

## TOWN OF PITTSFORD ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

March 4, 2019 – Lothrop School Gymnasium

### Select Board Members Present:

Tom Hooker, Chairman  
Thomas “Hank” Pelkey, Vice-Chairman  
W. Joseph Gagnon  
Alicia Malay  
David Trombley

### Also, Present:

John Haverstock, Town Manager  
Helen McKinlay, Town Clerk  
Elizabeth Willis, Asst. Town Clerk  
Approximately 95 guests

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

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

Moderator Carvey explained that Roberts Rules of Order will be used, except where Vermont State Law takes precedence. Moderator Carvey read the Annual Town Meeting Guidelines, as published on page 1 of the Town Report.

Town Manager John Haverstock read the caption for the cover photo on the Town Report, which is the Highway Department’s new dump/plow truck. The 2018 Western Star Model 4700 is a single-axle truck with an automatic transmission and a 7-yard payload and features a wing. This truck has been assigned for use by the Town’s newest Highway Crew member Peter Carrara.

The dedication in honor of the late Rodney G. Drown for his many years as of service, contributing to the quality of life in Pittsford was read.

A dedication to Mike and Mary Blanchard for their many years of help to others less fortunate than themselves was read by Town Manager, John Haverstock. The dedication is to celebrate their instinct to provide hope and support to those in need.

Moderator Carvey introduced State Representatives Butch Shaw and Stephanie Jerome and State Senator Cheryl Hooker to present an update on work in in their individual chambers of the legislature.

Butch Shaw, Legislature as the State Representative for Pittsford, Brandon & Sudbury. Butch is on the Transportation and State Buildings Committee. The following are items of interest currently being worked on:

1. Telecommunications
2. Mosquito issues
3. Fish, Wildlife and Water Quality
4. Homestead increase of 2.4% - increase of .013
5. VT 211 information
6. VT Unclaimed Property
7. Legislation on the Horizon:
  - a. Legalization of the sale and use of marijuana
  - b. Paid Family leave
  - c. Raising minimum wage
  - d. Establishing the statewide property tax rate to fund education
  - e. Rewriting and updating the Act 250 land use statutes

- f. Initiatives to amend the State constitution to change the Governor's term to 4 years and eliminating references to slavery, a two-day waiting period for the purchase of firearms and addressing workforce development

Stephanie Jerome, State Representative representing Pittsford, Brandon & Sudbury. Here are a few important updates to share:

1. 10,000 jobs opening due to people retiring and moving out of state
2. Child care
3. School buildings
4. Act 250

Stephanie will be at MacLure Library on second Saturday of the Month from 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Cheryl Hooker, Senate representing Rutland County. Cheryl is on the Institutions and Corrections committee. A few important updates are:

1. Economic changes effecting housing affordability
2. Privacy and Protection
3. Work Force Development
4. Prisons – Bring prisoners home from out of state with savings
5. Good roads

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 4, 2019 at 6:30 pm to transact the following business not involving voting by Australian ballot:*

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

Town Manager John Haverstock presented a budget overview of the proposed Fiscal Year 2019/2019 budget and expressed thanks to the Assistant to the Town Manager Linda Drummond, Department Heads, and the Town Clerk's office for their work on the Town Report and administering the budgets. John Haverstock gave a brief summary of the FY 2018/2019 audited budget, given the highest unqualified results from the outside auditors.

Motion by Dave Markowski and seconded by Walter “Terry” Poor to approve. Motion approved unanimously.

**Article 2.** Moderator Carvey read the following article: *To see if the voters of the Town of Pittsford will appropriate the sum of \$1,634,823.00 (One Million, Six Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand, Eight Hundred Twenty-Three and no/100ths Dollars) to defray the General Expenses of the Town for the 2019- 2020 fiscal year, of which the sum of \$1,268,533.00 (One Million, One Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand, Five Hundred Thirty-Three and no/100ths Dollars) is to be raised by property taxes?”*

Tom Hooker, Select Board Chairman presented the General Fund budget “highlights.” Motion by Wayne Rowe and seconded by Dave Markowski to approve the article as presented.

Baird Morgan shared his concerns for the Police Department being over budget since 2008 by 19% annually. FY2018/2019 the Police Department is over budget by 200%. John Haverstock pointed out increased ticket revenue and OMYA detail to discourage tractor trailer trucks from being on wrong roads and grant money being received and spent for equipment by the Police Department. Barbara Lalancette inquired if the BLSG Mosquito District finances are being audited and shared concerns of their requesting an additional \$10,000.00. Gary Mayer was inquiring about the upcoming FY 2019/2020 tax rates. John Haverstock shared estimated figures from the auditors based on last year's grand list (the new grand list is as of April 1, 2019 per state regulations) and the education figures from the State of Vermont are not available until July 1, 2019. The auditors estimate for the Town and Highway tax rate is \$0.6348. This would be an increase of \$0.0279 which would equal \$55.80 on a \$200,000.00 house.

