

Town of Pittsford SELECT BOARD MEETING – March 6, 2024 – DRAFT

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alicia Malay, David Mills, Dan Adams, and Thomas Hooker. ABSENT: Mark Winslow. OTHERS PRESENT: David Forrest, Raymond Forrest, Chelsea Cleveland, Greg Hiltz, Kelly Forrest, Sarah Eugair, Erin Eugair, Mike Eugair, John Eugair, Jeff Biasuzzi, Joe Repitaur, David Atherton – Town Manager, Kelly Giard – Recording Secretary.

The Select Board was called to order at 6:30 PM by Town Manager Atherton.

This meeting is the organizational meeting following Town Meeting elections.

Motion by D. Mills and seconded by T. Hooker to appoint Alicia Malay as Chair of the Select Board. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

Motion by Chair Malay and seconded by T. Hooker to appoint David Mills as Vice Chair of the Select Board. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

Chair Malay stated that there was no need for Executive Session or to amend the agenda. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by T. Hooker to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

MINUTES:

The February 21, 2024 regular meeting minutes were signed with no corrections.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Town Manager David Atherton reported the following:

- The Plains Road sewer project went to bid following last meeting. There is a pre-bid meeting on March 7 at the Municipal Office, then to the site with the bid opening on March 28, 2024.
- The bobcat zero-turn mower is expected to be delivered in the next few days.
- Parts for the backhoe repair have arrived and the Highway Department staff has begun the repairs.
- There was a waterline break on Blanchard Drive recently. There was a need to rent an excavator to complete this project in house.
- Recreation News - The Recreation Director will be attending Lifeguard training classes in MA on 4/6 & 4/7, then will offer classes to the public and bring revenue to the Recreation Department; Tia Chi training will be on 4/20 & 4/21, seniors, additional training for kids and adults; basketball season has wrapped up with the 5th & 6th grade teams participating at the Otter Jamboree, which was organized by Otter Valley and Brandon & Pittsford Rec Departments. Teams will also be attending the Glodzik Tournament; The Pittsford Indoor Flea Market and Yard Sales have been organized to benefit the Pittsford First Response; The Pittsford Town-wide yard sale has been scheduled for June 8, 2024; Goal Getters Soccer 7 week program is coming to Pittsford for Lothrop students free of charge and is sponsored by the Vermont Soccer

Association; Two separate disc golf tournaments are coming to the rec area in April & May; the Rec Director and the Assistant to the Town Manager are creating an application for Pittsford residents in need of reduced rates or scholarships for summer camp; Archery and Pittsford Youth Disc Golf coming in the spring as additional rec activities.

Following the Town Manager's report, the Police Department monthly report was discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Town Manager Atherton reported that there is a junk issue on Fire Hill which is causing a rat infestation. Jeff Biasuzzi, Zoning Administrator was present to discuss the situation. Mr. Biasuzzi stated that he responded to Mike Eugair and stated that a Notice of Violation is ready to go with the Police Department to serve the Violation. Town Manager Atherton stated that the Health Officer would also be checking the property in the next day. Greg Hiltz stated that there are currently 13 unregistered vehicles on the property and that his dog has recently picked up 2 dead rats. Sally Eugair stated that she has also had rats and is wondering who is going to pay for the rats. Town Manager Atherton explained that this is a Health Officer situation and not a Zoning situation. Mr. Biasuzzi stated that if this situation is sent to the courts, the time period for resolution could be over 6 months, however, the town can issue a Notice of Violation. Town Manager Atherton stated that a Notice of Violation can be issued before going to court. There was a discussion of the fines that would be involved and that there were 3 properties of concern. Ms. Eugair inquired when Mr. Biasuzzi had been to the property, which Mr. Biasuzzi stated that this has been an ongoing issue for the 9+ years he has been the Zoning Administrator in Pittsford. The town has to follow the legal process and in 2021 this situation was also heard and 2 out of the 3 properties complied and the 3rd appealed the ticket, which took 6 months to reach the court system. Kelly Forrest stated that she has filed a State Violation concern due to the stench, overflow sewage, wetlands, etc. Mr. Biasuzzi stated that the Agency of Natural Resource would be the agency to inspect and enforce any concerns. Town Manager Atherton stated that he will ask the Health Officer to check on the sewage drainage and Mr. Hiltz asked that he check to see if there is any gas or oil in that discharge. Ms. Forrest continued by stating that there are pigs, hound dogs and a "rescue" peacock at the property. Ms. Eugair stated that there is a coydog hanging at the property. Mike Eugair stated that he feels that it is gross negligence that calls to the town are going on with nothing being done and feels that this is a health concern. Town Manager Atherton stated that he was not aware of an issue until the March 1, 2024 email from Mr. Eugair. Town Manager Atherton stated that this is an issue that will be handled as quickly as possible. The agriculture animals can be handled through the Department of Agriculture, however, the process is slow, however, the health order will speed up the process. Town Manager Atherton stated that he would go with the Health Officer to the property and T. Hooker and D. Adams stated that they would also like to go to the property. There was discussion of property access

