

Town of Pittston
Select Board Work Session Minutes
January 27, 2025

ORIGINAL

Board Members Present: Jane H. Hubert (Chair), Joe Caputo, Cathy Thomas
Other Town Officials Present: Autumn DeVries (ORC), Greg Lumbert (CEO)
Recorder: Marie-Anne Flowers (Administrative Assistant)

1. **Call to Order:** 9:00 am
2. **Approval of January 13, 2025 Minutes:** accepted with corrections 3-0 signed
3. **Executive Session (Personnel) 1.M.R.S.A.§405(6)(A)** 9:00 am
 Recessed for ES @ 9:02 am
 Returned @ 10:09 am Jane moved to come out of ES, Cathy 2nd. 3-0

4. Road Business (OLD)

a. Major Road Projects

- i. **Pinkham Road - Togus Stream:** Jane spoke with Janet Richards in Randolph. This item is still active.
- ii. **Jewett Road:** No update
- iii. **Blodgett Rd:** 2 additional resident letters have been received totaling 8 responses to date. The select board will review the responses once they are all received.

b. Medium Road Repair (>\$5,000)

c. Small Road Repair (<\$5,000)

- i. **Icing:** Discussion regarding concerns with icing in the area of box 1224 Rte194 occurred. There has not been rain or melting snow lately, so icing has not been an issue. Cathy reported that she emailed concerns to MEDOT and is awaiting a response.

5. Road Business (NEW)

6. General Town Business (OLD)

a. Budget items:

- i. **Compensation for All Positions:** Fire Chief review needs to be conducted. (See subsection c)



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- ii. **Review Warrant Articles:** The Health Officer, and Harbor Master should not be removed from the budget until their terms expire. The Harbor Master term expires in April 2025, and the Health Officer term expires in 2026.

Joe suggested eliminating the concrete pad, hot topping and striping the municipal lot, and the request for an Emergency Responders Monument from the warrant articles, and eliminating and/or postponing them until next year.

Joe suggested lowering the cost for the Blodgett Rd. culvert.

Cathy adjusted the budget to reflect Joe's suggested changes. These changes should be brought up at the upcoming budget committee meeting scheduled for 1/28/2025.

- b. Municipal Calendar - Roadside Mowing & Municipal Mowing:** Gary Castner would be interested in doing this mowing but would require a \$3.50 per mile increase. The increase would add \$119.00 to the total contract. This item will be added to the agenda for Wednesday, 01/29/2025.
- c. Performance Reviews:** Fire Chief to be done.
- d. Colburn School Insurance Update:** Cathy researched insurance for the Colburn School building. She has received 3 quotes for different types of insurance. The type of insurance needed was discussed. Liability insurance would be acquired only if there were no functions being held at the property. If there were to be activities or functions at that location, the insurance underwriter should be contacted. Cathy is still researching and will follow up once she has more answers.
- e. Engine 23 Disposition (2024):** Jane suggested calling Mr. Main regarding engine 23, as well as the salt shed loader. Josh Johnson needs to be contacted regarding engine 23. Jane will call Josh Johnson regarding Engine 23.
- f. Salt Shed Loader Repair Estimate:** Discussion regarding the town's loader: should it be fixed, then sold, or should it be sold as is? The value is estimated at 10k to 16k if sold running. Joe will contact Mr. Main regarding the loader.
- g. RiverWalk 25 Year Easement Inquiry (Jean Ambrose):** Jean Ambrose attended the meeting regarding her request for an easement for the RiverWalk property. Jane addressed Jean's request. The grant that the RiverWalk Group is applying for requires that the land be placed in a minimum 5-year conservation easement before the grant is awarded. Cathy questioned if hunting would be included in the easement. Jean stated that some hunting would be allowed, even with the easement. Jean stated that the town can write their own requirements for the easement. Joe Caputo stated that he attended the RiverWalk informational meeting, and he is under the impression that the winners of the grant would be the ones with the "best presentation". Joe's second issue is that there is no



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conservation easement proposal. He feels that a sample or draft of the proposed easement should be created for review by the select board, and residents. Jean stated that the RiverWalk would follow the direction of the select board. The RiverWalk has been instructed to create a draft document of the proposed easement to present to the select board, and the town, at the Annual Town Meeting. Cathy Thomas will contact MMA regarding if the amount of time of the easement can be amended within a warrant article. Jane would prefer that this does not go to a town vote if it has not been reviewed by legal counsel. There was discussion regarding if this would be addressed at the Annual Town Meeting or if it should be addressed at a Special Town Meeting. Jean would like to come back before the select board, once the easement draft is created. Jean would like to have the vote at the Annual Town Meeting. Autumn DeVries reiterated that proper procedures require 1-3 public hearings to provide written information to the public. This must take place before the special town meeting. The RiverWalk Group does have money to pay for an attorney review. Jane prefers that a Special Town Meeting be held on this rather than the Annual Town Meeting. The budgeted money that the RiverWalk has in their accounts has been spent. The RiverWalk has money from the sale of scrap metal but would like to use that money for the design of the area. The Select Board will table this item until a draft of the proposed easement is presented by the RiverWalk Group. Cathy inquired about the best way to get the information out to the residents. Jean questioned why the select board is not referring to the RiverWalk Group as a committee. Jane explained that unless members are elected or appointed, they are not a committee.

