

Minutes of the Town Board for October 15, 2019

TOWN OF PITTSFORD TOWN BOARD OCTOBER 15, 2019

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the Pittsford Town Board held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. local time in Pittsford Town Hall.

PRESENT: Supervisor William A. Smith, Jr.; Councilpersons Kevin Beckford, Katherine B. Munzinger, Matthew J. O'Connor and Stephanie Townsend.

ABSENT: None.

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

ATTENDANCE: There were twenty-four (24) members of the public in attendance. There were also three (3) additional staff members present and an 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 members present.

SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Leaf and Brush Pickup starts on October 21 and continues through December 6, or until all leaves are collected. Pickup will occur approximately every two (2) weeks, depending on volume, unless severe weather changes (such as heavy snow and ice) make pick-up impossible. The location of leaf pickup crews can be monitored on the Town website, so residents can follow the schedule and current status of collection. All yard debris is recycled into mulch, which is made available to residents at no charge.
- 2) The newest Town-owned and operated Electric Vehicle Charging Station, with capacity for two vehicles at one time, will be installed at the Spiegel Community Center parking lot, paid for by a Clean Energy Community grant from NYSERDA.
- 3) The Town of Pittsford's Annual Family Halloween Fest at St. John Fisher College is scheduled for October 20th, 2pm – 5pm. – Admission is free. The Town requests a donation of one canned food item per person, for the Pittsford Food Cupboard.

Awaiting the arrival of a guest for the next agenda item, Designation of Pittsford as an Autism Friendly Community, the Supervisor moved to the presentation of his proposed 2020 Budget.

SUPERVISOR'S PROPOSED TOWN BUDGET FOR 2020

Supervisor Smith presented his proposed Town Budget for 2020 with a PowerPoint presentation. He reviewed the specific goals in his budget, which include:

- Lower Taxes
- Strong Neighborhoods
- Continual Improvement

LOWER TAXES:

Supervisor Smith reviewed the highlights of the budget, which included:

- 1.5% cut in the Town Property Tax Rate – 8.1% Tax Cut over the past 2 years
- 1.0% decrease in the overall general tax levy
- Compliant with NYS Property Tax Cap
- Maintains increased funding for residential road repaving program
- Improvements to our Pittsford Community Library

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- Increased support for Pittsford Volunteer Ambulance
- Increased funding for Pittsford Youth Services
- A new kayak launch on the canal, handicapped accessible and easier access for seniors
- Support for Elderberry Express
- Our continuing environmental initiatives that save taxpayers money while protecting our natural resources
- Environmental upgrades to King's Bend Park
- More recreation programs, including additional concerts

The Supervisor reviewed the proposed tax rate and tax levy decrease, noting the comparison among other Towns, marking Pittsford as having the 7th lowest tax rate in the county. He further compared services offered in comparison to Pittsford among the 6 Towns that had a lower tax rate, as follows:

Pittsford: Proposed \$3.16 (per \$1,000 of assessed value)

Parma - \$2.68

- No Leaf pick-up
- Brush pick-up 2x a year

Penfield - \$2.78

- No Leaf pick-up
- No brush pick-up

Mendon - \$2.67

- No Leaf pick-up
- Brush pick-up 2x a year
- No recreation department

Perinton - \$2.15

- \$1.8m revenue from landfill
- School Library District
- Leaf pick-up every 4-6 weeks

Henrietta - \$1.40

- Large commercial tax base
- No brush pick-up
- No leaf pick-up

Riga - \$0.00

- \$2m revenue from landfill
- No Leaf pick-up
- Brush pick-up 2x per year

Supervisor Smith additionally noted that Town taxes represent less than 9¢ of every \$1 paid in property taxes going to the Town (the remaining 91¢ of every \$1 goes to other taxing jurisdictions).

STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS

Strong neighborhoods continue to be a priority by increasing funding to continue to maintain and repair streets throughout the Town's neighborhoods, adding additional traffic safety devices and completing the current RGE-sponsored LED street light conversion project, which involves the replacement of 103 designated high pressure sodium streetlamp bulbs in the Town with high efficiency LED bulbs.

CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT

Supervisor Smith reviewed his proposal for supporting both the Youth and Senior Services with additional funding. The Pittsford Community Library, which opened after new construction in 2005, is in need of new carpeting, upgrades and painting. There have also been new and noteworthy features added for Pittsford residents with a library card, such as Mango Languages, an on-line learning software package (courses for 70 languages as well as 20 ESL courses), updates in the Teen Place, and Kanopy, an on-demand streaming video platform for public libraries that offers viewers a large collection of award-winning films and documentaries,.

Following the presentation, the Supervisor reviewed the Budget process as follows:

- 10/15- Supervisor presents his 2020 Budget Priorities
- 10/30- Budget filed by this date with the Town Clerk.
- 11/4- Town Board to set Public Hearing
- 11/19- Public Hearing on the 2020 Budget
- Budget will be posted on the Town website and hard copies will be made available before the next Town Board meeting.

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MINUTES

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered regarding the Minutes of the October 1, 2019 Town Board meeting.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 1, 2019 MINUTES APPROVED

A Resolution to approve the Meeting Minutes of the October 1, 2019 meeting was offered by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilwoman Townsend, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Beckford, Munzinger, O'Connor, Townsend and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2019 Town Board meetings are approved as written.

LEGAL MATTERS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered.

TOWN/RIT AGREEMENT FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT OF TOWN BUILDINGS APPROVED

Councilman O'Connor reviewed and explained the proposed Agreement for Energy Efficiency Assessment of Town Buildings, noting that the cost of the assessment is being absorbed by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation grant money made available to RIT and the Pollution Prevention Institute (P2I). Responding to Councilwoman Townsend's inquiry, he mentioned that (a) the assessment is anticipated to be completed in approximately three (3) months and (b) a schedule to that effect is included in the meeting package.

Noting the partnership with the Town is the first for RIT P2I with a municipality, Councilman O'Connor thanked Town Attorney Koegel for negotiating certain features of the contract with RIT. In particular, the Town Attorney revised passages to eliminate unnecessary risk to the Town and reworded contract confidentiality provisions to allow the Town to disclose any information required under applicable law, including but not limited to, the Freedom of Information Law and the Open Meetings Law.

Thereafter, Councilman O'Connor made the motion for the Supervisor to sign the proposed Agreement for an Energy Efficiency Assessment of Town Buildings, seconded by Councilwoman Townsend, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Beckford, Munzinger, O'Connor, Townsend and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Town Board with RIT/NYSP2I for assessing energy efficiency in certain Town-owned and operated buildings, in accordance with the terms of the written agreement submitted herewith.

DESIGNATION OF PITTSFORD AS AN AUTISM FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Lawana Jones, Director of the Autism Council of Rochester, Inc. was welcomed and introduced to the Town Board. Director Jones thanked Deputy Supervisor Munzinger and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for pursuing this important community initiative by completing the training with staff and recreation program vendors, which provides a better understanding and knowledge of autism, thereby allowing them to better serve the community in a more compassionate and inclusive manner.

The Supervisor then presented a Proclamation to Lawana Jones and her organization, proclaiming Pittsford's recognition and commitment to being an Autism Friendly and Inclusive Community. The Proclamation reads as follows:

Whereas, autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the world today with more than 3.5 million Americans living with autism; and

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Whereas, hope lies in an informed public and community committed to providing support and service to individuals with autism spectrum disorder with special needs and their families; and

Whereas, the Town of Pittsford acknowledges its citizens with autism as valued members of our community and recognizes the importance of education and support concerning autism; and

Whereas, the Town of Pittsford is committed to partnering with The Autism Council, a not-for-profit organization committed to the mission of educating and training families, professionals and the public to better understand this lifelong disorder; and

Whereas, the Town of Pittsford is committed to becoming inclusive and free of physical and social barriers and aspires to provide equal opportunities to all persons with autism and other special needs. .

