

MINUTES

For a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council held on Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT: COUNCILORS: Mayor Tim Nichols, Bob Stackhouse, Caleb Curtis, Deputy Mayor Gary Jordan, Jr., William Bradshaw, Christopher Carr and Louise Baker **ABSENT:** None
Also present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth and Town Clerk Nicole Nickolan. Audience members included: Christopher Hopkins, Charles Wing, Brandon Stevens, Mike Lange

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 held on February 1, 2011 and February 15, 2011

Moved by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 1, 2011 and February 15, 2011 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

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

Community and Economic Development Activities and Events

Report on New Business Activity & Opportunities in Pittsfield:

1. Buy Pittsfield Day scheduled for Saturday, March 26, 2011 – Letters went out to businesses and we are getting a good response. Once the businesses are signed up, we will start advertising. Read letter. This project is a win-win for everyone in Pittsfield.
2. Regional Job Fair scheduled for the Pittsfield Area on May 19, 2011 from 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm at the Warsaw Middle School, 167 School Street – Businesses and Organizations can now register for the event. Please see the Town website. The letters to the businesses that have been signed up before have just gone out and we have 8 businesses with 74 jobs being offered already signed up in a few days so this project is on its way. The Town and Ken-Som Transition Team are very pleased to announce that we have been given a \$4,660 donation of advertising through the Employment Times, My Job Wave.com and HR Times for advertising which is and absolutely wonderful donation to the this important project.
3. Bangor Savings Bank Foundation Community Matters Campaign: Pittsfield Historical Society – please vote by March 7, 2011. Read notice.
4. Pittsfield Community Theatre Fundraiser at The “New” Pittsfield Village Pizzeria: The Matinee Burger and Hawaiian Louaou Pizza (\$1 of each one sold benefits the Theatre!) Read Menu.

5. Economic Development effect of the Pittsfield Municipal Airport – State of Maine Study by Wilbur Smith Associates, Inc. In November of 2006 a report was released by the State of Maine called “The Economic Impact of Airports In Main” prepared for the Maine Department of Transportation by Wilbur Smith Associates, Inc. with assistance from Solana, Inc. An excerpt from the book shows the breakdown of the economic impact of the airports in the State of Maine using 2005 data. The total jobs created by airports across the State of Maine (direct and indirect) is 20,913 jobs with a total output (direct and indirect) is \$1,504,675,600. The Commercial airports which are 6 generated 19,381 jobs and \$1.4 million of the impact. The General Aviation Airports which are 30 generated 1,532 jobs and had a total output of \$103,752,300. The Town of Pittsfield ranked 4th of the 30 general aviation airports with an economic output of \$4,875,500. Only Auburn, Oxford and Sanford were higher. Out impact was higher than the other 25 airports including Old Town, Lincoln and Biddeford.

6. Employment Specialist Available in Pittsfield: Looking for employment and not sure how to go about it? Interested in job training or improving your work skills? Want to learn to use the internet to apply for jobs?

As of January 2011, an Employment Support Specialist from the Kennebec Valley Community Action Program is available at the Pittsfield Public Library from **11:00 AM 1:00 PM every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.**

The Employment Support Specialist will work with you by providing guidance and support and connecting you with the resources you need to be successful in your employment goals. You can get help with:

- searching on the internet for jobs
- creating a resume
- connecting to training or education opportunities
- how to apply for jobs on-line
- creating an email account

and many other activities that will assist you in meeting your career goals. Have questions? Feel free to call **1-800-542-8227 ext. 2533 or 859-2533**

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

ORDINANCE 11-02: (Public Hearing) The Town of Pittsfield hereby Ordains to accept all tax year payments of James Leahy, including interest and lien costs, for the property at 141 Sunset Street (Map 023, Lot 035-017), the Town having acquired said property as a result of automatic foreclosure of a 2008 property tax lien, recorded in the Somerset Registry of Deeds on June 19, 2009 at Book 4151, Page 155, which matured on November 25, 2010. The Town Council further authorizes the Town Manager to execute a municipal quitclaim deed releasing the Town’s interest in said property to James Leahy.

