

MINUTES

For a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council held on Tuesday, January 2, 2007 at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT: COUNCILORS: Mayor Tim Nichols, Wayne Fotter, Brian Philbrick, Sr., Michael Gray, Christinalyn Hamel and Gary Jordan, Jr. **ABSENT:** Louise Baker. Also present were Town Manager Kathryn Ruth and Town Clerk Nicole Nickolan. Audience members included: Don Hallenbeck, Fred Raynes, Sharon Mack of the Bangor Daily News and other citizens.

1. **Mayor Nichols** opened the meeting by leading the **Pledge of Allegiance**.
2. **Adoption of Minutes** of the Regular Meeting on December 19, 2006.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Gray** that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on December 19, 2006 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

3. **PRESENTATION, CONGRATULATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS:**
4. **PUBLIC HEARINGS/OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. **ORDINANCE 06-48:** That the Town of Pittsfield hereby Ordains that the proposed draft Comprehensive Plan Implementation Update for 2007 – 2017 be adopted.

There was no one who wished to speak in favor or opposition of this ordinance. Public Hearing was closed.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** seconded by **Councilor Gray** to adopt Ordinance 06-48.

The Town Manager noted the Planning Board worked on the Comprehensive Plan Update from January – October 2006. The Planning Board held a public hearing in October of 2006 and recommended 36 pages of implementation strategies and goals for the next 10 years. The proposed plan was advertised and posted, and made available to the public. The implementation strategies and goals portray every project that would be wonderful for a town to implement. Of the 113 assignments, 100 or 88% require direct funding, staffing or indirect funding. Concerns have been expressed at past meetings about the tax dollars that would be required to implement this plan as proposed. That is a very legitimate concern. The Town has been operating under budget goals and in fact, has approved a lower budget for the last few years than back in the early 2000's. It would be extensive and far beyond the Town's ability to fund as well as to staff if implemented exactly as proposed. It's a great wish list. The following two changes are

proposed, which are technical changes. Add to the end of the introduction: Each year by September 30th, the Town Council shall review the Implementation Strategies and Goals to determine which projects will be proposed for the budget for the next year. Also, proposed is to add a timeline for each strategy. This would delete all specific dates, and instead insert 1-5 years or 6-10 years. All items listed as “on-going” would remain as “on-going.”

Councilor Jordan questioned if the years inserted could be changed as priorities change. The Town Manager noted this would be up to the Town Council.

Moved by **Councilor Gray** and seconded by **Councilor Philbrick** to amend the original motion to include the noted strategies.

Vote as amended.

UNANIMOUS AYE

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

REPORTS: TOWN MANAGER, FINANCE, ORDINANCE & RECYCLING COMMITTEES:

Town Manager’s Report: Town Council Meeting of 01/02/2007:

1. The FYI Folder: The FYI Book contains the following items this week: Read List

2. Curbside Recycling: The 2007 Curbside Recycling Brochures were in the Rolling Thunder today as an insert. So if you have not already pulled out your double-sided colored insert from the 01/01/2007 edition, please do so. If someone did not receive a copy, we have extras at the Town Office.

3. Moosehead Cedar Log Homes: READ Open House Invitation attached.

4. Time Warner Cable Update: Time Warner’s customer service numbers and contacts are as follows: Citizens requiring special assistance with a customer service issue, can e-mail either Shelley Winchenbach at shelley.winchenbach@twcable.com or Mike Edgecomb at michael.edgecomb@twcable.com with the appropriate customer contact information. The new statewide toll-free customer service numbers for the public to use are: 877-596-5366 or 800-833-2253. The Town has also posted these numbers on the front page on the Pittsfield website at www.pittsfield.org.

5. Proposed 2007 State Valuation: The Town’s proposed State Valuation for 2007 as set by the Maine Revenue Services Property Tax Division is \$215,100,000, which is an increase of \$21,650,000 from the 2006 State Valuation or an increase of 11.19%. That is a large increase for the Town of Pittsfield from all the commercial and residential development. State Valuation is used to determine the amount of County Tax the Town is assessed, affects the School Assessment and the amount of State Revenue Sharing that the Town receives.

6. Serve New England: Serve New England is a food cooperative for people who volunteer their time. A new chapter has been opened in Waterville. The goal of the organization is to promote volunteerism in the community. To qualify, people need to volunteer at least 2 hours a month. In return for volunteering in the community, people can purchase a good quality food package large enough for 4 or 5 meals for only \$22. The web site is www.servenewengland.org. People can sign up on-line.

7. Remembrance Park: We have purchased pressure treated lumber to renovate the park bench, picnic table and trash receptacle at Remembrance Park this winter. Come Spring, there will be an upgrade to the facilities.

Finance Committee: No Report.

Ordinance Committee: No Report.

Recycling Committee: No Report.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **ORDER 07-01:** Ordered that the Town Council elect from among its members a Mayor to serve for the 2007 year.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** that Order 07-01 be adopted inserting Timothy P. Nichols.

Moved by **Councilor Gray** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that nominations cease.

