills to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

The Select Board adjourned at 9:03 PM.

The next Select Board meeting will be held on August 2, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Giard
Recording Secretary

Alicia Malay, Chair

David Mills, Vice Chair

Thomas Hooker, Selectman

W. Joseph Gagnon, Selectman

Mark Winslow, Selectman