Town of Pittsford SELECT BOARD MEETING – February 18, 2026 – DRAFT

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Hooker, Alicia Malay, Mark Winslow and Dan Adams ABSENT: David Mills. OTHERS PRESENT: Brett Mullins, Alexandra Manell, Ariel Billings, Emily Carter, Jessica Poljacik, Kathryn Lacono-Lucia, Wesley Tipton, Courtney Forrest, Peter Coppola, Chad Eugair, Patsy MacHardy, Barbara Lacy, Scott Kaufman, Donna Wilson, Lorrie Byrom, Louis Gaudreau, Nancy Gaudreau, Liz McRae, Melanie Clerihew, Ernie Clerihew, Ann Reed –Town Manager, Kelly Giard – Recording Secretary

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Malay stated that there was no need to add another Executive Session. Chair Malay also stated that there was a need to add the discussion of School Board Happenings in New Business. Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by M. Winslow to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously 4 - 0.

MINUTES:

The minutes from the February 4, 2026 regular meeting and the February 4, 2026 liquor board minutes were signed with no corrections.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Town Manager Ann Reed reported the following:

- The letter was sent to the OVUUSD on February 5, 2026 with the articles attached.
- Conducted the first round of Recreation Director interviews and will be scheduling the second round interviews.
- Was at the Maclure Library on February 7, 2026 and met with citizens and addressed their concerns and was able to point one of them towards the newer Junk Ordinance. The next scheduled time will be March 28, 2026 beginning at 10:00 AM.
- Attended the Zoning Board of Adjustment hearing that was originally scheduled for February 9, 2026, however was recessed to February 16, 2026 due to the lack of a quorum.
- Attended the Chittenden Reservoir Emergency Action Plan meeting on February 11, 2026. There will be an evening siren test in May. There was a guest speaker that does urban and water rescue that came to discuss what will be needed in case of an emergency for after the incident and beginning of recovery. This was an eye opening to the amount of information that will need to be gathered and the resources that will be needed to make sure are in place in the event of any large-scale emergency for the town.
- Met with the Police Department for their department meeting on the evening of February 11, 2026. They had training on critical mental health response, which was very informative. There was also discussion of department expectations, chain of command and scheduling.
- Baseball and softball registrations are live on myrec.com for people to be able to register their youth. There has been contact to previous coaches to see who would like to return and sponsorship information will be going out soon.
- Been working closely with Stacey Farrington at Lothrop to work on the dates for the summer rec day camp program and waiting on confirmation of the last day of school

and final approval of dates from Lothrop. Currently, it looks like this will be a seven week program this summer. One of the previous co-directors will be coming back as the lead for the day camp this year. There has been work done on the themes for each week and the goal for registrations is to have them available by the end of February.

- Thank you to the Pittsford Congregational Church for their quick response to our call needing candles for the vigil held in memory of Ben Adams. They provided a large box of candles and holders for us to use.

  There was discussion of the possibility of reinstating the Recreation Committee and this will be discussed further in the future.

SELECTBOARD MEMBER REMARKS:

None presented at this time

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None presented at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Caverly Preschool Discussion:

Brett Mullins stated that the children should not suffer through the transition and they would like to make it a seamless transition to Lothrop. Mr. Mullins stated that at a recent meeting, the board action was to affirm previous meeting decisions from January 6, 2026 through February 17, 2026 and the stance remains. Chair Malay stated that the board violated Open Meeting Laws and she sent a letter and this was discussed in Executive Session and the board did not feel that they violated any laws. Donna Wilson stated that she called the Secretary of State's office and was told to send a letter to the school district. The school district attorney asked the board to rescind and revote and this did not occur. D. Adams inquired the reasoning. Mr. Mullins stated that the facility is in decent shape, however, the transition would allow the students more services, such as not having to deliver lunches across town, the nurse would be available, there would be music classes, and a variety of other opportunities for the students. Kathryn Lasono-Lucia spoke that she has a child on an IEP and has services at Caverly. Mr. Mullins stated that he is also a parent of a special education child who has services at Caverly, however, there are positions that are being discontinued. Members of the community are encouraged to meet the Superintendent of Schools as he makes his way through towns in the district. There was discussion that the proposed area at Lothrop is decorated to welcome Caverly students.

