

**Town of Pittston Select Board Meeting Minutes  
December 7, 2022**

**Board Present:** Kerri Farris, Jean Ambrose, Jane Hubert

**Staff Present:** Deb MacInnes, Sam Snow, Sarah Perkins

**Residents Present:** Wellman Cromwell, Duane Tobey, Sandra Tobey, Cheryl Peaslee, Sharon Gleason, Laura Moody, Susan Tardiff, Mike Salonen, Jim Jacobson, Todd Lindstrom, Joe Caputo, Jim Lothridge, Tony Garvan, Jason Farris.

**Budget Committee members:** Steve Costello, Lynette Eastman, Tim Lawrence, Hope Ricker, Paula Work, Rodney Hembree. (Sam Snow and Sarah Perkins are also on Budget Committee)

**Via Zoom:** Deb Barry, Linda Caputo, Mike McCaslin, Ray Snider, Amy Cooper, Greg Lumbert, Jaimy Snow, Aaron Moody, Jason Corliss, Chief Josh Johnson, Matt Barron, Jeff Campbell and Michelle Malinowski.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair, Kerri Farris, at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **Review Agenda:** Kerri Farris added a forestry question.
4. **Public Hearing General Assistance:** MMA has published a revised GA Ordinance for 2022. MMA highly encourages municipalities to adopt these revisions. Jean Ambrose made a motion to adopt the new State General Assistance ordinance. Motion approved: 3-0.
5. **Budget Committee Meeting:** The Budget Committee was at the Select Board meeting to discuss the draft warrant articles for the 2023 March Town Meeting. Sarah Perkins, Tax Collector/Treasurer/Office Supervisor, explained the changes in the warrant.

A discussion was held in regards to the amount of surplus, revenue sharing, excise tax reserve and Planning Board carry-over account. Kerri Farris stated that a healthy surplus would be 20-30% of the budget. Kerri stated that there is 1.8 million in tax money collected from the tax payers that they expected to be used. There is a future need for some big items, such as a new or used fire truck. Chief Josh Johnson spoke to the issue of a new or used fire truck, via zoom. Future meetings with the Budget Committee will be held to discuss surplus, revenue sharing and carry forward accounts. Sarah stated that what best serves the needs of the community over the next five years will be looked at.

Lynette Eastman suggested writing a separate warrant article that says the Town could spend up to x amount of dollars from surplus.

There was a discussion in regards to the hourly pay for the three town office positions. The Budget Committee noticed that there is a request for a raise for one position and not the other two. It was explained that the raise was due to the added Office Supervisor role. There was a discussion on what criteria there is for an employee to receive a raise. It was decided to add \$1.00 per hour for all three positions.

Sam Snow informed the Budget Committee of some high-priced items coming to the town in the near future. Sam explained one of the Pinkham Road culverts is in need of replacement and the road may be closed by spring. The Town has received a \$125,000 grant for this project that could possibly cost \$300,000 to \$400,000.

Another culvert project that the town has received a \$125,000 grant for is for the Blodgett Road. A design change was made to add 10' and in Sam's opinion, the project is over designed by the engineer.

Then, there is the other culvert on the Pinkham Road that Pittston shares with Randolph that will be coming on the heels of the other two culvert replacement projects. Sam stated that at least \$300,000 should stay in excise tax reserve.

Sam Snow also informed the Budget Committee that the cost of plowing and sanding will go up for the 2023-2024 season. Sam stated that the Budget Committee needs to talk about these items.

The Budget Committee and the Select Board continued to review the warrant articles. Duane Tobey explained the increase requested for Riverside Cemetery and Riverside Annex. The cost for maintenance has increased substantially. The Riverside Association received quotes for cemetery care and needed to accept the low quote of \$7,750 for the year.

The Tiger Food Pantry, at the Gardiner High School, serves 8 or 9 families weekly from Pittston. The Tiger Food Pantry also is available during the school day for students to get snacks. The Tiger Food Pantry is requesting an increase. Rodney Hembree suggested an additional \$1,000 or any amount that will help meet the community needs. Tim Lawrence made a motion to add \$1,000 to the donation request to the Tiger Food Pantry. Steve Costello 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was an 8-0 vote.

- 6. Current Road Work:** Sam Snow, Road Commissioner had no road updates. Jane Hubert reported that a resident on the Palmer Road contacted her in regards to a wash out that comes across their property and a crushed culvert. Kerri Farris stated that the culvert damage was caused when the Palmer Road was prepared for paving. Sam Snow does not believe that to be the case and will go look at the culvert.

Jane Hubert spoke with Davis Paving in regards to the pavement being placed on the Blodgett Road. Davis paving was supposed to call Sam Snow. Sam stated they did not call.

**Action item:** Jane Hubert will call Davis Paving again.

The Loader Contract was discussed again. Section #5 is the issue. The question remains whose insurance is responsible for what. Sam Snow of Sam Snow Construction Inc., feels that equipment that is rented out should be returned in the same condition as it is received in. Sam Snow also feels that if the equipment is stolen or damaged while in the care of the Town, that the Town's insurance would be responsible.

**Action item:** Jane Hubert will call rental companies to inquire what they have for policy.

The game cameras were discussed again. Sam Snow reported that he has one camera. Kerri Farris stated that he has two, as recorded in the March 30, 2022 meeting minutes. Sam repeated that he has one that he has in his truck. When Sam left the meeting, he brought the one camera into the meeting and left it on the table. The whereabouts of the second game camera is unknown.

The town owns a 30-year-old loader.

Kerri Farris suggests having an independent mechanic look at the loader to evaluate the possibility of using this loader at the sand and salt shed. The loader needs to be dependable. Kerri Farris made a motion to get an independent mechanic to evaluate the Town loader and inform the Select Board if it is useable. Motion approved: 2-1.

- 7. **Recycling:** There was a need for more keys for the locks on the recycling bins. Jane was unaware that the recycling keys were in the safe.

Jane Hubert explained that there is an issue at the Recycling Center where the last pull is located. The ground at one front corner needs crushed stone or something to make it level. Crushed stone would get plowed up in the winter. Jane wants everyone to be aware of the liability. Someone, with knowledge of what would need to be done in this area, would need to be contacted to determine what to do in this area.

- 8. **Forestry:** Kerri Farris made a motion to have the funds from harvesting go into surplus. There was no second. This item was tabled until next week.

- 9. **Approve & sign accounts payable/payroll warrants:** Jean Ambrose made a motion to approve preview warrant #50 in the amount of \$68,903.08. Motion approved: 3-0.

Jean Ambrose made a motion to approve payroll warrant #4922 in the amount of \$4,116.90. Motion approved: 3-0.


Jean Ambrose made a motion to approve payroll warrant #5022 in the amount of \$128.64. Motion approved: 3-0.

- 10. **Treasurer's Report:** Sarah Perkins, Treasurer, stated she had no more to add for tonight.

- 11. **Sign Nov. 16, 2022 minutes:** The November 16, 2022 minutes were signed.

- 12. **Approve SB minutes November 30, 2022:** Kerri Farris stated that the whole section #7, Deputy Town Clerk needs to be rewritten. Deb MacInnes stated that what is written is what was said. These minutes were tabled until next week.

Kerri Farris made a motion to adjourn at 10:13 p.m.

  
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 Kerri Farris, Selectperson

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 Mary Jean Ambrose, Selectperson

   
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 Jane H Hubert, Selectperson