No one wished to speak in favor or against Ordinance 11-02. Public Hearing closed.

Moved by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** that Ordinance 11-02 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted all taxes through 2010 have been paid in full after the tax lien matured on November 25, 2010. Therefore, a quitclaim deed can be issued after public hearing.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

ORDINANCE 11-03: (Public Hearing) That the Town of Pittsfield Town Council hereby ordains the tax anticipation note borrowing for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011 on the following terms:

Ordered that, pursuant to Section 5771 of Title 30-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended and the Ordinance adopted on the date hereof, the Town Treasurer is hereby authorized and empowered to borrow money from time to time during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011 in the principal amount or amounts not exceeding \$500,000 at any one time outstanding, in anticipation of the collections or receipts from taxes, by the issuance of tax anticipation notes of the Town, each of which notes shall be designated "Town of Pittsfield 2011 Tax Anticipation Notes." All of such tax anticipation notes, and any extensions, renewals or replacements thereof, shall be signed by the Town Treasurer and countersigned by at least a majority of the members of the Town Council, shall be payable on or before November 1, 2011, out of money raised by taxation during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011 shall bear interest payable at maturity at a rate determined in the manner as approved by the Treasurer, and shall contain such other terms and provisions, not inconsistent herewith, and be in such form, as shall be approved by the officers signing the same, whose approval shall be conclusively evidenced by their execution thereof, and

Be It Further Ordered that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to award the notes to such person or entity as approved by the Town Council, such approval to be conclusively evidenced by the execution of the 2011 Tax Anticipation Notes; and

Be It Further Ordered that the notes authorized by the foregoing are hereby designated as qualified tax exempt obligations for purposes of Section 265(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and

Be It Further Ordered that the Treasurer of the Town be authorized to covenant with the purchasers of the notes on behalf of the Town and for the benefit of the holders of the notes, that the Town will take whatever steps, and refrain from taking any action, as may be necessary or appropriate to ensure that interest on the notes will remain free from federal income taxes, including without limitation, the filing of information returns and reports with the Internal Revenue Service and the payment of any rebate due to the United States of America.

No one wished to speak in favor or against Ordinance 11-03. Public Hearing closed.

Moved by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** that Ordinance 11-03 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is the first step in the authorization process in order to issue a Tax Anticipation Note until the Town's major revenue source in the form of

property taxes are received later this year. As the property tax bill is due in October of each year for the calendar year, the Town is spending funds for 8-9 months with smaller revenue sources coming in until October.

For Councilors who have been involved with this process in the past, we used to have an Ordinance, issue the RFP, award a bid to a bank and then issue an Order with all of the TAN paperwork to obtain the funds. Our Town Attorney has simplified this process.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Tabled at the 02/01/2011 Meeting:

RESOLUTION 11-15: Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Attorney to begin the process to discontinue Stinson Avenue from Main Street to Library Street as requested by Maine Central Institute upon the execution of Agreement between the Town and MCI, and receipt of \$15,000 deposit against costs per the agreement.

Motion by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** to remove Resolution 11-15 from the table.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Motion by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** that Resolution 11-15 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Councilor Bradshaw stated that he has talked to people in his constituency. There are 2 reactions he has seen to this plan. Either people have no idea about the situation at all, or they are vehemently opposed to it. There are many reasons people gave me to why they are against it. I feel the best reason is we as a Council represent the townspeople. MCI does pay a lot of taxes to the Town of Pittsfield and they are a critical component to the success of this Town. Everybody's best interest is the interest of MCI. That being said, we have to look beyond merely the best interest of MCI. We have to look at as well, what our townspeople want. This is a simple statement but it is really what I feel it narrows it down to. If we shut down Stinson Avenue, that is going to be an inconvenience to townspeople when they are dropping off or picking up students at MCI. I can't gauge the level of inconvenience this will cause, but it will certainly cause a degree of inconvenience. That can never be changed once this is enacted. I would like to see us search for other resolutions to work with the school and try to find other things we could do prior to taking what I feel is a drastic step. I have said, and still say, aesthetically this would be a fantastic thing for the whole Town, not just the school. It would look tremendous to be driving by and look over to see all green in front of the buildings. At the end of the day, that's what holds me back, the inconvenience this change would undoubtedly cause to the people we represent as a Council. That is why I really want to work with the school and try to find other areas we can improve and help the school improve on pedestrian safety, vehicular safety and so on and so forth.

