

Town of Pittsford
Town Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
March 3, 2025

In Attendance: Alicia Malay, David Mills, Thomas Hooker, Mark Winslow, Daniel Adams, Helen McKinlay – Town Clerk/Treasurer, Ann Reed – Interim Town Manager, Robb Spensely – Moderator, voting residents of the Town of Pittsford, Steven Jupiter

The Town Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Robb Spensely.

The Pledge of Allegiance was done.

Robb Spensely read the inside cover of the town report, noting what the photos on the front were and the dedication to Joseph Jerome Keith, Jr., known to most as Mike or Chico.

R. Spensely went over the rules for the meeting. He will be neutral. Voters need to state their name before speaking. He gave a reminder there is voting at the municipal offices tomorrow March 4th, 2025 from 7:00am to 7:00pm. Roberts Rules of Order will be used for the meeting and no actions will be taken that were not warned.

With that, R. Spensely read Article 1: to Hear the reports of the Town Officers. He asked for a motion. Joe Gagnon made a motion to hear the reports of the town officers, with a second from Wayne Rowe. The vote was unanimously approved. Alicia Malay gave an overview of the general fund, reading the selectboard report from the Town Report. She also gave a reminder that Selectboard meetings are the first and third Wednesday of the month at the Town Offices at 6:30pm, encouraging citizens to attend. She ended by stating the general fund budget request for revenue raised by taxes is up 1.4% this year compared to the previous year. David Mills gave the highway report, reading portions of the Town Manager report.

There was a question on the totals listed under articles two and three, as they differ in the Town Report from the Warning issued and posted in Town. The correct numbers were the ones posted in Town. Laurie Byrom made a motion to amend the numbers in the Town Report to reflect the numbers posted on the Warning. This motion was seconded by Josh White. A question was asked on where non-tax revenue comes from. This was explained by Ann Reed, who pointed out the summary on page 19 of the Town Report and further detail on pages 20 and 21. Most of these come from grants, licenses, and fees. Various departments have different revenue streams including the police ticketing, the recreation sports fees, zoning fees, and the liquor licenses. There was a question on a discrepancy between what is in the Town Report and being requested for the dollar amount to be raised by taxes. This is due to Special Appropriations and the way it is financed. Article two: Shall the voters authorize general fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,827,833, of which the sum of \$1,404,123 is to be raised by property taxes and \$423,760 by non-tax revenues? Was approved unanimously.

Article 3: Shall the voters authorize highway fund expenditures of \$1,213,555, of which the sum of \$1,065,205 is to be raised by property taxes and \$142,350 by non-tax revenues? Motion by Greg Hiltz to approve article three. This was seconded by Wayne Rowe. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 4: Shall the voters authorize Village District expenses of \$17,000, of which the sum of \$17,000 is to be raised by property taxes payable by Village property owners? Motion by Donna Wilson and Seconded by Ernest Clerihew to approve article 4. Motion passed.

Article 5: Shall the voters authorize collection of taxes on real and personal property by its Treasurer in three equal installments, due on or before August 15, September 15, and November 17, 2025 by physical delivery to the tax collector on that date? Motion by Greg Hiltz and seconded by Joe Gagnon to approve article 5. Motion passed.

Article 6: Shall the voters vote to raise, appropriate, and expend the sum of \$2,500 for the support of Wonderfeet Kid's Museum to provide services to the residents of Town? Josh White made a motion and Greg Hiltz seconded to approve article 6. Jennifer Rose Brittenham spoke briefly on Wonderfeet and how it is the only official kids museum in Vermont. It has a great, positive atmosphere. Motion passed.

Article 7: Shall the voters vote to raise, appropriate, and expend the sum of \$7,500 for the support of the Pittsford Historical Society to provide services to residents of Town? Ernest Clerihew made the motion with a second from Elizabeth Soulia to approve article 7. Motion passed.

