



Town of Pittston Select Board Meeting Minutes August 16, 2023

Board Present: Jane Hubert, Jean Ambrose, Joe Caputo

Staff Present: Deb MacInnes, Sam Snow, Christian Jensen

Residents Present: Todd Lindstrom, Pat Philbrook, Linda Caputo, Sharon Gleason, Tony Garvan, Priscilla Kelley, Jay Kelley, Sarah Hubert, Kerri Farris, Diana Weymouth, Ben Kelley, Derek Usher, Deb Ashline.

Others: Hunter Farwell (All State Paving)

Via Zoom: Mary Lawrence, Emily Duggan (KJ), Amy Cooper, Jason Corliss, Larry Ireland, Cody Kelley, Deb Barry, Harris Plaisted, iPad, and iPhone.

Call to Order: Chair Jane Hubert called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Select Board minutes of August 2, 2023, and SB work session of 8/10/2023: Jane Hubert made a motion to approve the SB minutes of August 2, 2023. Motion approved: 2-0.

Jane Hubert made a motion to approve the work session minutes of 8/10/2023. Motion approved: 3-0.

Jane Hubert asked Sam Snow, Road Commissioner, what issues were taken care of on N Beech Hill Road, Hunts Meadow Road, and Old Town Farm Road. A culvert was replaced in the spring on Old Town Farm Road and this area is scheduled to be paved back in.

There are two driveway culverts that need to be added on N. Beech Hill Road. Joe Caputo stated that the town should not pay for the culvert because the first driveway culvert is the responsibility of the property owner. Sam Snow, Road Commissioner, stated that is true but there is a problem, and "we take care of it". Sam stated that it is washing out the side of the road. Jean Ambrose stated that the Road Commissioner made a decision to fix the water problem that is undermining the road. Joe Caputo stated that he examined the road after a heavy rain and stated that it is not undermining the road. Joe did not agree and asked Sam to meet him there to educate him. Sam and Joe are supposed to contact each other with a time to meet at the discussed location.

Jane Hubert asked if Steve Costello, Chair of the Budget Committee, if he had redone the cover letter of the minutes that he had turned in. He had.

Old Business:

1. Sam Snow, Road Commissioner Current Road Work.

Sam Snow reported that he has cleaned up Nash Road and Blodgett Road to prepare for paving. Kelley Road has two culverts that need to be changed before paving. When



the culverts are changed Kelley Road will need to be closed for two to three hours. Water needs to be pumped and hoses will be across the road.

A tree came down on Troop Road. Sam found a 3' culvert that the bottom is all gone and the road is collapsing around it. This will need to be replaced and when it is, that road will need to be closed as well.

A discussion was held regarding what the understanding is from All State Paving regarding the paving of Jewett Road and Palmer Road. Hunter Farwell, All State Paving representative said that they know that those two roads may have an issue. Joe Caputo said those roads will not be paved. Sam Snow and Jean Ambrose disagree. Sam stated the north end of Jewett Road needs to be paved.

Sam said that the base on Palmer Road needs to be done now, it needs to be graded and then paved. Joe questions what if the base is not good. More discussion was held regarding the report that Sam Snow turned in regarding the work that was done on Palmer Road. Joe stated that the report does not say where the test borings were done. There is a difference of opinion regarding that report.

Joe Caputo brought up the idea for the town to put together a work order, late winter, or early spring, for all road work that is known to be needed out to bid. The current practice is having the work done at the state rate and Jean Ambrose stated she feels going out-to-bid would be much higher. This can be looked into further.

It was thought that five thousand dollars is too low for work that needs to go out to bid. Christian Jensen, Treasurer, stated that he had talked to other road commissioners and the number is more like \$10,000.

Joe Caputo asked Sam Snow what roads needed to be paved if Palmer and Jewett Road do not get paved, Sam replied that he had supplied the list and that is what was put out to bid.

All State Paving will be taking bore samples on Jewett Road next week.

Sam thought Palmer Road needs the base done and then surface the whole road with no joints.

Hunter Farwell stated that nobody does testing in place. You would not get accurate numbers. Joe Caputo stated that a previous Select Board made multiple requests to Sam Snow about the material used to build Palmer Road and did not get it. Joe stated that he does not trust what went down on Palmer Road.

When Jay Kelley asked Sam Snow what grade of material was used on Jewett Road Sam replied that Jewett Road had A gravel used and Palmer Road had D gravel used. A gravel is 1" minus and D gravel is 4" minus. The Jewett Road was not rebuilt.

Joe Caputo stated that if the state were building the Palmer Road, an inspector would have been there the entire time. Joe stated that as long as he is sitting here, there will be an inspector on-site. Joe also stated that he is influenced by Jewett Road. He does



not want another road issue. Joe stated to just leave Palmer Road dirt, we don't need anymore. We need to take care of the paved roads.

Jean Ambrose stated that Palmer Road is a through road. Paved roads cost less to maintain than dirt roads. Dirt roads are harder to care for in the winter.