Councilor Carr stated he agrees with Councilor Bradshaw. I think it is important to work with Headmaster Hopkins and MCI. Looking over the plans, I am not convinced how much safer this will make MCI. I am all about the safety of the children. I think we all share the same concern. I don't know what the answer is but I am not sure I am convinced that the road should be closed. I do appreciate all the time Deputy Mayor Jordan spent working on the project. It is just the fact that once it is closed, it is closed forever. Its not like we are going to get together and open it back up. I am just not sure how much safer it will be up there after closing the road. It doesn't take away that we need to work with MCI to make sure the road is safe up there.

Councilor Stackhouse also stated that he agrees with Councilor Bradshaw. I think there must be another solution rather than close the road completely. One of the things Councilor Bradshaw brought up is that some people don't know about the project. They only see what is put in the paper. I have also heard a lot of negative comments from residents in my district.

Councilor Curtis stated that this is a very tough choice for me. However, I do have a tendency to lean towards trying some other things. Only because its such a drastic thing to close the road. It's a permanent thing that will never be changed back. I think we need to try some other things first to be sure that closing the road is really what we need to do.

Councilor Jordan stated I think the Council knows how I feel on this issue. I am not sure what kind of inconvenience it would cause with dropping students off at MCI. Look at other schools and the inconvenience there is at Warsaw or even just trying to get up School Street at 3:00 pm. Obviously, as Councilor Bradshaw has said, cosmetically this would look great. I haven't heard anything about the situation. No one has called or left messages for me on the issue. It would be a tragedy for a student to get hurt. MCI has brought this to our attention and they are the best group to see the issues there. I don't disagree with what the Council is saying, but I just don't see a problem with discontinuing this road. Remember we are going to have to maintain that road and put tar on it shortly, which will be an expense that the Town will have to deal with.

Headmaster Hopkins stated that he was not prepared to be at this point when I spoke. I apologize for not being at the last meeting. I was going to address some concerns and dispel some concerns regarding alternative motives for the closing of the street. There were some rumors about expanding the dormitory and some discussion about other properties around campus. At least based on the area that I heard discussed, they are not part of our campus master plan. This does boil down simply to safety. The campus beautification is simply a byproduct of that. There are a lot of schools and campuses around the State and Country trying to remove roads from inside their school campuses. The newspaper article can read Town and school work together to ensure the safety of the community children, it can read school and Town remain at loggerheads regarding the closing or student killed or injured despite the fact that the school has been raising a concern since 1976. I had hoped the first scenario would be where we end up. You are hired or elected to be a leader, indeed to represent your constituency, but also to make what seems in the short term unpopular decisions, because you do understand the whole situation, that will be the right decision in the long term. I believe there is not an alternative other than removing this road from the center of campus. I have heard people say this should have been done 50 years ago or that it is crazy there is a road through the school. I have heard nothing but positive remarks and

support from thoughtful and intelligent people that have lived in own a long time. People have said that I should bring a large group of supporters. I did not want to do it that way. I am believing that the directness and straightforward nature of this doesn't require a crowd coming in and trying to exert its collective force on the Council. I ask for you to continue to thinking about this before you vote or table it again so we can continue conversations. I do appreciate the time that has gone into this and I am still hopeful that the one resolution that will insure that newspaper article doesn't happen will take place at some point.

Deputy Mayor Jordan stated it was his understanding that we have a person coming into Town to look at two areas. The Town Manager stated that she had called into the Safe Routes for School Program to see when the next monies would be available as we had spoke to SAD 53 about putting in another application for blinking lights at the Manson Park school. I know they wouldn't fit in with the MCI campus, but maybe I can have them look at MCI too. I don't know whether they will look at it or not, but I thought we could try to have the State take a look at the situation.

