

Minutes of the Pittsford Town Board for January 21, 2025

**TOWN OF PITTSFORD
TOWN BOARD
January 21, 2025**

Proceedings of a meeting of the Pittsford Town Board held on Wednesday, January 21, 2025, 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.; Councilmembers Naveen Havannavar, Cathy Koshykar, Stephanie Townsend, and Kim Taylor.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Staff Members: Robert Koegel, Town Attorney; Paul Schenkel, Commissioner of Public Works; Laura Beeley, Deputy Town Clerk; Brian Luke, Finance Director; Alison Burchett, Assistant Recreation Director; Kelly Eldred, Assistant to the Supervisor; Holly Jennings, Communications Assistant; Spencer Bernard, Chief of Staff.

ATTENDANCE: Twenty-four members of the public along with an interpreter attended.

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

Supervisor Smith announced that participants in the Pilot Food Scrap Collection Program are entitled to a discount if they sign up to continue composting food scraps with Impact Earth. Both curbside pickup and drop-off options are available.

Our Senior Center is open for card games on Mondays, Tuesday, and Thursday. A warm place to meet with friends.

The Pittsford Recreation Department's annual Sweetheart Dance will take place Friday, February 7 from 6:30 – 9:00pm at the Spiegel Pittsford Community Center.

Supervisor Smith commented that yesterday, January 20, was Martin Luther King Day. In honor of Dr. King each board member read a paragraph of the proclamation below.

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an unwavering champion for justice and understanding, whose activism shined the light on injustice and illuminated our common humanity; and

Whereas, Dr. King's commitment to the ideals upon which America was founded – among them liberty, equality, and opportunity for all – reflect a true and enduring patriotism that changed the course of our country's history and to this day inspires our continued efforts to bring to life his dream that our citizens and residents "will be judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character;" and

Whereas, each of us should contribute to making our community better by working to assure equal opportunity for all citizens, and as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is the only federal holiday commemorated as a National Day of Service, it offers an opportunity for us to give back to our community on the holiday and make an ongoing commitment to service throughout the year;

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Now, Therefore, Be It Known, on the occasion of the nation's annual celebration of **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**, that the members of the Town Board of Pittsford recognize Dr. King's legacy of justice, non-violence, equal opportunity and brotherhood, and those aspects of our lives and experience that unite, rather than divide; and proclaim the enduring relevancy of that legacy for our nation and our community; and

Be it Further Known that it is with appreciation and a commitment to Dr. King's ideals that the members of the Pittsford Town Board ask our fellow residents to join us in remembering and honoring the life, work and legacy of **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, on the national holiday in his honor, **January 20, 2025**, and every day.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 7 MEETING APPROVED

A Resolution to approve the minutes of the Town Board Meeting of January 7, 2025, was offered by Deputy Supervisor Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Koshykar, Taylor, Townsend, and Smith. Nays: none. Abstain: Havannavar

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the January 7, 2025, Town Board meeting are approved.

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

PRESENTATION AND BOARD DISCUSSION ON INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Laurie Konte and Sarah Sutton gave a presentation regarding restoration of the De Blasé Green space in a section they named Sugar Bush Meadow. They propose using the Cut Stump treatment which would involve cutting invasive species to the ground, then applying herbicide to the top of the exposed stump, which would prevent the plant from returning, as it otherwise would do. Native plants would be planted next to the treated plants. This project is time-sensitive, as it must be done in the weeks immediately ahead; otherwise it would have to wait a year.

Supervisor Smith noted the Town's policy to discourage and minimize use of chemical herbicides and pesticides. He referred to the Town's Integrated Pest Management Plan, under which the Town has successively reduced use of chemical herbicides and pesticides on Town property. He noted that when the plan was most recently revised a few years ago, on all 3,000 acres the Town maintains it used a smaller amount of chemical herbicides and pesticides than two houses on half-acre lots that employ a lawn service. Today, on the same 3,000 acres, the Town uses less than the amount applied at one house with a lawn service. The Supervisor acknowledged the need to balance two significant environmental concerns: controlling invasive species and minimizing use of chemical herbicides.

Ms. Konte and Ms. Sutton emphasized that the Cut Stump Method for eliminating invasive species does not spray any chemicals; instead, the herbicide is painted directly onto the stump. At this time of year it is then absorbed directly into the invasive plant's root system without leaching into the surrounding soil, so native species can be planted right away, immediately adjacent to the treated stump.

Following discussion, Town Board members agreed to grant conditional approval of the project, subject to its review by the Environmental Advisory Board at its next meeting, as Councilmember Townsend suggested. The Town Board asked for a report on this project, if it proceeds, within 6 months.

**TOBEY ROAD SIDEWALK PROJECT:
INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH MONROE COUNTY**

A Resolution to approve the Tobey Rd Sidewalk Project: Intermunicipal Agreement with Monroe Co., was offered by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Councilmember Havannavar, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Havannavar, Koshykar, Taylor, Townsend, and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorize the Town Supervisor to execute the Intermunicipal Agreement with Monroe County related to the Tobey Road Sidewalk Project.

