

TOWN OF PITTSFORD ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2017 – Lothrop School Gymnasium

Select Board Members Present:

Thomas “Hank” Pelkey, Chairman
Thomas Hooker, Vice Chairman
W. Joseph Gagnon
Jane Cornell
David Trombley

Also Present:

John Haverstock, Town Manager
Helen McKinlay, Town Clerk
Kelly Giard, Recording Secretary
Approximately 70 guests

Moderator Jim Carvey called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

Boy Scout Troop 110 presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Carvey explained that Roberts Rules of Order will be use, except in case Vermont State law takes precedence. Moderator Carvey also read from the Town Meeting Guidelines, which was published at the beginning of the Town Report. Moderator Carvey explained that the green cards that were given to the registered voters is a new State procedure for voting on articles and must be shown to vote.

Moderator Carvey explained due to the passing of Act 46 there would be no school presentation this evening as that occurred on March 1, 2017 at Otter Valley Union High School.

Moderator Carvey read the following warning:

The legal voters of the Town of Pittsford are hereby warned to meet at the Lothrop School Gymnasium in the Town of Pittsford, on Monday, March 6, 2017 at 6:30 PM to transact the following business not involving voting by Australian ballot:

Town Manager John Haverstock read the Annual Town Report dedication, which has been dedicated to the Town’s Veterans Memorial (pictured on the front of the report); Emerson Frost for his many years of dedicated service in various capacities, including Zoning Board and environmental issues; Charles “Butch” Shaw for his long and continued dedication to the Pittsford Fire Department and as State Representative.

Representative Shaw and Senator Flory discussed the Montpelier happenings within their individual chambers.

Senator Flory stated that this session has been “strange” as there is a new Governor, new Lt. Governor, new Pro Tempore, new Speaker of the House as well as a new President causing a very slow start. Senator Flory reported that the Route 7 upgrade segments are expected to take 2 years per segment. The budget is currently in the House and will be forwarded to the Senate prior to going to the Governor. This State budget includes a large bonding amount to aid in waterway clean-up as the Federal Government has ordered a clean-up in water with no increase in taxes. The Treasurer is currently working

on the fund bonding. Institutions and Corrections has asked for interested stakeholders to look at the corrections systems as \$84 million is required to do the necessary upgrades to the correctional facilities.

Representative Shaw reported that the Governor will not sign a budget that increases taxes, therefore, the budgets are being level funded. The Corrections budget is the largest budget at \$157 million per year to house inmates; the Governor has proposed \$35 million to begin the Work Force Housing program for people to move into an area and purchase affordable housing. The original marijuana bill passed the Senate and stalled in the House. There is another marijuana bill in the House now and testimony has been heard on recreational use.

Other topics that were discussed include the Carbon Tax that is in the House Natural Resources Committee; new Auto Inspection procedures; transportation dollars, which passed funding 2 years ago; Health Care with the status of Obama Care being unknown at this time, VT Health Connect is still an issue with \$268 million being spent in the past to get the program running.

Article 1. Moderator Carvey read the following article: *“To hear the reports of the Town Officers and take appropriate action thereon”.*

There were no comments regarding the reports as presented in the Annual Report.

Article 2. Moderator Carvey read the following article: *“To see if the voters of the Town of Pittsford will appropriate the sum of \$1,471,178.00 (One Million, Four Hundred Seventy-One Thousand, One Hundred Seventy-Eight and no/100ths Dollars) to defray the General Expenses of the Town for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, of which the sum of \$1,152,868.00 (One Million, One Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand, Eight Hundred Sixty-Eight and no/100ths Dollars) is to be raised by property taxes?”*

Select Board Chairman Pelkey explained the General Fund budget. The audited budget report was included in the Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 2016. The 2017 General Fund budget expenses are currently at 74.53% as the appropriations have been spent for the year. Select Board Chairman Pelkey explained some of the variations in the 2016 General Fund, largely losing the COPS Grant due to the term expiring. Select Board Chairman Pelkey explained that the 2018 budget is showing an increase of 5.95%, largely due to the increases in the hydrant expense going back into the General Fund, increasing the Vehicle Replacement Fund at the Fire Department, 3% staff salary increase and 4.6% increase in health insurance. Select Board Chairman Pelkey explained that the Reserve Funds were audited and currently have an overall combined balance of \$1,120,097.

Resident Bud Provin inquired about the increase in expense for the Police Department. Town Manager Haverstock explained that this article was discussed last year and resulted in the transition of a temporary officer to full time including wages and benefits.

Moderator Carvey reread the article. Motion by Matt Candon and seconded by Dave Markowski to approve Article 2 as presented. Motion passed with 4 nay votes.

Article 3. Moderator Carvey read the following article: *“To see if the voters of the Town of Pittsford will appropriate the sum of \$1,220,585.00 (One Million, Two Hundred Twenty Thousand, Five Hundred Eighty-Five and no/100ths Dollars) to defray the Highway Expenses of the Town for the 2017 – 2018 fiscal year, of which the sum of \$910,935.00 (Nine Hundred Ten Thousand, Nine Hundred Thirty-Five and no/100ths Dollars) is to be raised by property taxes.”*

Selectman Joe Gagnon reported on the Highway Department activities. The Highway Department will be taking delivery of a new bobcat machine in Spring 2017 and hoping to replace a truck with the 2018 budget. Selectman Gagnon explained some of the projects that were completed over the last year as culvert installation and paving on Corn Hill Road; paving Whipple Hollow Road; installation of box culverts on Fire Hill Road and East Pittsford Road, which were possible with the receipt of \$175,000 in grant funds; bridge work on Fire Hill Road, also possible with the receipt of grant funds; Arch Street sidewalk construction; ditch work; stone installed near the Fox Farm to prevent washouts; ditching, stone and pipe installation on Stevens Road; deck work on the Kendall Hill bridge; ditching on Sangamon Road; ditching and tree work on Hendee Lane; piping at the Recreation area; repairing a sink hole on Arch Street near the Wastewater Treatment Facility; installing the historical markers on the Village Green, Kendrick Dam and the Veterans Memorial; upgrading part of the Old Hubbardton Road to class 3; cutting trees at the Kendrick Dam. Selectman Gagnon explained that the projects planned for the next year include overseeing the Stevens Road resurfacing; a section of Plains Road to Hitchcock Road resurfacing and improvements; bridge replacement on Fire Hill Road.