Councilor Bradshaw stated that he didn't know what everyone else just heard from Headmaster Hopkins, but I heard that the school would only be satisfied if the road were closed. Headmaster Hopkins stated he wouldn't put it that way. He said that safety would only be ensured with the discontinuance of the road. What I am hearing from this Council is that we want to work with the school. What I am hearing from the school representative is that the road has to be closed. Headmaster Hopkins stated to ensure that no one gets hit in front of the gym.

The Town Manager stated that she feels the Council has been clear they want to look at this situation because they are concerned about the safety of the children.

Mayor Nichols stated no one on this Council wants to see a child hurt. There isn't one person who doesn't have the children's safety on their mind. Its just how you go about doing it. Councilors have talked to their constituents and there are pros and cons that have been brought up on this project. It sounds like we are not ready to just close the road right now, but look for other solutions.

Councilor Bradshaw asked what the next step is if this is not approved tonight? Will this be the end of it?

The Town Manager stated that there are a few options. The item can be re-considered at the next meeting. It can also be brought back as another resolution or as one of the alternatives we have discussed if we come up with a resolution. There is no perfect solution. If it is voted down the issue doesn't go away, we just have to keep working on it.

Mayor Nichols stated if the item is voted down, what's there to say that we can't put together a committee or group to do a traffic study to come up with a viable solution? We are not out for anyone getting hurt. If this is voted down tonight – this shouldn't be the end of it. We want a workable solution.

Councilor Curtis asked Headmaster Hopkins if MCI was open to trying any other solutions or temporarily trying something else before closing the road?

Headmaster Hopkins stated that his understanding was that we were here to discuss the discontinuance. The viewpoint right now, based on the discussion and what you are considering at this stage, is yes. Indeed, because I live there, figuratively speaking, we see the movement of cars. I am confident that the outcome and inconvenience will be anti-climactic. Initially, a change is hard for people. But, people quickly adapt. In a way it is really simple when you are there on the grounds and you are seeing it everyday. Of course we will go to stage 2 if this isn't approved tonight, but the fact remains that as long as cars go through there with the blind corner, there is a significant safety issue.

Deputy Mayor Jordan asked why there are no sidewalks in the area? The Town Manager stated there is no history on why there are no sidewalks in the records. It may be because it is very narrow in that area.

Councilor Bradshaw asked if a traffic study is suggested before closing the road? The Town Manager stated from the discussion, it has become clear that most Councilors feel that a discontinuance is the last step in the process. Items are usually done by building blocks for major accomplishments.

Deputy Mayor asked who is paying for the Town attorney fees? The Town Manager stated that at the point forward that we sign the letter of agreement, MCI would pay for the project.

Councilor Curtis stated judging from what I have heard people say, the best outcome would be that we decide to try something else. It doesn't seem like the majority of the Council supports closing the road without trying something else first.

Councilor Carr asked if a traffic engineer has looked at this? The Town Manager noted that the Town staff has looked at this a number of times, as well as herself and Deputy Mayor Jordan. We have not hired a traffic engineer to look at it as in her experience a traffic engineering study is expensive and we do not have the funds to pay for it.

Councilor Stackhouse asked if the problem is with the amount of traffic or the blind corner? Headmaster Hopkins states its not the amount, it's the ones who are coming up the hill and gather steam as they come around the corner. I don't think most people realize they are going through a school, as it's a regular thoroughfare.

The Public Hearing was closed.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS NAY

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

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 03/01/2011:

1. The FYI Folder: FYI Folder which contains items that come in between the Town Council Meetings has the following this evening: Read List

2. Town of Pittsfield 2011 Board/Committee Openings: Positions expire every year on the Town's many boards and committees. The Town has over 20 boards and committees. Positions remaining available are the following: 1 Opening on the Board of Appeals; 2 openings of the Board of Assessment Review; 1 Opening on the Board of Ethics; 1 Opening on the Economic Development Team; 1 Opening on the Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Committee; and 1 Opening for an Alternate member of the Planning Board.

