

Minutes of the Town Board for September 21, 2021

TOWN OF PITTSFORD TOWN BOARD SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the Pittsford Town Board held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. local time in the Lower Level Meeting Room of Town Hall, 11 South Main Street, in person.

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Kevin S. Beckford.

ALSO PRESENT: Staff Members: Jessie Hollenbeck, Director of Recreation; Paul J. Schenkel, Commissioner of Public Works; Brian Luke, Finance Director; Robert Koegel, Town Attorney; Renee McQuillen, Town Clerk; Shelley O'Brien, Communications Director; and Spencer Bernard, Chief of Staff.

ATTENDANCE: There were two additional staff members, 8 members of the public and an interpreter in attendance.

Supervisor Smith called the Town Board meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and invited all to join in the Pledge to Flag.

SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. This morning Supervisor Smith represented Pittsford at a hearing held by the State Power Authority, stating once more Pittsford's opposition to the State's plan to clear-cut trees along the Canal.
2. The Pittsford Food Truck festival was held Saturday, September 18 and this year marked the highest attendance numbers yet. Thank you to staff and community members who made the festival and all its events possible.
3. Supervisor Smith encouraged the community to join him in the Five for Five challenge to combat speeding in our neighborhoods. Leaving 5 minutes earlier and driving 5 mph slower saves lives.
4. Supervisor Smith announced a Town Forum on Law Enforcement and Public Safety. He will host it together with the Chief Deputy of the County Sheriff's Office and Gates Chief of Police, who both recently made a presentation on this subject to the Monroe County Supervisors' Association.

PRESENTATION BY ROCHESTER GAS & ELECTRIC ON REDUCING POWER OUTAGES

The Supervisor had asked representatives of Rochester Gas and Electric to report to the Town Board on the specific question of what RG&E is doing to reduce the number and frequency of power outages in Pittsford.

Larry Hosenlopp, Stephanie Rankin and Kyle Duck attended the meeting to present about the nature of outages in Pittsford and the efforts RG&E is taking to minimize them. Mr. Hosenlopp began the presentation by outlining that between the Village and Town RG&E serves approximately 11,600 homes, with 680 miles of conductor, 2600 transformers, 67 transformer conductors and 6 substations. Mr. Hosenlopp noted that over the last twelve months of outage history, the top ten outages accounted for 70% of the total outages, including a circuit that tripped three times accounted for 50% of the outages over the past year. Measures taken by RG&E include adding fault indicators on some lines to help locate issues sooner. They have also been rebuilding poles and trimming trees near wires on an earlier schedule than normal. They also regularly review circuits and reinforce the systems outside of major outages.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mary Moore, Ron Johnson, Jan Miller, Dorothy Bauch-Barker and Meredith Graham commented.

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MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8 TOWN BOARD MEETING APPROVED

A Resolution to approve the Minutes of the Town Board Meeting of September 8, 2021 was offered by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Supervisor Smith, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Koshykar, Munzinger, Townsend and Smith. Absent: Beckford. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the September 8, 2021 Town Board meeting are approved.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment regarding Financial Matters.

SURPLUS INVENTORY APPROVED

A Resolution to declare certain item of inventory as surplus was offered by Deputy Supervisor Munzinger, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Koshykar, Munzinger, Townsend and Smith. Absent: Beckford. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the following equipment items be declared surplus/junk and be removed from the Town's inventory.

Asset #	Year	Description	Department	Cost	Disposition
17738	2014	Ford Focus	DPW	14,241.00	Auction
17739	2015	Ford F-250	Highway	29,177.00	Auction
18019	2015	Chevy Equinox	DPW	20,978.00	Auction
17234	2011	Freightliner Dump Truck Veh # 206-1	Sewer	78,628.00	Auction
17234A	2011	Dump Body for Veh # 206-1	Sewer	24,200.00	Auction
17234B	2011	Roll-Rite Tarp for Veh # 206-1	Sewer	2,550.00	Auction
13816	2000	20" Delta Drill Press	Sewer	599.00	Auction

SEPTEMBER VOUCHERS APPROVED

Following discussion of the proposed vouchers, a Resolution to approve the proposed vouchers for September was offered by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Munzinger, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Koshykar, Munzinger, Townsend and Smith. Absent: Beckford. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the September 2021 vouchers No. 152647 through 153105, in the amount of \$973,743.01 are approved for payment.

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were offered.

SPECTRUM INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER PROPOSAL

Joy Brown, Director of IT, offered a Resolution to extend the Town's current 3-year term internet service provider (ISP) agreement with Spectrum (Time Warner), which is set to expire on October 22, 2021 for an additional year. One rationale behind this extension is to allow IT the time to complete an overall analysis of our internet usage in the next year. As more resources move to cloud based services, this analysis becomes necessary to determine if the Town will need to acquire more bandwidth. This extension will also allow additional time to compare the offerings and service level agreements of multiple internet service providers. IT Director Brown further noted that since migrating in 2018 to Spectrum's fiber internet access the Town has experienced no downtime with our connection outside of regular maintenance completed during off hours.

