

MINUTES

For a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council held on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT: COUNCILORS: Mayor Tim Nichols, Caleb Curtis, Donna Chale, Christopher Carr and Louise Baker. **ABSENT:** Bob Stackhouse, Deputy Mayor Gary Jordan, Jr. Also present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth and Town Clerk Nicole Nickolan. Audience members included: Scott Therrien, Mike Lange, Scott Noble and others.

It was noted that Mayor Nichols would be voting tonight to make a quorum.

1. **Mayor Nichols** opened the meeting by leading the **Pledge of Allegiance**. The Council observed a moment of silence.
2. Adoption of Minutes of the regular meeting on February 2, 2010.

Moved by **Councilor Curtis** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that the minutes of the regular meeting on February 2, 2010 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

3. **PRESENTATIONS, CONGRATULATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

Community and Economic Development Activities and Events

Report on Meetings & Events:

Kennebec Valley Council of Governments Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 02/02/2010 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments: We heard from the CEO of Inland Hospital their strategy to stay in the Waterville area and to slowly grow over time. We discussed economics in the State and focused on a few positive indicators of recovery.

Central Maine Egg Festival Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday, 02/08/2010 at 5:30 pm: Mayor Nichols, and Councilors Chale & Curtis have volunteered to assist. Tim will work on items that the Committee asks, Donna will be the Council Liaison, and Caleb is interested in hosting a fly-in, open house and/or airplane rides in conjunction with the event. Egg Festival Committee meetings are the second Monday of each month from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm at the Pittsfield Town Office until further notice.

Trade Show Committee Meeting on 02/10/2010 for the 14th Annual Trade Show and Community Fair, second year of being scheduled in Pittsfield. The Trade Show is scheduled for Saturday, 05/01/2010 in Pittsfield. This is the second year that the Town has the pleasure of hosting the business and community trade show for the Sebecook Valley. Last year, the Trade Show Committee endorsed a plan for the Trade Show to be hosted in Pittsfield for another year, bringing the number of years in a row to 2, and then it will move to another community. We have some nifty ideas for a Spring Focus.

We have teamed up with HealthySV to enhance the community fair aspects of the event as well to provide a new focus for crafters, artisans, and farmers. Both Gyms/Cafeterias have been reserved at Warsaw and Vickery Schools as the events are planned to be much larger this year. Advance registration materials will be going out in February.

A number of new events are being planned including dessert contest at Vickery School judged by Todd Simcox, Paul Bertrand, Rick McCarthy, Dave Lemar and a representative of HealthySV. Each dessert must have at least 1 cup of fruit or vegetables in it. The recipe must be provided. Desserts to be dropped off by 10:00 am at the latest at Vickery School to be judged. The 2 categories are: Ages 15 and younger (1st prize of \$50; 2nd \$30; and 3rd \$10) and Ages 16 and older (same prices).

Sebasticook Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting scheduled for Thursday, 02/11/2010 from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Millennium in Palmyra was a great event. It was packed with the highest attendance I have seen, people were able to talk with each other and seemed interested in the event. Mayor Nichols, and Councilors Baker, Chale & Curtis attended as well as myself, our Librarian and many Library volunteers. This year, Ann McGowan was the recipient of the Joyce Packard Community Spirit Award. It was the perfect award for her at the perfect time.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Kennebec Valley Council of Governments Board of Directors/Executive Committee/General Assembly on Wednesday, 02/17/2010 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am at the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments in Fairfield.

The Deeper Life Assembly will be holding its Annual Winter Carnival on Saturday, 02/20/2010. More information is coming.

Ken-Som Transition Team Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 02/24/2010 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am at the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments in Fairfield. The next Ken-Som Transition Team Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 02/24/2010 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am at the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments was cancelled due to the weather forecast. This is the group that responds to worker dislocations in Kennebec and Somerset Counties by:

A: Immediately convening providers and others in affected communities to support companies and employees; and

B: Mobilizing resources and building collaborations to fill the gaps of unmet needs.

Our next project is to schedule and work on the Regional Job Fair which is scheduled for Pittsfield in late May, 2010. I have some tentative dates for the committee and we will be setting up a work group for this project.

Bud's Shop 'N Save Grand Re-Opening has been changed to 03/01/2010 at 9:00 am at the Store.

