

MINUTES

For a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council held on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT: COUNCILORS: Gary Jordan, Jr., Michael Cianchette, Caleb Curtis, Tim Nichols, Trudy Ferland, Robert Stackhouse and Heather Donahue. **ABSENT:** None. Also present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth and Town Clerk Nicole Nickolan. Audience members included: None.

1. **Gary Jordan, Jr.** 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 December 17, 2013

Moved by **Councilor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Cianchette** that the minutes of the meeting held on December 17, 2013 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

3. Council Members elected at the November 2013 Election take the oath of office and are seated:

At Large: Robert N. Stackhouse

District 3: Trudy A. Ferland

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

Community and Economic Development Activities and Events:

Report on New Business Activity & Opportunities in Pittsfield:

Important economic and community development events scheduled:

Wednesday, April 09, 2014: Regional Business Resources Night 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Wednesday, May 14, 2014: 7th Annual Regional Job Fair 3:30 – 6:30 pm

Several private sector business activities remain under review and small projects continue to be underway.

Several commercial properties have recently been sold, are under option or will be leased.

To address remaining available locations, an additional promotion piece beyond our regular promotion of available properties has been provided to economic and community development resources and sites. This promotion is in addition to the creation and promotion of an Available Properties list, website listing, internet listings on free websites and verbal promotion. There have been several inquiries and one inquiry is promising.

SAS Property placed on the market by MTC Holdings, LTD of San Antonio, Texas and is offered by the LandVest, a Luxury Property Real Estate Company in Camden – The website promoting the property is linked to the Town's website. The Town has recommended that the building be available for lease of needed space, however, the company would like to sell the entire building/s. The December appointment with the out of state developer/investor was cancelled due to the

winter storm. The Town has been advised that the appointment will be re-scheduled after Christmas.

North Lancey Street Business Building placed on the market by Lancey Associates and is offered by Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate The Masiello Group.

Report on MDOT Meeting regarding Somerset Avenue Mill & Fill Project:

A meeting was held with MDOT representatives and the Town Engineering Consultant to discuss the upcoming Mill & Fill Project for Somerset Avenue, traffic calming procedures that would be allowable on Somerset Avenue and how to upgrade some of the sidewalks with the funds that the Town currently has available.

MDOT is very interested in working with the Town on the project. Basically, MDOT does not plan to change the depth of the roadway, which would affect the sidewalks height. The project will take out material and then add the material back including pavement.

The project goal is to advertise by March 31, 2014 for the MDOT mill and fill project. Advertising will be for 3 weeks. It generally takes 4-6 week to award the project. MDOT expects to have a contract in place by mid-May and depending on weather, the contractor on site.

They will plan around the Egg Festival due to the high traffic counts so that the bid specs will indicate that there will not be construction work that week.

The project is expected to be 2-3 months and the engineer in charge of its views this as a 2 month project weather dependent.

The sidewalks – it would be best if we can re-set the granite that is needed to be done prior to their work, however, if necessary, it can be done later. But it is best to do it first. We can not have Public Works do this work as it is too much and if they use the backhoe, part of the sidewalk will be destroyed. An engineer needs to review all the sidewalks and design a package to be bid out and then based upon the costs to re-set the sidewalk that we can afford and the reconstruction or re-paving of the sidewalks we can afford, a package would be approved.

I was to provide information to MDOT and completed the items that were administrative. Two items need to be discussed further:

Traffic calming, which MDOT may be able to find some grant funding for, needs to be decided upon. It was estimated that each of the duratherm crosswalks would be \$5,000 each. So far, I have told MDOT that we would like to have those.

MDOT is providing a beacon for School Street (which they are verifying is a unit of 2 as we believe you need 2 to be legal) These are solar units, blink on a schedule or if you push them to cross the road. They are quite visible.

Vaughan and Jane have brought forward the reducing of the lane as you go down the hill toward School Street. MDOT was going to provide information on costs. MDOT has indicated that it would consider a request from the Town to review the area by the plaza which is a higher speed limit to making the entire area 25 mph. Is that of interest? Councilor Nichols noted that perhaps it was time to reduce the speed limit to 25 MPH all the way to the highway.

