

Town of Pittsford SELECT BOARD MEETING – September 6, 2023 - Draft

MEMBERS PRESENT: W. Joseph Gagnon, David Mills, Thomas Hooker and Mark Winslow.

ABSENT: Alicia Malay OTHERS PRESENT: Terry White, Steven Jupiter, Chief J. Michael Warfle, Stephane Goulet, and David Atherton - Town Manager

The Select Board was called to order at 6:30 PM by Vice-Chair Mills.

Mark Winslow stated that there needs to be an amendment to add Executive Session for Personnel. D. Mills also stated there needed to be an adjustment to the orders. The original orders were \$87,454.60 and there needed to be an addition of \$59,433.01 for an additional warrant. Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by M. Winslow to accept the agenda as amended. Motion passed 4 – 0.

MINUTES:

The August 16, 2023 regular meeting minutes were signed with a correction by M. Winslow. He stated the Town Planning Commission went over the solar guidance put out by the State and Rutland Committee. He wanted to add that they reviewed the solar siting and energy plan siting from the State and Rutland Regional Planning Commission.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Town Manager Atherton reported the following:

- Depot Hill chip sealing has been completed
- The Highway Department is working on a Grants In Aid project to add ditching to portions of Fire Hill Road.
- The Recreation Department has purchased MyRec to allow for 24/7 online registration
- Otter Creek Engineering has completed 75% of the lead service line inventory. There was a letter sent out to the remaining households to make appointments for the inspections. Otter Creek Engineering is also finishing up the sewer inspections for Plains Road, with less than 10 properties remaining to inspect.
- The town credit cards have been received and handed out with the exception of a couple of department heads. All department heads have signed a copy of the credit card policy before being issued their card.
- Water shut-offs have been sent off.
- We are working on the next steps for the tax sale process.
- FEMA is looking for multi-family properties for those displaced by the flooding. Interested property owners should contact FEMA for more information.
- The Rec department has a nice write-up in the Rutland Herald about Liz being hired.
- Pittsford Day was kind of a success. We have already had a meeting to discuss next year. There are still plenty of Sunshine Village shirts still available for purchase.
- Soccer season starts this week with a cleat swap happening 9/9/23 between 8 and 10am in the pavilion, a senior lunch will be happening 9/21/23 at Pittsford Congregational

Church, there is a disc golf tournament happening 10/14/23, as well as Sarah's Stories chili cook-off, beer garden, and cornhole tournament the same day at the rec starting at 11am 10/14/23.

- Attended a meeting in Rutland to kick off the tri-town trail planning with Stephanie from Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Mary Ann Goulet, and Judy Frasier. The engineering firm to be hired for the project is the next step in the process.
- On 9/12/23 I will be attending a traffic hearing in Barre/Montpelier for our proposed 25MPH speed zone. I have been preparing a presentation on this with Butch Shaw and Ethan from Rutland Regional Planning Commission.
- Rich Bowman will be starting at the Police Academy for a two week part-time training for becoming a police officer.
- VTrans did roadside mowing across from Arch Street today.

T. Hooker made the comment that this should be grass and not weeds in this area. He moved that the Town take care of this area. Mark Winslow seconded this motion. This motion passed 4-0.

SELECTBOARD COMMENTS:

J. Gagnon commented on the intersection of Route 3 and Corn Hill. The weeds and brush have grown and need to be cut back. It is creating issues with vision. D. Atherton said he would talk to Brian Sanderson at VTrans about this.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Terry White, who owns the property to the left on Elm Street before Cooley Bridge, brought a concern about the tractor trailer trucks that go down Elm Street. He proposed having a turn-around area right before the bridge, utilizing the pull off that is currently there on the right side and adding another pull-off area on the right side to accommodate the size of a tractor trailer. J. Gagnon questioned if there was room enough for a complete turn around for a tractor trailer due to the size and likelihood of wetlands. D. Mills said it was worth having Chad take a look at to see if it is feasible. D. Atherton discussed the Route 7 segments 2 and 3, which will be changing the start of Elm Street, making it so that it has more of a turn that vehicles will need to turn down, rather than going straight off from Route 7. This may deter tractor trailer trucks in the future from trying the corner due to the bump out. He has discussed with Chad about the possibility of testing this out using hay bales or barrels.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pittsford Village Farm Grant Public Meeting:

Terry White presented an update on what Pittsford Village Farm has been offering for events, including Tuesdays, Touch a Truck, and the Bread and Puppet Theater this summer. There has also been ongoing work with architects and engineers, with the hope to break ground on the project in the Spring. The preliminary renderings were shown for the building, as well as a

description of the location and number of people for each section of the project. There will be a daycare for 26 children, with support rooms and a kitchen, a community center with seating for approximately 45 people, as well as a kitchen, bathroom, and office space, a café that will hold approximately 16 people, and upstairs will be converted into two affordable housing apartments, each with two bedrooms.