Livestock Workshop through the University of Maine Cooperative Extension with training by UMaine Educators and Specialists on Equine, Goats, Cattle and Poultry on 03/06/2010 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm and 03/20/2010 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

WorkReady Three Week Program scheduled for Monday, 04/12/2010 through 04/20/2010.

Pittsfield Public Library Grand Opening Celebration scheduled for Saturday, 05/15/2010 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Kennebec-Somerset Regional Job Fair in Pittsfield scheduled for Wednesday, 05/26/2010 from 3:30 pm – 7:00 pm.

4. **PUBLIC HEARINGS/OLD BUSINESS:**

ORDINANCE 10-02: (Public Hearing) The Town of Pittsfield hereby Ordains to accept all tax year payments of David Jr. & Debi Ludden, including interest and lien costs, for the property at 121 D Street (Map 034, Lot 034), the Town having acquired said property as a result of automatic foreclosure of a 2007 property tax lien, recorded in the Somerset Registry of Deeds on June 03, 2008 at Book 4004, Page 102, which matured on December 1, 2009. The Town Council further authorizes the Town Manager to execute a municipal quitclaim deed releasing the Town's interest in said property to David Jr. & Debi Ludden.

No one wished to speak for or against this Ordinance. Public Hearing closed.

Moved by **Councilor Curtis** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Ordinance 10-02 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted all foreclosed property must go to public hearing for consideration of a quitclaim deed under the Town Charter. This property foreclosed in December of 2009 and the Luddens did a good job in getting all taxes paid off.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

ORDINANCE 10-03: (Public Hearing) The Town of Pittsfield hereby Ordains amendments to Chapter 6. Offenses – Miscellaneous, Article 7. Dogs, Section 702. Running At Large and Article 7A. Stray Cats, Section 7A03. Procedure for Acceptance/Disposition of Stray Cats at Animal Shelter.

No one wished to speak for or against this Ordinance. Public Hearing closed.

Moved by **Councilor Curtis** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Ordinance 10-03 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the two identified sections of the Ordinance are old, out of date and require further explanation. These changes will update procedures at the current

Animal Shelter and address the Town's costs if the animal's owners are found prior to transportation to the Animal Shelter.

The Town Attorney has reviewed and approved the language. The Ordinance Committee, at their last meeting on 01/19/2010, recommended approval

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

ORDER 10-04: (Public Hearing) Ordered that the Town Council amend the current Site Plan Review Technical Fees, originally set for engineering and planning reviews and replace these fees with Order 10-04.

No one wished to speak for or against this Order. Public Hearing closed.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Order 10-04 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Town has set fees for engineering and planning reviews, however, in the future may need other reviews to be determined. If the Town sets the Site Plan Review Technical Fee as the actual cost of the technical advice, then the Town will not have to keep changing the fee every few years.

The Ordinance Committee also discussed this item briefly at their last meeting. As this is a fee set by the Town Council, a recommendation is not required.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

5. **REPORTS: TOWN MANAGER, FINANCE, ORDINANCE & RECYCLING COMMITTEES:**

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 02/16/2010:

1. The FYI Folder: FYI Folder which contains items that come in between the Town Council Meetings has the following this evening: None.

2. Earth Day 2010 Backyard Compost Bin Sale: Read Notice of Sale.

3. Pittsfield Public Library Building Committee Announcement: Read Announcement.

4. Recreation Pee Wee Basketball Announcement: Read Announcement.

5. Third Annual Winter Carnival 2010: Read Announcement.

6. The Welcome Table: The Welcome Table is open from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm every Friday at the First Universalist Church in the Community Hall at 6 Easy Street. This is a local program staffed and funded by volunteers whose mission is to provide a warm place

to gather, socialize and share a hot meal. Games, puzzles and cards are always available. All are invited to attend. For further information, please call Trudy Ferland at 487-6523.

7. Census Jobs: The U.S. Census Bureau is now recruiting census takers. Testing is being held in the Pittsfield Municipal Council Chambers on Tuesdays and Thursday through March, 2010 at specific times. Anyone who wishes to apply and take the test needs to call to register and schedule their appointment. Please call 1-866-861-2010 to apply. Positions pay \$13.25/hour with mileage reimbursement at \$.55 per mile. Our Assigned Census Program Administrator has been scheduled to speak at the next Town Council Meeting.