3. Citizen's Energy Oil Heat Program: Read Announcement

4. 2011 Central Maine Egg Festival News: Read Announcement

5. 2010 Maine Individual Income Tax Booklets: Read Announcement

6. 2010 Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund Circuit Breaker Application: Read Announcement

7. Sibley Pond Bridge Project Update: Read letter on "Notice of Layout and Taking of a parcel in Canaan owned by the Estate of John O'Leary and temporary road easements from Estate of John O'Leary in Canaan and Richard and Deborah Smith in Pittsfield and Weldon and Edna Greeley in Pittsfield.

8. Workers Compensation Experience Rating: Our new rating is .85 which is excellent. A rating of 1.0 is the norm and if the rating is less, that means that our workers' compensation insurance premium will be reduced by a certain percentage, which in our case is a discount of .15. Our costs are governed by other elements such as how well the MMA Workers Compensation Trust is doing, our percentage of the payroll in the Trust and our actual payroll for the year, however, having this rating will help with our premium cost for 2011.

9. State Budget Balancing: The Town has been cautioned to watch all proceedings as the State Budget comes forward for the next biennial. Specifically indicated has been the excise tax and any potential state law changes in which this revenue source is reduced or eliminated. The Town's excise tax revenue projections are \$545,000 and are now our largest source of revenue outside of the property taxes. Our other largest source outside property taxes used to be SRS, however, that source has decreased substantially during the last two years. The State budget recommendation put out by the Governor will reduce SRS and make it an allocation each year to be voted upon by the Legislature rather than an entitlement program. Reviewing our legislative notices and bulletins will be very important this year. The Town's projected loss of revenue sharing is \$164,858 which we can not absorb unless we freeze the 2011 Capital Budget minus the Fire Department allotment due to previous commitment and need.

Finance Committee: No Report.

Ordinance Committee: No Report.

Recycling Committee: No Report.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

ORDINANCE 11-04: (To be set to Public Hearing 03/15/2011) The Town of Pittsfield hereby Ordains to accept all tax year payments of Richard Dodge, including interest and lien costs, for the property at 105 Bates Street (Map 032, Lot 053), the Town having acquired said property as a result of automatic foreclosure of a 2008 property tax lien, recorded in the Somerset Registry of Deeds on June 22, 2009 at Book 4151, Page 120, which matured on November 25, 2010. The Town Council further authorizes the Town Manager to execute a municipal quitclaim deed releasing the Town's interest in said property to Richard Dodge.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Carr** that Ordinance 11-04 be set to Public Hearing.

The Town Manager noted Mr. Dodge has paid off his taxes through 2010 so that this parcel can be sold.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 11-19: Resolved that the Town Council Approve the Request for Proposals for the 2011 Tax Anticipation Notes for the Town of Pittsfield, Maine and Authorize the Town Manager and Deputy Treasurer to seek bids for the same.

Moved by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 11-19 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is the second step in the process to issue a Tax Anticipation Note for the Town for 2011. Please find attached a copy of the draft RFP - Notice of Sale for the 2011 Tax Anticipation Notes and Fact Sheet.

This is a regular annual process, which although housekeeping in nature, is very important to the Town. The Town will place a legal ad in the newspaper requesting proposals and contact the local financial institutions.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 11-20: Resolved that the Town Council Authorize the Town Manager to Execute Modification #1 to the Cooperative Agreement for Funding for Aviation Projects.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Stackhouse** that Resolution 11-20 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Town has a Cooperative Agreement with the Maine Department of Transportation in order to receive aviation funding from MDOT for the State contribution of 2.5%. This Modification allows the agreement to be extended for 3 more years in order to complete projects that may be awarded to the Town during that period of time.

At the last Council Meeting, we reviewed the upcoming projects in the Town's Airport Capital Improvement Plan that we will be filing grant applications for funding during the next several years.

This is a housekeeping item, however, quite important to the Town, its economic development program and the users of the Pittsfield Municipal Airport

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 11-21: Resolved that the Town Council sign the Application for Catered Function by Qualified Catering Organization for a reunion to be held on 6/17/2011 from 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm at Maine Central Institute by qualified caterer Jeff's Catering & Banquet Center.

