



Town of Pittston  
38 Whitefield Road  
Pittston, ME 04345  
(207) 582-4438

## Town of Pittston Select Board Meeting Minutes April 27, 2022

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

**Staff Present:** Deb MacInnes, Sam Snow: via Zoom Deb Barry and Colleen Pilsbury.

**Residents Present:** Wellman Cromwell, Sarah Perkins, Cheryl Peaslee, Lori Beth Rankin: via Zoom Mary Lawrence.

**Others Present:** Karen Moody.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair, Kerri Farris at 5:30 p.m.

2. **Approve Select Board minutes of April 20, 2022:**

Kerri Farris made a motion to approve Select Board meeting minutes of April 20, 2022, as written.

Voted approved: 3-0

3. **Bodge Island Paperwork:**

Jean Ambrose reported that she has been in contact with the Town attorney handling the paperwork for Mr. Wood gifting his 1/3 interest of the island to the Town of Pittston. One change was made to the donation agreement, the 15 days to transfer title to the Town of Pittston was changed to 30 days. Mr. Wood has approved this agreement and signed through DocuSign. The Select Board signed this donation agreement. The signatures will be merged together by the Attorney. The next steps are: 1. Do not send Mr. Wood a tax bill. 2. Get the value of Mr. Wood's 1/3 interest of Bodge Island to send to Mr. Wood for tax purposes.

Action item: Jean Ambrose will speak to Ellery Bane, Pittston's Assessors' Agent, in regards to the value of Mr. Wood's interest in Bodge Island.

4. **Aubuchon property:**

Two residents have inquired about the status of the court date for the Aubuchon property. Kerri Farris stated that the court date is waiting for scheduling.

Action item: Jean Ambrose will email the Town Attorney.

5. **Harbor Master:**

Ellsworth Lawrence will no longer be Pittston's Harbor Master. This is an appointed position.

Action item: Jean Ambrose will write a notice of the job opening and Deb M will post in the usual places.



**6. Warrants:**

Kerri Farris made a motion to approve preview warrant #17 in the amount of \$218,676.39. Vote approved 3-0.

Kerri Farris made a motion to approve payroll warrant #1722 in the amount of \$3,492.96. Voted approved 3-0.

At this time, Jane Hubert expressed how much she appreciates the help the office staff gave in preparing the front office for the installation of the new floor, cleaning and putting it all back together.

The checkbook balance is \$1,289,094.48.

**7. Explore fire proof options:**

Jean Ambrose explained the need for the office to have more fire proof file cabinets, that cost approximately \$3,000 each. Ten cabinets are needed, all vital records and documents that you must keep forever are supposed to be in a fire proof cabinet. Jean wants to explore the Town's options on solving this issue. Jean spoke with Larry Ireland and the thought was to perhaps finish the document room in the cellar to be fire proof, but that room is very full. Another thought is to build a small addition to the Town office made of cement blocks and made completely fire proof. Kerri Farris would like to see working examples of what other Towns are doing. Kerri also stated that the office should be implementing electronic records.

Action Item: Jean Ambrose will gather more information on this subject.  
Deb Barry will be asked to help.

**8. Work sessions time:**

The Select Board work sessions are scheduled for Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. as needed. A few meetings have been at 11:00 a.m. and that change was posted. The work sessions regular post will stay at 3:00 p.m.

**9. Kennebec County Budget Committee Meeting:**

Jane Hubert suggested that the Select Board might think about canceling the Select Board meeting for May 11, 2022 so they all could attend the Kennebec County Budget Committee meeting. This will not be broadcast on Zoom. Jean Ambrose stated that is the date that the paving bids will be opened so there is a need for two Select Board members to be present.

Action item: Jane Hubert will call the county office to see if there is an agenda.

**10. New/Other Business:**

The Memorial Day flags are on their way that were ordered from the American Legion.



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Jane Hubert spoke with Bruce Flaherty, from the Spirit of America Foundation, in regards to the idea of having a Special Town Meeting for a donation to the Spirit of America. Jane stated that he was very excited. Bruce also stated that the Spirit of America Foundation is trying to expand to other states.

Jane Hubert gave an update on the Nehumkeag Scholarship. Jane is waiting for a response from Wentworth (Whimpy) Goodwin. Jane will reach out to Mr. Goodwin again.

Action item: When the new language for the scholarship is finalized, Jane Hubert will send to Gardiner Area High School and have it put on the Town website.

Kerri Farris spoke in regards to "Progressive Enforcement Action". This action would take place if there is a violation, then a letter of warning would go to the violator citing the violation, policy and or ordinance. This gives the violator the opportunity to respond.

One of the phones in the front office has a loose wire and sometimes does not work. The idea of a cordless phone and cost may be discussed further.

Kerri Farris announced that each Select Board member now has their own email address.

Action item: Kerri Farris will give the email addresses to Deb M to post on the website.

#### **6:15 Open Tax Acquired Property Bids:**

The bids for the tax acquired property located at 14 Webb Road were as follows.

Karen Moody:	\$7,010.00
Keith and Lori Beth Rankin:	\$5,000.00
Sam Snow Construction:	\$5,000.00
Donna Wenckus:	\$15,013.00

The winning bid went to Donna Wenckus with the high bid of \$15,013. Donna will have thirty days to complete the purchase. The other three bidders were in attendance and their deposit checks were returned to them

Action item: Deb MacInnes will contact Donna Wenckus.



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**11. Sam Snow, Road Commissioner:**

Sam reported that all the dirt roads have been graded and have been unposted. The Jewett Road still has the regular permanent posting.

The Town received a check for \$1,485.00 from Grimmel Industries for the old junk culverts that were stored at the sand/salt shed.

Jane Hubert made a motion to allocate the check from Grimmel Industries into the culvert account. Voted approved: 3-0.

An email from St. Germain Engineering was reviewed. Sam stated that it seems that St. Germain is unwilling to compromise on the design of the culvert. Kerri Farris stated that she would like to join in on the conversation with Sam and St. Germain.

Action item: Sam Snow will arrange a meeting with himself, St. Germain and members of the Select Board. Sam will call St. Germain next week.

Sam turned in an invoice for fuel and labor for the roadside mowing.

Jane Hubert made a motion to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. Voted approved: 3-0.

Respectfully submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Debbie MacInnes, Administrative Assistant    Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kerri Farris, Selectperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Jean Ambrose, Selectperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jane H Hubert, Selectperson