8. Efficiency Maine Appliance Rebate Program: Read Notice.

Finance Committee: None.

Ordinance Committee: None.

Recycling Committee: The Recycling Committee met on 02/03/2010. The Keep ME Warm program was discussed. Winter weatherization and window inserts were discussed. The materials needed to start up a weatherization workshop were priced out. It came to roughly \$4,200.00. Earth Day was discussed as well as the possibility of have having a summit with surrounding areas. Vaughn Woodruff talked about helping out and doing some legwork for the project.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 10-18: Resolved that the Town Council Waive Section 106. Regulations of Bids and Contracts of the Administrative Code and Authorize the Police Chief to accept the bid of Yankee Communications in an amount not to exceed \$10,767.32 to be used to upgrade radio equipment for the Pittsfield Police Department with the grant award from the Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Carr** that Resolution 10-18 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Police Department has validated with the Department of Justice that the Town may follow its jurisdiction's purchasing regulations. The Town's bid policy allows for a department to request to waive the bid policy if in that department's opinion there are unique circumstances in which there is superior service, the bid policy can be waived. Quotations were requested by the Police Department with one company participating.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

7. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- A. Financial Reports as of 01/31/2010:
Budget Expenditure Report
Revenue Collections Report
Tax Acquired Property Report

Economic Development Revolving Loan Update
Housing Revolving Loan Update
Transfer Station/Recycling Monthly Report
Theatre Monthly Report
Excise Tax Collections Comparison Report
State Revenue Sharing Comparison Report
Personal Property Tax Collection Report
Real Estate Property Tax Collection
Revenue Collections Report reviewed briefly
All other reports self-explanatory

- B. Other Reports as of 01/31/2010:
Building and Plumbing Permit Reports
Library Report-Librarian's and Library Trustees Minutes
Police Report
Self-explanatory – Not reviewed

Updates:

Somerset County Budget Committee Caucus requesting all Municipal Officers and Municipal Officials to meet at the Somerset County Courthouse on Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners Chamber to select members to fill vacant position on the Budget Committee: Requesting all Municipal Officers and Municipal Officials to meet at the Somerset County Courthouse on Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners Chamber to select members to fill vacant position on the Budget Committee. If there is interest in the position, the Town will need to notify the County 10 days or more prior to the caucus. Further, we need people to attend the meeting to vote for the individual.

Town Property and Workers Compensation Insurance Review by Two Insurance Companies: The Town recently had 2 reviews by 2 separate companies and were advised that items were in order in a number of buildings. A few recommendations were received, not because they were violations, but simply because there had been issues or problems in other towns.

Town Property and Capital Improvement Plan: The Town's CIP functions by listing projects and activities of large nature that the Town first attempts to obtain grant funding or other funding for due to the Town's tax rate. Further, the CIP does not list the replacement or movement of town buildings which would add many millions to the list. The CIP is currently over \$10 million now. To add these buildings would require a civil/structural engineer to evaluate all of the buildings. This is not work the town staff can perform. If the Council is interested in doing this, we should put together a plan to bid out the work in late Summer – early Fall so that the 2011 Budget will contain the funding for this type of work.

Town Road and Bridge Work: Due to the economy last year and the revenue collection issue, the Town did not pave any roads last year and also did not fund the capital accounts. Adding up all known road issues is in excess of \$3.6 million dollars. We have a number of priorities, however, are reluctant to issue a loan/bond due to the extent of the

sludge removal/sewer system problems that need financing this year. I would note that the replacement or major repair of the Seabasticook Culvert/s on Seabasticook Street is moving itself up the list of highway work.

Water Projects:

Federal Stimulus Funding for Back-up Water Pump: A change order was processed for this project to supply a 10” vent and fan kit for the VFD cabinet, along with electrical modifications to the power fan in the amount of \$937.50. This changed the contract from \$71,404.25 to \$42,341.75. The modification was needed as it was getting too hot in the VFD cabinet and room, so this was a good enhancement. As this is a small amount and under \$3,500 I will execute that change order.

