

MINUTES

For a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council held on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT: COUNCILORS: Mayor Tim Nichols, Deputy Mayor Wayne Fotter, Michael Gray, Gary Jordan, Jr., Donna Chale, Michael Cianchette and Louise Baker **ABSENT:** None. Also present were Town Manager Kathryn Ruth and Town Clerk Nicole Nickolan. Audience members included: Donnie Hallenbeck, Sharon Mack, Robert Stackhouse, Mary Parsons, Lyn Smith, Clem Spencer and Kris Bridges.

1. **Mayor Nichols** opened the meeting by leading the **Pledge of Allegiance**.
2. **Adoption of Minutes** of the Regular Meeting on March 18, 2008.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Gray** that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 18, 2008 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

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

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

- a. **ORDINANCE 08-07:** (Public Hearing) That the Town Council hereby ordains to accept all tax year payments of John R. Haskell, including interest and lien costs, for the property at 113 Cottage Street (Map 026, Lot 016-132), the Town having acquired said property as a result of automatic foreclosure of a 2003 property tax lien, recorded in the Somerset Registry of Deeds on July 18, 2003 at Book 3322, Page 193, which matured on December 9, 2005. The Town Council further authorizes the Town Manager to execute a municipal quitclaim deed releasing the Town's interest in said property to John R. Haskell.

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

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Ordinance 08-07 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this tax lien foreclosed on December 9, 2005. The taxes were paid off in full prior to April 1, 2008.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- b. **RESOLUTION 08-19:** (Public Hearing) Resolved that the Town Council repeal Chapter 13 Zoning Ordinance, Section 4 Performance Standards

Signs and replace in its entirety with the attached Chapter 13 Zoning Ordinance, Section 4 Performance Standards Signs.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Gray** that Resolution 08-19 be renamed Ordinance 08-10 and set to public hearing 04/15/2008.

The Town Manager noted this Ordinance needs to be set to public hearing again on April 15, 2008 and should be listed on the agenda as Ordinance 08-08. This is a technicality and can be corrected.

CORRECTION: ORDINANCE 08-10: (To be set to Public Hearing 04/15/2008)
Resolved that the Town Council repeal Chapter 13 Zoning Ordinance, Section 4 Performance Standards Signs and replace in its entirety with the attached Chapter 13 Zoning Ordinance, Section 4 Performance Standards Signs.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- c. **RESOLUTION 08-23:** (Public Hearing) Resolved that the Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on 04/01/2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building to discuss acceptance of a State of Maine CDBG Program Public Facilities Grant for \$150,000. The purpose of the grant is for Historic Preservation of the Pittsfield Public Library to include addressing problems created by moisture in the basement, rotted bases of the wooden walls and weakened underpinnings to prevent eventual failure of the first floor. Repairs or replacement of damaged walls and floors will include painting, reconstruction of crumbling interior masonry, repairs of horsehair plaster, leveling and refurbishing of uneven floors. Public comments will be solicited at this Hearing and will be submitted as part of the Project Development Phase. All persons wishing to make comments or ask questions about the acceptance of these funds are invited to attend this Public Hearing. Comments may be submitted in writing to Lyn Smith at the Pittsfield Town Office, 112 Somerset Avenue, Pittsfield, Maine 04967 at any time prior to the Public Hearing. TDD/TTY users may call 711. If you are physically unable to access any of the Town's programs or services, please call Kathryn Ruth at 1-207-487-3136 so that accommodations can be made.

Mary Parsons, Library Trustee was in the audience on behalf of the Ordinance. Mary wanted to thank the Town Manager for all the help she gave on the writing of the grant. Mary hopes the Council accepts the grant, as work needs to start immediately on the restoration.

Lyn Smith, Library Director, was in the audience on behalf of the Ordinance. Lyn stated they would love to accept this money. It is very important. This is a big chunk of money towards restoration of the library, which we need to do as part of the restoration and expansion of the library. Will be well spent on a much needed project. Wanted to thank Kathryn and the fundraising committee for working on this grant. This is what keeps us moving forward.

Donnie Hallenbeck was in the audience on behalf of the Ordinance. Donnie stated the library is over 100 years old and showing its age. It no longer fits in the technological age. It has problems that are compounding. This grant would help take care of some of the problems.

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

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Gray** that Resolution 08-23 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this public hearing provides input on this historic preservation project. We are currently working on Phase II, which is the development of the project. The library needs a safe and adequate foundation in order to complete all of the necessary preservation work. All of the work that is listed as part of this project is very important as it provides the backbone of the preservation efforts. The estimated cost of the project is \$350,500. The grant award was for \$150,000. The Library Fund will provide the balance or \$200,500.

Councilor Chale stated this is an excellent start. We are very lucky to have gotten this huge grant. We are lucky the fundraisers have helped provide the other money. Questioned if this will be an 18-month project. The Town Manager stated that the typical project is 18 months but we plan to get it done sooner than that.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

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

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 04/01/2008:

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

2. Egg Festival Committee: The Egg Festival Committee will be meeting on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at 10:00 am in the Pittsfield Municipal Building Council Chambers to gear up for the Egg Festival activities on Monday, July 21 – Saturday, July 26.

3. Upcoming Energy Forum to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day Week:
The Town of Pittsfield Recycling Committee will host an Energy Forum on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 for the community, businesses, schools and non-profits. Open to all communities. The event will take place from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Seabasticook Valley #2713 Elks Lodge off Central/Middle Street. Plenty of parking.

The purpose of the event is to provide tips on how everyone can conserve energy, both at their homes and businesses.

The keynote speaker is Richard (Dick) Fortier, the Solar Program Manager at the Maine Public Utilities Commission. The presentation will be on "Tracking and Reducing your Energy Cost". We will review how to track energy consumption so we can quantify

savings. Topics we will cover residential energy efficient codes, commercial power savings, and Renewable Energy Sources.

There will be tables with resource materials on energy, recycling, re-use and other key areas dealing with the environment. Everyone should mark your calendars for an interesting and educational evening as well as a way to save money while conserving natural resources.

4. Somerset County Transition Team Meetings: We have had a few Transition Team Committee Meetings now. We have been very fortunate to have been awarded Trade Adjustment Assistance for San Antonio Shoes (SAS) Inc. Pittsfield employees. All workers at SAS who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after February 15, 2008 are eligible for the assistance. Workers can access these benefits by going to their local on-stop career center, which are the Career Centers – Skowhegan, Bangor, Augusta are the closest depending upon which town the employee comes from. There will be a lot of benefits. Senator Snowe's Office advised us on Monday that depending upon the benefits that the workers draw on – job training, assistance, pay while at school, etc. we are talking \$500,000 - \$1,000,000 worth of federal assistance.

There are also some other plans taking place which include the Transition Booklet with resources which is finished; a Job Fair at SAS on Friday, April 4 for the employees and a larger job fair for all of the displaced workers in the area. From talking with representatives from Senator Snowe's and Collins' Office I understand the significance of holding the job fair. So there will be one big Job Fair on Monday, May 19, 2008 in the Warsaw School Gym and Cafeteria. Set up is from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. with the official opening at 3:00 p.m – 8:00 p.m. I am working on this along with Kathe Bolster from the Skowhegan Career Center and Brian Hodges, our DECD Business Development Specialist. There will be a Resource Area for providers like we had at the Business Forum. Jean Dempster and Linda Landry from the Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community will be working on this. The main issue we are having right now is that we need 50 tables as the school only has a few tables. So ideas where we can locate folding tables – lots of folding tables would be greatly appreciated as well as people to work the event. We have identified 22 businesses to invite, which we believe are gearing up to hire from the region. Any business within a reasonable commute from Pittsfield that is hiring is invited to attend as well as providers of services to displaced, unemployed or underemployed people in the region.

5. 2008 Tax Club: The Town makes available a tax club payment plan which enables taxpayers to divide their next year's property taxes into twelve monthly payments. The basis for the estimated 2008 tax will be the actual 2007 tax divided by the number of months left in the year when you join. To sign up for the tax club, ask any of the counter personnel at the Town Office or call the Town Office at 487-3136.

6. Neighborhood Watch: The Town's Neighborhood Watch Group is inviting everyone to join them to exchange ideas and share information to make the community a safer place. Get tips on how to protect your loved ones and your property while learning how you can make a difference doing things you already do. The next scheduled meetings are Monday, 04/07/2008 and Monday, 05/05/2008, both at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building. The group generally meets the first Monday of each month.

7. The Paul E. Bertrand Community Pool Upcoming Fundraisers:

The next fundraising event will be Scrapbooking for the Pool to be held on Saturday, April 26, 2008 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Seabasticook Valley Elks Lodge off Central/Middle Streets in Pittsfield. The cost is \$30.00. Registration includes a reserved seat and workstation and refreshments by the Mad Hatter. There will be great door prizes including wonderful fun scrapbook supplies. Grand Prize is a personal diecutting machine. Buy raffle tickets to win a Breast Cancer Awareness Basket, Veggie Tales Basket & more. Refreshments catered by The Mad Hater to include a morning snack and lunch. The vendor will be Creative Memories. Close To My Heart and Stampin Up are scheduled to be available.

For reservations, contact Mary Gaeta 487-5101, e-mail: petduck52@hotmail.com or Christine Cookson at 487-5590, e-mail: nutmegpaddy1@verizon.net. Registrations will also be taken at Heidi Ann's Flower Shop at 103 Main Street and the Pittsfield Town Office, 112 Somerset Avenue. Checks made payable to the Town of Pittsfield, note Scrapbooking.

Finance Committee: No Report.

Ordinance Committee: No Report.

Recycling Committee: No Report.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **ORDER 08-04:** That the Town of Pittsfield Town Council hereby ordains the tax anticipation note borrowing for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008 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, 2008 in the principal amount or amounts not exceeding \$650,000 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 2008 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 3, 2008, out of money raised by taxation during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008 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 she deems appropriate, 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.

Councilor Gray stated he has issues working with a bank that did not put correct numbers on the bid. There are several errors in the bid from TD Banknorth.

The Town Manager stated the language for the Order is written properly and that details on the bank bid that will be accepted can be discussed further down on Resolution 08-33.

Moved by **Councilor Gray** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that Order 08-04 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is a yearly process as taxes are due once per year. The Tan is established as a line of credit so the funds are borrowed as needed rather than all at once over the several month period. The acceptance of a bid for the TAN is a later item on the agenda.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- b. **ORDINANCE 08-08:** (To be set to Public Hearing on 04/15/2008) That the Town Council hereby ordains to repeal Chapter 2. Administrative Code, Section 1100. Pinnacle Park Board Section 1102. Funds and replace in its entirety with the attached.*

Moved by **Councilor Gray** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that Ordinance 08-08 be set to public hearing.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- c. **ORDINANCE 08-09:** (To be set to Public Hearing 04/15/2008) That the Town Council hereby ordains to amend Chapter 11. Pittsfield Public Library Policies to add Article 17. Funds.*

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Gray** that Ordinance 08-09 be set to public hearing.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- d. **RESOLUTION 08-33:** Resolved that the Town Council accept the bid of TD Banknorth with interest payable at maturity at the rate of 2.19% per annum.*

Moved by **Councilor Gray** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that Resolution 08-33 be adopted.

It was explained how we are accepting a bid and its interest rate, not the amount of interest, as it is used on an as-needed borrowing basis.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- e.* **RESOLUTION 08-34:** Resolved that the Town Council designate a Library Trust and Accept the donation from the Pittsfield Public Library Trustees of the Elizabeth Kleinschmidt Memorial in the amount of \$1,120.78 to be placed in such Trust.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Gray** that Resolution 08-34 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Library Trustees have brought in some funds to be donated to the Town for the development and maintenance of the library.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- f.* **RESOLUTION 08-35:** Resolved that the Town Council appoint Karen L. Baker as Animal Control Officer for a term through 12/31/2008 and approve the contract between the Town of Pittsfield and Karen L. Baker for Animal Control Services for a term through 12/31/2008.

Moved by **Councilor Cianchete** and seconded by **Councilor Gray** that Resolution 08-35 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the position was advertised and the Police Chief received three candidates. Karen lives here in Town with her family and has a background with the management of dogs such as training. The contract terms are the same except the monthly payment was increased from \$200 to \$225.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- g.* **RESOLUTION 08-36:** Resolved that the Town Council approve the Renewal of the Alcoholic Beverage License for Broken Putter Restaurant & Lounge at 382 Hartland Avenue, Pittsfield, Maine 04967.

Moved by **Councilor Gray** and seconded by **Councilor Cianchette** that Resolution 08-36 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is a renewal license and all is in order.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- h.* **RESOLUTION 08-37:** Resolved that the Town Council appoint Michelle Hodgins to fill a vacancy as an interim director for the municipality for SAD #53

to serve until the next annual municipal election. The interim director shall serve until a successor is elected and qualified.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that Resolution 08-37 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted Ron Bessy resigned creating a vacancy. State law requires that the individual appointed serve until the next regularly scheduled election.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- i.* **RESOLUTION 08-38:** Resolved that the Town Council sign Certificates of Appreciation for the contributions of the Presenters at the 03/25/2008 Business Forum.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Cianchette** that Resolution 08-38 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the presenters did a great job at the Business forum and were very pleased and excited to be there. We thought it would be nice to process certificates of thanks and appreciation for their efforts.

Councilor Chale stated she was able to attend the business forum and all the presenters did a great job. This is the least that we could do for them.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- j.* **RESOLUTION 08-39:** Resolved that the Town Council sign Certificates of Appreciation for the efforts and dedication of the Top 20 Business/Organizational Recyclers for 2007 to be presented at the 05/14/2008 Energy Forum.

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** that Resolution 08-39 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted at the Energy Forum that the Recycling Committee will be planning, the Committee would like to present certificates to the Top 20 Recyclers in the community. The Committee will be meeting Wednesday night to discuss the invitations and other particulars of the evening.

Councilor Chale questioned how the top 20 recyclers were determined. The Town Manager stated that Donnie Chute compiled a list from the tonnages that come out of the different facilities.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

7. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Updates As Listed Below:

A. Personal Property Tax Collection – All Years

Step 1: All accounts with personal property tax overdue for the years of 2007 and older will be provided with an opportunity to pay up their outstanding personal property tax in full for all years due with the Town waiving all interest that is due on the account.

The offer will be good for 1 month. It must include all years that are overdue. To have the interest waived, all personal property tax accounts assessed to that owner must be cleared up in full. Each taxpayer will receive a letter.

Step 2: The Town Manager and Assessor will determine a list of uncollectible accounts to be presented to the Town Council for write-off, i.e., bankruptcy completed; deceased owner, business left the state and can not be located; etc.

Step 3: All remaining accounts over \$_____ will be referred to the Town Attorney for collection. The amount will be determined by Resolution by the Town Council at the end of the 30 days.

Step 4: All remaining accounts in the amount of \$_____ will be taken to Small Claims Court. The amount will be determined by Resolution by the Town Council at the end of the 30 days.

If we like this process, I will put it on the agenda of the next meeting. It would be an Order. The Town Attorney suggests also having a Public Hearing on this for additional notice to everyone.

Step 1 with is the waiving of interest is not the waiving of a tax. This could possibly bring in a lot of the overdue accounts.

Step 2 will address the obvious problems that need to be written off or abated due to the situation – some accounts are simply not collectible as a bankruptcy was concluded, everyone has left the state and there is no business anymore, etc.

Step 3 & 4 will be addressed once we go through the 30 day period. We would not want to set the amounts until after we are done collecting as much as we can.

During the last month, we collected over \$5,000 in personal property on the later years. We have had considerable success in constant contacts, but there comes a time when other measures need to be taken.

The Council thought this was a good plan. It will be placed on the next agenda. A public hearing is not required, however, recommended by the Town attorney to get the word out on this proposal.

B. Property Tax Collection – 2007

As of 03/31/2008 Outstanding Taxes

Tax Collection All Years	Current Year RE	Year
\$398,158.22	\$237,038.40	2008
\$404,055.80	\$249,310.91	2007
\$398,813.16	\$239,537.92	2006
\$455,710.28	\$283,768.00	2005

From 2005 to 2008, our o/s current year taxes have decreased from \$283,768.00 to \$237,038.40 or \$46,729.60.

C. Project Updates:

1. Pittsfield Industrial Park Lot Sale to Liberty Propane Operations, LLC d/b/a Mid State Gas – completed.

The offer was authorized on 08/21/2007 by the Town Council. The company completed its processes and all of the paperwork was signed in March, 2008 so the small parcel off the Industrial Park by the AAA Energy Building on Stinson Street (used to be known as Merrimac Street) has been sold.

2. Update on Water Project: Water Meter Replacement and Automated Meter Reading (AMR System)

Still zipping along as fast as possible with the water meter replacement. As of March 28, 2008, we were 49.2% completed – at that time 667 meters had been replaced of the 1354 with 687 to go. The figure to replace includes the mobile home parks which the Water Department had planned to put a single meter in rather than individual meters.

The second month's billing with Books 5-7 is nearing completion. The billing took a lot longer than usual do to how difficult the conversion was – but it has been completed and it is a one-time event per book.

3. Update on Sewer Projects: Summer Street (and Summer Court) Sewer Separation Project; Work Plan/Study for Removal of Sludge from Lagoon System; Sewer System Engineering; etc.

1. We made a proposal for language changes to the required agreement with the State for use of the town-built stormwater drain on Peltoma Avenue. This is the mandated agreement to divert the stormwater from Summer Street into Peltoma, which we have now determined was the plan in 1993 from all of the documents acquired from Kleinschmidt's review. We are awaiting a response.

2. Work Plan/Study for Removal of Sludge from Lagoon System:
DEP has verbally expressed that they have concerns with the work plan from Acheron which is the licensed operator of the Pittsfield Sewer Treatment Plant.

To date, we have not received those concerns in writing. This was the proposal that the Town Council authorized on 01/15/2008.

