

**Town of Pittston Select Board Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2022**

Board Present: Kerri Farris, Jean Ambrose, Jane Hubert

Staff Present: Deb MacInnes, Sam Snow, Sarah Perkins

Residents Present: Mike Salonen, Todd Lindstrom, Jim Damon, Cheryl Damon, Wellman Cromwell, Glen Smith, Nikki Smith, Kristal Smith, Joe Caputo, Sharon Gleason, Susan Tardiff, Cheryl Peaslee.

Via Zoom: Deb Barry, Amy Cooper, Mike McCaslin, Linda Caputo, Jaimy Snow.

Via phone: Autumn DeVries.

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 Allegiance was recited.
3. **Review Agenda:** Jane Hubert reported that she would like to attend a meeting hosted by KVCOG to have a conversation about how to move forward with Hatch Hill.

There were no other changes to the agenda.

4. **Current Road Work:** Sam Snow, Road Commissioner, asked the Select Board what they were going to do about the winter loader rental for the sand/salt shed. There is no contract. Last year a letter of understanding was signed. A copy was given to the Select Board for review. This year's monthly rental charge will be \$2,300.

Some place on the N. Beech Hill Road, beavers have moved in. The trapper has been called.

Kerri Farris asked Sam Snow if he had the scope of work for the Palmer Road that the Select Board has been requesting since June 29th, 133 days ago. Kerri stated that at this point it looks like Sam is refusing to turn in a scope of work. Sam Snow replied when he gets time, he will do it. Sam also replied that he is still waiting for an itemized bill from the Board, 240 days. Kerri stated that she did not know what he was talking about. Sam stated that she does.

Kerri Farris had a question in regards to the Town Pit Access book. Jean Ambrose explained that is an old book and is no longer used. Permission is not given to anyone to go into the Town Pit. Kerri questioned how the pit is secured. There is a gate with no lock on it due to the fact that in the past locks have been broken or stolen. There is a sign that states "By Permission Only". "No

trespassing” signs have been put up in the past. The signs have been shot at and taken down. More “No Trespassing” signs will be purchased and put up.

5. **Discussion of A. DeVries letter:** Autumn DeVries wrote a letter to the Select Board in regards to the Jewett Road dilemma. Autumn’s questions are as follows:

#1. *Moving forward, I ask that the Select Board and the Road Commissioner accept nothing less than full collaboration and communication. If the RC is unable to attend a Board meeting to deliver a road report in person, I ask that a written statement be provided prior to the meeting that can be read by the Board and added to the minutes.*

Jean Ambrose stated that Sam Snow, Road Commissioner has attended almost all Select Board meetings in the last 9 years and there is nothing in an ordinance that states that he has to attend all meetings. Jane Hubert stated that this is just asking that if Sam is unable to attend, an email with a simple sentence would do. Kerri Farris stated that is a reasonable request. Kerri stated that since May, Sam has not attended 50% of the meetings and even if there is nothing going on, there should be communication. Jean Ambrose and Sam Snow had the same question on why just the RC needs to report each week and no other departments. Jane Hubert stated it is due to the large budget that Sam oversees. Kerri stated that Autumn is making an observation and we are looking at right now, not the last 9 years and there is a communication problem and she feels this is a reasonable request and asked Sam if he can commit to weekly communication and he replied “if I’m not in the hospital”. Sam also stated he thinks this is crazy and not in his job description. Jean Ambrose stated that communication is a two-way street. Sam stated that if something is going on he tells the Select Board. Kerri takes issue with that statement due to the scope of work for the Palmer Road that has not been handed in for 133 days. Sam said that he has been waiting for something from the Board for 240 days. Sam said that they would get the report on the Palmer Road. Kerri stated that there is a major communication issue and she wants the communication not to be selective, but communicated to all members of the Select Board. Autumn does not feel this was helpful, she feels it is worse. Autumn stated that the State statute is clear that the Road Commissioner is responsible to the Select Board. Kerri Farris stated there is a road block and all they can do is ask and hopes everyone follows through on what they promise.

#2. *Would it be appropriate to ask S.W. Cole to comment on this question? Does the Pittston Road Ordinance address road preparation prior to paving?*

Autumn asked if road borings should have been beyond 2 ½ half feet for the Jewett Road and do we need to pay closer attention to that in preparation of

paving other dirt roads in Town. Autumn asked if the Pittston Road Ordinance comes into play. It was cost prohibitive to bore past 2 ½ feet. Kerri Farris quoted from the Pittston Road Ordinance: page 7 J. "The developer shall submit specifications to the Selectmen for approval of the base before the pavement is placed" Sam Snow, Road Commissioner stated that this is for subdivisions.

