



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

Town of Pittston Select Board Meeting Minutes September 7, 2022

Board Present: Kerri Farris, Jean Ambrose, Jane Hubert

Staff Present: Deb MacInnes, Sarah Perkins

Residents Present: Mike Salonen, Todd Lindstrom, Fred Kimball, Sharon Gleason, Joe Caputo, Wellman Cromwell.

Via Zoom: Amy Cooper, Deb Barry, Greg Lumbert, Doreen Plaisted, Linda Caputo, Maggie Smith, Ray Snyder.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair, Kerri Farris at 6:33 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **Review Agenda:** Kerri Farris added Todd Lindstrom's concern about a survey. Jean Ambrose requested to add having Board approval to ask MMA questions in regards to appointments. This was tabled to a later date for Keri Farris and Jane Hubert to obtain more information.

Survey: A resident contacted the board to express concern about a survey some residents have received soliciting opinion about adding a town manager to Pittston's staff. The resident, Todd Lindstrom, stated that the lack of specific information about who the survey was from created confusion about whether the town's select board was involved in the survey. He went on to state that the email address on the survey felt misleading because of a lack of clarity about who was behind the campaign. Select board member Jean Ambrose is a part of the private group sponsoring the survey. Todd Lindstrom and others suggested that the board should be made aware of any of this type of activity in the future and that the participation of board member Ambrose adds to the confusion about whether the group is directly associated with the board. Todd Lindstrom expressed his concerns that the survey did not go to all residents in Pittston and that the survey was not clear that it did not come from the Select Board or the Town Office. Mr. Lindstrom felt the email address on the survey was misleading. A conversation was held in regards to the importance of items such as this and political campaign material be clearly marked as to who it is from. Mr. Lindstrom also expressed his opinion that he feels that there is no need for a Town Manager. The survey was given to some residents in Town, was available at the Village Store and in the Community Hall at the Pittston Fair, to see if there is any interest in the possibility of Pittston having a Town Manager. At the bottom of the survey, it states: "Note: This is not (yet) an official Pittston committee, only a group of interested citizens. We welcome your opinions, even if you disagree!" There will be an informational meeting, not from the Select Board, at the Community Hall at the Pittston Fair Grounds on October 2, 2022. Time will be approximately 2:00 p.m. In the event residents think having a Town



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Manager is a worthwhile idea, it would need to be on the warrant for the March Town Meeting and would need to be voted on by the Town body.

4. **Current road work:** The Road Commissioner was not in attendance.

Jane Hubert reported that she saw a work truck on the Troop Road today.

Mike Salonen reported that a culvert was replaced on the Old County Road also today and that Sam Snow did a great job.

5. **Counting loads of sand:** In years past, a person has been paid to be at the sand/salt shed counting the loads of sand being delivered, for \$20 or \$25 per hour. Kerri Farris stated that this hourly rate was surprisingly high. The State rate for laborers is \$19. A discussion was held about how to proceed. Fred Kimball offered his professional expertise to measure and estimate the quantity of the mixed sand and salt after it is delivered to the shed at no cost to the town. Fred Kimball has experience in this calculating process. Jane Hubert made a motion to after all the sand is delivered, Fred Kimball will measure the total pile. Fred will look at the finished pile and give a total of sand/salt and Sam Snow Construction will provide documentation to the town office slips provided by the supplier. Motion approved: 3-0.

Action item: Kerri Farris will contact Sam Snow.

6. **Riverwalk update:** Jean Ambrose reported that there is now a road down to the Riverwalk area. Sam Snow, Don Jewett and Graham Jewett all donated their equipment and time. If you go down, stop at the turn around. Thank you all for getting that done!!
7. **Bonding:** Jane Hubert emailed MMA in regards to bonding. There are different ways of bonding. Jane Hubert read an email that MMA had sent a number of years ago that stated that there is no law that bonding is required, but it is recommended. Jane Hubert will have more information by the next meeting. Kerri Farris also asked about public funds.
8. **Follow up from Dave Allen:** Jane Hubert spoke with Dave Allen from DOT and the letter in regards to the speed limit on the South Beech Hill Road is in draft form and will be sent soon.
9. **Tuesday closing?** Jane Hubert asked if they may want to close the office to the public on Tuesdays in the absence of the Town Clerk. It was decided not to close on Tuesdays at this time. Lynette Eastman will be coming in for 4 hours on Mondays and Thursdays until the Town Clerk returns.



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10. Approve & sign accounts payable/payroll warrants: Jean Ambrose made a motion to approve preview warrant #38 in the amount of \$232,632.02. Motion approved: 3-0.

Jean Ambrose made a motion to approve payroll warrant #3622 in the amount of \$3882.52. Motion approved: 3-0.

11. Treasurer Report: Sarah Perkins, Tax Collector/Treasurer, reported that the checkbook is healthy. Sarah will have the budget in TRIO by Friday and will have an expense report for next week. Sarah spoke with Sam Snow, Road Commissioner about the highway budget so he would know the budget going into paving season.

There will be a meeting with the Auditor on Friday, September 9, 2022 at 11:30 at the Town Office.

12. Approve SB minutes of August 31, 2022: Jane Hubert made a motion to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of August 31, 2022. Motion approved: 3-0.

13. Work Session on Sept. 8, 2022?: There will be no Select Board work session.

There will be a Staff Meeting on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at the Town Office at 10:00 a.m.

Kerri Farris made a motion to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Motion approved: 3-0.

Kerri Farris, Selectperson

Mary Jean Ambrose, Selectperson

Jane H. Hubert, Selectperson