

Town of Pittsford  
TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
March 4, 2024

In attendance: Alicia Malay, David Mills, Thomas Hooker, W. Joseph Gagnon, Mark Winslow, David Atherton, Helen McKinlay, Liz Willis, registered voters for the Town of Pittsford, Steven Jupiter, Ann Reed

The meeting opened at 6:30pm with a welcome from Rob Spensley. He turned the meeting over to Butch Shaw so that he could talk about what is happening in the legislature currently. Butch stated there are two things that are serious problems in the state currently. They are public safety and housing, especially workforce housing. There are four bills on these topics currently being worked on. There is a public safety bill currently being reviewed that would stack petty crime/shoplifting so that each case would be added to the total of previous cases. There is also a bill that would make it a crime to get into a vehicle that is not your own. Mr. Shaw stated that the bill that did pass recently was the budget adjustment true-up, which occurred last week. There is currently a hole in the FY25 budget that they are trying to figure out. There is also a bill for safe injection sites for drug use. There would be no age limit and the bill is currently in the Senate. Towns would need to approve this on a town by town basis.

Mr. Shaw continued by discussing future Town of Pittsford projects, including the construction of Bridge 108 at the intersection of Routes 3 and 7. This is a two season project with a price tag of about \$10.5 million. Pittsford's Route 7 Segment 4 is in the process of being finalized for the Act 250 permit and is expected to bid in late summer for construction in Spring of 2025. Segment 3 currently has funding for FY2028 and Segment 2 has funding for FY2029. Proctor, Pittsford and West Rutland are currently doing a scoping study for a tri-town trail. This could be a potential project in the future using class 2 and 3 funds.

Mr. Shaw then stated the elephant in the room is school budget impacts. Currently, taxes are likely to go up 18-20% due to school budgets. School budgets can be pulled back by the school districts and re-worked.

At 6:44pm, Rob Spensley took back over the moderating for the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was done, followed by introductions of the Select Board, Town Manager, Town Clerk/Treasurer, and Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer. Mr. Spensley read the general introduction from the Town Report. He then laid out Australian Balloting and what will be voted on tomorrow at the Town Offices. Mr. Spensley then went over what the moderator position is, that Robert's Rules of Order will be used, and that anyone that speaks should stand and state their name before speaking.

6:51pm – Alicia Malay read the Town Report dedication for Rebecca Davenport, followed by Mark Winslow reading Joe Gagnon's dedication.

6:55pm – Rob Spensley went over the Table of Contents for the Town Report.

6:57pm, Rob Spensley introduced Article 1 from the Town Meeting Warning. There was a motion by Wayne Rowe and seconded by Myra Poor. This motion was passed to hear the reports of the town.

6:58pm – Joe Gagnon gave the highway report, followed by a thank you speech thanking the citizens for allowing him to serve the town for 20 years.

There was a question from Matt Candon on why the speed limit had been changed to 25MPH through the village and what the justification was. It was explained that the State had put route 7 at 25MPH and it was felt that Arch and the surrounding roads should follow for public safety.

Alicia Malay gave the general fund overview. The town had an almost level funded budget, with increases in first response, police, and fire department budgets. We have removed the transfer station from the budget.

Barbara Lalancette stated the figures in the Town Report should follow proper accounting format in the future, as the numbers need commas.

7:06pm – Article 2 – General fund budget was introduced. Motion by Wayne Rowe and seconded by David Markowski for article 2. Motion passed.

Barbara Pearson questioned page 22 of the annual report and why the management budget, especially the Town Manager salary and benefits were higher than the Town Clerk's budget and benefits. Ann Reed stated that the FY23 spending was just over \$80,000 due to not having a town manager for two and a half months. The budgets shown in the Town Report include three different town managers. Mrs. Reed also explained that the two positions in the management budget are family plans for health insurance, which is significantly more money than single or double insurance plans.

Greg Hiltz stated there is a difference between a need and a worth.

Barbara Person then asked about page 25 – special appropriations. She wanted to know why there are not increases in these. Alicia Malay stated that the select board can't determine the amounts for special appropriations.

Josh White spoke up and asked Barbara Pearson what she wanted to see happen and what she wanted.