#3. *Moving forward, may I ask that the Road Commissioner define and label preferred truck routes through town to encourage drivers to use suitable roads.*

There was destruction of town property signs on the Jewett Road when South Hunts Meadow Road was closed.

Autumn is asking for some sort of permanent signs designating a truck route that keeps trucks off the Jewett Road.

Joe Caputo stated that the issue on the Jewett Road is the road was not constructed properly and the width of the road is the problem, not the weight of vehicles.

A conversation was held on what kind of sign should be put up at the end of the South Beech Hill Road to help stop the big trucks from going down the already posted Jewett Road. Jane Hubert made a motion to post a sign at the Route 194 end of the South Beech Hill Road that states "no thru traffic". Motion approved: 3-0.

Action item: Sam Snow, Road Commissioner, will see if the town already has a sign that can be used.

6. **North Tyler Road discussion:** Kerri Farris stated that the Select Board was asked to look at the classification of the North Tyler Road. The Town attorney, Bernstein Shur was contacted. Bernstein Shur replied that in 1946 the Town voted to discontinue the North Tyler Road and the article did not include language to retain a public easement. The road was lawfully discontinued in 1946 and left no public easement, therefore ownership of the road reverted to the abutters on each side to the center line of the road. There is no public easement. Kerri Farris stated that the map should be modified. Jim Damon asked what about hunters, and the reply is that it is up to the landowners. Jean Ambrose stated that this leaves the future in limbo.
7. **Meeting update from Whitefield plowing the end of the Hanley Road:** Jane Hubert explained the last 212 feet of the Hanley Road (Whitefield's name for the road is Philbrook Road) is in Whitefield and Pittston no longer plows it due to the bad condition of the road. Jane went to a Select Board Meeting in Whitefield to

speak with the Select Board members, to see if they would fix the road and Pittston would resume plowing it. Whitefield won't do anything if this is a private road. The Whitefield SB will contact Jane when they find out the status of that road.

8. **PFD ARPA funds request:** Kerri Farris spoke on moving forward with these funds request. Jean Ambrose explained that MMA suggests having a Special Town Meeting to release these federal funds for accountability. Federal reporting is due in April. Sarah Perkins will be added to the federal portal as an administrator with Jean Ambrose. A time will be set for a Special Town Meeting.

Action item: Jean Ambrose will write the warrant for the Special Town Meeting to include the PFD request and to pay for the fire proof cabinets. Jean Ambrose will also get a quote to fire proof the document room.

9. **Update on forestry plan for town woodlots:** Jean Ambrose was given the name of a forester, Andy Shultz. Andy is retiring but is interested in doing this project and charges \$65 per hour. Jean also received some grant information. The sand/salt shed town owned land has around 30 acres, The Riverwalk property has around 40 acres and Bodge Island is 22 acres. Sam Snow stated that the last time wood was cut around the town pit area was in the 80's. Jean Ambrose made a motion to use the approved Riverwalk money to pay for the forester. Motion approved: 3-0.

10. **Approve & sign accounts payable/payroll warrants:** The Sam Snow Construction invoice pulled from last week has details added.

There was a question in regards to the Willett Paving invoice. It was for paving over a repaired culvert on the Old County Road.

Sarah Perkins, Tax Collector/Treasurer, spoke about the Prudy Powers final invoice for the audit. This may be a budget line-item next year.

Sarah Perkins explained a notice she received from the Gardiner Water District that was to inform us that the water supply did not pass all the water tests. The Gardiner Water District will correct the problem.

Sarah Perkins brought to the Select Board's attention that August Fuel Company sent a service agreement for the generator for \$300 per year. The Town will enter into this agreement.

Jean Ambrose made a motion to approve preview warrant #47 in the amount of \$27,894.70. Motion approved: 3-0.

Jean Ambrose made a motion to approve payroll warrant 4522 in the amount of \$5,093.10. Motion approved: 3-0.

11. **Approve SB minutes of November 2, 2022:** Jane Hubert made a motion to approve the Select Board meeting minutes with corrections. Motion approved: 3-0.

12. **Budget discussion with the treasurer:** Kerri Farris stated that the board needs to set a schedule to talk about the budget.

The Select Board would like to have the warrant articles in good shape before meeting with the Budget Committee.

Sarah Perkins has prepared Article #2 for tonight's discussion.

At this time, 8:02, Deb MacInnes left the Select Board Meeting.

The Select Board meeting ended at 9:20.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Debbie MacInnes, Administrative Assistant Date

Kerri Farris, Selectperson

Mary Jean Ambrose, Selectperson

Jane H Hubert, Selectperson