- h. Warrant Article Private Vote Request:** Todd Lindstrom has requested that the annual town meeting vote procedure be changed. Todd is requesting that the voting to be conducted on election day by a special ballot, rather than a public vote at the Annual Town Meeting. He has stated that he has heard from many people that they would prefer their vote be private and confidential. Todd is also requesting that the warrant articles be broken down for more clarification for residents as to where taxpayer money is being spent. Joe questioned if there are other towns that do this and Todd stated that there are. Jean stated that during Covid, the town had to go to the state for special permission from the governor to change elections. Joe stated that he would like to keep the same procedure as past years. Jane stated that she is against changing the procedure due to the fact that the Annual Town Meeting is less than 60 days from now. She suggested that the change be addressed during the upcoming year to take affect at the 2026 annual town meeting. Cathy does not have an opinion at this time. Todd questioned if a motion can be made at the annual town



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meeting to postpone the vote until election day. Jane stated that it could not be postponed to the election by a motion.

7. General Town Business (NEW)

- a. Pittston Groups utilizing Town Office for meetings:** the Pittston Fair Association has requested the use of the Town Office to meet until the end of March or beginning of April. After that time, they can resume using the fairgrounds for their meeting. Jane questioned if there would, or should, be a fee to use the building. It was also questioned, logistically, how that would work. Someone in the association would need to have a key and access to the alarm system in order to utilize the building when town employees are not present. Insurance coverage was also questioned. Cathy will follow-up with MMA regarding insurance concerns
- b. Ant Infestation:** Marie will call the exterminator that was contracted last fall.
- c. Response from Blodgett Rd Letters:** were reviewed and discussed. Joe stated that Litchfield paid residents a stipend to go away for the week while the work is being completed. Another resident suggested opening up the other end of the road.
- d. Recycling group coverage:** Jane questioned who would be available to administrate the recycling group after her term expires.
- e. 911 Addressing Letter:** Marie will contact Peter Coughlan regarding the resident letter.
- f. ORC Request to Post Updates on The Town Website:**
Autumn attended the meeting to update the hearing date for LD 2003. The hearing will now be scheduled for February 25, 2025 @ 6pm. She also inquired if the town would allow a change to the allowed acreage to build, or if the town would like to keep the existing requirements. This may be addressed at the upcoming joint board meeting. Joe stated that his biggest concern regarding decreasing or increasing acreage would be the septic usage requirements. Joe stated that if an existing septic system fails, where will a replacement septic system be installed if additional dwellings are built with their own septic system? A reminder for the joint meetings will be sent out by the select board admin.

8. Tabled Agenda Items

- a. North Beech Hill Rd Plan**
- b. Salt Shed Seal Repair**
- c. Tax club**
- d. Secure Records Storage Request:**



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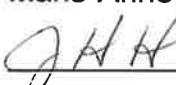
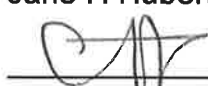
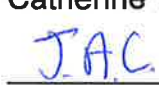
e. 911 Addressing Resident letter

9. Town Announcements & Information

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 8 am – 5 pm
Wednesday: 8 am – 6 pm
Thursday: 8 am – 5 pm
Friday: 7 am – 1 pm
Saturday Recycling 8 – 3 pm

- a. Next SB Work Session(s): Feb 03, 10, 24 (9 am)
 - b. Next SB Meeting(s): Feb 05,12,19,26 (6 pm)
 - c. Joint Board Meeting: Feb 03 (6 pm)
 - d. Planning Board: Feb 13 (6:00 pm)
 - e. Ordinance Review Committee: Jan 29, Feb 06, 13, 20, 27 (9:00 am)
 - f. RiverWalk: Feb 4 (6 pm)
 - g. Pittston Historical Society:
 - h. Appeals Board:
 - i. Budget Committee: Jan. 28 (6:30 pm)
 - j. Land Use Ordinance (LD2003) Hearing: February 25 (6:00 pm)
10. Meeting Adjournment:3-0 12:40 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

	02.03.25
Marie-Anne Flowers, Admin Assistant	Date
	02/03/25
Jane H Hubert, Selectperson Chair	Date
	2/3/25
Catherine Thomas, Selectperson	Date
	02/03/2025
Joseph Caputo, Selectperson	Date



