

**PITTSFIELD TOWN BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

Call to order: 6:30 p.m.

Pledge: Led by Shelby Wing

Roll Call:

Shelby Wing – Supervisor – Present

Liam Keys - Councilman – Present

Jeff Galley – Councilman – Present

Kelly York – Councilwoman – Absent

AJ Digsby – Deputy Supervisor - Absent

Others Present – Sandra Clapperton (Town Clerk), Gary Carson, Carl Tice, Justin Weidman, Kaylee Weidman, Charles Koop, Jim Jackson, Lisa Jackson, Zak Gerard, Cindy Taren, Joe Emminger, Jerry Madsen.

Community member concerns and/or statements.

Why didn't the Town Board notify the fire district of the change of fuel companies? No deliveries have been made. The fire department is in the contract because they were involved with the bidding process. This is the fuel company's error. There was an issue with the boiler at the fire department. Jim Jackson called all over to have someone come and fix it. Finally, Reese Marshall came. When it comes to the bidding process, the town always asks if the fire department wants to be included in the process. It was in our public notice for fuel bids that the fire department requires heating fuel only. This is something Broedel needs to be held accountable for. Broedel should be automatically delivering to the fire department. The town was not aware that fuel was not being delivered to the fire department. Jim Jackson will contact Broedel. Contact information was provided to Mr. Jackson.

Cindy Taren asked how the speed study was progressing for County Route 13. It's on our agenda and will be discussed under the Highway Department.

Assessor – Sherri Falcone

Joe Emminger from ENPM (revaluation company) was here to speak regarding an issue.

There are approximately 586 parcels in Edmeston, 397 parcels in Burlington, and 1,007 parcels in Pittsfield that are not valued because it does not include their land, improvements and building folder on the RPS file. This information was not transferred to our RPS. ENPM discovered this when they went out in the field to inspect properties. They took pictures and all of the pictures are now uploaded and on the file. They worked with the County to accomplish this. The County Real Property Tax Department also has created file folders in our RPS file for each of the "missing" parcels.

ENPM believe that we have hard copies of the missing information on these incomplete parcels, but that information has to be scanned and then input into our RPS file. When the RPS started, approximately 25 years ago, ENPM believes that this information never

got transferred to it. If the necessary data is not available from a reliable source, such as hard copies of property cards, sketches, or surveys, etc. it would have to be obtained and/or created from some other source. They can't proceed much further until that is done. That would fall outside of the scope of work that was agreed upon to perform the project and for them to do it. ENPM would need to increase their contract amount. Also, time is a factor.

Another aspect to face is the additions and buildings that have been erected without building permits. We will need to get the building permit printout from the County Code Enforcement. Our community needs to start policing when they see structures and building additions going up to make sure there is a building permit and their assessment increases. The town is being proactive about this by running reports and trying to keep track of these, even though it's not our responsibility.

Joe feels that to get all of these properties on the RPS, it would be about 500 manhours. Data has to be entered correctly. Joe's recommendation is to put the revaluation off for a year, so the data is entered correctly. ENPM does not have to put the data in, but they will train whoever is taking on this task. To keep the project on track, the data needs to be entered by June/July of 2024.

Judge Carson asked if the revaluation has to be 100% correct, when the revaluation is out taking pictures of the property and leaves. How is that 100%? The revaluation team takes pictures from the road and also by satellite and aerial views. The property owner is welcome to invite them into their home. Gary feels that no one will ever own their home and we should not pay taxes.

The town needs to have the revaluation, so everyone pays their fair share of taxes.

Joe quoted the Town \$15,000 to hire someone to input the data into the RPS, which becomes a budget issue. Shelby Wing and Sandra Clapperton have volunteered their time to input the data to build the RPS file for each parcel that is missing. This is very time consuming. Sandra will check with Becky Ritchey, future Deputy Clerk, if she will be interested in helping us. Zak Gerard and Cindy Taren have also volunteered to help input data. Also, we could possibly employ a community member to help us and pay them hourly, which would cut down on cost. This would have to be done by January of 2024 to keep on track.

Joe will send someone out to train us to see if this is possible for us to complete so we don't have to hire someone from outside.

Shelby asked, as a community, how do we get people to get their building permits. It is up to the Homeowner to make sure there is a building permit. There was a community member in the audience who is currently building but was not on the list building permit list provided by Code Enforcement. It was stated by the community member that "The permit has been applied for".