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Board members thanked Director Brown for her thorough memo and a Resolution to approve the 1 year extension was offered by Councilmember Townsend and seconded by Deputy Supervisor Munzinger, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Koshykar, Munzinger, Townsend and Smith. Absent: Beckford. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board Accepts the proposal by Time Warner Cable Northeast, LLC D/B/A Spectrum, and authorizes the Director of Technology to executes the 1-year agreement for Fiber Internet Access at \$520/month plus \$19.99/month for static IP addresses.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION APPROVED

Following discussion, a Resolution to authorize and approve a grant application under the Transportation Alternatives Program was offered by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Koshykar, Munzinger, Townsend and Smith. Absent: Beckford. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town of Pittsford seeks grant funding to construct a fully ADA compliant sidewalk from Mendon Road to Thornell Road

WHEREAS, the Town intends to apply for an amount not to exceed \$675,000 for the purpose of planning, design and construction

WHEREAS, the Pittsford Town Board hereby commits matching funds in an amount not to exceed 20% or \$135,000 of the total projects cost

RESOLVED, to authorize a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application to the New York State Department of Transportation in an amount not to exceed \$675,000

FUTHER RESOLVED, that J. O'Connell and Associates, Inc., the Town's grant consultants, be authorized and directed to complete the necessary application, forms, etc. to be submitted to the New York Department of Transportation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supervisor hereby is authorized and directed to execute all documents pertaining to the application and acquisition of said funding.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were offered.

HIRING/PERSONNEL ADJUSTMENTS APPROVED

A Resolution to approve the recommendations for new hires and status and/or salary changes was offered for approval by Deputy Supervisor Munzinger, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Koshykar, Munzinger, Townsend and Smith. Absent: Beckford. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the following personnel be and hereby are approved for the date of hire as recommended:

Name	Dept	Position	Rate	Date of Hire
Carol Fehr	Rec	Rec Asst – RPT	\$14.15	09/24/2021
Melanie Davidson	Rec	Asst to Comm of PW	\$29.12	10/11/2021

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And, be it further

RESOLVED, that the following personnel be approved for the status and/or salary change as indicated below:

Name	Position	Reason for Change	Salary	Effective Date
Timothy Moulton	Laborer	Seasonal to RFT	\$18.35/hr	09/27/2021

OTHER BUSINESS

POLLINATOR CORRIDOR PROJECT

Chief of Staff Spencer Bernard gave an update to the board on the Town's pollinator gardens/corridors initiative. Members of staff began reviewing possible locations for the gardens and corridors and the native plantings that would most benefit pollinators in our region at the beginning of 2021. In May, the Town contracted with Patty Love of Barefoot Ecological Design to help design the Town's first pollinator garden/tiny food forest located at the Erie Canal Nature Preserve. The garden was designed as a 60' x 60' demonstration garden where the trail meets the canal towpath. As the garden matures, seating will be installed under the Red Bud trees and there will be a path through it so residents can get good views of the species of plants used.

He further explained that the furthest bees will travel to pollinate food is about 4 miles, so the Town is planning more than just this one garden to allow for ample pollination opportunities. Other sites considered by the Town include Farm View and Hopkins Parks and Town owned hillsides as outlined in the Town's Greenprint Plan. Board member Townsend inquired when the plantings at Town Parks might happen, and Mr. Bernard responded next spring. She further inquired about signage at these gardens; the response was that all gardens would have signage at them with a listing of the plants there or a QR code to scan for the information. Ways to use mapping to inform residents of the locations of gardens along with conservation easements and a possible seed distribution program were also discussed.

Following comments from members of the public Mary Moore, Jane Coggshall McConnochie, Laurie Hunt and Ellen Henry, the Board thanked Mr. Bernard for his presentation.

EXPANDING TOWN'S COMPOSTING PROGRAM

Supervisor Smith invited Jackie Ebner of the Town's Environmental Board to report on recommendations for expanding the Town's composting program. The Town for several years has had a composting program that composts food scraps from the Community Center into mulch. This mulch is used for the Community Garden plots at Thornell Farm Park.

Ms. Ebner noted that about 40% of the food produced in the US goes to waste and that food waste is the single largest component taking up space in US landfills. This food waste then decomposes anaerobically and creates methane gas, which is the second largest source of methane emission in the US. One way to combat this is by composting food waste and scraps. She reviewed composting programs undertaken by other communities in the area.

She concluded with it is the Environmental Board's recommendation that the Town survey residents, to determine the level of interest for a food scrap collection program and/or the promotion of backyard composting programs, then proceed with a pilot program.

Commissioner of Public Works Paul Schenkel spoke to the Board about the feasibility of the various options proposed. He noted that pursuing a program whereby households contracted with a composting provider such as Impact Earth would pose no problems for the Town. Alternatively, if the Town were involved by providing a facility for residents to drop off waste, the Town would have to be licensed by the State as a composter, and would be required to invest in the infrastructure and all other requirements of such licensing, including retrofitting the site for storm water runoff. The Town would have to consider where the site would be located, the amount of debris that could be brought in, how the site would be managed. He further commented that he feels the survey is the best way to go so that there is a clear understanding of the level of public interest before proceeding.

Supervisor Smith and the Board members all thanked Jackie for sharing her knowledgeable presentation.

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Board member Townsend announced that she would be hosting a Q&A Meet and Greet with Sheriff Baxter on Wednesday, October 6 from 6pm – 7pm at Thornell Farm Park. This event will allow residents to ask questions and hear updates on County initiatives.

Board member Koshykar inquired if there was an update on how the Town could spend the \$30,000 received from the Community Solar funds, about the status of the town making the decisions it must make about legalizing marijuana, and the possibility of the Town writing out its Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan that currently appears on the Town website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were offered.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee McQuillen
Town Clerk