

Town of Pittsford SELECT BOARD MEETING – October 16, 2024 – DRAFT

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alicia Malay, David Mills, Thomas Hooker and Dan Adams (7:11 PM).

ABSENT: Mark Winslow. OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Repetur, Superintendent Rene Sanchez, David Atherton - Town Manager, Kelly Giard – Recording Secretary

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

Chair Malay stated that there was a need to remove Executive Session #2.

Chair Malay stated that there was a need to amend the agenda to add the review of the October 30, 2024 Budget Meeting minutes. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by T. Hooker to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously 3– 0.

MINUTES:

The October 30, 2024 budget meeting minutes were signed with a minor correction.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Town Manager Atherton reported the following:

- There was a waterline break on Orchard Hill that resulted in multiple breaks. Fortunately, with the assistance of the Highway Department, the repairs were made and water was back on the same day. There was a sizable section of road that was disturbed and Pike was in town and was able to repair the pavement immediately.
- A public hearing was held on October 23, 2024 for the Tri-Town Trail Scoping Study. The presentation was in the October 16, 2024 Select Board packets for their information. Chair Malay and Town Manager Atherton were in attendance and the rail beds were discussed, as well as the fact that these trails will be used for hiking and biking.
- Attended a Notary Public continuing education webinar, which is now mandatory to keep the notary status.
- Attended the State and Local Government Municipal Day at the National Life Building in Montpelier with Chair Malay.
- All of the annual paving has been completed. Chair Malay inquired if the residents had been advised to not park on the freshly paved sidewalks. Town Manager Atherton stated that the state advised to do whatever was necessary to the offenders. The Police Department personnel approached the vehicle owners with the parking ordinance in hand.
- The Plains Road sewer project will begin this week. Updates will be posted as they come available from Markowski Excavating. The project will begin at the Dollar General/Route 7 intersection and work easterly.
- Bridge 108 Updates include abutments are being placed, traffic control is in place for the placement of the abutments.

SELECTBOARD MEMBER REMARKS:

None presented at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None presented at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

RNESU Superintendent Sanchez

RNESU Digital Grant Request:

Superintendent Rene Sanchez was present to introduce himself to the Select Board. Mr. Sanchez stated that he has been in the area since July 1, 2024 and has discovered a digital infrastructure grant that has a very short turn around and is looking to apply for this grant in the next year. Mr. Sanchez explained that this would increase internet access for all students, however will need community support. Mr. Sanchez reported that approximately 50% of the students in the school system do not have adequate internet access. The access would have 1 secure/locked bandwidth for students for security purposes. Mr. Sanchez stated that he would be approaching the Select Boards near the end of the school year to update on progress and ask for a letter of support, which will be required for the grant application. Mr. Sanchez stated that he will be having more of the coffee hour times, will be attending Town Meetings and is open to discuss the budgets with the taxpayers. There was discussion regarding the budget needing to be conservative. Town Manager Atherton discussed that there is the OCCUD that may also be of assistance to the school internet concerns. Town Manager Atherton will work with Mr. Sanchez on this contact. Chair Malay inquired if the lack of internet access was physical or financial. Mr. Sanchez explained that the restricted access is due to the rural areas. D. Mills inquired if the hardware build out would be included in the grant or payment. Mr. Sanchez explained that the hardware would be utilized to the schools and community buildings and updating the current computers, and once the grant funds are expensed, a way to work into the budgets. Chair Malay stated that the budget discussions are a concern. Mr. Sanchez explained that he will be having the coffee hours again to hear the concerns of the public.

NEW BUSINESS

Assessor Errors and Omissions Approval:

Lisa Wright presented a reversal and addition of Veteran's Exemptions for approval. These adjustments have no impact on the Grand List or property tax collections. Motion by D. Mills and seconded by T. Hooker to approve the request as presented. Motion passed unanimously 3 – 0.

RRPC Emergency Management Committee Appointments 2024-2025:

Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by D. Mills to approve the continued appointment of Timothy Cornell and Steve Shortsleeves as representatives for the Town to the Emergency Management Team. Motion passed unanimously 3 – 0.

Motion by D. Mills and seconded by T. Hooker to amend the agenda to add the Discussion of a Trench Box. Motion passed unanimously 3 – 0.

Discussion of Trench Box:

A quote has been received for a Trench Box to be used in Highway Department projects. The lowest received was \$8,132.49. The trench box is 6' X 8' and is retractable for easier storage. Town Manager Atherton stated that the funding is available in the Highway Capital Funds.

Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by D. Mills to purchase the trench box in the amount of \$8,132.49. Motion passed unanimously 3 – 0.

Act on Orders \$13,237.28; Payroll \$15,396.45:

The orders were signed with no discussion.

Motion by D. Mills and seconded by T. Hooker to enter into Executive Session at 7:12 PM.
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. 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to include the Town Manager.

Motion by T. Hooker and seconded by D. Mills to exit Executive Session at 7:23 PM.

Motion by D. Mills and seconded by D. Adams to approve the Master Skills raise for Tyler Allen.
Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

Motion by D. Adams and seconded by D. Mills to adjourn at 7:25 PM. Motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

The next Special Select Board meeting will be held on November 13, 2024. The next regular Select Board meeting will be held on November 20, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Giard
Recording Secretary

Alicia Malay, Chair

David Mills, Vice Chair

Thomas Hooker, Selectman

Dan Adams, Selectman

ABSENT

Mark Winslow, Selectman