

Town of Pittsford SELECT BOARD MEETING – July 1, 2026 - DRAFT

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alicia Malay, Thomas Hooker, Dan Adams, Mark Winslow ABSENT: David Mills. OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Matthews, Laurie Bertrand, Butch Shaw, Chief Joseph Mannino, Chad Eugair, Ann Reed – Town Manager, Kelly Giard – Recording Secretary

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

This was tabled until the next meeting due to illness/injury.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Town Manager Ann Reed reported the following:

- Discussed with Chad the concerns with Depot Hill Bridge and motorcycle use. He is going to put up signs, as he said they tried filling in the middle with boards previously and it started rotting out the floor of the bridge. The signs will direct motorcycles to stay to the right and be posted at both ends of the bridge.
- Color Run registrations are live in MyRec or we have printed forms in the office for both the 5k and the Fun Run. This is happening on August 1st as part of Pittsford Day, with the money raised going to Pittsford Christmas for Kids program.
- We are now looking for a new bookkeeper/Assistant Town Clerk. The posting has been put up in the boxes and at the town offices, on the Town website, and on facebook under the Pittsford Vermont Community group and my personal Facebook. Interested applicants can reach out to me for further information or to submit a resume.
- Water billing has gone out with a due date of August 4th.
- Summer camp has started and seems to be going smoothly.
- The Vermont Covered Bridge Society's 250th anniversary flags are up on Cooley, Depot Hill, and Gorham Bridges. Thank you to the highway crew for hanging them and the Vermont Covered Bridge Society for getting the grant to have them on our bridges.
- I have reached out to Tim Rice twice from Wilks. He replied that he will reach out to me next week. I also reached out to Tom Markowski about the lawns discussed at the last meeting.
- I followed up with Chad about using Ross Chevrolet for our Town truck. He stated it is closer than the dealership we purchased it from and they do the bigger trucks. Middlebury does not service the bigger trucks. Part of the work done was also under warranty, so needed to go to a Chevrolet dealer.
- I have discussed the yield sign on the truck route with Chad. He is looking into getting a bigger sign and trying to figure out how to paint Yield on the roadway, as we do not have the stencils for yield.
- We received notice of public hearing for the Rutland Regional Planning Commission's regional plan taking place July 15th at 1:00pm. You can participate in person at Rutland Regional Planning Commission's office in Rutland or via Teams.

SELECTBOARD MEMBER REMARKS:

Chair Malay asked Chad about the signage for Depot Hill Bridge. Chad stated it would be back a bit so that people could see them before they get to the bridge.

M. Winslow asked that a letter be sent to the State of Vermont and/or Belden about the paving on the south side of Route 7. It is wash boarding and not draining properly on the Route 7 North side. D. Adams asked why there were no markings yet on the bridge. A. Reed stated she had received an email with an update that the project would be resuming with the painting of the lines the following week.

Chair Malay introduce new Police Chief Joseph Mannino.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Matthews asked about his well and the access to it. He has a deeded right to the well but the neighbor is not allowing him to use it. He stated he had talked to the Town Manager and he felt like he needed to go to the Selectboard. A. Reed explained she did have an officer go back up after the last time E. Matthews attended a meeting to have another conversation with the neighbor. At this point, it is a civil matter and there is not much more that the Town can be done. Chief Mannino asked E. Matthews to come see him and he would assist with information.

OLD BUSINESS

Bid Process Policy/Purchase Policy Update Discussion and Possible Action:

M. Winslow asked for the wording to be changed on point 8 to say before it goes out to bid. A. Reed said she would change it. Motion by T. Hooker to approve the Purchasing Policy as amended. Motion seconded by D. Adams. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Burditt Fund Request from OVUUSD Discussion and Possible Action:

L. Bertrand attended representing OVUUSD School Board. She explained that Giancola's bid for the bathroom remodel was the lowest at \$190,900. There was a motion by the OVUUSD to ask for up to \$250,000 from the Burditt Fund, as they did the motion before the bids were received. Two bids were received for the bathroom remodel project; Giancola and Russell. M. Winslow asked if the Town could buy back the buildings and rent them to the school district for \$1 per year. L. Bertrand stated she was not sure that it can be done due to state statutes. It was clarified that if the schools close, the Town has the first right of refusal for \$1 and the Town would need to keep the building for five years. The bathroom remodel is for the downstairs bathrooms in the Town Hall to make them ADA compliant and add more stalls. M. Winslow would like more time to review the entire packet. The selectboard asked L. Bertrand if they could bring it back to the July 15, 2026 meeting at 6:30pm for the vote. L. Bertrand did let the selectboard know that there are new regulations that will be reviewed at the next school board meeting on July 14, 2026 and will be discussed then.