The Town Manager discussed the proposal from Olver Associates. We received a proposal from Olver Associates on Friday, 01/03/2014 for the design work. This is a good proposal and the cost is low for the amount of work to be performed. This item will go on the next agenda as it would require approval. Time is limited.

As a side issue to the State's project, the Town's sidewalks are in varying degrees of condition from excellent to poor due to financial constraints of the community. The Town's infrastructure, excepting that paid for by approximately 121 grants now over the last decade, is the original or in some cases, a replacement of the original. An estimate with engineering design and inspection, would be approximately \$600,000. We submitted an application for the one grant program the Town qualifies for addressing sidewalks – the Safe Routes to School Program – to reconstruct a section of Somerset Avenue closest to the school and was not approved. The program scores new sidewalks higher and we could not get enough points with the stiff competition. The program started out with 140 applications vs the usual 30-40 applications.

With that said, MDOT did agree to look around to see if there is any left over money for signing, signals and crosswalks.

Mayor Jordan explained further details of the meeting and the need to improve the entrance to the Town within our fiscal capacity.

Councilor Ferland asked if the sidewalks would be extended to go along Somerset Avenue at the Plaza. The Town Manager stated they would not be due to the fact that we can't afford upkeep on the current sidewalks so we are not adding any at this time.

Report on Meetings & Events:

Due to the holidays, regular meetings have not been held since the last Council Meeting.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

FirstPark Marketing Committee Meeting on Wednesday, January 08, 2014 at 2:00 pm at the First Park Office in Oakland

Recycling Committee Meeting on Wednesday, January 08, 2014 at 5:00 pm

Somerset Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors on Thursday, January 09, 2014 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in Skowhegan.

Sebasticook Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday, January 09, 2014 at 5:00 pm at the Chamber Office In Palmyra

Central Maine Egg Festival 2014 Organizational Meeting and Volunteer Dinner on Thursday, January 09, 2014 at 6:30 pm

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS/OLD BUSINESS:

This item was tabled at the 12/17/2013 meeting:

ORDINANCE 13-20: The Town of Pittsfield hereby ordains that a lease be executed with Curtis Air, Inc. to provide airport maintenance and airport services as depicted in the lease and to

lease parcels A, B, C, D and H at the Pittsfield Municipal Airport. The lease shall be for a 20-year period beginning January 01, 2014 with two (2) 10-year renewal options. This is a new lease to replace the current lease expiring December 31, 2013, which was assigned to Curtis Air on October 20, 1998 and renewed on December 30, 2003.

Motion by **Councilor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Stackhouse** that Ordinance 13-20 be taken off the table.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Motion by **Councilor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Cianchette** that Ordinance 13-20 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the original lease, which Curtis Air, Inc. has been operating under dates back to November 1, 1988. The lease was assigned to Curtis Air on October 20, 1998. The original lease was for 15 years with one (1) 10-year renewal expiring on December 31, 2013.

The Town Manager has taken the original lease, updated it with current insurance requirements, the indemnification agreement language and several sections from the new lease agreement utilized for parcels at the airport.

The Town Manager left the current lease fee paid to the Town as remuneration as the initial amount for the beginning of the 25 year lease, which has a Consumer Price index increase if there is one for each year.

As this is a new lease agreement, it did require a public hearing and ordinance passed under the Town Charter. Renewals will not require that step.

Councilor Nichols noted for the record, this item was tabled was due to not having a quorum at the 12/17/2013 meeting. This was due to the fact Councilor Curtis is the owner of Curtis Air, Inc. and could not vote on the Ordinance.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE
ABSTAIN: COUNCILOR CURTIS

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

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 01/07/2014:

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. Sebasticook Regional Land Trust Farm & Habit Ride: The Town has been contacted by representatives of the Land Trust to start the collection of information for the 2nd Annual Farm & Habitat Ride. This year, the group is going to check all schedules to try to plan the ride on a day that another significant bike ride is taking place. This will lead to more participants as many of the regular bicyclists were at a large biking event. As soon as the date is chosen, we will start to promote and publicize the bike ride and padding event.