Ambulance

The ambulance has been out of service this month from October 16th to October 31st. They used a loaner from Sidney and then Sidney's ambulance was having problems. Now if you see the New Berlin Ambulance, it is a rental out of Syracuse. New Berlin is working on purchasing a new ambulance. We need to make sure that they are providing the service that we signed under contract.

Medicare billing – there is a bill for \$688 for Medicare. The bill is for billing services. Shelby asked who was responsible for this bill and was told that the Town of Pittsfield is. That will put us over budget. The bill from 2018 was located. The 2023 Medicare bill with the documentation of the 2018 bill will be presented to the Town Board at the next meeting on December 12, 2023.

Fire Department – Chief Tim Lidell

On November 30th, at 6:30 p.m. there will be a meeting at the Pittsfield Fire House with the Town Supervisor, the fire department, Mr. Lidell, Jerry Madsen, Morris, Gilbertsville, County Administrator, along with other surrounding community members from each town regarding ambulance/emergency services 24/7 within a 30-minute vicinity.

Justice – Hon. Gary Carson

Judge Carson is working with the State Comptroller to take the money from prior Judge Bill Curto's account and put into unclaimed funds. They have been working with Hon. Donna Yerdon and have hit a brick wall.

Highway Department – James Wing sent in a report

Mooretown Road culvert project is supposed to be opening within the next week pending the guiderails. This will complete all 4 of our big FEMA projects. Jim and Shelby are working on getting our reimbursement from FEMA on all four projects.

Jim is requesting a resolution to increase the purchase price of the new HX520 Plow Truck by \$3,600 due to moving the PTO pump from the front of the engine to the rear of the engine.

Resolution # 40 - Increase the purchase price of the HX520 Plow Truck from \$284,000 to \$287,600.

Motion: Jeff Galley

Seconded: Liam Keyes

Carried: 3/0/2

Jim spoke with the county regarding the speed study for County Route 13 between Bonnie Plant and Mooretown Road. If we need signatures, Cindy Taren has volunteered to help.

Resolution # 41 - allowing the County to do a speed study from Bonnie Plant to Mooretown Road.

Motion: Jeff Galley

Seconded: Liam Keyes

Carried 3/0/2

Planning Board – Jim Austin

No minutes available.

Transfer Station- Jeff Galley

All is good!

Town Clerk – Sandra Clapperton

I have been getting calls regarding the White Goods day and people seeing big appliances at the transfer station. What is accepted and not accepted at the transfer station is on our Web site. Please understand that I have no control over these issues. Hunting license sales have tapered off and hoping that they will pick up. We are set up for tax season. Becky and I will be having one on one training at the County.

Financials

The tentative budget was reviewed at the public hearing and there were no recommendations for any changes. From the preliminary to the hearing, there have not been any changes. This will be a total tax levy of \$589,462.00.

Resolution # 42 - to approve the 2024 preliminary budget to make it the 2024 official budget.

Motion: Jeff Galley

Seconded: Liam Keyes

Carried: 3/0/2

A couple lines are over budget:

Deputy Clerk - \$66.00 due to extra work from the audit

Insurance – slightly over

CHIPs – is reimbursable and we will get the money back on that

Machinery Expenses – \$700 due to new tires that were needed for one of the pieces of equipment.

Asking for board approval to overspend on the above lines. The board approved.

Other Business

2023 Election results – Lisa Jackson and Clifford Tice will replace Kelly York and AJ Digsby. Welcome Lisa and Clifford.

Judge Carson brought up a safety issue regarding the Amish schools. Should we have speed zones posted because they are a New York State school? If this is on a county road, the county should be consulted.

Approval of vouchers for November 2023

Highway - \$423,111.81

General - \$2,798.16

Transfer Station - \$2,443.26

Motion to approve vouchers and pay bills

Motion: Liam Keyes

Seconded: Jeff Galley

Carried: 3/0/2

Approval of Board meeting minutes from October 2023

There was a minor change regarding the year on a resolution #39. Should be 2023 not 2024.

Motion: Jeff Galley

Seconded: Liam Keyes

Carried: 3/0/2

Next Board meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2023

Adjourn meeting

Motion: Jeff Galley

Seconded: Liam Keyes

Carried: 3/0/2

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Minutes of the November 14, 2023 Board Meeting were taken and typed by Sandra Clapperton, Town Clerk.