

**Town of Pittston Select Board Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2023**

Board Present: Jane Hubert, Jean Ambrose, Joe Caputo

Staff Present: Deb MacInnes, Christian Jensen, Sam Snow

Residents Present: Pat Philbrook, Wayne Peaslee, Cheryl Peaslee, Todd Lindstrom, Sharon Gleason, Susan Tardiff, Linda Caputo, Jason Corliss, Tony Garvan, Todd Lavoie.

Others Present: Ruben Bartlett, Willett Family Construction.

Via Zoom: Larry Ireland, Mary White, Emily Duggan, Mary Lawrence, Horace Moody and others.

1. **Call to order:** Chair, Jane Hubert called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **Sign Municipal Plow Contract:** Tim Willett sent the Select Board an email requesting that his estimator, Ruben Bartlett, sign the Municipal Plow Contract in his place. The contract was signed by Mr. Bartlett and the Select Board.
4. **Approval of old minutes:** Jane Hubert made a motion to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of September 27, 2023. Motion approved: 3-0.
5. **Accounts payable & payroll warrants:** Jean Ambrose made a motion to approve preview warrant #42 in the amount of \$148,656.24. Motion approved: 3-0.

Jean Ambrose made a motion to approve payroll warrant #4223 in the amount of \$4,314.01. Motion approved: 3-0.

7. Roads (Sam Snow, Road Commissioner)

a. Old Business

- i. **Crushing/screening (Joe Caputo):** There is no change.
- ii. **Shoulder Work:** This work has been completed.
- iii. **Engineering RFP (Jewett Rd):** An incorrect date is in the posting. Deb MacInnes will correct this.
- iv. **FEMA application:** The site visit on October 3rd went very well. The Troop Road and Crocker Road projects have been submitted for approval. More work will be done on this project.

- v. **Sand supply RFP/Open bids:** There was one bid. The bid from Sam Snow Construction, Inc. is for \$20.50 per yard for 2023 and \$22.50 per yard for 2024. There was a discussion regarding the price. Last year was \$12.50 per yard. There are two choices. This could go back out to bid, risking no bids coming in, or accepting the only bid. Joe Caputo asked Sam Snow if he was willing to not charge for the loader rental to offset some of the cost of the sand. Sam replied that the loader had nothing to do with this. S.W. Cole has done a gradation report in the past. Jean Ambrose made a motion to accept this bid. Motion approved: 2-1. Todd Lindstrom volunteered to count the loads of sand being put into the sand shed. Sam Snow will contact Todd before he puts sand in the shed.
- vi. **Small claims on Parker Road:** A letter was sent to the resident who had questions about this issue.

b. New Business:

Sam Snow reported that there are washouts on Webb Road, Clay Road, and Palmer Road.

- i. **St. Germain:** This is the engineering firm handling the culvert grant projects on Blodgett Road and Pinkham Road. Upon request, on October 6, 2023, St. Germain sent an email to the town giving an update on the permit process for Pinkham Road. St. Germain also stated that they will no longer be able to help the town with these projects due to staffing shortages. Patrick Gere worked on these projects before he left to go to work for Sebago Technics who may be interested in taking on this project. St. Germain will forward all work to the engineer of our choosing at no additional charge. Joe Caputo will call Patrick Gere. The extension for Pinkham Road has been requested.
- ii. **Todd Lindstrom, Old County Road:** Todd explained his research on Old County Road and the Road Ordinance. This road was reopened to put in Capital Street. There is not 18" of base and no shoulders. Todd feels this road should be fixed properly. It is all clay and in mud season you can't get down the road. The culverts are higher than the road. Sam Snow is to put together an estimate for a plan and cost to get this road through the winter and a long-

term plan for after that. There was a discussion on how to pay for this plan. Joe Caputo stated that the road just needs to be passable. Joe stated it is the town's responsibility to get you (residents) in and out.

Todd requested that the Select Board have a work session to go look at the road themselves.

8. General Town Business

a. Old Business

- i. **No-bid limit increase:** Jane Hubert called two towns that stated if a contractor went over the limit, "the contractor would eat it" There was a discussion about the difference between an estimate and a contract.