Resolution to Uphold the Constitution of the United States and Vermont:

Ernie Clerihew and a group of concerned residents were present to discuss the Resolution to Uphold the Constitution of the United States and Vermont. Chair Malay stated that the purview of the Select Board is to stand behind the Constitution and are willing to redo the oath that is taken when the members are elected or reelected to their positions. Mr. Clerihew stated that he would like to have the Federal government included in the abbreviated version of the resolution. D. Adams stated that there are possibly other residents in the community that do not feel the same way as this group and just haven't said anything publicly and the

Select Board has no impact on the Federal government. M. Winslow stated that the Select Board understands the feeling of the group, however, the Select Board has no impact on the Federal government and the issue divides people and the Select Board respects all. The Select Board stands behind basic rights. Lorrie Byram stated that the government is taking away the sense of democracy, which is a violation of Freedom of Speech. Chair Malay stated that she is uncomfortable including the government piece. Motion by M. Winslow and seconded by D. Adams to adopt the resolution as presented at this meeting. T. Hooker stated that he has no issue with either of the versions. Chair Malay stated that she is not comfortable including the Federal government piece. Donna Wilson stated that the country is divided. Residents were concerned with the impact of ICE and Mr. Clerihew questioned the presence of dairy farm workers. M. Winslow stated that as part of his job, he is on dairy farms most days and the farmers are checking to be sure that the farmers are trained to check ID's. Following much discussion, the vote failed with a 2-2 vote. This topic will be discussed again at the March 18, 2026 meeting.

Enhanced Energy Plan:

Ms. Reed explained that there was an updated copy of the Enhanced Energy Plan in the packets and the members of the Select Board were asked to review the document prior to the next meeting. The Planning Commission invites the members of the Select Board to their next meeting to discuss their concerns regarding the Enhanced Energy Plan. This topic was tabled to a future meeting.

Zoning Regulations:

The Zoning Regulations were discussed and the proposal was to make the adjustment that the Connex Containers and Affordable Housing be the same as the rest of the setbacks that are included in the document. Ms. Reed will check on this and advise at a future meeting. D. Adams stated that the Table of Uses should include connex containers, as the containers meet the definition of structures. This topic will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Tier 3 and Road Rule Regulations:

Ms. Reed reported that the hearings for the Tier 3 and Road Rule Regulations have been delayed due to the proposed legislation. Currently the new timeline is that the Tier 3 hearings will be in July 2027 and the Road Rule Regulations are slated for November 2026. One resident spoke and stated that he felt that this was being forced upon him and that he couldn't do what he wanted with his property. Motion by M. Winslow and seconded by T. Hooker whereas the Town of Pittsford sent an updated Future Land Use Map to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission in the Fall of 2025 and that map shall be the future Land Use Map of the Town of Pittsford until such time that the State of Vermont notifies each individual property owner, by certified mail as to the States changes to the future use of their property. The map will only be changed by the town with written permission from the individual property owners. Chair Malay stated that VLCT has been advocating for this at the state level. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission Land Use Maps Revisions Update:

Ann has turned in all revisions to Devon at Rutland Regional Planning Commission that she has received from property owners.

Municipal Resolution for Tier 1B Status:
Ms. Reed stated that the Zoning Regulations needed to be completed before the Tier 1B is lost.

Zoning Updates:
This topic was tabled to a future meeting.

Tax Map Maintenance Proposal:
Ms. Reed explained that this was discussed at the previous meeting. Motion by M. Winslow and seconded by T. Hooker to approve the annual GIS mapping maintenance approval. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

Town Meeting Planning:
Ms. Reed stated that the posters have been sent out for the dessert potluck and there is still a need for childcare.

NEW BUSINESS

Crack Sealing Equipment Pricing:
Chad Eugair was present to discuss his request for a crack sealing piece of equipment. The proposal that was received was for $58,500 for a 2024 piece of equipment and the Highway Department has been renting a machine for the last 3 years at a cost of $4,800 per month with a 4 hour transportation. Mr. Eugair explained that it is recommended to do the crack sealing prior to paving. Chair Malay inquired if there was funding in the Equipment Replacement Fund, which Ms. Reed stated there was adequate funding. Mr. Eugair stated that he feels that the Highway Department would be able to get more done with their own equipment. M. Winslow inquired if there would be other towns interested in renting the equipment from Pittsford. Mr. Eugair stated that he has spoken with Goshen and they are interested. D. Adams inquired if this machine would be run by our employees. Mr. Eugair stated that at least 1 staff member would go with the machine. M. Winslow expressed concern over traffic control to renting towns. Ms. Reed explained that there would be a contract drawn up to cover these concerns. T. Hooker inquired where this would be stored, to which Mr. Eugair replied "we'll find room." Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by D. Adams to purchase the crack sealing equipment for the price on the proposal of $58,500. Mr. Eugair stated that this is on an enclosed trailer. M. Winslow added the stipulation that the equipment add income. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

