

Minutes of the Town Board for November 17, 2020

TOWN OF PITTSFORD TOWN BOARD NOVEMBER 17, 2020

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the Pittsford Town Board held on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. local time at the Pittsford Community Library, Fisher Meeting Room, 24 State Street.

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

ABSENT: None.

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

ATTENDANCE: There were eleven (11) members of the public in attendance, four (4) additional staff member(s) and an ASL interpreter.

Supervisor Smith called the Town Board meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., and led the Pledge to the Flag. The Town Clerk noted all Town Board members present. Supervisor Smith indicated that the ASL interpreter is present and available and that the meeting is being recorded and will be available to view shortly hereafter with closed-captioning.

TOWN ATTORNEY KOEGEL – CELL PHONE PROTOCOL DURING MEETINGS

Town Attorney Koegel reminded the Board that Board Members' cell phones should be kept off the table and out of sight during the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING – CONTINUED PROPOSED TOWN BUDGET FOR 2021 - SUPERVISOR'S REVISED BUDGET PRESENTATION

Supervisor Smith gave a complete presentation of his revised proposed Budget for 2021. The proposed budget would hold the Town tax rate flat, \$3.15 per thousand dollars of assessed value, with no increase.

He noted that the 2021 revised Budget preserves, carries forward and improves essential Town services for residents while keeping the tax rate flat.

The Supervisor reviewed factors that made the revised proposal possible. These include more current information on actual costs in some categories for 2020, producing lower projected costs in the year ahead. They include cuts to some spending proposed in the preliminary budget, to public events, to cost of living increases for employees paid more than \$75,000, and to funding originally proposed to replace furniture in the Library. In addition, the Budget now proposed makes more aggressive use of the Highway Reserve Fund, to pay for repaving and road repair in 2021 from that fund rather than from contemporaneous revenues.

He pointed out that the sole spending increase compared to the preliminary Budget is for Pittsford Youth Services. The Budget now proposed funds PYS at \$61,000 for 2021, exceeding PYS's request and representing an increase of 5.8% year-to-year, with a cumulative increase of 69% since 2017.

In summary, the Supervisor noted that his 2021 revised budget maintains and improves the services that contribute to the quality of life enjoyed by Pittsford residents; that it reinforces his commitment to building stronger neighborhoods, to continual improvement and to services of importance to youth and seniors. He noted that the budget builds upon a longstanding fiscal record that protects taxpayers and reaffirms the Town's commitment to responsible budgetary practices. The revised budget proposal gives Pittsford a budget in full compliance with the New York State Property Tax Cap, with no increase to the tax rate at all.

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Supervisor Smith then re-opened the budget hearing. The following people offered comments at the hearing: Jeffrey Lullen, Susan Gould, Xueya Cai, Barbara Baer, Annalise Johnson-Smith, Mark Harrington, Hope Herting, Bruce Parks, Michael Laird, Kathy Sinclair, Jackie Ebner, Susan Gilday, Lee Fox, Ann Slocomb, Laura Jean Diekmann, and Shannon Cunniffe.

Following all comments, the public hearing was closed and the Town Board discussed the Budget proposal in more detail. Finance Director Brian Luke spoke in response to questions from the Board.

2021 BUDGET APPROVED

A Resolution to approve the Supervisor's revised Town Budget for 2021 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.

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the Town Budget for 2021.

2021 SPECIAL DISTRICT BUDGETS APPROVED

Thereafter, a Resolution to approve the 2021 Special District Budgets and sewer rent and debt service budgets for the Pittsford Consolidated Sewer District was offered by Deputy Supervisor Munzinger, seconded by Supervisor Smith, 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 2021 Special District Budgets and sewer rent and debt service budgets for the Pittsford Consolidated Sewer District be approved.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 20, 2020 AND NOVEMBER 4, 2020 MEETINGS APPROVED

A Resolution to approve the Minutes of the October 20, 2020 and November 4, 2020 meetings 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 Meeting Minutes of the October 20 and November 4, 2020 are approved as written.

NOVEMBER VOUCHERS APPROVED

Following clarification of a few items listed for payment, including Pittsford Sewer District, a cable agreement inquiry and fees for an outside law firm, a resolution to approve the proposed Vouchers was offered by Supervisor Smith, 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 November 2020 vouchers No. 148853 through 149367 in the amount of \$1,521,702.23 are approved for payment.

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following members of the public offered comments: Jeffrey Luellen, Tharaha Thavakumar-Slavin, Annalise Johnson-Smith, Susan Gould, Linda Brisbane, and Jennifer Canning.

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BOARD DISCUSSION: DIVERSITY TRAINING FOR TOWN STAFF AND PLANNING BOARD/ DISCUSSION: EQUITY ADVISORY BOARD

Town Clerk Linda Dillon addressed the Board on this matter, speaking for herself and for the Town employees.

The Town Board discussed these ideas, proposed by Councilmember Townsend, and responded to some of the public comments relating to them. The Board agreed to continue this discussion at a future meeting.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered.

HIRING RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED

A Resolution to approve the salary and status change for an employee was offered by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Munzinger, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Beckford, Koshykar, Munzinger, Townsend and Smith. Nays: none.

The following Resolutions were declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the recommended salary/status change for the following employee:

Name	Position	Reason for Change	Salary	Effective Date
Jennifer McCabe	Laborer-FT	Seasonal to FT - replacement	\$17.63	11/16/2020

OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Board engaged in conversation with Commissioner of Public Works, Paul Schenkel, about Greenlight expansion in Pittsford. Also, following a brief discussion regarding an accident on Mendon Center Road, Councilmember Townsend suggested drafting a letter to the NYS Department of Transportation requesting a speed reduction on Mendon Center Road. Finally, the Town Board discussed how COVID restrictions that may come could affect the Board's in-person meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tharaha Thavakumar-Slavin, Sadie Szrama and Phil Szrama offered comments.

As there was no further business, the Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Dillon, Town Clerk