(At this time, this item was tabled.)

6. **Executive Session: Personnel Matters: 1.M.R.S.A.§405(6)(A):** Jane Hubert made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. Motion approved: 3-0. Jane Hubert made a motion to come out of the Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. Motion approved: 3-0.

Jane Hubert made a motion to contact MMA about a legal issue and if resolved we will follow through with an appointment paper. Motion approved: 2-1.

Jane Hubert made a motion to go into Executive Session Personnel Matters: 1. M.R.S.A.§405(6)(A) at 7:42 p.m. Motion approved: 3-0.

Jane Hubert made a motion to come out of the Executive Session at 7:54 p.m. Motion approved: 3-0.

(At this time, the no-bid limit increase topic continued)

Jane Hubert suggested calling more towns to see how to handle follow-up. It was suggested having a contract would put "teeth" in it. A work session was suggested. This topic is not just for roads.

- ii. **Recycling bins:** Two welders have looked at the old recycling bin. No cost to repair was given. The damage on the bottom can not be seen. This bin could be kept off the ground and stored. Jane Hubert would like Ann Pistell to come in to talk about this.
- iii. **Zoom Identification follow-up:** Some would like to know who is speaking and some don't care. The way it is set up now, there is a

name when the person signs in. The chat will be monitored. There is no change.

- iv. **Riverwalk boundary:** The committee is waiting for the release of the plan to find the last pin.
- v. **Handyman posting:** Jane Hubert would like to get this posted. Checking the oil in the generator will be left in the posting. The Handyman could be trained to check the oil.
- vi. **Forester RFP:** Andy Schultz is making contact with a landowner and will send a brief bid form.
- vii. **Elected Officials Workshop in November:** Jane Hubert and Joe Caputo will sign up for this workshop.
- viii. **Treasurer recommends closing KSB savings accounts:**
 - 1. **Future Voting Machine - \$10,403.50**
 - 2. **Future Engineering - \$2,722.81**There is nothing new to report on these two accounts.

b. New Business

- i. **Todd Lavoie: Hunting on town-owned property:** Jean Ambrose explained that the Riverwalk property is closed temporarily per DEP. There was a discussion regarding duck hunting on this property. Jane Hubert made a motion to allow waterfowl hunting on the Riverwalk property. Motion approved: 3-0.
There was a discussion about having a sign-up sheet for the season.
DEP will be starting some work on Monday, October 16, 2023.
- ii. **Rate Supplier Offer for Electricity:** Christian Jensen, Treasurer, explained that the Town is part of Maine Power Options and they are offering 10.5 cents per kilowatt hour, for 48 months. Currently, 16 to 17 cents is the rate. Jane Hubert made a motion to go with that rate for four years. Motion approved: 2-0-1.
- iii. **911 Addressing:** Tom Freeman, Pittston's 911 Addressing Officer, has stated that there are two new houses being built on Peaslee Road. There is a section of road that is not passable. Tom suggested either renaming that section of the road or calling it

South Peaslee Road. It was decided that the Select Board would go look at this. They will look at Old County Road at the same time. There will be a Select Board work session "site visit" on October 23, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. They will meet at Old County Road. Jane Hubert will tell Tom Freeman. Jean Ambrose will call Sam Snow.

iv. Sign Catering Permit: A catering permit was signed.

Jean Ambrose reported that Beacon Environmental wants to go to the Riverwalk property on Monday, October 16, 2023, but they do not know what time. When they email Jean, she will let people know what time they will be there.

The Select Board signed some abatements.

9. Adjournment: Jane Hubert made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Motion approved: 3-0

Next Select Board Meeting: October 18, 2023

Next Select Board Workshop: October 23, 2023 3:00 p.m. Old County Road

Respectfully submitted by: Debbie MacInnes 10/25/2023
Debbie MacInnes, Administrative Assistant Date

Jane H Hubert 10/25/23
Jane H Hubert, Selectperson Date

Mary Jean Ambrose 10-25-23
Mary Jean Ambrose, Selectperson Date

Joseph Caputo 10/25/2023
Joseph Caputo, Selectperson Date