Adoption of Town Road and Bridge Standards Update 2026 (VTRANS):
Ms. Reed explained that this document was updated to the 2026 standards. Motion by M. Winslow and seconded by T. Hooker to approve the document as presented. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0

Annual Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards & Network Inventory:

Motion by M. Winslow and seconded by T. Hooker to approve the document as presented. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

Municipay Proposal/Contract:

Ms. Reed explained that this would allow property owners to pay with credit cards online with credit card, ACH or e-check. Motion by M. Winslow and second by T. Hooker to approve the proposal and contract through either Muicipay or Intellipay, whichever is better for the Town. D. Adams inquired if there would be a fee. Ms. Reed explained that this would be charged to the card holder. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

FY 2026 RHR Audit Proposal/Engagement Letter:

M. Winslow inquired if RHR has done satisfactory work. Ms. Reed explained that there is a different team doing the audit every year and there are only 2 or 3 firms in the state that do municipal audits. Ms. Reed stated that she has reached out to the previous auditing firm and has had no reply. Motion by M. Winslow and seconded by T. Hooker to approve the proposal from RHR in the amount of $34,320.00. D. Adams inquired if there was room for negotiation. Ms. Reed stated that the audit is becoming more complicated with the GASB regulations and that the coming years should go better and the town office staff will be better prepared. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

Zoning Board of Adjustment and Possible Candidate:

Ms. Reed explained that there are currently 7 members on the Zoning Board of Adjustment and there have been multiple times where a quorum was not present. Atty. Kupferer recommended decreasing the membership to 5 so that a quorum was 3 and to have 2 alternates. Ms. Reed stated that there is 1 resident who is interested in serving on the Board. Motion was made and seconded to move to a five-member Zoning Board of Adjustment. Motion passed 4-0. The topic of which members would be alternates was deferred to executive session.

School Board Happenings:

Brett Mullins, Pittsford Representative to the OVUUSD school board was present to discuss the plans for the school district. Mr. Mullins explained that there is currently a 2.92% increase in the school district budget and Pittsford residents would see a 2 cent increase in their tax calculations. Mr. Mullins explained that the district is losing 30 calculated students, which effects the lunch program, second language program and IEP, just to name a few. Mr. Mullins stated that they are looking into bonds for the Otter Valley building maintenance project that is anticipated to cost $10 million. The maintenance project includes heating, pumps and building the proposed middle school. The districting maps are changing with the Act 73 implementation. The maintenance has been deferred and now the studies that have been completed are recommending the upgrades be done. Mr. Mullins explained the areas of the construction and the proposed areas. D. Adams inquired if this upgrade was driven by the state. Mr. Millins stated that this was not driven by the state. Mr. Mullins explained that there is a proposal to update the bathrooms in the lower level of the Lothrop school and there is a possibility that they will be coming before the Select Board with a proposal to use funds from the Burditt Fund. The protocol for requesting funds was discussed. There was also discussion that the maintenance should not be postponed at Lothrop due to the Burditt Fund being available for school needs.

Act on Orders $105,415.36 Payroll $12,502.78

The orders were signed with no discussion.

The Select Board recessed at 8:27 PM to convene as the Liquor Board.
The Select Board reconvened at 8:28 PM with a motion by T. Hooker and seconded by D. Adams to enter into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
In accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 313(a) where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the municipality or person involved at a substantial disadvantage to discuss the appointment, employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee, provided that a public body must make the final hiring or appointment decision and explain its reason for the decision, in open meeting to include the Interim Town Manager.

The Select Board exited Executive Session at 9:13 PM with no action taken.

Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by M. Winslow to adjourn the meeting.

The Select Board adjourned at 9:13 PM.

The next regular Select Board meeting will be held on March 4, 2026
Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Giard
Recording Secretary

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Alicia Malay, Chair

_____ABSENT_____
David Mills, Vice Chair

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Thomas Hooker, Selectman

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Dan Adams, Selectman

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Mark Winslow, Selectman