Moved by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 11-21 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is a State requirement. This also applies to the following 3 Resolutions.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 11-22: Resolved that the Town Council sign the Application for Catered Function by Qualified Catering Organization for a reunion to be held on 08/05/2011 from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm at Maine Central Institute by qualified caterer Jeff's Catering & Banquet Center.

Moved by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 11-22 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 11-23: Resolved that the Town Council sign the Application for Catered Function by Qualified Catering Organization for a reunion to be held on 08/05/2011 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at Maine Central Institute by qualified caterer Jeff's Catering & Banquet Center.

Moved by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 11-23 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 11-24: Resolved that the Town Council sign the Application for Catered Function by Qualified Catering Organization for a reunion to be held on 08/06/2011 from 5:00 pm – 12:00 am at Maine Central Institute by qualified caterer Jeff's Catering & Banquet Center.

Moved by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Resolution 11-24 be adopted.

7. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Financial Reports as of 12/31/2010:

Budget Expenditure Report
Revenue Collections Report
Transfer Station/Recycling Monthly Report
Theatre Monthly Report
State Revenue Sharing Comparison Report
Excise Tax Collections Comparison Report
Personal Property Tax Collection Report
Real Estate Property Tax Collection
Tax Acquired Property Report

Other Reports as of 12/31/2010:

Building and Plumbing Permit Reports
Library Report-Librarian's and Library Trustees Minutes
Police Report

Financial Reports as of 01/31/2011:

Budget Expenditure Report
Revenue Collections Report
Transfer Station/Recycling Monthly Report
Theatre Monthly Report
State Revenue Sharing Comparison Report
Excise Tax Collections Comparison Report
Personal Property Tax Collection Report
Real Estate Property Tax Collection
Tax Acquired Property Report

Other Reports as of 01/31/2011:

Building and Plumbing Permit Reports
Library Report-Librarian's and Library Trustees Minutes
Police Report

All Reports are self-explanatory/Tax acquired property briefly reviewed

Updates:

1. Pittsfield KEEP ME Warm Fund:

The Town Councilors are signing a certificate of thanks this evening for The Arts Club here in Pittsfield. Read Certificate.

Over the 3 years of the program, the Town has now received \$3,256.42 to assist people in need for fuel assistance. In late 2008, we received \$100.00 from Robert Duplisea; \$100.00 from James Love; \$500.00 from Avesta Housing Development and

\$500.00 from the First Congregational Church. In mid-2009, the Town received \$1,056.42 from Maine Central Institute, which was the funds remaining after the wood and fuel project was closed out. In late 2010, the Town received \$500.00 from the First Congregational Church. In early 2011, we have now received \$500.00 from the Arts Club of Pittsfield. All of these organizations and citizens have greatly assisted those in need, mostly families and a few seniors.

2. Maine Uniform Building & Energy Code Enforcement Schedule:

The Town is required to enforce the Maine Uniform Building & Energy Code in July of 2012, which allows us some time to get ready and for the law to even out with probably some changes by then. Read materials. Thank you to Deputy Mayor Jordan for providing this helpful handout.

3. Highway Projects:

Once the snow goes away, the Town PW Crew of course will continue to fill potholes and take care of emergencies, however, we have a number of grant projects to work on as follows:

A. Cutting Industrial Park Street ROW to the railroad tracks and replacing culverts prior to the EDA grant work;

B. Smoothing out and rough grading the Pinnacle Park Parking Lot prior to paving from the CDBG Riverfront Grant which we will be putting bids out for in the near future.

C. Excavating the basketball court in Hathorn Park and rough grading prior to paving from the L&W Conservation Grant which we will be putting bids out for in the near future (with the other grant).

4. Water and Sewer projects

A. Water Breaks in 2011: We have had 5 breaks alone in 2011 to add to those 2 large breaks at the end of 2010. The Water Department is re-compiling their break list from 2010. Each year, we are keeping a list of the breaks for both water and sewer as a historical document and for tracking purposes.

B. Water Hydrant Replacement Plan: The Water Department is meeting with the Fire Department to put together a plan for hydrant replacement each year. The last flow test was done in 1989/90 by the Fire Department and this should be updated first. Then the Water Department will attempt to replace 5 hydrants each year if there are no valve issues. If the first ones to be replaced are hydrants with valve problems, we would be back to the 1-2 hydrants per year. I have advised that there needs to be a concrete CIP component for hydrants and I will add that to the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund Capital Improvement Plans for the Budget and it will be done.

C. USDA projects: The Sludge Removal Contract is all set now with all performance bonds and sign-offs. The Sewer projects have been designed and sent

away to the funding agencies. This major project will be on the next Council Agenda. The SSES Study is nearly complete and we will receive a report. It would be good to schedule a meeting with Olver Associates to hear the results, conclusions and recommendations in the near future, which I will coordinate with them.

D. Water Rate: I wanted to report the results of the 2010 Maine Public Utilities Commission Water Rate Publication. There are 155 Water Districts/Departments including the Pittsfield Water Works. 23 Districts/Departments have water rates less than Pittsfield or 15%, then there is Pittsfield, then there are 131 Districts/Departments that have water rates higher than Pittsfield or 85%. That is after the Town's water rate increase was implemented after not having one for 10 years. While we were updating our rate, many other Districts/Departments went in also for rate increases. Therefore, we are still in the lowest percentage of water rates in the State of Maine.

8. **REPORTS:** Audience, Council

Audience: None

Council:

Councilor Baker: Mentioned the pothole situation as well as the snow being built up very high on the road intersections. It would be good if PW can work on taking these down for more visibility. The Town Manager noted that PW has been working on keep things up as much as possible. It is happening all around Town with all the snow we have had this year. There is nowhere left to put it. Councilor Baker also mentioned that a senior fell the other day while trying to walk in Town. She had to walk in the road because the sidewalks are so bad. Councilor Baker also asked the Council to set up a day to sponsor the Welcome Table. The Council set up 06/03/2011 as a tentative date.

Councilor Carr: Stated no one wants anyone to get hurt at MCI, we will keep working together to figure out something. I talked to Bill Johnson at the church and he has some concerns as well. Council Carr also noted that the snowplow went by on School Street right before school let out and covered all the sidewalks with snow. It was bad timing as the kids then had to walk in the road. This should be better timed in the future. The Town will talk with the SIP Contractor about this issue.

Councilor Bradshaw: I am proud to be on the Council tonight. Everyone was spot on with the comments on MCI. I feel the school is polarized on this issue and that is why I continued my direct line of questioning. It is too bad no one is here now to hear what we say at this point. We also haven't discussed the school busses that line up if you try to gain access thru the middle road at MCI.

Deputy Mayor Jordan: I don't know where the discontinuance issue is going, but I understand what the Council is talking about. We will continue to work with MCI. Maybe we need to look into sidewalks in that area.

Councilor Curtis: No Report

Councilor Stackhouse: We will continue working with MCI for the common good of everyone involved. In the end we will come up with something we will all be happy with. Mentioned that there is a problem with where snowmobiles go across the road on West Street. The road is narrow already, and with the snowmobiles coming in and out they are building up snow in the road. Can we get PW out there to take a look? The Town Manager states we will have them take a look. The Town Manager also noted that it seems the road is being ripped up where the snowmobiles go across Somerset. Deputy Mayor Jordan noted that if the snowmobiles have picks on the treads they will rip up the pavement. The Town Manager noted we have called the State regarding the condition of the road on Somerset Avenue. Councilor Stackhouse also suggested anyone interested in joining Joe for Oil, should do so now.

Mayor Nichols: I feel the same way on the MCI issue. I received a lot of negative feedback on the issue as well from my constituents. We can work together to find a solution. Anyone interested in helping with the Egg Festival this year should attend the meetings. They are really going to need help this year. This years theme is Hometown Heroes and it is 10 year anniversary of 09/11 so it is an important year to show support. I am looking forward to working together for the Welcome Table.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that the meeting be adjourned at 9:10 p.m. All in agreement.

Nicole Nickolan, Town Clerk