

Minutes of the Town Board for January 21, 2020

TOWN OF PITTSFORD TOWN BOARD JANUARY 21, 2020

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the Pittsford Town Board held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. local time in Pittsford Town Hall.

PRESENT: Supervisor William A. Smith, Jr.; Councilmembers Kevin S. Beckford, Cathy Koshykar, Katherine B. Munzinger and Stephanie M. Townsend.

ABSENT: There were no Town Board members absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Staff Members: Paul J. Schenkel, Commissioner of Public Works; Robert B. Koegel, Town Attorney; Linda M. Dillon, Town Clerk, Suzanne Reddick, Assistant to Supervisor, Shelley O'Brien, Communications Director and Spencer Bernard, Chief of Staff.

ATTENDANCE: There were fourteen (14) members of the public in attendance. There were also two (2) additional staff members and an interpreter present.

Supervisor Smith called the Town Board meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., noting that the Town has an interpreter present and available should anyone at the meeting need this service. The Town Clerk noted all board members present and Supervisor Smith invited Councilmember Beckford to lead in the Pledge to Flag.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 7, 2020 MEETING APPROVED

A Resolution to approve the Minutes of the January 7, 2020 meeting was offered by Deputy Supervisor Munzinger, seconded by Councilmember Beckford. Councilmember Koshykar asked the Town Clerk if she had received an email request for an amendment to the Minutes. Town Clerk Dillon said that she had received the request, but reminded the Board that the minutes are not a verbatim transcript of the meeting nor are intended to be, and that the Town videotapes Town Board meetings for broadcast and on-demand viewing as the means to let residents see exactly what was said and by whom. She noted that the statewide association for Town Clerks recommends against include public comments in Town Board minutes at all, to avoid such requests for amendments and because the purpose of the minutes is solely to report actions taken or considered by the Town Board.

Thereafter, the motion and the second was reconfirmed and the approval of the Minutes as written was voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Beckford, Koshykar, Munzinger, Townsend and Smith. Nays: None.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Meeting Minutes of the January 7, 2020 are approved as written.

SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. LED Streetlight Replacements – Supervisor Smith noted that one of the Town's recent environmental initiatives is being carried out, whereby our existing conventional street lights are being fitted with energy-saving LED lighting. If residents notice some street lights being out being out for a day or two around town, it is because of the LED refitting project.

2. NYSDOT – New York State Department of Transportation – State Street bridge replacement: Supervisor Smith announced that the State DOT has scheduled this project to begin in March 2021, and expects to complete it by Labor Day 2021.

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LEGAL MATTERS

DISCUSSION – TIMELINE FOR INITIAL CODE REVISIONS REVIEWED

Town Attorney Koegel reviewed with Town Board members the draft of a timeline and plan for zoning updates for the area subject to the current building moratorium. It must be completed by June of this year. He indicated that he and a working group of Town staff members will identify key objectives to be achieved by modifications to the current RRAA zoning requirements that apply to the Extended RRSP area as contemplated by the Comprehensive Plan. He suggested that the group include a liaison from the Planning Board. He also noted that if the Town engages a consultant for the larger project of amending the Town Code in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan, that consultant could help with this component of the overall Code revision.

Councilmember Townsend suggested including in the code revision drafting group a member of the Design Review and Historic Preservation Board. She recommended that one or two members of the Town Board serve on the drafting group, which can make the process more efficient by avoiding need for significant and time-consuming revisions once the draft is presented to the Town Board for its consideration and approval. Following discussion among Board members and the Town Attorney, the Board and Supervisor concurred.

Councilmembers Beckford and Munzinger agreed to serve on the drafting board. Councilmember Beckford noted that he would like to explore possibilities of having the remaining developable land in the Town zoned to provide affordable housing.

Councilmember Koshykar asked about a provision in the timeline and plan providing for a first draft early in March and a final draft later in the month. The Town Attorney noted that this was driven by the need to set a public hearing in a timely manner, in light of the moratorium expiring in June.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Smith noted that the Town Board will be taking the next comment, from Mayor Corby, out of the regular order of business, as he has important information and comments to make regarding our Erie Canal and the future vitalization of this important resource in Pittsford.

MAYOR ROBERT CORBY ADDRESSED THE BOARD REGARDING THE STATE'S NEW PLAN FOR THE ERIE CANAL

Supervisor Smith noted that he and Village Mayor Robert Corby have discussed mutual concerns about the State's proposed plan called "Re-Imagining the Canal." Mayor Corby has been in touch with the State Office of Historic Preservation about the matter. The Supervisor asked Mayor Corby to bring the Town Board current on the status of the plan and to explain reasons for concern about it that affect Pittsford.

Mayor Corby indicated that his research discloses how difficult it is to obtain concrete details about the proposed plan. The Mayor explained that the Erie Canal Corporation had, for years, been governed and operated by the New York State Thruway Authority. He noted that this made sense, given that it is a mode of transportation and runs parallel to much of the thruway. In 2017 Governor Cuomo placed the Canal under control of the New York State Power Authority, which has no real experience or knowledge of historic preservation nor of recreational or economic development. The Erie Canal is designated as a National Historic Landmark and should be given the attention it deserves as a significant landmark. Mayor Corby indicated that from the information available, the Power Authority's intentions for the canal, and its proposed plan, could be devastating to Pittsford and other canal communities throughout the state. A few of the changes that he understands have been quietly circulating as proposals by the Power Authority include lowering the water to the level of 4 -6 feet; limiting navigation to only small boats, such as kayaks and canoes; decommissioning some of the locks, which would diminish the number of fish and deter recreational use for fishing; and disconnecting the canal from other waterways along the canal system.

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The Mayor continued that these changes would be significant and would be for the worse; that we need to be vocal in our expression of these concerns. He plans to bring this up at the State Association of Mayors conference next month, as there are many Towns and Villages throughout the State of New York that the Erie Canal runs through and any significant changes could have a negative impact on them as well. Supervisor Smith thanked Mayor Corby for his presentation and indicated that he will follow the Mayor's lead, by expressing the Town's concerns at the upcoming Meeting of the New York State Association of Towns in February.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMENDED BY HISTORIC PITTSFORD

Peggy Caraberis Brizee, President of Historic Pittsford, presented and read a letter to the Supervisor and Board in support of the Town's Comprehensive Update. The letter encourages the Town to preserve more open space and review the Resource Inventory list developed by the Town during planning for the original Greenprint Plan in the 1990's. Supervisor Smith thanked Peggy for the letter and noted that she had been present at most or all meetings of the Town's Comprehensive Plan Citizens Committee and thanked her for her contributions to the process and to the final plan itself.

GREENPRINT 2.0

As a follow-on to the comments from Historic Pittsford, Supervisor Smith noted that the Community Survey completed last year indicated strong public support for further expansion of the Greenprint plan, that he has spoken with Board members of his intention to make this an initiative this year and that the Town Board can begin by considering the open space inventory ranking done in the 90's which remains substantially relevant. This material will be distributed to members of the Board to begin the process.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered.

BUDGET TRANSFERS APPROVED

Following brief discussion and discussion among the Board, Town Clerk Dillon and Commissioner Schenkel regarding the postage transfer to the Spiegel Center utilities, a Resolution to approve the proposed budget transfers, to be posted to the FY2019 Budget was offered by Deputy Supervisor Munzinger, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Beckford, Koshykar, Munzinger, Townsend and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the following budget transfers are approved and posted to the FY2019 Budget:

- That \$8,110.00 be transferred from 1.1670.4601.1.1 (Postage – Expense) and \$10.00 be transferred to 1.1620.1000.1.1 (Messenger – Salaries) to cover FY2019 salaries and \$8,100.00 be transferred to 1.1620.4202.1.2 (Building – RG&E) to cover SCC FY2019 utilities.
- That \$950.00 be transferred from 4.5130.1000.53.4 (Mechanics – Salaries) to 4.5130.4106.53.4 (mechanics – Parts) to cover FY2019 part purchases.
- That \$955.00 be transferred from 6.9050.8000.1.6 (Sewer – Unemployment) to 6.9060.8002.1.6 (Sewer – Dental) to cover dental claims for the end of FY2019.
- That \$1,010.00 be transferred from 1.1670.4601.1.1 (Postage – Expense) to 1.2620.4118.10.1 (Building Maint. – Building Supplies) to cover FY2019 building supplies.

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JANUARY 2020 VOUCHERS APPROVED

A Resolution to approve January 2020 vouchers was moved by Deputy Supervisor Munzinger, seconded by Supervisor Smith, and voted on by the members as follows: Ayes: Beckford, Koshykar, Munzinger, Townsend and Smith. Nays: None.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the January 2020 vouchers No. 145366 through No. 145657 in the amount of \$901,602.77 are approved for payment.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered.