Now Be it Resolved, that I, William A. Smith, Jr., Town Supervisor, do hereby proclaim on behalf of the Town of Pittsford and its citizens, that The Town of Pittsford is an

AUTISM FRIENDLY™ COMMUNITY

And be it further resolved, that the Town of Pittsford is committed to increasing awareness and support for individuals with autism and other special needs, along with education and training for the community.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand to this proclamation and caused to be affixed to it the seal of the Town of Pittsford this 15th day of October 2019.

Councilman O'Connor, noting as a faculty member at MCC he had been trained to effectively integrate autistic students into his classrooms, asked Ms. Jones to provide attendees high level insight into the best practices associated with integrating autistic children and adults into daily activities, and she gladly obliged.

Deputy Supervisor Munzinger, acknowledging the Town's commitment to this important initiative, made a motion that the Town Board approve an Agreement with the Autism Council of Rochester, Inc. for them to provide annual refresher training at a rate of \$150 per hour. Councilman O'Connor seconded the motion, and the Board voted as follows: Ayes: Beckford, Munzinger, O'Connor, Townsend and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor or Town Designee to sign an Agreement with the Autism Council of Rochester, Inc. to provide annual refresher training at a rate of \$150 per hour.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered.

SURPLUS INVENTORY APPROVED

A Resolution to approve the list of Surplus Inventory submitted as recommended was offered by Deputy Supervisor Munzinger, seconded by Supervisor Smith, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Beckford, Munzinger, O'Connor, Townsend and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the following list of Surplus Inventory was approved to be removed from Town's inventory:

Asset #	Year	Description	Department	Cost Disposition
13934	2002	Circulator Fan	Hwy	\$391.85 Junk

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16395	2007	Chain Saw	Hwy	\$471.95 Junk
17172	2011	Level & Case	Hwy	\$154.36 Junk
17507	2013	Ford F-350 Dump Truck	Hwy	\$22,330.30 Auction
17914	2015	Radar Sign	Hwy	\$2,800.00 Junk
TOTAL				\$26,148.46

BUDGET TRANSFER APPROVED

A motion to approve the proposed Budget Transfer for expenses associated with the Monroe County Stormwater Coalition was offered by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Councilman O'Connor, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Beckford, Munzinger, O'Connor, Townsend and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that \$4,000.00 be transferred from 1.8540-2005.2.4 (Drainage – Capital Improvement) to 1.8540.4400.2.4 (Drainage – Contractual Services) to cover the expense associated with the Monroe County Stormwater Coalition.

OCTOBER VOUCHERS APPROVED

A Resolution to approve the October 2019 vouchers was moved by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Munzinger, and voted on by the members as follows: Ayes: Beckford, Munzinger, O'Connor, Townsend and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the October 2019 vouchers No. 143772 – 144181 for a total amount of \$458,928.78 are approved for payment.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered.

HIRING AND STATUS/SALARY CHANGES APPROVED

Councilman O'Connor confirmed that he had audited the records for the proposed part-time and/or seasonal hires and that all the documents were in order. A Resolution to approve the proposed new hires and rehires and recommended status and/or salary change was offered by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilwoman Townsend, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Beckford, Munzinger, O'Connor, Townsend and Smith. Nays: None.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

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

Name	Dept	Position	Rate	Date of Hire
Carolyn Myers	Rec	Asst I Counselor PT (Re-Hire)	\$11.10	10/03/2019
Melissa Desir-Spinelli	Library	Clerk – Perm PT	\$16.89	10/14/2019
Pamela Thurber	Court	Court Clerk – Perm FT	\$30.21	10/15/2019
Daniel Pulver	Rec	Asst III Comm Cntr Supv PT	\$12.71	10/16/2019
Anne Kealy	Rec	Asst III Lifeguard PT (Aquatics)	\$14.00	10/16/2019
Victoria Lennarz	Rec	Asst I Counselor PT	\$11.10	10/18/2019

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and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the status and/or salary change for the following employees:

Name	Position	Reason for Change	Rate	Effective Date
Michael Hook	Laborer	Class B License	\$16.22	10/01/2019
Henry Webb	Lifeguard	Added Position	\$14.00	10/12/2019
James Peterson	General Foreman	Probation Period Met	\$32.14	10/14/2019
Patricia Dromgoole	Sr. Court Clerk	Training New Hire	\$32.96	10/15/2019
James Byrne	Librarian Trainee	Replacement – Perm PT	\$19.46	10/23/2019