With the new pump project completed, the Town has now spent a total of \$82,841.75 of the original \$103,000 Drinking Water SRF Loan (comprised of \$72,000 principal and \$30,000 interest forgiveness). We have \$20,658 left and can either draw it down for other needed work in the building or pay it off early. Scott is to review the Water Treatment Facility to determine if any other repairs or improvements are needed. This was a one-time loan with 0% interest that has provided the Town with a long-needed back-up pump and related enhancements to the facility.

Water Meter Replacement and Automated Meter Reading (AMR System):

The new AMR system meters for residential homes remaining to be installed is broken down as follows as of today:

1. Plumbing issues, agreed to fix with a plumber so we can install the meter – 6 down from 7
2. Need to dig – there is no valve inside, no curb stop or can not find curb stop – same 8
3. Plumbing problems – can not install meter, people are not fixing their plumbing, can’t reach – 26, down from 32
4. Vacant – will install new meter when turn on water – 18 (includes 4 bank foreclosures)
5. Other/Miscellaneous – Hathorn Park, meter under house, need special meter, going to tear down building in spring – 5

Total Remaining: 63 down from 70

Of the 63 remaining, 18 will be picked up when there is a new owner or tenant as part of the process of turning on the water, so we actually have 45 to solve.

Of those 45, we will continue to define the plumbing problem group of 26.

Of those 26, some people just can’t afford to do this; some are being stubborn; and others are unreachable. Once we are down to a certain group as far as we can reduce this number, we will have several ways to proceed and will evaluate the costs vs. the benefits.

Scott is here this evening to discuss this with you. He was refused access to a home and the door closed in his face when attempting to have the meter replaced. When this happens and we are refused access to one of our meters, Scott calls the PUC to discuss the situation. The PUC advised that this is clearly a violation and grounds for termination of service. This is winter so we would prefer not to turn off water and we have discovered that the family has some physical limitations. We do expect we are going to have some refusals and the issue is going to be pushed.

The Councilors discussed the situation. It was decided that it would be a good idea to send a letter indicating that the water will be turned off in accordance with the Terms & Conditions in spring if we are not allowed access to our meter. This would provide plenty of notice to the owner refusing access and would not turn the water off in winter.

Sewer Projects:

Sludge Removal Project: The Town has applied for several mechanisms for funding and is working our way through this process. A large opportunity has developed from one of those applications and remains under review. The Town's treatment system over the last 30 years has built a huge deferred maintenance cost, which we are now grappling with that needs to be resolved. Meantime, the Town's sewer system is ancient with little infrastructure improvement over the last several decades. There is significant infiltration that has been affecting the treatment system. We saw from the last round of ARRA project funding that the State government has little money available to address the astronomical amount of sewer infrastructure problems across the State through the regular programs. If the Town acted now on its major infrastructure issues – sludge and sewer together, we have been advised that it is likely we would be eligible for a grant/loan. To be eligible, the Town will have to raise the sewer rate to the average state sewer rate to become effective later this year. This is in addition to the rate increase implemented for November 1, 2009 that was put in place to begin to put funding away for debt service for the upcoming sludge removal process.

Now, to complicate the situation, it has been discovered while the sewer billing software is providing correct billings as we always thought, that numerous reporting capabilities that we have been using are not working properly for the sewer consumption. Therefore, the consumption figures that we have been using are not correct. When the staff runs out specialized reports punching in the option of only sewer consumption, that is not what they have been getting as a report. In some cases, we are getting some consumptions for water rather than sewer and in some cases, 2006 consumptions are mixed in with the 2009 consumptions.

We spent over 1 week of reviewing and adding up by hand various reports due to the software malfunction, which continues today as the company has yet to be able to figure out the problem. We have matched the source documents, which are the actual reading books with their actual readings listed in them to one report found in the computer that seems to work correctly. It is not a report that the staff had ever used but we are using it now for this project. In matching this all up, we have the correct consumption, which is a lot less than first reported. In addition, by using the reporting function that works correctly, it is clear that our sewer consumption is decreasing on a continual basis. We knew our consumption was down, however, it is down more than originally thought for the sewer enterprise fund.

