

Town of Pittsford SELECT BOARD MEETING – August 16, 2023 – DRAFT

MEMBERS PRESENT: W. Joseph Gagnon, Alicia Malay, David Mills, and Mark Winslow. ABSENT: Thomas Hooker. OTHERS PRESENT: Chad Eugair, Ann Reed, Isaac Wagner, Helen McKinlay, Pat Johnson, Baird Morgan, 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 needs to be an amendment to add Executive Session for Personnel. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by J. Gagnon to accept the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

MINUTES:

The August 2, 2023 regular meeting minutes were signed with no corrections.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Town Manager Atherton reported the following:

- A copy of the private road signs policy is in the packets for review of a recent inquiry from a local resident.
- The Town website has been researched and there was a recent inquiry regarding the inclusion of the Select Board agenda on the website. This was found on the website and a copy of the notice was highlighted and in the packets for review.
- VTRANS will be upgrading the signage on the Whipple Hollow Road at no cost to the town. There was a finance and maintenance agreement signed in 2018 for this project.
- The Town Manager attended the Path to Clean and Equitable Electricity Sector in New England, Local Government & Regional Planning Agencies Initial Meeting on August 7, which the amount of the large-scale solar projects are being built and the power is being sold to out of state companies and that the local needs are not being met.
- Research has been done to explore the Local Options Tax. The first quarter of 2023 showed \$2,443,198 in sales, which would have netted \$20,000 to the town, plus the Rooms and Meals portion.
- The Highway Department has been doing double the anticipated amount of crack sealing. The additional work was performed on Depot Hill Road, Waest Creek Road, Fire Hill Road, and Elm Street. Depot Hill Road will be receiving chip sealing application from the intersection of Route 7 to the rail crossing.
- The Hill Top Tavern has re-opened under new ownership and are open Wednesday through Sunday.
- The library has asked to have a Discover Books bin at the Transfer Station.

SELECTBOARD MEMBER REMARKS:

M. Winslow stated that he has received 3 comments regarding the line striping on Furnace Road. Town Manager Atherton stated that the work was completed and it immediately rained causing the issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None presented at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Solar Siting Language:

Selectman Mills recluded from this discussion.

Chair Malay met with Selectman Winslow to compose the following:

1. The public benefit must be documented for municipal support of new solar arrays within or which may otherwise affect Pittsford.
2. Ground mounted solar arrays in excess of 150 KW (1A) must demonstrate a local public need that outweighs adverse impacts to local residents.
3. Ground mounted solar arrays in excess of 500 KW (1A) must be in an industrial zoned area.
4. Any ground mounted solar array over 150 KW (1A) must have vegetation or sight blocking installed before installation.
5. Any ground mounted solar array over 150 KW (1A) must have decommissioning monies on deposit with town before construction.
6. There must be proven capacity on substations and grid for any ground mounted solar array over 150 KW (1A).
7. Solar Facility development over 150 KW (1A) must benefit the Town of Pittsford and State residents, and property owners in direct proportion to the impacts of the proposed development.
8. Solar projects greater than 150 KW (1A) are subject to conditional approval by both the planning commission and the select board.

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission is willing to work with the town to implement this into the Town Plan. M. Winslow stated that the Planning Commission reviewed this topic at the Town Plan drafting. The energy plans and solar siting will be reviewed and sent to the Planning Commission. This topic was tabled.

Grader Tire Discussion:

Chad Eugair was present to discuss the purchase of grader tires. Currently, the grader has bias ply tires, which were purchased in May 2021 and they don't last as long as the radial tires. The radial tires are a better ride with less bouncing, therefore, better results on the road. Following discussion, a motion was made by D. Mills and seconded by M. Winslow to purchase 4 BKT tires

for the rear of the grader with the next time tires are needed to consider purchasing radial tires. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

NEW BUSINESS

Pittsford Village Farm Grant:

Isaac Wagner, representing the Pittsford Village Farm, was present to request the Town to sponsor the block grant as done in the past. Town Manager Atherton inquired if this would be a “pass through” as in the past. Mr. Wagner stated that this was the same as the past grant. Mr. Wagner commended Ann Reed for the smooth running of the grant administration with the current grant. Mr. Wagner stated that this grant would be for \$450,000. Pat Johnson stated that this grant would require additional audit expenses. Mr. Wagner stated that this expense could be included in the grant, which is expensed in 2024 – 2025. Chair Malay inquired if the block grants are awarded yearly. Mr. Wagner stated that they can apply for other grants, however, this grant deadline in September 12 and they can’t submit the Pittsford Village Farm and Economic Development grants on the same date. There will be a resolution needed from the Select Board, as well as public hearing requirements. D. Mills stated that he does not have an issue with the project, however, he is not in favor of the Pittsford Village Farm being tax exempt. J. Gagnon stated that the taxpayers shouldn’t have to carry the costs of the grant administration. M. Winslow inquired the amount of time that the grant administration takes the town employees. Ann Reed stated that there is between 5 – 7 hours involved.

Delegate for Voting at VLCT Town Fair:

Motion by M. Winslow and seconded by Chair Malay to nominate Town Manager Atherton as the Voting Delegate for Pittsford at the VLCT Town Fair. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0 and Chair Malay stated that she would like to attend this event.

Act on Orders \$200,167.28; Payroll \$15,445.94:

D. Mills inquired the expense for the mower deck. Town Manager Atherton explained that this was a mower deck for the Recreation Area and the item was picked up by the Highway Department when they were in the area of the seller. This item was found on Facebook Marketplace.

J. Gagnon inquired the expense to Otter Creek Engineering. Ann Reed explained that 1 was for the engineering of the wastewater project on Plains Road; 1 was for the Lead Service, which Town Manager Atherton stated was 72% complete. Ann Reed stated that she sent letters to Plains Road residents to advise them of the upcoming project.

D. Mills inquired the expense to Visual Edge. Pat Johnson explained that this was for copier overage billing and lease expenses.

The orders were signed with no further discussion.

The Select Board recessed at 7:17 PM to convene as the Water & Sewer Commission.

The Select Board reconvened at 7:47 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by D. Mills and seconded by M. Winslow to enter into Executive Session at 7:53 PM for the appointment, employment or evaluation of a public officer, to include the Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, Bookkeeper, Assistant to the Town Manager, and Town Manager, per 1VSA 313 (a)(3).

Motion by D. Mills and seconded by M. Winslow to exit Executive Session with no action taken.

Motion by D. Mills and seconded by J Gagnon to adjourn at 9:26 PM.

The next Select Board meeting will be held on September 6, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Giard
Recording Secretary

Alicia Malay, Chair

David Mills, Vice Chair

ABSENT

Thomas Hooker, Selectman

W. Joseph Gagnon, Selectman

Mark Winslow, Selectman