More discussion was held regarding the possible fixes for Jewett Road like cold patch and grinding up the pavement that the town has already paid for. It was previously voted to have an engineer look at the road to see what they think and what the solutions may be.

It was discussed that the patches on Jewett Road are not cracking. The patches are 3" to 6" thick. Jean Ambrose spoke with someone from DOT regarding putting down the right mix and paving the whole road. Jean also stated they are trying to get the best information they can and do what they can afford.

It was previously discussed to have an engineer investigate Jewett Road. Jane Hubert made a motion to put out an RFP to have an engineering firm look at Jewett Road. Motion approved: 3-0.

Joe Caputo asked Hunter Farwell if he knew Pine Tree Engineering in Bath. All State has worked with them before.

A question was asked why D gravel was not used on Jewett Road. Sam stated that he replaced 8 or 9 culverts on Jewett Road before paving and found there was adequate gravel. That is why the whole road was not dug up. Sam also stated that when S.W. Cole did their report, they only did a 2" hole, so how would you get any 4" gravel out of the test site?

Jean Ambrose made a motion to pave Palmer Road. There was no second.

Hunter Farwell stated that he had no concerns regarding Paving Palmer Road. It just needs fine grading.

Joe Caputo only wants to put the finish on the paved part of Palmer Road. Jean Ambrose stated that it would be a better road to do the dirt part. Joe Caputo made a motion to put the finish on the base. Motion approved: 2-1.

2. Municipal plowing: The plowing of town parking lots will be going out to bid. Jane Hubert has a draft copy.

3. Grant for Blodgett Road: The Blodgett Road grant extension has been filed.

4. William Moore, Parker Road: Jane Hubert asked if Jean Ambrose had done anything with small claims court. Jean stated that she would like to let it go. Kerri Farris stated that the Board had already voted to do this. Jean said she has the right to revisit this. Joe Caputo and Jane Hubert said Jean needs to follow through.



5. Sign pole permit and an entrance: The Select Board signed a pole permit and an entrance permit.

6. Handyman ad: There are no more suggestions for this ad.

7. Setting mil rate: Pittston's assessing agent, Ellery Bane, gave the Select Board three options he felt were appropriate. The lowest mil rate he gave the Select Board was 9.35 with an overlay of \$58,770.31. The overlay is used for tax abatements and related tax needs.

There were some in attendance that thought the town has too much surplus. There is approximately 1.8 million dollars if everyone was to pay their taxes in full every year with no abatements. There was a conversation regarding the big-ticket items that the town is in need of in the near future. There are three large culvert replacement projects that grant money will not cover in its entirety. There also may be the need for a new fire truck. It took the town years to become financially healthy. The town no longer has to borrow money to get through the year before tax money comes in. At this moment there is \$611,000 in the town checkbook. Joe Caputo stated there is no need to add to the surplus.

The Select Board is going to use 9.25 instead of 9.35 for a mil rate. That would have an overlay of \$20,000. This will save \$5.00 to \$15.00 on a tax bill.

Jane Hubert made a motion to have the mil rate at 9.25. Motion approved: 3-0.

8. Sign roadside mowing contract: The contract was signed by the Select Board.

New Business:

1. Discussion on raising the \$5,000 amount for items going out to bid: It has been thought for a number of years that \$5,000 is too low and that maybe \$10,00 would be more appropriate. This item was tabled.

2. Emergency response policy: This will be discussed at a Select Board work session.

3. Apprenticeship program: This item was tabled.

4. Schedule fire-proof room: Jane Hubert will get three dates to choose from for this meeting.

5. Riverwalk signage: Todd Lindstrom put up metal posts and a chain across the entrance and a sign that says "Access Without Permission is prohibited. Please call the Town Office at 207-582-4438". The sign is good. Joe Caputo suggested putting rocks on either side of the gate to keep out ATVs and others. Todd Lindstrom suggested just playing it by ear.



6. Town Office bldg. maintenance: Jane Hubert spoke of a small tree growing in the steps of the town office back steps and spiders on the building. It was suggested the handyman do these types of things. This was tabled.

7. Jean Ambrose stated that the forester would be happy to help in any way he could. It was discussed to concentrate on the sand shed lot only. A discussion was held on what account to pay the forester out of. Whatever account is decided to use, it will be reimbursed from money made from the harvesting. Jean Ambrose made a motion to have Andy Schultz be ready to go on the sand shed lot. Motion approved: 3-0. Jane Hubert thought the harvesting had been ignored. There was a discussion on where the money would come from to pay the harvester. Whatever account the invoice is paid from, the money will be reimbursed from the harvesting.

Jane Hubert made a motion to close the front office on August 23, 2023, at 5:55 for the Special Town Meeting. Motion approved: 3-0.

Jane Hubert made a motion to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. Motion approved: 3-0.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Debbie MacInnes, Administrative Assistant Date

Jane H Hubert _____ 09/20/23
Jane H Hubert, Selectperson Date

Mary Jean Ambrose _____ 9-20-23
Mary Jean Ambrose, Selectperson Date

Joseph Caputo _____ 9/20/2023
Joseph Caputo, Selectperson Date