To summarize, the software issue that the company is working on is that the program is pulling water user #s when we ask for sewer #s. That means that the number of users is less than the report states. So, the actual % increase to meet the federal requirement for the average sewer bill seems to be higher. The federal government has stated that the increase has to go in place prior to signing the final loan/grant paperwork, which could be a number of months away, leading up to a year.

Under all options, the sewer rate would go up as we did not want to increase it more than 50% last October and discussed how it would have to be increased again this year as we were trying to not have one huge increase all at once. With consumption lower now, the rate increase would be higher than discussed last year. In addition, we did not have actual offers at the time of the increase last year and now we have some rates estimated by the agencies.

The current sewer rate at \$4.75/1,000 gallons for the average family with 15,708 gallons which is the example used by the federal government results in \$74.61/quarter X 4 quarters = \$298.44. The average would need to go to \$92.50/quarter X 4 = \$370.00. However, as we have less users and gallons it is likely we would have to increase it to make up for the lower consumption.

If the consumption that the Town has now for sewer continues to be the average, which is a figure lower than last month's and lower than the month before and so forth: The rate is likely to have to go from \$4.75/1000 gallons to \$7.00/1000 or \$7.25/1000 gallons to support the full loan payment and new reserve required in order to get the grant. That would be a 47.3% - 52.6% increase. The new information since last year is that there is less consumption and the Town is adding a new reserve to get grant funding.

Now, if we stay with a traditional loan for just sludge removal and are able to get the low interest loan – due to lower consumption figures we just verified, we would likely have to go to \$6.00 - \$6.25/1,000 gallons which is an increase of 26.3% - 31.6%. This would cover sludge removal. There would be no reserve for future sludge removal and no sewer projects.

If we end up with a regular bank loan, then we may end up with costs similar to the loan/grant deal. The Options Chart with costs based upon draft rates and either the MMBB drop down chart or the amortization chart off the Internet were explained. At this point we are still researching the options and the only way to obtain an offer is to actually commit the time necessary to fill out a written application. Until then, we will have just estimates.

Grants Update:

New Grants:

Airport Grants: Apron Reconstruction Grant: The close-out is estimated to be completed this week for the as-built plans, moved up from the end of the month. We still need the DEP review and arrangements for the MDOT and FAA for a close-out meeting in the future.

Brownfield Grant: Cleanup Grant for Eelwier (now known as 8 Mount Road): The quarterly report was completed. I am awaiting the close-out package. It is not on the website and our Project Manager was unable to attain it. We will want to complete the close-out package soon or 3 more forms will need to be filed for the next quarter end as some of the bi-annual reports will come up due. We have received the VRAP which is a Maine DEP sign-off that the project is completed and is an added protection to the Town that the land, which we did not contaminate, is cleaned up of all contaminants. The next owner, is under certain conditions, required to have water testing done. However, anyone

who bought the property for any use except green space, sensibly should test it as a caution only.

Economic Development Administration Grant: Pittsfield Industrial Park

Expansion: The Town, Engineer and KVOCG have been working on this project most of the time to get ready for the Project Meeting on Tuesday, 02/16/2010.

Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG): School Grant through Town/Region

Law Enforcement Bryne State Grant: Tasers: The tasers have arrived, the Police Chief is working on the Standard Operating Procedure and a training session will be scheduled once the Chief is satisfied he has a proper SOP.

Law Enforcement Bryne Federal Grant: Radio Equipment: We appear to be ahead of the curve. Only a few towns in the area will be prepared with the narrow band radios for the FCC change-over. The Police Department has verified in writing, that the Town would follow its procurement process, which does allow for waiving the rules in certain cases. This item was on the agenda this evening.

Other Grant Opportunities:

Airport – Stormwater Drainage Study, Security Study and Reimbursement for FAA bill: Underway for the 02/26/2010 due date. This has a quick turnaround time so in case it is approved, I will place this grant on the 03/02/2010 agenda.

L&W Conservation – Hathorn Park: Still in the works in the state and federal government.

PUC Energy Efficiency: The PUC has issued its list of projects and the Town of Pittsfield's Energy Efficiencies for the Municipal Building including an energy efficient boiler for part of the Town Office; solar thermal panels for the roof; show volunteers how to weatherize the Town Office better & review the Town Ordinances to encourage alternative energy sources. The PUC received a lot of the Custom Applications. Our project was approved for the requested amount of \$84,025.

