

Town of Pittsford SELECT BOARD MEETING – August 2, 2023 – DRAFT

MEMBERS PRESENT: W. Joseph Gagnon, Alicia Malay, David Mills, Mark Winslow and Thomas Hooker. OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Shannon, Bill Hemple, David Rosato, Joe Rapetur, 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.

M. Winslow stated that there needs to be an amendment to add the discussion of citizen and attorney concerns; Chair Malay stated that there was also a need to add the discussion of grader tires. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by J. Gagnon to accept the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

MINUTES:

The July 19, 2023 regular meeting minutes were signed with no corrections.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Town Manager Atherton reported the following:

- The Depot bridge has been reopened. The insurance adjuster suggested that a covered bridge specialist inspect the bridge. An engineer from Wright Construction visited the bridge and did notice some sheared bolts where the decking is warped and a steel band that secures the decking to the steel beams has separated. These are not causing any structural concerns.
- The financials are continuing to be submitted to the auditing firm (RHR). Ann is the lead and point of contact.
- Property tax bills were printed and sent last week with some of the revenue already being received.
- The new Recreation Director (Liz Avarado) has been hired and will begin working on August 14, 2023. Jen Popp will be working half days for the month of August to assist with the transition.
- The Highway Department has been mowing roadsides and grading roads. There has been no major damage or washouts from the recent weather events.
- Will be meeting with Lynette Claudon and the Department of Conservation to discuss the funding and grant possibilities for the water and sewer replacement during the Route 7 segments 2 and 3. There will be an update at the next meeting.
- Documents have been submitted for an energy audit for the Municipal Building.

SELECTBOARD MEMBER REMARKS:

None presented at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Rapetur was present to inquire the obtaining of a private road sign. Town Manager Atherton will check the ordinance and report back. Mr. Rapetur also inquired the status of the website as he was not able to find any listings of meeting times. Also, Mr. Rapetur inquired why Pittsford First Response does not transport patients. There was discussion that there are

not enough to staff the department to allow for transports, which is also affecting other towns and other volunteer organizations.

David Rosato expressed concern with the condition of the Kendall Hill Bridge. Chair Malay stated that there was money in the budget for the repairs. Town Manager Atherton stated that Pike would be milling the sides when they are in town for paving projects. Mr. Rosato inquired the status of a box culvert on Whipple Hollow Road. D. Mills explained that this was for the area of Hogback Quarry, however, was extremely costly and will not be done and Town Manager Atherton stated that there is a possibility of cross culverts and paving in the future. Mr. Rosato spoke on behalf of his brother who has noticed that the raising of the pavement on the road that the water runs to his house. This will be reviewed and possibly sloped differently. Mr. Rosato continued by inquiring the engineering of Route 7 through the village and the placement of the manholes to see if they will be moved out of the wheel tread.

OLD BUSINESS

Recreation and Economic Development Hiring Update:

This was presented with the Town Manager Report.

Marzec-Gerrior Request for PUC Letter:

A draft letter was included in the packets to be submitted to the PUC with regard to solar projects. M. Winslow stated that he was under the impression that the letter was only going to address the overloading of the grid. There was discussion with regard to the proposed projects at Adams Road and Furnace Road being the projects that put the grid over capacity. Ms. Marzec-Gerrior stated that she was under the impression that the grid was over capacity before the proposed projects. Town Manager Atherton stated that both projects were included in the Green Mountain Power information that was received. Mr. Marzec-Gerrior stated that he was under the impression that the characteristics that were discussed were a unanimous concern. Ms. Marzec-Gerrior stated that the letter should include that there is no financial benefit to the town through school taxes and feels that this information should be included in the letter, that can be a place to address a lot of concerns. Ms. Marzec-Gerrior stated that she feels that the letter should include that the developer was asked for economic information and did not produce the information. Motion by M. Winslow and seconded by J. Gagnon to accept the letter as written. Chair Malay stated that there should be an inclusion of the tax ramification on the town. D. Mills agrees that the letter should include the statement that the developer was asked for tax ramifications and did not submit the information that was requested. M. Winslow withdrew his motion. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by T. Hooker to accept the letter with the addition of the tax ramification concerns. Motion passed 4 – 1. Mr. and Ms. Marzec-Gerrior exited at 7:00 PM.