STAFF TRAINING/EDUCATION APPROVED

PAVEMENT DESIGN AND REINFORCING GRIDS SEMINAR APPROVED

A motion was made by Councilwoman Townsend to approve attendance of Robert Fromberger, Town Engineer, to attend the Pavement Design and Reinforcing Grids Seminar, seconded by Councilman O'Connor, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Beckford, Munzinger, O'Connor, Townsend and Smith. Nays: none.

The following Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Town Engineer, Robert Fromberger be approved to attend the Pavement Design and Reinforcing Grids Seminar sponsored by Tensar to be held on Tuesday, October 22 at a cost of \$60.00.

OTHER BUSINESS

Supervisor Smith announced that in August, the Governor passed a law waiving the State Fee on Marriage Licenses for active duty members of the Armed Forces. He believes the Town, in support of this action, should also waive their portion of the fee. Therefore, the Supervisor will be proposing a Resolution at a future Town Board meeting to waive the Town's portion of the Marriage License fee which would provide a Marriage License at no charge to active military service members.

Councilman O'Connor, upon inquiry to Commissioner Schenkel, confirmed that there will be another communication from the Town and the selected refuse and recyclables hauler, Seyrek Sealers and Disposal, LLC, to the residents of the new Refuse Districts in the near future, offering instructions with regard to the new service that will begin in January in those neighborhoods.

Councilman Beckford spoke of his disappointment over the fact that amendments he proposed to the Comprehensive Plan Update were not adopted by the Board at the last meeting. He stated that since then, he and his family have been threatened, by persons he did not specify. He complained of social media postings critical of him and his amendment since the meeting, describing them as an attack on himself and his family which has left his family feeling unsafe. He recommended a book "The Color of Law," stating that it describes that Pittsford was deliberately racially segregated and recommended action to change the ethnic demographics of the Town. He stated that he is devoting himself to bringing this change about.

Councilwoman Townsend stated that she had a meeting with Elderberry Express, who the Town supports with financial assistance, although they are an independent 501C3 not-for-profit agency. They are trying to find ways to recruit volunteer drivers for their service. Councilwoman Townsend referred to the Supervisor's mentioning that the Town can look into the possibility of live streaming of meetings. The Supervisor indicated that the Communications Director was obtaining updated information on this and that the Board should discuss it in an upcoming meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 1) Jeff Luellen – stated that he is a longtime resident of Pittsford. He thanked the Town Board for voting against the last-minute proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan Update, which had never gone through the public review process like all the other components of the Comprehensive Plan. In reference to the book the Color of Law, Mr. Luellen stated that he believes that the book is misleading and questions the accuracy of the facts as stated therein.

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- 2) Mary Moore said the Town should have provided a bigger room for its meeting on October 1 and criticized placement of the signing-in table at the meeting.
- 3) Phil Cuifo said he has lived in Pittsford for 56-years and spoke regarding the October 1 meeting, which he viewed on Channel 12. Mr. Cuifo noted that the Town he knows has always had an open-door policy and welcomes everyone, without regard to race, religion or other differences. He praised the Town for including and strongly encouraging public participation in the Comprehensive Plan process and noted the ongoing opportunity for public input in the process over the last five years – with direct mailings to each home, notifications, surveys and meetings, inviting public input. He was dismayed at the push at the October 1 meeting to bypass the entire public process by bringing up something so significant and completely new, which was not subject to the public consideration that was given to the rest of the Comprehensive Plan. In reference to the book the Color of Law, he referenced federal policies under the New Deal as creating the “redlining” and intentional segregation that Councilman Beckford referred to, that this was federal, not Pittsford. Mr. Cuifo stated that the Board did the right thing for Town residents by rejecting Mr. Beckford’s proposal, and noted that he would be open to one-on-one discussion with Councilman Beckford about this topic.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 7:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Dillon
Town Clerk

OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK