

**Town of Pittston Select Board Meeting
October 25, 2023**

Board Present: Jane Hubert, Jean Ambrose, Joe Caputo

Staff Present: Deb MacInnes, Christian Jensen, Sam Snow, Chief Josh Johnson,
Deputy Chief Greg Tompson

Residents Present: Todd Lindstrom, Jason Corliss, Pat Philbrook, Tony Garvan, Jeff Peaslee, Susan Tardiff, Cheryl Peaslee, Wayne Peaslee, Sarah Hubert, Sharon Gleason, Greg Lumbert

Others Present: Art Forand, Mark Roberts, Matt Drost, Jim Foster

Via Zoom: Linda Caputo, Larry Ireland, Deb Barry, Mary Lawrence, Ray Snider, Cody Kelley, Maisey White, Amy Cooper, Emily Duggan, Jeff Campbell, Horace Moody.

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. **Approval of old minutes:** The minutes of October 11, 2023 were signed.
Jane Hubert made a motion to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of October 18, 2023. Motion approved: 2-1.
Jean Ambrose made a motion to approve the Work Session minutes of October 20, 2023. Motion approved: 3-0.
Jean Ambrose made a motion to approve the Work Session minutes of October 23, 2023. Jean Ambrose 2nd. Discussion: Joe Caputo demanded proof of a scheduled executive session. The Admin Assistant, Deb M stated it was in an email that Joe claims he did not receive. Jane Hubert stated she also told him. Deb M will forward that email to Joe and the other members of the Select Board on Thursday. Motion approved: 2-1.
4. **Accounts payable & payroll warrants:** Jean Ambrose made a motion to approve preview warrant #44 in the amount of \$20,760.76 Motion approved: 3-0.
Jean Ambrose made a motion to approve payroll warrant #4423 in the amount of \$4,436.68. Motion approved: 3-0.
5. **Randolph Selectman – Shared Pinkham Road Bridge/Culvert:** Mark Roberts and Matt Drost discussed the failing shared bridge on Pinkham Road. They have received three proposals for design from qualified firms. There is a list of alternatives which includes rehabbing the bridge/culvert, a box culvert, a significantly large structure, or removing the structure. There will be no support from DOT because this is a minor span.
Jim Foster, retired DOT stated he thought replacing the bridge was the right thing to do. Randolph Select Board will pick a qualified firm and then hold a kick-off

meeting. This situation is important, not urgent. Randolph Select Board will keep the Pittston Select Board informed.

Jim Foster stated that the bridge/culvert on the Pinkham Road that Pittston has a grant for is unzipping. Mr. Foster stated that the posting committee may be looking at this bridge again and may lower the weight on the bridge to three tons.

- 6. Chief Johnson – Fire Truck 23:** Chief Johnson stated that the upgrades to Central Station are going well and have created a need to move truck 23 which is stored behind the building. This truck does need to stay in the possession of the town to use in the grant process for a new fire truck. Jean Ambrose made a motion to have truck 23 checked out to see what is needed for it to take a sticker. Motion approved: 3-0.

7. Roads (Sam Snow, Road Commissioner)

a. Old Business

- i. Crushing/screening (Joe Caputo):** Joe Caputo reported that crushing in the town pit will happen sometime this winter at an unknown price. Jean Ambrose stated that it makes no financial sense to do the crushing in the winter when it is not needed until spring/summer. Jane Hubert made a motion to put the crushing/screening out to bid. Motion approved 3-0.
- ii. Engineering RFP (Jewett Rd):** There will be an informational meeting in November. Jane Hubert will email people regarding this.
- iii. FEMA application:** Deb MacInnes explained the up-to-date FEMA work.
 - 1.** It is not cost-effective to do Hazard Mitigation on Crocker Road. FEMA has approved reimbursement paperwork for Crocker Road for \$10,749.
 - 2.** FEMA does not recommend doing Hazard Mitigation on Troop Road if a Hydrologic and Hydraulic study needs to be performed due to this being a blue-line stream. Troop Road has been approved for reimbursement of \$745.68 for emergency work already performed and \$7,457.95 to replace the 3' culvert to pre-disaster condition.

Jean Ambrose made a motion to accept the FEMA reimbursement monies for Crocker Road and Troop Road and not to do Hazard Mitigation. Motion approved: 3-0.

- iv. **Sand supply:** Joe Caputo expressed concern about the testing protocol. The Road Commissioner explained that S.W. Cole goes to the pit being used and tests out of the screen, not the bank, and the Town, not the contractor, pays for the testing. The contract is being passed among the Select Board members and the contractor, Sam Snow Construction, for signing.
- v. **Washouts on Webb Road, Clay Road, and Palmer Road:** San Snow, Road Commissioner, submitted a work schedule for the year ending 2023. This includes washouts on Clay, Webb, and Palmer Roads, patching Old County Road for winter, and the FEMA work provided for Crocker, N Beech Hill, and Troop Roads. Also submitted was a work schedule to rebuild Old County Road by 2024.

The Treasurer, Christian Jensen, reported there is \$3,000 left in the highway budget. He further explained that you can spend 15% above the approved "road maintenance and repair budget without a Special Town Meeting, with written Select Board approval.

Joe Caputo repeatedly stated that the town is being held hostage by the Road Commissioner because nothing gets done in a timely manner and the Road Commissioner is not doing his job.

Jean Ambrose made a motion to do Clay, Webb, Palmer, and Old County Road at State rates and not go out to bid. Jane Hubert 2nd.

Discussion: Joe Caputo stated that laying out gravel on Old County Road at this time of year will likely result in the gravel being swept off by snow plows. Sam Snow, Road Commissioner, stated the plow trucks will not plow up the gravel and that if anything happens, the grader would put the gravel back on the road in the spring. Motion approved: 2-1.

Jane Hubert made a motion to put Troop Road out to bid for repairs. Two twenty-foot culverts are at the sand/salt shed. Motion approved: 3-0.

A Town warrant article states that work on roads will be set at State Rates.

Jane Hubert moved to reconsider the Troop Road decision. Motion approved: 3-0

Jane Hubert made a motion for Crocker, N Beech Hill, and Troop Road out to bid. Motion approved: 2-1.

At this time the discussion went back to the Sand Supply contract. Jean Ambrose made a motion to extend the deadline for sand to be in the shed to November 30, 2023.

Motion approved: 3-0.

Deb M stated that she will place the order for 150 tons of salt

- vi. **St. Germain/new engineering firm:** Patrick Gere has until November 1st to present a proposal. Eric Calderwood submitted a proposal. Eric would like a smaller structure, but the opinion was that would result restarting the permit process with Army Corp.
- vii. **Todd Lindstrom, Old County Road:** Plans have been presented.
- viii. **Frozen Roads Ordinance:** Jean Ambrose will put copies of proposed changes to the Frozen Road Ordinance in the other member's boxes. Sam Snow reported that lots of towns are taking the temperature completely off the posting.

b. New Business

- i. **Sign a pole permit:** A permit was signed.
- ii. **Loader for sand/salt shed:** Sam Snow Construction, Inc. offered to lease a loader to the town at the same price as last year. Jane Hubert will call places to see what the lease costs are.

8. General Town Business

a. Old Business

- i. **No-bid limit increase:** This was tabled to be worked on in a Work Session.
- ii. **Recycling bins:** The opinion was that this has value so don't give it away. Jane Hubert is waiting to talk to the Recycling Committee.

- iii. **Riverwalk boundary:** More information to come soon.
- iv. **Forester RFP:** Jean Ambrose will handle this. Jean Ambrose made a motion to post this in the normal places and not the KJ. Motion approved: 3-0.
- v. **Treasurer recommends closing KSB savings accounts**
 - 1. **Future Voting Machine - \$10,403.50:** The Treasurer stated that Deb B provided sufficient documentation to assure the Town that these funds are required to be spent on voting-related needs. Treasurer rescinded the recommendation for consideration to close the accounts.
 - 2. **Future Engineering - \$2,722.81:** This account is waiting for more information. Jane Hubert stated she will continue to research the history of these funds.
- vi. **911 Addressing:** The issue for an address for the discontinued part of Peaslee Road will be given over to the 911 Addressing Officer.
- vii. **Building maintenance:** A power washing company was not called. Deb M will find the cost of power washing of the Town Office.

b. New Business

- i. **Christian Jensen announcement:** There will be a burial at the Riverside Annex on November 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. for former resident, Ivy Norton. Her remains were never laid to rest.
9. **Adjournment:** Jane Hubert made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Motion approved: 3-0.

Next Select Board Meeting: November 1, 2023

Next Select Board Workshop: N/A

Respectfully submitted by: Debbie MacInnes 11/1/2023
Debbie MacInnes, Administrative Assistant Date

Jane H Hubert 11/01/23
Jane H Hubert, Selectperson Date

Mary Jean Ambrose 11-1-23
Mary Jean Ambrose, Selectperson Date

Joseph Caputo 11/1/2023
Joseph Caputo, Selectperson Date