Wayne Rowe asked the clarifying question on if Articles 8 to 21 get added into the budget. The answer is yes, if they are approved.

James Stewart – The revenues total on page 21 is incorrect and better proofreading should be done on the Town Report.

Ernie Clerihew – This budget is \$75,000 less than last year by taxation amount.

The vote was called on Article 2 and passed unanimously.

7:23pm Article 3 was introduced by Rob Spensley. There was a motion by David Markowski and seconded by Wayne Rowe for Article 3. A vote was called and was passed unanimously.

7:25pm Article 4 was introduced by Rob Spensley. There was a motion by Kim Spensley and seconded by Myra Poor. There was no discussion and the article passed unanimously.

7:27pm Article 5 was introduced by Rob Spensley. There was a motion by Lori Byrom and seconded by Myra Poor. There was no discussion and the article passed unanimously.

7:29pm – Article 6 was introduced by Rob Spensley. There was a motion by Colby Reynolds and seconded by Barbara Pearson. There was no discussion and the vote was approved unanimously.

7:31pm – Article 7 was introduced by Rob Spensley. There was a motion by Steven Belcher and seconded by David Markowski. There was no discussion and the article was approved by vote.

7:33pm – Article 8 was introduced by Rob Spensley. There was a motion by Myra Poor and seconded by David Lacey. Gordon DeLong asked if the articles 8-21 could be offered as a slate. The motion to vote articles 8-21 was made by Tom Browe and seconded by David Markowski. Ken Gagnon wanted

clarification on page 25 for special appropriations. Wayne Rowe explained that some of the special appropriations no longer exist. Baird Morgan asked if the library appropriation could be discussed, as he wanted justification for article 16. Naomi Malay asked if one article could be pulled off the list and be voted separately. Rob Spensley asked the group what articles they would like to see pulled from the list. The list was Maclure Library, Pittsford Food Shelf, and Regional Ambulance Service. There was a new motion for voting Articles 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 together. This motion was done by Tom Browe and seconded by David Markowski. The motion to vote was done by Bonnie Stewart and Dave Lacey. The vote was done Articles 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 passed.

7:44pm – Article 12 for the food shelf was introduced by Rob Spensley. A motion was done by Ken Gagnon and Wayne Rowe. Bonnie Stewart wanted to know why the special appropriation was only \$1,000. Wayne Rowe explained that all three towns give \$1,000, as the food shelf is shared by Pittsford, Chittenden and Proctor. Lori Byrom asked if the voters are allowed to change the dollar amount due to the warning. She wanted to know if it was a process problem. Sue Markowski said that Chittenden and Proctor would also need to be contacted, as all towns do the same appropriation. Kim Spensley asked if the selectboard could consider approaching the other towns to increase the amount to the food shelf. David Atherton spoke about the disc golf tournament that recently raised almost \$7,000 for the food shelf through the Pittsford Recreation Department. Barbara Pearson wanted to know how the town would know about the donation done by the recreation fundraising. Alan Betts spoke up and said the local churches also contribute to the food shelf. The vote was done for the \$1,000 special appropriation to the food shelf and it was approved.

7:52pm – Article 13 was introduced by Rob Spensley. There was a motion by Myra Poor and seconded by Baird Morgan. Craig Bowman wanted to know what the contract between the Town of Pittsford and Regional Ambulance Service was for. He stated that working for Pittsford First Response, he has noticed that Regional is sending basic life support ambulances instead of advanced life support to most of the incidents in town. Betsey Morgan stated that the appropriation is done on a per capita rate, not based on the truck type that is sent to the sites. Colby Reynolds asked where the \$12,000 is going for the fees. Betsey Morgan explained it is based on the town's paying in. Tom Hooker stated that forty years ago, it was voted to help with the support services. The money goes to maintain their budget. Betsey Morgan stated again that it is important to understand that Regional Ambulance's appropriation is based on a per capita price and has not changed in ten plus years. This article was voted and approved.

