

Minutes of the Town Board for March 7, 2023

**TOWN OF PITTSFORD  
TOWN BOARD  
MARCH 7, 2023**

Proceedings of a meeting of the Pittsford Town Board held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 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 Cathy Koshykar, Katherine B. Munzinger, Kim Taylor and Stephanie M. Townsend.

**ABSENT:**

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

**ATTENDANCE:** Six 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.

**SUPERVISORS ANNOUCEMENTS**

Congratulations to the Pittsford Boys Hockey team and the Sutherland Boys Basketball team as they continue advancing towards the State championships. Also, staff is working with our consultants on the Zoning Code and the next section to be addressed will be residential zoning.

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 28 MEETING APPROVED**

A Resolution to approve the Minutes of the Town Board meetings of February 28, 2023, was offered by Councilmember Taylor, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Munzinger, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Koshykar, Munzinger, Taylor, Townsend, and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

**RESOLVED**, that the Minutes of the February 28, 2023, Town Board meetings are approved.

**OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments were submitted.

**2023 TOWN RABIES CLINIC APPROVAL**

Deputy Supervisor Munzinger made a motion to approve the Town Annual Rabies Clinic for May 11, 2023, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, with members voting as follows: Ayes: Koshykar, Munzinger, Taylor, Townsend, and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby approves expenditure of up to \$500.00 for a free Rabies Clinic to be held at the Town Highway Garage on Thursday, May 11, 2023, from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

**AUTHORIZATION OF UPDATES TO FEE SCHEDULE**

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Supervisor Smith briefly discussed the staff's process in reviewing user fees. Thereafter staff members answered Board members' questions. The most recent update to the schedule was in 2015. All proposed fees have been benchmarked against neighboring Towns and found to be comparable. Fees are based strictly on actual costs to the Town, including staff time. Many fee increases are driven by changes in the requirements of applicable codes. Many of the fees are commercial fees paid by developers. Supervisor Smith moved the approval of the proposed fee schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Taylor and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Koshykar, Munzinger, Taylor, Townsend, and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

**RESOLVED**, that the fee schedule in the form presented to the Town Board annexed hereto be and hereby is approved.

*\*See fee schedule attached at the end of the minutes.*

### RECREATIONAL MATTERS

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were submitted.

#### TOWN OF PITTSFORD PGA COMMUNITY EVENT

Following discussions with residents, Village Hall, business owners and the Chamber of Commerce, the Recreation Department recommends partnering with community organizations and businesses to host a family friendly Town event the evening of Wednesday, May 15. Originally \$5,000 was set aside in the Town budget for a PGA event. Following discussions with community partners, the Recreation Department now requests additional funding of \$8,225 to cover the remaining costs. The Town is actively seeking additional sponsors for the event to further defer costs. The Village Board will be voting this week to approve paying \$2,400 toward event expenses. All board members expressed their support for the event, inquired about parking and event coordination. Board members and staff are researching the possibility of Special Olympics Golf Team and the First Tee program also being a part of the event. A motion to approve the additional funding was offered by Deputy Supervisor Munzinger. This was seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Koshykar, Munzinger, Taylor, Townsend, and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board approves the Recreation Department request for additional funding in the amount of \$8,225, subject to decrease if additional sponsorships are obtained, to fund the of hosting a family friendly community PGA event.

### PERSONNEL MATTERS

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were made.

#### HIRING/PERSONNEL ADJUSTMENTS APPROVED

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

The following employee(s) are recommended as a new hire based on the recommendation of the Functional Coordinator(s) for these areas:

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Name	Position	Reason for Change	Rate	Effective Date
Aidan Berdy	Laborer	CDL class B	\$21.50	03/13/2023

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	Position	Reason for Change	Rate	Effective Date
Aidan Berdy	Laborer	CDL class B	\$21.50	03/13/2023

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilmember Koshykar shared that she had drafted a letter to CSX Transportation for Board members' review asking for the Town to be notified when hazardous materials will be passing through Pittsford.

Councilmember Taylor commented that Senator Schumer announced today he had written to CSX. Supervisor Smith mentioned that in the past week he has spoken with Senator Schumer's office, which made him aware of a proposed piece of legislation in the U.S. Senate entitled the Railway Safety Act of 2023. The Supervisor distributed the text of this bill to the Board members. The bill contains language that would require notification to state agencies when hazardous materials will be transported through by rail. The Supervisor then shared with Board members a proposed form of letter to our U.S. Senators and Congressman Morelle, supporting passage of the Railway Safety Act and asking for it to be amended to include prior notice of shipments to counties, towns and villages as well as to states, as well as a form of letter to CSX requesting notice to the Town. He noted that the Town some weeks ago had requested CSX to perform a safety inspection of the railroad bridge in North Main Street near Washington Road. Councilmember Townsend suggested that adding language in our letter to CSX that their support of the proposed legislation would make them responsible corporate partners might help to encourage engagement between the railroads and government. She also inquired if it is possible to request an inspection of the grade crossing on Monroe Avenue by the canal bridge. Supervisor Smith indicated that the Town would make that request to CSX. Commissioner Schenkel noted that the Monroe Avenue crossing was entirely reconstructed recently. Commissioner Schenkel stated each train carries a detailed manifest and the appropriate placard for the materials on board when traveling. First responders are trained to go to the first locomotive for that manifest when arriving on scene to a railroad involved emergency.

Deputy Supervisor Munzinger announced she left a pair of bright and colorful socks for board members and staff to wear on March 21 in honor of Down Syndrome Awareness Day.

Supervisor Smith commented on the impact a housing proposal currently in the Governor's proposed budget would potentially have on Pittsford. As currently written, the state would require every municipality to achieve one percent growth in the number of new homes built every three years. If a municipality did not make the goal, the State could then override the Town's zoning laws, requiring that every existing house could be turned into a duplex rental in every neighborhood, that a separate, detached rental residence could be built on every existing neighborhood lot; that every residential lot could be subdivided in every neighborhood; that the Town could no longer protect neighborhoods consisting of single-family homes. He noted that these provisions would apply to every existing neighborhood, not just to future building, all without consideration to our zoning laws or the specific effects on the environment, infrastructure, parking, emergency services, water and sewer and schools in our community. He observed that the Governor's proposal also calls into question the status of the Town's Greenprint lands.

The Supervisor stated that with the State budget due April 1, and with the housing proposal part of the proposed budget, there is urgency for the Town Board to stand up for its residents and oppose the

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proposal. He noted the Town's rule against the Board taking up matters not within the Town's jurisdiction and that the Town Attorney has advised that commenting on a State proposal to strip the Town of its authority to make and enforce its own zoning laws is well within the rule of what matters the Town Board may take up.

Deputy Supervisor Munzinger asked that a resolution on this subject be presented for consideration at the next Board meeting. Supervisor Smith commented that the Association of Towns, in a unanimous, bipartisan vote, adopted a resolution opposing this component of the Governor's housing plan at its annual meeting a few weeks ago. It was agreed to that Board members would come to the next meeting ready to act on this matter.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee McQuillen  
Town Clerk

*\*Approved Fee Schedule on next page.*