The PVF has been fundraising for this project, with six grants currently and in-kind donations totaling \$1.4 million committed. Isaac Wagner has been helping manage the grants. PVF is still looking to fundraise another \$1.4 million through \$900,000 in grants and another \$500,000 capital campaign. There was thanks given to the Town and Selectboard for their support of the planning grant. The PVF would like to pursue a VCDP \$450,000 grant and is asking the Selectboard to sign a resolution to support the grant.

The resolution was handed out to show the Selectboard before a motion was made by T. Hooker to sign the resolution and M. Winslow seconded the motion.

J. Gagnon stated he is in favor of the project, but hopes that the taxpayers do not feel like they need to be responsible for paying for it. He has given to the project with his company and will continue to do so. He hopes that the daycare will not compete much with existing daycare facilities. Currently, there is a huge need for childcare and M. Winslow pointed out there are a lot of state regulations currently that make it hard for in-home daycare to meet the requirements for licensing. Isaac has done a projected financial analysis and shows the PVF project will not be a burden at all to the town, as they should be making money through the various ventures within PVF.

Motion was approved 4-0 and the resolution signed.

Terry White exited the meeting at this point.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Department Potential Vehicle Purchase:

S. Goulet presented pricing for a new police cruiser. This information was not in the selectboard packets, but was handed out at the meeting. This would be for a new Durango for the police department, replacing the truck currently in the fleet. The original cost of the new Durango was \$47,190. Stephane discussed trade-in with the dealership and got them down to \$42,100, with a trade in value for the truck of \$16,500. This would leave the price of the Durango at \$25,700 plus the cost of upfitting of approximately \$25,000. The total cost for the Durango would be \$50,700. The police department would keep the police and fire radios to save funds, as well as the radar unit. The older Durango would be kept, rather than the truck because it is better compatible with the needs of the Town. It is all wheel drive and the truck is rear wheel drive. There was further discussion on the cost of all of the upfitting needed, as well as installation

costs. Stephane said Thunder Towing would be approximately \$3,000 for the installation of the upfitting needed, whereas Central Vermont was \$8,000 last time it was quoted. If we do not obtain this vehicle and need to order one, it is likely a nine plus month wait, as that is what it was for the new Durango purchased last year.

J. Gagnon asked if there were funds available in the police vehicle fund for this new Durango. M. Warfle explained that there are supposed to be money put away every year for this purpose. T. Hooker recalled that the town has been doing something that could be described as self-financing for the police vehicles. They allow the vehicle capital account to go into the red, then appropriate a certain amount each year that helps pay off the balance due. While this makes it so that the police vehicle account never seems to stay in the positive for long, it allows the town to purchase a vehicle as needed for the police department. The police department currently has a 2017 Durango, whose engine was re-done last year to give it more years, and the 2022 Durango purchased last year. The members of the selectboard all stated they would like to see where the vehicle fund is presently and get firmer pricing on the upfitting required for the new vehicle before making a decision. S. Goulet stated he would contact the dealership to see if they could hold the Durango until the next selectboard meeting. M. Winslow inquired as to why the police department had bought a truck. M. Warfle explained it was originally thought it would be more useful than they have found it to be. The turning radius also makes it harder to navigate than originally anticipated.

S. Goulet and Chief Warfle left at the end of this discussion.

Assessor's Errors and Omissions:

Lisa Wright asked the Selectboard to consider this error and omission. There is no value change, only a name change due to a life estate. M. Winslow moved to approve this error and omission. D. Mills seconded the motion. Motion was approved 4-0.

Act on Orders \$146,887.61; Payroll \$14,777.58:

J. Gagnon and M. Winslow both asked about the expense for the Killington Grand for \$238.40 for recreation conference lodging. They questioned if there was programming in the evening making it so lodging was required. Dave Atherton was asked to bring the information to the next meeting.

T. Hooker inquired about the polygraph testing and if it was for Bowman. D. Atherton said it was.

T. Hooker inquired about the spring house repair done by Richard Reed and Son. D. Mills told him this was approved at the last meeting and was for concrete to be poured around one of the spring houses.

J. Gagnon inquired about the fire hose testing for \$4,600, asking if it was an annual expense. D. Atherton explained this will be an annual expense now. The testing used to be done in-house, but now the fire department is sending it out to be done.

The orders were signed with no further discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by J. Gagnon to enter into Executive Session at 7:26 PM for the appointment, employment or evaluation of a public officer, with the Town Manager asked to stay, 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 8:20 PM.

The next Select Board meeting will be held on September 20, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Reed
Assistant to the Town Manager

_____ ABSENT _____
Alicia Malay, Chair

David Mills, Vice Chair

Thomas Hooker, Selectman

W. Joseph Gagnon, Selectman

Mark Winslow, Selectman