Railroad Depot Grant: The Depot has some significant issues, some of which we have had to work on quickly on the weekend and those have been resolved. The building is rotting underneath and needs to be jacked up with repair work as well as roof replacement and addressing the lead based paint. This is fast becoming another fundraising project although we had hoped to get the Theatre off and running before we started yet another community development project. For the first time, we have located a grant for \$5,000 with a match for \$5,000 and it is under exploration.

Other Items:

1. There is no more Dog warrant for unlicensed dogs. If there is an issue, the State of Maine refers each town to its Town Attorney for resolution. We did do well on the dog licensing by calling people and will continue to work on that project.
2. The Town has entered the Lottery for use of the Radar Speed trailer that the MDOT loans out to Towns. 17 towns from each DOT Region are selected by lottery. Each community gets an estimated 2 weeks for the radar speed limit (similar to the ones that you see on I-95, but it states your speed as you come upon it rather than blinking a reduced speed limit).and we have to pick it up from the last winner. The loan program covers March 29 – November 19. That is competitive and it is a lottery.
3. We have received two offers from owners of commercial property to buy their property or trade property for it. I will review those confidential offers and fill in

anyone who is interested. The Town owns a lot of land and it would be good to have the land in the commercial sector, not the Town's ownership. Swapping property might be beneficial.

8. **REPORTS:** Audience, Council

Audience:

Council:

Councilor Baker: Noted that part of her feels bad to have water and sewer rates go up to fix the sludge issues, and the other part of me feels bad to see the condition of the roads out in west Pittsfield are getting worse and worse. It feels like you are trying to do things with one hand tied behind your back. It is a very frustrating situation.

Councilor Carr: Noted the sludge obviously needs to be done. Last Council Meeting we said the rates would need to go up 33%, now its up to 50%. I have an issue raising rates that high. Having to raise rates just to get a grant is unfair. The Federal government seems to have a lot of control over what happens, and I'm not really happy about that. The sludge is the main problem and that is all we need to take care of now.

Councilor Chale: Wanted to mention how pleased she was to see all the volunteers getting involved at the Egg Festival Meeting. Deb Billings has brought a real enthusiasm and I hope we can support her in that endeavor. Congratulations to Ann McGowan on her award. She has worked very hard for the community and the Library. It is important to keep our road conditions in the forefront. We don't want to let these go and end up in the same predicament as we are with the Water & Sewer Systems. Glad to see that the Water & Sewer are being dealt with. We don't want to give people who are already having a hard time – an even harder time because of the cost to fix them. However, being part of the Town Council it is our job to make hard decisions sometimes. The whole reason we have government is to be able to see the bigger picture when making decisions and do what is best for the community.

Deputy Mayor Jordan: Absent.

Councilor Curtis: I agree with Donna and Louise about the roads, but feel that we need to deal with the sludge first. Then perhaps with the economy the way it is we can get some quotes from construction companies and possibly get some good rates on roadwork. Excited to see we got the Energy Efficiency grant.

Councilor Stackhouse: Absent.

Mayor Nichols: Looking forward to working on the Egg Festival Committee this year. It is very important to our community to keep the Egg Festival going. It is good to see people coming out to volunteer for the Egg Festival Committee. I realize we still need to get through this year, but I want everyone to keep in mind that next year will be a very big year. It will be the 10-year anniversary of September 11th and I would like to think there are a lot of possibilities for next year. We will have a strong theme to pay tribute to our Police and Fire Professionals. As far as the Water & Sewer projects, I understand the

frustration. Part of the reason we are in a mess is due to the federal government telling us we need to do this that and the other thing. The down side is if we do nothing, we will be forced by the Federal Government someday to find the needed funds, and make the repairs. If the DEP gets involved it's a whole different story, and taxpayers wouldn't like that either. It will be a hard sell to the public either way. The road issues are an ongoing battle. There is no easy answer. Wanted to note the passing of Stan Norris. He was an essential figure in getting some of the additions built on Bud's Shop N' Save. It was a very unexpected passing and I want to give my condolences to his family.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by **Councilor Curtis** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that the meeting be adjourned at 9:14 p.m. All in agreement.

Nicole Nickolan, Town Clerk