3. Ordinance Amendments: The Town will be starting the new year with some ordinance amendments. The CEO had been working on a Property maintenance ordinance. After numerous discussions with the Town Attorney and review by the Planning Board, the Town Attorney has recommended that the State Law be utilized for some of the property maintenance issues the CEO has been dealing with and that the Town zoning ordinance be utilized as well as several amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. Basically if we beef up the Zoning Ordinance a bit, we do not need another ordinance that will conflict with the State law and town code and it will be easier to address some of the property issues going on. 90% have been addressed by commonsense and talking with people. The rest of the issues require more. There may also be shoreland zoning ordinance amendments and the two that I have been saving in order to consolidate all of this and effectively address public hearing costs and time spent by the committee members: Bid Policy amount increase and consideration of changing the Admin Code for Town Council Meetings to 6:30 pm from 7:30 pm if the Council would like to do this. Currently, we are using a resolution, which authorized the change in the time of the meeting.

4. Egg Festival Dinner for Volunteer Organizations: The Central Maine Egg Festival will be hosting a dinner for volunteer organizations on Thursday, January 09, 2013 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers. This will be an informal dinner meeting to discuss the 2014 Egg Festival and how Volunteer Organizations can become involved. Councilors are invited to attend if you would like.

5. Library programming: “Who gets Grandma’s yellow pie plate?”, a special program about how to pass on personal belongings. This program will be held on 01/16/2014 from 12:30 – 2:00. Please call the Library to register at 487-5880.

6. Maine Service Centers Coalition: We should consider a resolution at one of the next two Council Meetings regarding further State Revenue Sharing cuts. Letter Read.

Finance Committee: None. **Ordinance Committee:** None. **Recycling Committee:** None.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

ORDER 14-01: Ordered that the Town Council elect from among its members a Mayor to serve for the 2014 year.

Councilor Nichols nominated **Gary Jordan Jr.** **Councilor Stackhouse** seconded the nomination. No other nominations.

Moved by **Councilor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Stackhouse** that Order 14-01 be adopted inserting Gary Jordan Jr.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

ORDER 14-02: Ordered that the Town Council elect from among its members a Deputy Mayor to serve for the 2014 year.

Councilor Stackhouse nominated **Timothy Nichols.** **Councilor Cianchette** seconded the nomination. No other nominations.

Moved by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Cianchette** that Order 14-02 be adopted inserting Timothy Nichols.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

ORDER 14-03: Ordered that the Mayor appoint from among the Councilors a Finance Committee, an Ordinance Committee and a Fair Hearing Authority consisting of three (3) members each and a Police Labor Negotiating Committee consisting of two (2) Councilors and the Town Manager.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Carr** that Order 14-03 be adopted inserting the following names:

Finance – Gary R. Jordan, Jr., Trudy Ferland and Robert Stackhouse
Ordinance – Michael Cianchette, Robert Stackhouse and Caleb Curtis
Fair Hearing – Tim Nichols, Michael Cianchette and Heather Donahue
Police Labor Negotiating – Gary R. Jordan Jr., Tim Nichols and Kathryn Ruth

The Town Manager noted a copy of the list of responsibilities from the Town Code for each Council Committee was provided to the Town Councilors.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 14-01: Resolved that the Town Council appoint Kathryn Ruth as Official Representative, Councilor Jordan as Official Representative and Councilor Stackhouse as Alternate to the General Assembly for the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG).

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Cianchette** that Resolution 14-01 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is a yearly appointment. KVCOG is the planning agency for Kennebec, Somerset and a part of Knox County. KVCOG also serves as the agency representing the region before the federal government through the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Program (CEDs) for regional economic opportunities. The Annual Meeting is held in September during the day, generally on a weekday morning. Once in awhile there will be a General Assembly Meeting on a Wednesday morning if business cannot be held until September.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 14-02: Resolved that the Town Council appoint Gary R. Jordan, Jr. as the Alternate Representative to the General Assembly for the Kennebec Regional Development Authority (KRDA) also know as FirstPark.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Resolution 14-02 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted KRDA is the group that oversees the FirstPark regional business park in Oakland. It would be helpful to have an Alternate for the KRDA General Assembly Meetings in case the Town Manager can not attend. These are generally held at 5:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month several times a year.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 14-03: Resolved that the Town Council appoint Timothy P. Nichols as an Alternate to the Maine Services Center Coalition in addition to the Town Manager.

