

**Pittsfield Town Board
Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2023**

Call to order: 6:30 pm

Pledge: Led by Shelby Wing

Roll Call:

Shelby Wing – Supervisor – present

AJ Digsby – Councilman – present

Liam Keyes – Councilman – present

Kelly York – Councilman – absent

Jeff Galley – Councilman – absent

Others present: Sandra Clapperton (Town Clerk), James Wing, Jerry Madsen, Justin Weidman, Kaylee Weidman, Charles Koop.

Highway Department – James Wing

The Cobb Road FEMA project is done and are working diligently on the Card Road FEMA project.

The Bridge New York Grant – The Town Supervisor and the Highway Superintendent have a meeting with the State Department of Transportation on the process for this grant.

Money has been spent on Camp Road and Pecktown Store Road which tightens the Highway Department budget.

The culvert is completed on Cobb Road so Jim would like to change 284 to pave the dirt section from Cobb Road to Ketchum Road.

There are repairs that need to be done to our machines. Jim is requesting that \$10,000 be moved from the snow removal line (DA51424) to the Machinery line (DA51304).

RESOLUTION #34 – Move \$10,000 from the snow removal line (DA51424) to the machinery line (DA51304).

Motion: Liam Keyes

Seconded: AJ Digsby

Carried: 3/0/2

As far as the Cobb Road project is concerned, if we have everything in-line, we can file it this month. The BAN payments for our attorney are on the Cobb Road line.

Assessor – **Sheri Falcone** – no report and no report from the Revaluation company.

Real Property Tax Law 487 -

Jody Zakrevsky came and spoke about Solar Energy, whether we want to opt in or opt out. There has been a large number of increases in solar projects in our county. What happens is that the Solar Company will send out letters to the County, Town, and School District stating they are planning to build a solar project under proposition 487 of the state tax code and you have 60 days to respond that you want a PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) agreement or forever hold your peace. Under section 487 of the tax code, NYS states that if you don't opt out and don't respond to the letter from the solar company, you do not receive taxes from the solar company and the solar company pays absolutely nothing to the Town, School District, and County. The solar company's tax models on how they calculate the PILOT agreements are very complicated.

In order for Pittsfield to opt out, we have to pass a local law to opt out. Jody is recommending that we opt out because it will give us more flexibility to either negotiate our own PILOT agreement with them or have the county negotiate the payment or tax agreement with them. Jody has a local law that is geared for us to sign. We will contact our town Attorney and hold a public hearing.

Ambulance – report received from New Berlin

Fire Department – Chief Tim Lidell – no report

Justice – Honorable Gary Carson

The grant spending receipts were mailed to the Justice Department.

Prior Judge Bill Curto – Closing out the bank account is pending with the Hon. Donna Yerdon assisting. \$1361.02 remains in Judge Curto's account.

Grants – Liam Keyes

Liam will be working with the Mohawk Valley Economic and Anthony to try to move forward to see what can be done.

Comprehensive Plan – Liam Keyes

The Comprehensive Plan is to protect our Town. The community needs to get involved. This is not about zoning. We can put the comprehensive plan on our website, take advantage of the postal bulk rate for mailings, and hold a hearing a few weeks later. We hope the majority of the town is present.

Historical Society – no report

Planning Board – Jim Austin

The July hearing was held for the Ernstrom subdivision and there were no issues. The Crawford right-of-way will be written in the deed.

Transfer Station – Jeff Galley

It was suggested that the scrap yard be pushed down or crushed. The entrance to the dump was a little washed out after the last rainstorm.

The next white goods day is September 30, 2023

County Representative – Jerry Madsen

The EMS and the County will have a full budget line posted on their website. Anyone that wants to review it will be able to see how their money is spent on the ambulance and the revenues.

Jerry is looking to set up a meeting with the emergency squads for the Town of Butternuts, Morris, and Pittsfield. He is looking to have a 24/7 ambulance squad so the area will have constant coverage. We can partner with the county to figure out the costs to the taxpayers. Taxpayers are already paying for the Ambulance service provided by New Berlin.

Animal Control – Julie Polulech – no report

Town Clerk/Tax Collector – Sandra Clapperton

Hunting licenses went on sale August 1st.

Financials

BAN renewal \$1,650,000 is in process.

The reallocations that were discussed last month were done and our budget lines look good.

The Transfer Station bank accounts are low so \$10,000 will be transferred from the General Fund line to the Transfer Station line. Line remains under budget.

An internal audit by the State Comptroller's Office is taking place. This is a standard procedure. We haven't had an audit in over 10 years.

Other Business

We received notification from the IRS (2022 W-2 issue) that they received our information and are processing the paperwork.

The 2023 elections are coming up. On the ballot for Pittsfield are 2 Council positions, Supervisor, Highway Superintendent, Judge, County Representative, and Town Clerk.

Approval of Vouchers for August 2023:

General Fund: \$3,676.37

Highway Fund: \$79,499.30

Transfer Station: \$2,320.64

The Motion was made by Liam Keyes and seconded by AJ Digsby. Carried 3/0/2

Approval of the board meeting minutes from July 2023-

The Motion was made by AJ Digsby and seconded by Liam Keyes. Carried 3/0/2

Board member concerns/statements:

AJ Digsby was able to experience what it is like to be on the Highway Department and was impressed by the way things were handled by the department during and after our last rainstorm.

Next meeting is scheduled for: September 12th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

The motion was made by Liam Keyes and seconded by AJ Digsby. Carried 3/0/2

Minutes of the August 8th, 2023 Board Meeting were taken and typed by Sandra Clapperton, Town Clerk.