



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

Town of Pittston Select Board Meeting Minutes June 15, 2022

Board Present: Kerri Farris, Jean Ambrose, Jane Hubert

Staff Present: Deb MacInnes, Colleen Pilsbury

Residents Present: Wellman Cromwell, Joe Caputo, Fred Kimball, Cheryl Peaslee, Wayne Peaslee, Jim Lothridge, Marlene Colvin, Sarah Perkins.

Via Zoom: Matt Barron, Linda Caputo, Jason Farris, Tim Gay.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair, Kerri Farris at 6:30 p.m.

2. Kerri Farris reviewed the agenda.

3. **Warrants:**

Jean Ambrose made a motion to approve preview warrant #24 in the amount of \$43,811.72. Voted approved: 3-0.

Jane Hubert made a motion to approve payroll warrant #2422 in the amount of \$3,958.89. Voted approved: 3-0.

A journal entry was signed.

A discussion was held in regards to committing taxes to the next Tax Collector/Treasurer. Colleen Pilsbury will prepare to commit the 2020-2021 taxes to whomever the Select Board decides. Colleen has already removed her name from the accounts at the bank.

4. **6:45 Open Plow Bids:**

The Town did not receive any bids from the second RFP for plowing Routes #2 and #3. A discussion was held in regards to the next steps the Select Board should take to find a contractor that will plow Routes #2 and #3. This is not an uncommon problem. Other towns are having trouble finding plow contractors. Some of the reasons include the high price of gas, lack of equipment and the lack of drivers. Part of the Select Board's strategy moving forward to find a plow contractor will include talking with Sam Snow, Road Commissioner and contacting past plow contractors. The Select Board does feel the urgency in this matter. The cost of the three routes together last year was around \$210,000. If the plow bids need to go out again, the RFP will be looked at to see if it can be made better. Any companies, big or small are open to bid on a single route or combined routes.



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5. Review tabled motion on the Jewett Road:

Kerri Farris reviewed the conversation from last week. Residents had offered to pay for the test borings on the Jewett Road. Kerri called MMA to see if that is allowed. MMA stated that the Town can receive a gift from residents and then allocate the money to a special account for the intended purpose. The Town would choose the contractor and pay the contractor from that special account. Sarah Perkins stated that then does not give the residents any say after they have gifted the money. Jean Ambrose thinks this idea sets a bad precedent. Joe Caputo stated that two of the other people that were willing to do this, are now not willing to do this, so this idea is no longer realistic. A discussion about the road falling apart in places, what material is under the road, how much material is under the road, if boring was to be done, who would pay for it, who is liable, other dirt roads in Town that have been paved and why is the Town waiting to have testing done. Kerri Farris suggested that she could contact DOT to officially have them go look at the road to give an objective viewpoint of the road.

Kerri Farris stated that there is no scope of work and no contract for the work that Sam Snow Construction did on the Jewett Road.

Marlene Colvin suggested marking sections of the Jewett Road and monitoring each section.

There was a conversation in regards to how many dirt roads in town have been paved.

Jane Hubert is concerned about the Palmer Road because it is wet there and there is no room for ditching. Kerri Farris stated that a scope of work document would be in place that would cover that.

Jean Ambrose stated that based on Sam Snow's 30-40 years of his work, she would like to stand behind our road commissioner. Jean stated that we already have Pete Coughlan's from DOT, observations. Jean also stated that all the other roads in town that have been paved are holding up. The Jewett Road took a beating that no one expected. Jean also stated that State Roads are broken up too. The Hunts Meadow Road will be closed again this summer for approximately two weeks. Kerri Farris stated that the Jewett Road deteriorated quickly.



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Jean Ambrose stated that she does not want to undermine a good road commissioner. Jean would like Sam Snow to be involved in this discussion. Joe Caputo suggested that this discussion be tabled until next week when Sam is able to be here. Jean Ambrose stated that Sam has put his heart and soul into

this town and the town is better for it. Jean stated that there has always been a good working relationship between the Select Board and the Road Commissioner.

Wellman Cromwell stated that a road policy regarding any dirt roads in Town be in place before any more dirt roads are hot topped.

Action item: The topic of Kerri Farris calling DOT to officially look at the Jewett Road again will be put on next week's agenda.

6. Office positions to be discussed:

A conversation was held in regards for the need of an Interim Tax Collector/Treasurer. Jean Ambrose made a motion to appoint Deb Barry the Interim Tax Collector/Treasurer. Voted approved: 3-0. The appointment papers were signed.

A discussion in regards to an Interim Deputy Clerk and Deputy Registrar will be held next week.

- 7. St. Germain invoice:** An invoice from St. Germain Engineering was reviewed. The invoice had 3 items listed with just one price. Jane Hubert stated that she would like an itemized invoice. Kerri Farris would like all invoices to be itemized.

Action item: Deb MacInnes will request a new itemized invoice from St. Germain Engineering.

Jean Ambrose stated that when a phone call is made to the lawyer or the engineer, she would like it discussed as a Board before a call is made. Jean would like to agree as a Board to call someone that will charge money. Kerri Farris stated that it is reasonable that there are times that she would be able to make a phone call with her authority as Chair. Jean Ambrose and Kerri Farris did not agree. Kerri Farris stated that she does not agree with Jean Ambrose's statements about past practices when Jean was Chair.

Joe Caputo stated that he thought the Select Board should find common ground.

8. Approve SB minutes of June 8, 2022:



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Jane Hubert made a motion to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of June 8, 2022. Voted approved: 3-0.

The Executive Session scheduled for tonight was canceled.

Jane Hubert made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 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