and Ms. Forrest stated that everything can be seen from the road, however, if necessary, Ray Forrest will unlock the gate to his property and grant access. Town Manager Atherton stated that he will bring a water test kit from the Water & Sewer Department to see if there is any contamination. Mr. Hiltz stated that he has seen the property owner dump garbage on the property and occasionally burns the garbage. D. Mills inquired how long the rats have been an issue. Mr. Eugair stated that he has had 6 rats in the last 2 months. Mr. Forrest requested that the Select Board notify the neighbors in advance of the meetings. Chair Malay stated that this issue arose today and it was something that the Select Board and Town Manager decided needed to be discussed immediately. Ms. Eugair stated that the rat issue has caused property values to decrease and inquired what could be done about reducing her taxes. Town Manager Atherton stated that this was something that would need to be discussed with the Board of Civil Authority.

The residents exited at 7:20 PM.

OLD BUSINESS

None presented at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Review Results of Town Meeting:

Chair Malay welcomed Dan Adams to the Select Board and reported that the Town Budget passed and the Local Options Tax failed.

Appointment(s) to Fill Elected Office(s) Left Unfilled by Election:

This topic is tabled until a full board is present.

Appointment(s) to Fill Vacancies among Officials, Board Members and Commissioners:

This topic is tabled until a full board is present.

Vehicle for First Response:

Town Manager Atherton reported that the First Response vehicle will not pass inspection and is in need of being replaced. Quotes were received from Pittsford Auto Sales and were included in the packets for review. There will be a quote presented at the next meeting for the lightbars, decals, and outfitting. Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by A. Malay to purchase the Dodge Durango from Pittsford Auto Sales at an amount to not exceed \$25,000 for the complete purchase and outfitting, contingent on inspection by a mechanic. T. Hooker stated that he has looked at both vehicles and feels that the Dodge Durango is a better choice. D. Mills feels strongly that the vehicle should be taken to a mechanic to have the under side of the vehicle inspected. D. Adams inquired if there were other dealerships consulted, which Town Manager Atherton stated he has made calls and contacts with nothing available. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

Act on Orders \$94,014.32 Payroll \$12,687.90:

D. Mills inquired the expenses to Earls Truck Repair. Town Manager Atherton explained that this was for the Water Department truck that caught on fire following the incorrect installation of a snow plow harness. There was discussion on this project and the vehicle is out of warranty. The total amount due to Earls Truck Repair was for 2 invoices. The Orders were signed with no further discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None presented at this time.

Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by D. Mills to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

The next Select Board meeting will be held on March 20, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Giard
Recording Secretary

Alicia Malay, Chair

David Mills, Vice Chair

Thomas Hooker, Selectman

Dan Adams, Selectman

ABSENT

Mark Winslow, Selectman