Forest Fire Warden – VT Dept of Forest, Parks, and Recreation Act 162 Discussion and Possible Action:

B. Shaw gave a history of why this new Act was passed. Fire wardens do not have the budgetary backup if there are funds that need to be expended. Fire Chiefs have the budgetary spending capacity for budgetary needs. The fire chief is now the Fire Warden per this Act. Fire Chief Hemple has asked that Brad Keith be appointed as deputy fire warden. T. Hooker made the motion that Brad Keith be appointed as Deputy Fire Warden, with a second from M. Winslow. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Flail Mower Quotes Discussion and Possible Action:

C. Eugair went over the two quotes received for the flail mower. There was discussion on which mower was more heavy duty and which piece of equipment this mower was going to be used on. C. Eugair was asked what the resale value of the current one is. He is unsure, as it may be only for scrap. The ditch mower was due to be replaced seven years ago. The smaller flail mower that is currently being used is not heavy duty for roadside mowing. This new mower would replace the ditch mower. Champlain Valley Equipment has the heavier duty mower and C. Eugair believes we will get more life out of it. This would be attached to the John Deere 2355 Tractor. M. Winslow made the motion to purchase the Ferri flail mower, with a second from T. Hooker. Motion passed unanimously 4-0. The selectboard asked that the old flail mower go out to bid to sell.

Police Chief Office Discussion and Possible Action:

T. Hooker discussed how he would like to have the Police Chief be more available and public facing with an office to himself. It was discussed that the new zoning administrator could move into Pat's old office behind the Town Clerk's office and the Police Chief could go into the zoning administrator's office. This would allow him to be more visible. A. Reed stated this will work as long as we can have a laptop for the Police Chief. There are some security concerns with the Police Server and using a cable from the present Police Department office to the new office with the strength of the signal for a traditional desktop. It was agreed this switch of offices will take place.

Local Options Tax Discussion and Possible Action:

Most towns around Pittsford are already doing the local options tax. There are 1, 2 or 3 options. A. Malay stated this would be a way to fill the gap with the budgeting. Pittsford would get 80% of the funds and 20% would go to the State. M. Winslow stated the educational taxes are what is killing our taxes. B. Shaw gave examples of businesses in Pittsford that would be affected with these taxes. Pittsford Country Club has approximately 450 members, with 40% of them being Pittsford residents, with an average membership of \$1,000, which is taxable. This should also include all of the bar and restaurant sales there too. B. Shaw listed the towns that are currently doing local options tax. There are more than 80 Towns now. He looks at local options tax as a tool in the budget toolbox. This would not affect tax rates and will allow the town to not bond for projects. B. Shaw asked for the people to have a chance to vote on this. The municipality has cut the meat out of the budget for both paving and bridge repairs. State grants are also harder to get now. This is a way to raise funds for these projects with a little property tax relief in Butch's eyes. The fire truck, paving, and bridge repair are all examples where funds are needed in the future. D. Adams discussed how the educational taxes are what is killing the

taxes. M. Winslow stated the state is not dealing with the 80% of the tax bill being education. B. Shaw is asking for the chance for citizens to have a choice. A. Reed pointed out the selectboard can put it on the warning for town meeting or 10% of the voters can petition for it to be on the ballot. B. Shaw stated there would need to be public meetings. It was decided to table this discussion until a full board will be present the second meeting in August.

Takeover of Route 7 Discussion and Possible Action:

Chair Malay stated this was discussed approximately 8-9 years ago. The Town would still get state benefit if the Town took over the roadway for the improvements needed. A. Malay asked C. Eugair about plowing Route 7. She asked if he would anticipate this being an issue. C. Eugair stated it depended on the limits. Chief Mannino stated if it is taken over, Pittsford would get more ticket revenue as it would be a local road. The Town would like to be able to do sewer updates, curb appeal and sidewalks. The State and Federal split is 20/80. The State is having a hard time to meet the match for these projects. Segment 4 has reportedly been shortened by a half a mile due to funding. The agreements can be written so the state would be in charge of paving the roadway. M. Winslow would like an outline of the plan. Septic sleeves on Bridge 108 could be part of this agreement.

Signing of Tyler Technologies Agreement for Reappraisal:

The selectboard just needs to sign the agreement. Lisa Wright has reviewed the contract. The selectboard signed the contract.

Signing of Sansoucy Agreement for Reappraisal:

Lisa Wright has reviewed the agreement. It needs selectboard signature, which was done.

Act on Orders \$112,305.97; Payroll \$32,335.88

D. Adams had a question on Gearwar Electric. This was for the first response building updates to the lighting.

Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by M. Winslow to enter Executive Session at 7:50PM.
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 reasons for the decision, in open meeting. 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(3) to include the Town Manager.

Motion to exit executive session at 8:58PM by T. Hooker and seconded by M. Winslow. Motion passed 3-0. Dan Adams left during the middle of executive session.

Motion by T. Hooker and Seconded by M. Winslow to appoint David Soulia as constable.
Motion passed 3-0.

Motion by M. Winslow and seconded by T. Hooker to appoint Ann Reed as alternate Zoning Administrator. Motion passed 3-0.

Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by M. Winslow to adjourn at 9:00PM. Motion passed unanimously 3 – 0.

The next regular Select Board meeting will be held on August 5, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Reed
Recording Secretary

Alicia Malay, Chair

David Mills, Vice Chair

Thomas Hooker, Selectman

Dan Adams, Selectman

Mark Winslow, Selectman