Moved by **Councilor Donahue** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Resolution 14-03 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Maine Services Center Coalition assists communities with updates and legislation. Communities such as Pittsfield are recognized as service centers because they have more of a burden on their services than other communities in the State.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 14-04: Resolved that the Town Council sign the Certificate of Commitment for Sewer User Rates and Water User Rates during the Year 2014.

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Stackhouse** that Resolution 14-04 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this agenda item is a housekeeping function only and does not address rate changes.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 14-05: Resolved that the Town Council sign the Earth Day Proclamation supporting community-wide activities (Earth Day is Tuesday, April 22, 2014).

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Stackhouse** that Resolution 14-05 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted Earth Day celebration activities have been taking place for years in the Town of Pittsfield with a Council proclamation endorsed since 2003.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 14-06: Resolved that the Town Council sign the Arbor Day Proclamation supporting community-wide activities (National Arbor Day is the last Friday in April: Friday, April 25, 2014) and Maine's Arbor Day Week is the 3rd full week in May: Sunday, May 18 – Saturday, May 24, 2014.

Moved by **Councilor Donahue** and seconded by **Councilor Cianchette** that Resolution 14-06 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is Pittsfield's ninth Arbor Day Proclamation recommended by the Recycling Committee to the Town Council. A number of activities are being planned for this Spring.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 14-07: Resolved that the Town Council ratify the agreement between the Town of Pittsfield and the Pittsfield Police Association Affiliated with the Maine Association of Police covering the period of 01/01/2014 through 12/31/2016.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Cianchette** that Resolution 14-07 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Police Association has proposed the same exact police contract as the 2012 - 2013 contract with the same pay rate increase as the other part-time and full-time permanent employees for 2014 with a wage re-opener for 2015 and 2016. The only difference with the last contract is that this contract is for a 3-year period rather than a 2-year period.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 14-08: Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to hire Independent Review(s) and execute all paperwork for Airport Grants for the Year 2014 as necessary in accordance with the Town's Bid Policy, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) regulations.

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Stackhouse** that Resolution 14-08 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted some of the projects we are awarded require an Independent Review and advice to the Town on the engineering and specialty consulting work estimates provided to the Town by the Airport consultants. All independent reviews are paid for by the grants. Once the work on the grants start, it moves very quickly and this authorization will assist the process.

The Town's bid policy will be utilized unless the FAA regulations for funding require a different set of steps.

This is a housekeeping item that we have started approving on a yearly basis to assist in facilitating airport grants.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 14-09: Resolved that the Town Council accept the \$551 grant from the Maine Humanities Council to the Pittsfield Public Library for the project "The Last Word: An end of life book discussion series" and authorize the Town Manager and Librarian to execute all paperwork and expend the funds.

Moved by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Ferland** that Resolution 14-09 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is a mini-grant received by the Library staff to provide for the costs of a book series.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

7. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Updates:

Water & Sewer Projects Update

Both Water and Sewer have been very busy with regular work created by the interesting and challenging weather conditions. Donnie Chute has been assisting with Water/Sewer while

Scott has been out of work on medical leave. I expect Scott will be back in February 2014 if not sooner. Scott is also monitoring the systems and work. There has been a water break, curb stop issues to address, hydrants to find under the snow, repairs to make to the buildings and communication and operational issues to address with the power outages. A major cleanup of the garage has taken place.

Highway Projects Update

Highway has been extremely busy with the challenging weather conditions with salting/sanding; plowing parking areas and town building accesses; removing snow; cleaning out the storm drains as best as possible; cleaning up slush and ice accumulations on streets; and many other projects.