Resident Paul Lathrop inquired if getting the speed limits lowered on roads is part of the Highway Fund. Selectman Gagnon explained that the Police Department now owns a speed cart to monitor speeds and that the Police Department has been very active with radar patrols. Town Manager Haverstock stated that the Rutland Regional Planning Commission has assessed the area in question and deemed that the 35 mph is appropriate.

Moderator Carvey reread the article. Motion by Peg Flory and seconded by Bud Provin to approve Article 3. Motion passed with 1 nay vote.

Water & Sewer Commission Chairman David Pearson presented the Water & Sewer Commission activities of the past year. The Water & Sewer Commission members are Helen McKinlay, Clarence Greeno, Bob Harnish, Ernie Clerihew and David Pearson. Water and Sewer Commission Chairman Pearson stated that the system upgrades over the past few years has allowed the Commission to focus on the day to day operations. The Water and Sewer Commission will be looking at the VTRANS project at the Furnace Brook Bridge in the next couple of years and an engineer has been obtained for the relocation of the system pipe; there was a grant received to cover a portion of the cost of digital mapping of the water system; the Depot Road pump station is being analyzed for capacity and possibilities.

Jim Rademacher inquired about water and sewer depreciation. Town Manager Haverstock explained that the auditors identified the depreciation and determined that this was not necessary every year.

Bud Provin inquired if there would be an increase in the number of sewer customers on the system. Chairman Pearson stated that the capacity of the system is being reviewed as well as possible upgrades.

David Rowe inquired if the ground water infiltration has been addressed. Town Manager Haverstock stated that this will never be 100% preventable, however, the recent upgrades on Arch, Pleasant and Mechanic Streets have helped with this decrease in infiltration.

Article 4. Moderator Carvey read the following article: *“To see if the voters of the Town of Pittsford will appropriate the sum of \$17,000 (Seventeen Thousand and no/100ths Dollars) to defray the Village District’s Expenses for the 2017 – 2018 fiscal year, of which the sum of \$17,000 (Seventeen Thousand and no/100ths Dollars) is to be raised by property taxes payable by Village property owners?”*

Motion by Sue Markowski and seconded by Ernie Clerihew to approve. Gary Mayer inquired why the village is separate from the town. Town Manager Haverstock explained that this occurred many years ago. Town Manager Haverstock also explained that with the installation of the LED bulbs that the cost is lower than the original \$20,000. Motion passed with 1 nay.

Article 5. Moderator Carvey read the following article: *To see if the voters will authorize collection of taxes on real and personal property by its Treasurer in three equal installments, due on or before August 10, September 8, and November 10, 2017.”*

Motion by Sue Markowski and seconded by Wayne Rowe. Motion passed with 2 nay votes.

Article 6. Moderator Carvey read the following article: *“To transact such other non-binding business as legally may come before said meeting at this time.”*

Ernie Clerihew invited the public to the Concerned Citizens Continuing the Discussion to be held at the library on March 17, 2017. This is a discussion on national democracy.

Town Manager Haverstock read a letter from the Town of Chittenden with regard to the installation of an alert siren at the Chittenden Reservoir. There will be testing once the installation is complete and notice will be given prior to the test.

Bonnie Stewart inquired about the outcome of the Select Board meeting with VT AOT with regard to the sidewalks in the village and stated that the sidewalk project cannot wait until the Route 7 upgrade construction.

Wayne Rowe inquired the shimming of Route 7. Senator Flory stated that the paving schedule is on a rotation and this portion is not on the agenda for the next 2 years.

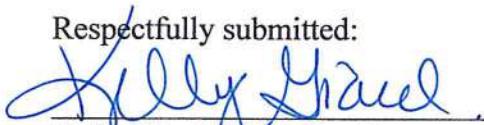
At the close of the above business, the meeting shall be recessed until Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 7:00 a.m. at the Town Offices 426 Plains Road, Pittsford to vote by Australian ballot on the following matters, to wit:

Article 7. Moderator Carvey read the following article: *“To elect the following officers of the Town:*

- a. *A Town Moderator for the term of one (1) year*
- b. *A Selectman for a term of three (3) years*
- c. *A Selectman for a term of two (2) years*
- d. *A Lister for a term of three (3) years*
- e. *A Town Agent for a term of one (1) year*
- f. *A Grand Juror for a term of one (1) year*
- g. *A Trustee of Public Funds for a term of three (3) years*
- h. *One MacLure Library Trustees for terms of one (1) year each*
- i. *A Town Clerk for the term of three (3) years*
- j. *A Town Treasurer for the term of three (3) years*

Motion by John Haverstock and seconded by Wayne Rowe to adjourn at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Kelly Giard, Recording Secretary



Helen E. McKinlay, Town Clerk



James Carvey, Moderator



Ernest Clerihew, Board of Civil Authority