Solar Siting Language:

This was tabled as Chair Malay and Selectman Winslow will be meeting in the next day to discuss this topic and present a proposal at a future meeting.

Personnel Policy Update:

Motion by M. Winslow and seconded by D. Mills to adopt the Personnel Policy as presented, with a correction of 1 typo. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Department Truck Engine Estimate:

Chief Hemple was present to discuss the 2004 rescue truck for the fire department that needs an engine replacement. Central Vermont Truck Repair was consulted for this project and submitted a quote. G. Stone Motors was also contacted for a quote and there was no reply received. Chief Hemple explained that this was for a Jasper engine with a 2-year warranty. There are parts that are still working that can come off the old engine on to the new one. There are approximately 20,000 miles on the vehicle, however, there are approximately 98,000 hours logged on the vehicle as the vehicle runs continually at emergency scenes. The frame of the vehicle is still solid and there is no rust. Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by M. Winslow to approve the quote to Central Vermont Truck Repair in the amount of \$19,090.34. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

Chief Hemple and Tom Shannon exited at 7:08 PM.

Local Option Tax:

Town Manager Atherton stated that if this was adopted, the funds could help with water and sewer projects as the funding comes back to Pittsford. There would need to be attorney involvement due to the legalities of enacting this tax. D. Mills stated that he is not in favor of this due to the fact that he resides in Pittsford, however, his address is Brandon. Town Manager Atherton explained that this tax is based on ZIP code. Town Manager Atherton further explained that if a bond was approved for any project, that property taxes would need to increase to cover the expense and the Local Option Tax could help alleviate the expenses. There was discussion to include a questionnaire in the next newsletter to get the opinion of the residents.

Discussion of Tire Purchase for the Grader:

This topic was tabled as there was only 1 vendor that quoted on the product.

Discussion of Citizen/Attorney Concerns:

Town Manager Atherton stated that there have been complaints received that title search information is not being sent out in a timely manner. Atty. Kupferer addressed this concern with the Clerk's Office prior to discussing with the Town Manager. Atty. Kupferer stated that documents are not complete dating back to November 2022. There was discussion that the Clerk was on vacation for 10 days, the Clerk's Office is closed on Fridays (began July 1, 2023) to assist with getting caught up. Town Manager Atherton stated that he has been assisting with getting caught up this week and he believes that they are caught up to May 2023 at this point. Atty. Kupferer emailed that Title Insurance Companies have relayed to folks that The Town of Pittsford is behind. There was discussion concerning this and Atty. Kupferer stated that he will stay on top of the situation. M. Winslow stated that the Select Board should give it 2 weeks to see how things are progressing and revisit at the next meeting. Town Manager Atherton stated that he understands that the Town Clerk's Office does not fall under the Town Manager. D. Mills stated that he would stop and speak with the Clerk to see if there is something that can be done by the Select Board to help resolve the concerns.

Act on Orders (FY '23 \$23,425.81; FY '24 \$219,181.72; Payroll \$19,036.26):

M. Winslow discussed the following concerns on the orders:

- Transfer of funds to TD Bank. This was for payroll tax transactions.
- Thunder Towing. This was for repairs to the Police cruiser.
- Whitts. This was for brakes on the Water Department truck.

- Rental paid to Reed's. Town Manager stated that this was for a 3 week equipment rental.

D. Mills inquired G & K expense. Town Manager Atherton stated that this was for the personal property reappraisal.

The orders were signed with no further discussion.

The Select Board recessed at 7:51 PM to convene as the Water & Sewer Commission.

The Select Board reconvened at 7:54 PM and heard public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None presented at this time.

The Select Board adjourned at 8:00 PM.

The next Select Board meeting will be held on August 16, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Giard
Recording Secretary

Alicia Malay, Chair

David Mills, Vice Chair

Thomas Hooker, Selectman

W. Joseph Gagnon, Selectman

Mark Winslow, Selectman