We also had two building leaks – Public Works addressed the Municipal Building while the Fire Chief went down to take care of the Library. Both to date have turned out to be minor and have corrective actions to take once the weather is a bit warmer.

Program Staffing Levels

As we know, Recreation has been a challenging area due to having a part-time director and full-time expectations. We have an amazing recreation program with literally hundreds of volunteers during the year. Our current Recreation Director Jared Foster has done a great job, however, his time is limited and he can not keep on. His position at MCI is much more than 40 hours a week and Spring Sports is coming up which is very intensive. Last year, Jared advised that he would continue until Spring Sports or through Basketball. I will be advertising for a new Recreation Director. This is a part-time position which is more intensively during Spring Sports and then is less intensive during the summer, fall and winter. As long as the position is part-time, we have discussed at our meetings, that we are likely to have a new Rec Director every couple of years due to how difficult it is to fit this job in with a full-time job. Ideally, someone retired who is knowledgeable of sports and physical education/activity and likes children would be great. If any of the Councilors would like to help interview, let me know.

Pan Am Railways

Pan Am has agreed to fix the Webb Road Crossing next year including pavement and has agreed to fix the Industrial Park Crossing including pavement.

Personal Property Tax

We discussed at the last meeting that most people are paying their personal property taxes. We are left with about 1% of the personal property tax commitment that is not paid (basically .80 of 1%). After extensive tries and research, we have written off 2 lists of companies that are no longer in existence, have closed down and administratively filed paperwork with the state so that they are no longer required to pay the taxes; and some which had left town and not told the Assessor so bills were issued after they left.

Many of these taxes were on the books when I arrived and we left them in order to collect what could be collected. This has actually worked out well as we did receive many payments. We discussed how there were several property owners in Town who have promised to make payments and have not or have ignored the Town and how after numerous attempts, it is now time to have the Town Attorney contact the parties requesting payment.

These are the people who have refused to file their listings, refused to talk to the Assessor or told the Assessor to leave:

Richard Bellows (3 properties)
James and Mary Connolly
James and Patricia Ouellette
Michael Starbird

In addition, Somerset Farms which are the Cotes have 1 property and have made some payments in the past on their outstanding balance.

Tax Acquired Property

The bids for the three TAP are due 02/05/2014 at 11:00 am. The redemption process allows an opportunity to the former owners to buy back the property for the accumulated back bills and costs through tomorrow. So far, we have had 1 ad in both the BDN and the Rolling Thunder. A second set of ads will come out this weekend/next week. We have forwarded bid notices to those who have expressed interest in TAP properties and notices to abutters will be send out this week. It has been quiet with a few people coming in to look at the tax maps and ask questions.

Code Enforcement Update

A property has been condemned on the Johnson Flats road due to the unsafe conditions. One of the CEO's priority projects is to obtain language and work with DEP to address our shoreland zoning ordinance regarding the SAS plant. As it stands now, the CEO had thought that housing such as condos or apartments could be placed in the SAS facility with proper approvals. He has found that the ordinance prohibits this due to the density requirements. Research around the state finds that other towns have amended the ordinance to lower the State density requirements and DEP has allowed this as long as green space is set aside. The SAS property would be strategic for this due to the green space currently at the facility. A developer has been interested in the looking at the facility and is re-scheduling a meeting that was cancelled due to stormy weather. However, any conversion to housing needs to be feasible and having a few apartments or condos in the large mill would not be feasible. The density requirements can be lowered and the CEO is to collect up the information and provide this to the Planning Board for review.

Regulations to prevent Junky Yards/Property Maintenance

All of the state law language and conflicting language has been removed by the CEO and the proposed amendments which are now brief but seem quite strategic in terms of strengthening the Town's Zoning Ordinance for the junky yards, have been sent to the Town Attorney for review. The proposed amendments, once approved by the Town Attorney as to enforceability, will be provided to the Planning Board and Ordinance Committee.

Grants Update:

New Grants:

Airport Grants: Airport Taxiway Reconstruction – Pay Req #1 was processed and paid.