HIRING RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED

Having had the records audited for the proposed hires and noting that all the documents were in order, a Resolution to approve the proposed hiring and status change and/or salary change was offered by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Munzinger, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Beckford, Koshykar, Munzinger, Townsend and Smith. Nays: None.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approve the following persons for employment and confirm as the date of hire as indicated hereto:

Name	Department	Position	Rate	Date of Hire
Laura Mecca	Recreation	Asst IIIComm Cntr Supv-PT	\$13.50	01/15/2020

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the status and salary changes for the following employees:

Name	Position	Reason for Change	Rate	Effective Date
Dale Burgess	GEO I	salary adjustment	\$29.56	01/13/2020
Jeanne Steinbrenner	Librarian II	Civil Service Appt	\$27.83	01/13/2020
James Lane	MEO III	Promotion	\$20.19	01/31/2020
Christopher Coleman	MEO II	Promotion	\$23.12	01/31/2020
Caleb Sandburg	MEO III	Promotion	\$20.19	01/31/2020

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Update on Kilbourn Place: Supervisor Smith reported that Riedman Company recently met with Town staff, Councilmember Townsend and the Supervisor regarding the Kilbourn Place development to discuss the project. The Town Attorney and Assessor participated and noted that some of the figures provided by the developer regarding anticipated tax revenue from the site as-is as compared to the site if built pursuant to the developer's request for changes to the incentive zoning law were incorrect and needed revision. The developer will revise the figures and provide them to the Town. The Supervisor noted Councilmember Townsend's request at the meeting that the developer meet with representatives of the school district, to determine effects of the proposed project on Allens Creek School, which she understands to be at full capacity as it is. Once the developer revises the tax projections and can report on its discussion with the school district, the Supervisor will distribute this information to all Board members, in anticipation of another presentation to the Board by the developer.
2. Supervisor Smith indicated that the 2020 and 2021 Road repair schedule is being updated and will be presented upon its completion.

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3. Councilmember Townsend noted that she is acquainted with an archiving specialist, Dr. Carolyn Vacca, Monroe County Historian and a professor at St. John Fisher College. She would like to introduce her to Vicki Proffit, who recently came to work for the Town part-time as Archivist and assistant to the Town Historian, Audrey Johnson.
4. The Supervisor noted that the window is open for neighborhoods wishing to collect petitions to form Refuse Districts. The Town will add a map to its website showing the location of existing Refuse Districts. Councilmember Townsend stated that this could be a help to adjacent neighborhoods in defining their own districts.
5. Volunteer Boards – The Supervisor’s office is continuing to accept letters of interest from residents wishing to serve on the volunteer boards. Responding to a question from Councilmember Koshykar, Supervisor Smith noted that incumbent volunteer board members traditionally have been re-appointed when their terms end, if they wish to continue on a board. However, the Town Board has authority and discretion to install new members to seats whose term has expired. The Town will make this inquiry of incumbent Board members. Councilmember Beckford observed that the Town might consider term limits for these boards. Deputy Supervisor Munzinger indicated that she would not be opposed to this, but historically the challenge always has been finding people willing to serve.
6. Former Supervisor Paul Spiegel’s 100th Birthday – Deputy Supervisor Munzinger noted the 100th birthday, this past Saturday, of former Town Supervisor Paul Spiegel, the longest-serving Supervisor in the Town’s history, who served from 1966 to 1987. The Board joined her in wishing Supervisor Spiegel a Happy 100th birthday.
7. Councilmember Beckford recognized and thanked the Town and Town staff members by name who assisted in organizing the week-long events in recognition of the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He believed that Pittsford to be the only Town in the state with a 5-day series of events honoring the legacy of Dr. King.
8. Councilmember Koshykar referred to her recent communication to Board members suggesting that the Town Board consider moving its meeting place to the Library’s Fisher Meeting Room, as a way of engaging more residents. She suggested that this be tried for a few meetings on an experimental basis. Deputy Supervisor Munzinger stated that she would hesitate to support this on a regular basis, as our meeting rooms, especially the Fisher Meeting Room, are heavily used by Town residents and this would deprive them of this space twice a month, in circumstances where the Town Board already has a dedicated meeting space of its own. Many Library programs for residents and others are held in this room. Supervisor Smith noted that upon receiving Councilmember Koshykar’s message he inquired about availability of the Fisher Room for the rest of this year. He learned that, save for one date, it is already booked for the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month in 2020. He noted that of all the Town’s meeting rooms the Fisher Room sees the heaviest demand for booking.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No additional public comments were offered.

As there was no further business, the Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 7:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Dillon
Town Clerk