

Town of Pittsford SELECT BOARD MEETING – October 4, 2023 – DRAFT

MEMBERS PRESENT: W. Joseph Gagnon, Alicia Malay, Mark Winslow, David Mills, and Thomas Hooker. OTHERS PRESENT: Rick Conway, Kevin Blow, Mike Norris, Liz Alvarado, Donna Wilson, Joe Repetur, David Atherton, Kelly Giard – Recording Secretary.

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

Chair Malay stated that there is no need to amend the agenda. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by T. Hooker to accept the agenda as posted. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

MINUTES:

The September 20, 2023 regular meeting minutes were signed with no corrections.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Town Manager Atherton reported the following:

- Paving was completed. Milling and paving was completed on the north end of Arch Street and a shim and overlay on Orchard Hill Drive and Kendall Hill Road
- Met with the Highway Foreman and Dollar General representatives to resolve the safety concerns on the sidewalk at the intersection of Plains Road and Route 7. The culvert will be extended on the south side of the intersection and filled in to remove the hazard. Dollar General has agreed to pay for the repairs.
- Met with Federal and State Highway to discuss the financial responsibilities of the town for the Route 7 Segments 2 and 3 improvements. There was also discussion of the town taking over Segment 2 and pre-construction. There will be future meetings to continue these discussions.
- Attended the VLCT/PACIF Town Fair
- Attended the Rutland Region Transportation Advisory Committee meeting. Rep. Shaw was the speaker and the topic of discussion was upcoming grant opportunities for EVSE chargers, improved Complete Streets Program and more Class 2 highway and structures grant programs.
- There are 16 properties with the attorney to start the tax sale process.
- Received the “official” letter from VTRANS to extend the 25 mph speed zone on Route 7 in the village district. The certified statement has been received by the Town Clerk for recording in the town records.
- The annual report and 2024 budget are in the packets for review from the Otter Creek Communications Union District
- Further information regarding grants is included in the packets for review. An email was received from a Planning Commission member that the Planning Commission would like to move forward with the Municipal Planning Grant and the By-Law Modernization Grant.

- Introduced Liz Alvarado who is the new Recreation Director. The Recreation Department has held successful Senior Luncheons and is collaborating with the library and the Congregational Church to organize additional activities for the seniors such as movies, dance, games, etc; the Rec Director is becoming a certified bone builder instructor and will be offering classes at no charge to the elderly community; Disc Golf tournament and Sarah's Stories Chili Cook Off/Beer Garden will be held on October 14, 2023; the first ever Pittsford and Brandon Rec Soccer Jamboree will be held on October 22, 2023 with the Otter Valley Soccer teams refereeing and volunteering for the event; Pittsford Halloween Spooktacular will be held at the Recreation Area on October 29, 2023 in collaboration with the Maclure Library, Lothrop PTO and the Pittsford Village Farm; Basketball coaches are needed and registration will open in late November; myrec.com will be up and running soon.

SELECTBOARD MEMBER REMARKS:

D. Mills inquired the status of the Sand/Salt Shed cover. Town Manager Atherton reported that the company is no longer in business and was bought out by a company in Texas. A company from Greensboro, Vermont has viewed the structure and indicated that there were no concerns.

M. Winslow asked for clarification of the 25 mph extension. The 25 mph will end near Joe's 19th Hole and the 35 mph will continue to the top of the hill south of the Mobil Station. J. Gagnon inquired the possibility of adjusting the speed limits in the night time hours. This was discussed and Town Manager Atherton will look in to the possibility.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None presented at this time

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on Solar Siting and Enhanced Energy Plan:

Selectman Mills recluded himself from this discussion.

There was discussion with some members of the Planning Commission concerning the Enhanced Energy Plan. Mike Norris stated that there are towns that have language in place and the PUC still considers the project. Chair Malay stated that there is updated Legislation for an Enhanced Energy Plan, which supports the town. Rick Conway inquired if residents were participating in the pre-hearing calls. The Rutland Regional Planning Commission stated that people are aware and they can go to the Commission for information and input. Chair Malay stated that there were 2 adjoining property owners that were in attendance at the meeting that the project was discussed. Town Manager Atherton stated that the project planners do not need letters from the Select Board or Planning Commission. Mr. Norris explained that the letters of support reduces the permit costs. Mr. Norris stated that he has drafted the Solar

Siting language and nothing has been done with the information. There was discussion of possibly enacting an ordinance instead of an addition to the Town Plan. Town Manager Atherton will look into the ordinance option and report back at a future meeting.

Ms. Wilson, Mr. Conway, Mr. Blow and Mr. Norris exited at 7:31 PM.

Veterans Day Ceremony:

Chair Malay stated that she has spoken with Anne Pelkey from the Historical Society regarding the Veterans Day Ceremony. Ms. Pelkey stated that she coordinates the Memorial Day Celebration but would reach out to other members of the Historical Society. Historically this was organized by the Town Manager. M. Winslow stated that he would contact Eric Stage for the keynote speaker and will report back. This topic will be discussed at a future meeting.

Grant Opportunities

Town Manager Atherton stated that there are grants available. There is a Municipal Planning Grant that is not as appealing as the By Law Modernization Grant, which is due on November 1, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Season Schedule:

Town Manager Atherton stated that the Department Heads have received their upcoming budget season information and have started working to gather information.

Alcohol Consumption on Town Property Policy – Rec Area:

The Rec Director has been reviewing the Alcohol Consumption on Town Property Policy and would like to update some of the wording. There was discussion concerning the wording that includes having a police officer present during the event and that the liability is on the entity/individual that is serving the alcohol and holds the liquor license. The Select Board agreed to require a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Town as an additional insured. The Town Manager was instructed to rewrite the policy for review at a future meeting.

Transfer Station Discussion:

Town Manager Atherton presented a comparison of the past few years of the income/expenses at the Transfer Station and there is a steady increase in deficit. The Select Board will continue to explore options, including outsourcing the service. This topic will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Capitalization Policy:

The auditors have recommended a Capitalization Policy be adopted. Town Manager Atherton and Ann Reed have combined some other policies and presented for review. Motion by M. Winslow and seconded by J. Gagnon to adopt the Capitalization Policy as presented. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

Act on Orders \$142,772.66; Payroll \$13,330.29:

The orders were signed with no discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

The next Select Board meeting will be held on October 18, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Giard
Recording Secretary

Alicia Malay, Chair

David Mills, Vice Chair

Thomas Hooker, Selectman

W. Joseph Gagnon, Selectman

Mark Winslow, Selectman