Article 8: Shall the voters vote to raise, appropriate, and expend the sum of \$5,000 for the support of Marble Valley Regional Transportation District "The Bus" to provide services to the residents of Town? Motion by Ernest Clerihew and seconded by Lori Byrom to approve article 8. Ernest Clerihew did ask when the last time the bus stopped at Kamudas. He did not see it on the schedule. After a back and forth discussion, it was discovered there are two different bus routes that need to be posted around town. One is Vermont Connector and one is The Bus schedule. Motion passed after discussion.

Article 9: Shall the voters vote to raise, appropriate, and expend the sum of \$1,000 for the support of the Pittsford Cemetery Association to provide services to residents of Town? Motion by Wayne Rowe and seconded by Joe Gagnon to approve article 9. Motion passed.

Article 10: Shall the voters vote to raise, appropriate, and expend the sum of \$1,500 for the support of the Bowen-Walker Fund to provide services to the residents of Town? Motion by Wayne Rowe and seconded by Lloyd Provin to approve article 10. Lori Byrom asked what the Bowen-Walker Fund was. Ann Reed stated the churches in Town had started this fund many years ago as a way to help those in need for an emergency fund. This could be an electric bill, gas, or some other emergency. People in need can now call the Pittsford Congregational Church, as many of the trustees for Bowen-Walker Fund are members of the church. Joe Gagnon asked

if there was a way to mark appropriations if they were changed this year. Ann Reed stated the only changes from last year to this year for special appropriations was the addition of Wonderfeet Kid's Museum and the changing of the Pittsford Food Shelf to \$2,000. Wayne Rowe asked why special appropriations can't be done every five years. Ann Reed stated statutorily special appropriations need to be voted every year. Motion on article 10 was voted and passed.

Craig Pelkey made a motion, seconded by Josh White to approve articles 11-20. R. Spensely stated the rules needed to be suspended for this to occur. Motion by Tom Browe and seconded by Greg Hiltz to suspend the rules. Motion passed to suspend the rules. Motion to approve articles 11-20 was done again by Steven Belcher and Greg Hiltz. This motion passed.

Article 21: Discussion of other non-binding business. Melanie Parker, a board member for the Pittsford Village Farm, spoke about the construction project that will be occurring at the Pittsford Village Farm starting this year. She pointed out that there are drawings in the back corner if anyone wanted to view them. These drawings show what the project entails. She also pointed out the Pittsford Village Farm board of directors who were present, gave highlights of events that have occurred and will occur at Pittsford Village Farm, and let people know about the facebook page. The property is 150+ acres and she urged people to come see the property. She also noted there is a new hiking trail created between Pittsford Village Farm and Depot Hill Road.

Steven Belcher wanted to put out a reminder that next year is the 250 Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and wants residents to give ideas how Pittsford should celebrate.

Mark Winslow wanted to thank all of the Town's valued employees, committee members, and fire department.

Ernest Clerihew asked if they could ask a question of the State Representative, Alicia Malay. He wanted to know how the education bill is going. Alicia Malay stated it is not going. She did print flyers with descriptions of what is happening in Montpelier and they are in the back of the room if anyone wants one.

Joe Gagnon wanted the town highway crew to know he thought they were doing an amazing job on Corn Hill this winter. Barbara Lalancette wanted to second the outstanding highway crew.

Baird Morgan wanted to thank traffic safety from the police department. He has noticed it is making an impact on slowing traffic down.

Gary Mayer stated it boggled his mind that sixty people are here to approve a budget. He wanted to know how to get a bigger turn-out. Steven Belcher mentioned that only about 600-700 people will vote on Town Meeting Day and presidential elections seem to be the biggest turn-out for voting.

Alyssa Bryan, a new resident, had a question on Homestead Tax Credits. She is still learning about it and wanted to know if there was a way to move up the limits to include more. Alicia Malay stated this would have to be changed at the State level, as this is a state program. The cap is currently approximately \$115,000. Alyssa Bryan asked who our state representative is and Alicia Malay was pointed out as the state representative.

Barb Lalancette thanked Robb Spensely for doing such a great job moderating Town Meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

Alicia Malay, Chair

David Mills, Vice Chair

Thomas Hooker, Selectman

Dan Adams, Selectman

Mark Winslow, Selectman