The article passed with three 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 \$2,556,681.00 (Two Million, Five Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand, Six Hundred Eighty-One and no/100ths Dollars) to defray the Highway Expenses of the Town for the 2019 – 2020 fiscal year, of which the sum of \$998,641.00 (Nine Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand, Six Hundred Forty-One and no/100ths Dollars) is to be raised by property taxes."*

Selectman Joe Gagnon reported on the Highway Department activities.

Motion by Dave Markowski and seconded by Walter "Terry" Poor to approve. Article 3 passed, with 3 opposed votes.

**Article 4.** Moderator Carvey read the following article: *"To see if the voters of the Town of Pittsford will appropriate the sum of \$16,000 (Sixteen Thousand and no/100ths Dollars) to defray the Village District's Expenses for the 2019–2020 fiscal year, of which the sum of \$16,000 (Sixteen Thousand and no/100ths Dollars) is to be raised by property taxes payable by Village property owners?"*

Motion by Barbara Pierce and seconded by Dave Markowski to approve.

Peter Cady inquired how the much the Town had saved since the installation of LED street lights. John Haverstock replied the Town had seen substantial savings and this amount is reflected in the reduction of the tax figure from \$20,000 to \$17,000.

Article 4 passed, with 3 opposing votes.

**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 15, September 16, and November 15, 2019."*

Motion by Walter "Terry" Poor and seconded by Dave Markowski. Article 5 passed unanimously.

**Article 6.** Moderator Carvey read the following article: *“To see if the voters of the Town of Pittsford will vote to exempt the building and properties belonging to the Pittsford Historical Society located at 3399 US Route 7 (Parcel # 1713)*

Motion by Sue Markowski and seconded by Wayne Rowe to approve. Article 6 passed unanimously.

**Article 7.** Moderator Carvey read the following article: *“ To see if the voters of the Town of Pittsford will vote to exempt the properties belong to the Pittsford Historical Society located off Goat Farm Road (aka: ice cavesparcel, consisting of 54.6 acres) Parcel # 1682from municipal property taxes for a period of five (5) years in accordance with the exemption clause for charitable organizations set forth in 32 VSA Section 3840.*

Motion by Gordon DeLong and seconded by Dave Markowski to approve. Article 7 passed unanimously.

**Article 8.** Moderator Carvey read the following article: *“ To see if the voters of the Town of Pittsford will vote to exempt the building and properties belonging to Pittsford First Response located at 256 Arch Street (Parcel # 1715) from municipal property taxes for a period of five (5) years in accordance with the exemption clause for charitable organizations set forth in 32 VSA Section 3840.*

A motion to approve the motion was made by Sue Markowski and seconded by Walter “Terry” Poor.

Following a prolonged discussion of the pros and cons of joining the District as a full-member and deploying adulticide in Pittsford, the voice vote was too close to call. Next a show of hands was used. The motion passed with 35 in favor of the Article and 24 opposed.

**Article 9. Moderator Carvey read the following article:** *“To see if the voters of the Town of Pittsford will authorize to be raised by taxation \$500.00 (Five Hundred and no/100ths Dollars) to be used by Vermont Family Network.*

Motion by Dave Markowski and Wayne Rowe to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

**Article 10.** Moderator Carvey read the following article: *“To transact such other non-binding business as legally may come before said meeting at this time.”*

At the close of the above business, the meeting was recessed until Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 7:00 a.m. at the Town Offices, located at 426 Plains Road, Pittsford for voting by Australian ballot on the following matters, to wit:

- Article 11.** To elect the following officers of the Town:
- a. *A Town Moderator for a 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 Trustee for terms of one (1) year*
- i. *A Town Moderator for the term of one (1) year*

**Article 12.** To vote on the following Article of business:

Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Pittsford in an amount not to exceed \$970,000, subject to reduction from available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued to finance the cost of making certain public sewer system improvements, namely, construction and installation of new gravity sewer mains, pump station and forced main, wastewater treatment facility instrumentation, and related betterments, at an aggregate estimated cost of \$970,000?

Motion by Wayne Rowe and seconded by David Markowski to adjourn, at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Attest:

S/s James Carvey, Moderator

S/s Helen E. McKinlay, Town Clerk

S/s Patricia Carter, Board of Civil Authority

S/s Elizabeth Willis, Asst. Town Clerk