HARLADAY HOTS VENDING PERMIT APPROVAL FOR 2025

A Resolution to authorize the issuance of a Food Vending Permit to Harladay Hots, Inc. was offered by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Taylor, and voted on by the members as follows: Ayes: Havannavar, Koshykar, Taylor, Townsend, and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor be and hereby is authorized to issue a Vending Permit to Harladay Hots, Inc., in the form attached hereto, for a vending cart to be located at New Copper Beech Park, 10 N. Main St., from May 1st to October 31st. 2025, seven days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

RENEWAL OF SNOW AND ICE CONTRACT WITH NYS DOT

A Resolution to approve the Renewal of Snow and Ice Contract with NYS Dot, was offered by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Havannavar, Koshykar, Taylor, Townsend, and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute a five-year extension agreement for snow and ice control between the Town of Pittsford, and New York State Department of Transportation with a contracted amount of \$153,825.77 for the 2024/2025 snow and ice season.

PURCHASE OF A COMPACTOR TRUCK

Commissioner of Public Works Paul Schenkel discussed the Town's opportunity to save a substantial expense, currently \$280,000 per year, for collection of containerized yard debris. It can do this by bringing the task in-house rather than engaging a contractor, as the Town has done in recent years. Expiration of the most recent contract presents this opportunity. In order to do this, the Town needs to purchase a compactor truck. Following discussion, a Resolution to approve the Purchase of a Compactor Truck, was offered by Deputy Supervisor Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Havannavar, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Havannavar, Koshykar, Taylor, Townsend, and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Finance Director be and hereby is authorized to transfer \$77,500 from the existing Contracted Services budget line (0002.8160.4400.0601.0004) to the Fleet Replacement line (0002-1989-2003-0602-0004) for the purchase of a used compactor truck, pursuant to the quote from Fab-Tex Inc. dated January 4, 2025 attached hereto.

LEGAL MATTERS

TOWN BOARD MEETING DATE CHANGE FOR FEBRUARY

Due to a scheduling conflict Supervisor Smith made a motion to change the February 18th Town Board meeting to February 26 on a Wednesday night at 6pm in the Town Board meeting room, seconded by

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Councilmember Taylor and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Havannavar, Koshykar, Taylor, Townsend, and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 18th be and hereby is changed to Wednesday, February 26th at 6:00PM in Town Hall. .

FINANCE MATTERS

JANUARY VOUCHERS APPROVED

Board members acknowledged review of the vouchers proposed for payment. A resolution to approve the proposed vouchers was offered by Deputy Supervisor Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Havannavar, Koshykar, Taylor, Townsend, and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the January vouchers from numbers 169108 -169401, totaling \$933,191.47 were approved for payment.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

HIRING/PERSONNEL ADJUSTMENTS APPROVED

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

The Resolution was declared passed as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the appointment for the following employee(s):

The following employee(s) are recommended as a new hire, subject to successful completion of drug and background checks, based on the recommendation of the Functional Coordinator(s) for these areas:

Name	Dept	Position	Rate	Date of Hire
Travis Snow	Town Court	Security – PT	\$30/hr	01/23/2025

This is subject to completion of the proper reviews and background checks for these candidates and appropriate sign off by the Town Board representative.

Name	Dept	Position	Rate	Date of Hire
Travis Snow	Town Court	Security – PT	\$30/hr	01/23/2025

OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy Supervisor Taylor expressed concern over how the Mendon High School Construction project will affect the parking situation for Thornell Farm Park, for students and for construction vehicles and how it will affect traffic. Supervisor Smith noted that some weeks ago the Comissioner of Public Works and Highway Commissioner had scheduled a meeting for next week with the relevant school district officials to discuss impacts of the project on parking and traffic.

Supervisor Smith referred to the State Department of Transportation’s response to his most recent correspondence requesting a lower speed limit on Clover Street in the vicinity of Clover and Jefferson. Specifically, he had asked for the report and accompanying data from the study State DOT undertook and on which it based its rejection of lowering the speed limit. State DOT said it would only make this

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information available in response to a formal Freedom of Information request. Consequently, the Supervisor explained, the Town Attorney has filed a Freedom of Information request.

Councilmember Townsend thanked Paul Schenkel, Commissioner of Public works, for placement of 25mph speed limit signs in all Pittsford neighborhoods, following the Town Board's reduction of the speed limit to 25. The Highway Department has placed 159 signs. While all neighborhoods have been completed, signs need to be placed on 6 roads, some of which require approval from adjacent municipalities because these roads span both municipalities.

Councilmember Havannavar reported that during his recent trip to India he addressed his hometown's City Council on local government in Pittsford, noting how much citizen volunteers contribute to municipal success. Councilmember Havannavar expressed gratitude to Dr. Martin Luther King and others whose work produced the United States Immigration system, that made it possible for him to settle in America.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were submitted.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Beeley
Deputy Town Clerk