Airport Grants: Airport Apron Expansion – Pay Req #1 and #2 were processed and paid.

Airport Grants: Environmental Assessment (Engineering to prepare for Apron Expansion) – this grant has been forwarded for closure and once acknowledged, will be moved to the closure list.

Airport Grants: Engineering to Design the Apron Expansion – still processing paperwork for this grant, however, it will be closed out later this year when the Taxiway and Apron projects are closed out. As the Taxiway grant did not provide for any engineering/inspection work, these three grants will be closed out with amendments to reconcile this project. We discussed this last year. The Engineering Consultants recommended this in order to complete most of the project in 2013.

Belvedere Fund for Historic Preservation – Have the \$11,000 saved toward the

Davis Family Foundation – the sill work is pending for later this year when the project can be completed. The foundation work was excellent.

Library Mini-Grants (Cornerstone of Science and Gates for computers) All of the other small grants have been closed out and these two grants basically remain from the grant acquired during the last several years.

Police Grants: Bulletproof Vest – the Vest was purchased, however, funds which were approved just prior to the federal shutdown, has still not been processed. This is a 2013 Accounts Receivable.

Police Grants: Long Gun – Skowhegan PD had agreed to be the agent for several police departments on a cooperative purchasing project for the guns. There have been staff changes and the grant paperwork and payment has not yet been processed.

USDA Sewer Rehabilitation Grant – on-going with the receipt of Pay Req #33 which is being processed and will be paid.

8. **REPORTS:** Audience, Council

Audience:

NONE

Council:

Councilor Donahue: I did make it to the movies the other night. During the movie a piece of the ceiling fell down onto the stage There was plastic up to catch the debris, so perhaps it is an issue they know about and are working on. The Town Manager stated that she would look into the issue, as the Theatre did not make her aware of any problems.

Councilor Stackhouse: I'm back! I look forward to working with the Town Manager and the Town Council. I am glad to see that work will begin on Somerset Avenue soon.

Councilor Ferland: Donna told me how much fun this would be. I am glad to be part of the Town Council and look forward to working together.

Councilor Nichols: I want to welcome Trudy to the Town Council. It is good to see Councilor Stackhouse is back. I have a gut feeling that this year will be better then the last few. The Town Manager and Town Employees have done a great job on foreclosures. I want to congratulate Gary on his appointment as Mayor. Thank you for the Deputy Mayor nomination and appointment.

Councilor Curtis: It is good to have Robert back. I want to welcome our new member Trudy. The airport is so nice with the new ramp. We already have 2/3rds of the new tie downs filled up. We have had some bigger planes come in and have no issues maneuvering them around. We are finally able to repair the runway with some of the ice melt.

Councilor Cianchette: I would like to say I enjoyed working with Councilor Carr and Councilor Chale. They will be missed for the unique abilities and talents that they brought. I would like to welcome Trudy. Robert, we are finally pulling on the same end of the rope. I am looking forward to a productive year. Congrats to Gary and Tim on their re-appointments. With the experience that you have both brought, you certainly have the respect of this Council. I feel comfortable having you both taking the lead on these items. The last few years have been a little difficult and there are still variables coming up. I know I have said it time and again, Pittsfield has certain qualities that are unique. The volunteers are amazing in this Town. The Town Manager has done

a fantastic job with the hand she was dealt when she took over this Town. During my first term in 2008 we had a huge list of tax aquired properties. Now the list is nearly negligible. I like to think as the Council we roll up our sleeves and do a great deal but we are really nothing more then pretty faces here compared to the Town Employees do. I want to thank all the Town employees for their hard work. Years ago there used to be twice as many people, now the employees do the jobs of 2 or 3 people. People may not always acknowledge that, but I will both as a Councilor and as a member of the Town. Its just one of things that makes this place where I would like to stay and continue to stay until the Good Lord takes me.

Councilor Jordan: I want to welcome the new Councilors. I look forward to working together. Congrats to Tim on the re-appointment.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by **Deputy Mayor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Stackhouse** that the meeting be adjourned at 7:56 p.m. All in agreement.

Nicole Nickolan, Town Clerk