VOTE NOMINATIONS CEASE: UNANIMOUS AYE

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- b. **ORDER 07-02:** Ordered that the Town Council elect from among its members a Deputy Mayor to serve for the 2007 year.

Moved by **Councilor Philbrick** and seconded by **Councilor Gray** that Order 07-02 be adopted inserting Wayne Fotter.

Moved by **Councilor Gray** and seconded by **Councilor Philbrick** that nominations cease.

VOTE NOMINATIONS CEASE: UNANIMOUS AYE

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- c. **ORDER 07-03:** 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 **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Philbrick** that Order 07-03 be adopted inserting the following names.

Finance – Brian Philbrick, Gary Jordan and Chris Hamel
Ordinance – Tim Nichols, Mike Gray and Wayne Fotter
Fair Hearing – Tim Nichols, Chris Hamel and Louise Baker
Police Labor Negotiating – Mike Gray, Wayne Fotter and Kathryn Ruth

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- d.* **RESOLUTION 07-01:** Resolved that the Town Council Appoint Kathryn Ruth as Official Representative, Councilor Nichols as Official Representative and Councilor Fotter as Alternate to the General Assembly for the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG).

Moved by **Councilor Gray** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that Resolution 07-01 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted General Assembly is 1 Wednesday evening meeting in September. Once in a great while they have a General Assembly during the year, that meeting time usually would be Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- e.* **RESOLUTION 07-02:** Resolved that the Town Council Appoint Gary Jordan as the Alternate Representative to the General Assembly for the Kennebec Regional Development Authority (KRDA) also known as FirstPark.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Philbrick** that Resolution 07-02 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted meetings are the 4th Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m., General Assembly meets several times a year.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- f.* **RESOLUTION 07-03:** Resolved that the Town Council Appoint Timothy Nichols as an Alternate to the Maine Services Center Coalition in addition to the Town Manager.

Moved by **Councilor Gray** and seconded by **Councilor Philbrick** that Resolution 07-03 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is a group that lobbies for the service center towns due to the extra burdens they face. They meet several times a year as called. There is no formal schedule.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- g. **RESOLUTION 07-04:** Resolved that the Town Council Accept a Donation from the MBNA Volunteer Service Donation Program in the amount of \$1,000 and Transfer the donation to Pee Wee Basketball.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Philbrick** that Resolution 07-04 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- h. **RESOLUTION 07-05:** Resolved that the Town Council Accept all cash donations made to the Library Capital Campaign through 12/31/2006.

Moved by **Councilor Philbrick** and seconded by **Councilor Hamel** that Resolution 07-05 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- i. **RESOLUTION 07-06:** Resolved that the Town Council create an ad hoc Committee know as the Celebrations Committee for 2007.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Philbrick** that Resolution 07-06 be adopted.

The Town Manager notes ad hoc Committees for a limited period of time do not need to be added to the Town's Ordinances. If a standing committee is appointed, we need to go through a public hearing and publication. We should decide on a number of members and choose a Councilor liaison. The Committee's task would be to generate an Action Plan including funding for the purchase of decorations for designated public areas and ways and after approval of the Action Plan by the Council, implement the project. This follows up on Councilor interest in celebrating and decorating the Town for the 4th of July and Christmas.

Councilor Gray would like to see some kind of community spirit involved with this Committee. Perhaps opening the Town hall at Christmas time for hot chocolate or decorating for other holidays.

Brian Philbrick was designated Councilor liaison. The Committee will be comprised of 7 members.

Because of all the interest this Committee has generated it was noted that everyone who is interested would be invited to the first meeting.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- j. **RESOLUTION 07-07:** Resolved that the Town Council Appoint members to fill the vacancies on the various Town Boards and Committees from the attached list.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Philbrick** that Resolution 07-07 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Please see attached chart for appointments.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS: NONE

REPORTS: Audience, Council

Audience: None.

Council:

Councilor Baker: Absent.

Councilor Hamel: No Report.

Councilor Philbrick: Questioned the amount of sand being used in Town. It seems that we are using a lot more than other Towns. There was a lengthy discussion about the amount of sand, salt and sweeping. The Town Manager will have John Dickson review sand and salt usage and changes that could be made to the sand and salt ratio.

Councilor Jordan: Wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Councilor Jordan questioned if Councilor Baker was excused for this meeting. The Town Manager noted she did call in and the Mayor was notified. Councilor Jordan also noted that he would be speaking with the Building Inspector regarding the Pinnacle. Congratulations to Mayor Nichols and Deputy Mayor Fotter on their appointments.

Councilor Gray: No Report.

Deputy Mayor Fotter: No Report.

Mayor Nichols: Wanted to thank everyone for his re-election of Mayor. Thank you to everyone for volunteering for the Committees. Thank you to Brian for volunteering to be the liaison for the new committee.

Timothy P. Nichols was sworn in as Mayor. **Wayne R. Fotter** was sworn in as Deputy Mayor.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by **Councilor Hamel** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** that the meeting be adjourned at 8:20 p.m. All in agreement.

Nicole Nickolan, Town Clerk