7:57pm – Article 16 was introduced by Rob Spensley. There was a motion by Myra Poor and seconded by Josh White. Baird Morgan stated the Maclure library is asking for a 25% increase, all the budgets are up. How do they justify the increase from last year to this year? Alicia Malay stated it is a pretty tight budget. Steven Belcher said there are fixed costs and much of the budget goes to personnel. Out of the approximately \$120,000 in the budget, \$101,000 is for payroll. The library has received many grants for the building including for the windows, storm windows, and the front doors. Shelley is really good about getting grants. Lori Byrom asked if the \$125,000 the library's total budget. Liz Soulia said she had the publication from the library and the entire budget is \$172,000, with her budget showing \$112,000 from the town. Baird Morgan spoke up and said he was confused on if they asked for \$112,000 like the library budget says or \$125,000 like the special appropriation requests. They are going from \$99,500 to \$125,000 in the Town Report. Steven Belcher stated he did not know why the budget number was different than the special appropriation request. Liz Soulia stated she thinks Shelley put the middle between what the library asked for and what they currently receive. Ken Gagnon stated it is hard to feel good about a 25% increase. Josh White stated that Shelley offers a lot at the library and asked if there are cuts, what is the library going to cut? Barbara Pearson stated that Baird's question had not been answered. Lisa McCarthy spoke up and stated the library increase should be approved because of the availability of the internet, the literacy rate in this town, the wealth of information available at the library, and the fact that Shelley does go after grants. Shelley has asked for help because she does not have the funds for the budget. Joe Gagnon said he is in favor of the budget, but the town budget is only up about 3% and 25% is a huge jump. He has no idea why it is a 25% increase and he is not in favor of it.

Alicia Malay stated that the windows and the roof need help and grants need matching funds. Joe Gagnon stated that a 25% increase in one year seems excessive, a 5-10% increase would be better. Naomi Malay said while the increase is large, the overall price for services is valuable. Lisa McCarthy stated it is the cost of everything. Donna Wilson stated that the salaries that are paid is a large part of that. She has a list of things done to the building in the last few years if anyone wants to see it. It includes plumbing, electrical, windows, and keeping up with the building. Steven Belcher said it is more money because costs have gone way up. Most of the money is for salaries to keep services. A vote was called and the article passed.

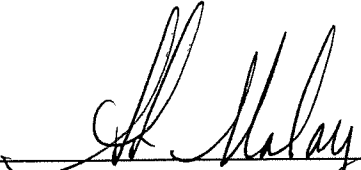
8:13pm – Article 22 was introduced by Rob Spensley.


Alan Roberge, a resident on Elm Street, spoke that for the last 5-6 years he has had to deal with tractor trailer truck drivers by Cooley Bridge. At least two of these occurrences have required large wreckers and have destroyed pavement. He heard that Chief Warfle has written pretty hefty fines for these. If there were fines, who is in charge of collecting the fines and where does this go? Could these revenues be spent somewhere else? David Atherton said that the town does fine the trucks and go after insurance companies. We can get the information on where the funds are posted to. Barbara Pearson stated that traffic fines are a source of revenue in the Town Report. Butch Shaw spoke that two years ago, legislature approved towns to be able to fine trucks trying to go through bridges. He explained the process and the fact town roads have been reduced to 16,000# and fines are available up to \$10,000 or the cost to repair a bridge. Tractor Trailer drivers carrying more than 16,000# should be aware they should not be on that road.

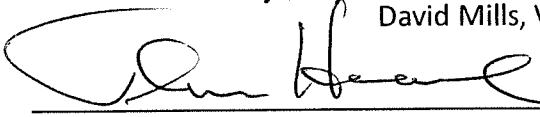
Gordon DeLong asked about the ARPA fund on page 12. He wanted to know if the funds had been obligated yet and for what. Alicia Malay told him yes, and it is obligated for the Plains Road Sewer project. Tom Hooker said it has been earmarked.

Gordon DeLong then asked if it needs to be spent. It was stated that the Town will show it has been obligated before 4/1/2024 and spent by 6/30/2024.

The Town Meeting was recessed until March 5, 2024 at 7am after a motion by David Markowski and second by Waye Rowe. Motion passed unanimously.

  
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Alicia Malay, Chair

  
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David Mills, Vice Chair

  
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Thomas Hooker, Selectman

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W, Joseph Gagnon, Selectman

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Mark Winslow, Selectman