3. Sewer System Engineering:

There are two directions for the engineering:

Projects to do when we finish review of the sewer revenues from the new metering system and the rate review. Until now we would not have enough sewer revenues to look at 3 projects: Section of South Main Street; West Street; and Hamilton Cross X. These projects would come into the Town Council to decide if you want to bid them out for construction. Plymouth Engineering is doing this work. Review of the entire system for flow to determine those areas that have large infiltration issues. That project has started with the determination of which manholes to pull covers on to monitor the flow. The flow will be monitored at night by Olver Associates - they use the flows from the snow melt off and then some storms - to determine those areas that have infiltration. This then narrows down those areas for the second step of a sewer system evaluation - to review by smoke testing and/or TV camera the problematic areas to further narrow down where work should take place. This step we would not have been able to do until the flow meters were changed over and we review the rates.

4. Grants Update:

Airport Grants: Vegetation Plan/Permitting Grant: No word from the FAA on the draft Vegetation Plan.

Airport Grants: Runway Obstruction Clearing: Received the second payment on this grant so we are now 81% complete on the work to be done. There is a small amount of stump removal with herbicides which needs to be done prior to June 15.

Airport Grants: Design Engineering for Apron Reconstruction: Hired the Independent Reviewer from the Council's Resolution earlier this year. The 2 hour scoping meeting was held and I have my list of assignments. This is the design work so that we can get a new apron. The grant needs to be filed and at the FAA Office on May 1.

Brownfields Grant: Cleanup Grant for 8 Mount Rd (10 Eelwier Rd): This was for clean-up of the Eelwier now Mount Road Property: The grants were due back in October, 2007 and the awards were to take place by now. I went to the EPA website and I see what the hold up is - they got 845 grant applications.

CDBG Grant/Business Assistance: Moosehead Cedar Log Homes: Moosehead Cedar Log Homes bid for their distribution center came in well within budget so they are very happy. The project will be starting shortly. They will be doing the final surveys for the septic so they can get all of their permits. Then as soon as the weather permits, start the project.

CDBG Grant/Public Facilities/Historic Preservation/Library: On agenda this evening. Need to concentrate on this one.

CDBG Grant/Special Projects Matching Funds/GCS: Completed and signed off on by DECD. Check issued to GCS.

Efficiency Maine Business Program: After many delays, the project is on. With 1 order with the new vendor after approval by the Efficiency Maine Program to make sure it was correct, supplies are here and the Electrician started Monday, 03/31/2008.

Fund for Efficient Delivery of Services - Regional Curbside Recycling Truck: Notification from the State that the funding for the program was under consideration as one of the sources to assist with the State budget crunch. No word yet on whether the program remains or not.

L&W Conservation Fund: Stein Park Renovation Project: Completed last year, 5% of project has not been receipted yet so the project has not been closed out – backlog of projects.

L&W Conservation Fund: Swimming Pool Essential Components: No paperwork yet from the federal government so can not do anything at this point. Paving, lighting, fencing, changing room/restroom aspects of the project. In speaking with Paul Bertrand, we are going to have a late start for the Swimming Pool due to the weather and ground conditions so we will proceed when able. The school portable classroom is still on site as the bids were rejected, as they were so small.

Library Grants from State of Maine: Several are tied to the restoration project and 1 needs to be spent by 06/30/2008 so this is definitely a priority.

Project Canopy: Mill Pond Loop: This is due now and I am working on it. We do not have the map in a presentable order – the rest of the project was done.

Safe Routes to School, Phase II: We have approval of the budget, timeline, engineer and contract so this project needs to go forward shortly.

Other Grant Opportunities: Municipal Investment Trust Fund Grant Program that has just been announced. It is being run through the CDBG fund. There will be \$1.5 million dollars available and awards will be up to \$500,000 each.

Deadline is May 9, 2008 – might be good for the library, theatre, sidewalks, lighting. I have read the requirements and it is not clear if we are eligible or not: We meet some requirements but not others – we are a service center, no Local Growth management Program, we do have a CIP. Reading the write-up several places it was not clear so it needs investigation. If we are going to proceed, we would need to schedule the

public hearing at the April 15, 2008 Council Meeting. To get the handouts they want it would need to be started now.

Now:

Project Canopy completed

Airport Design Work Application worked on and filed

Efficiency Maine Paperwork oversee and file reimbursement.

Oversee CDBG Moosehead Cedar Log Homes

CDBG Library Project Development Phase II

Swimming Pool Components Bids started

Finish Obstructions Removal

Finish Vegetation Plan

8. **REPORTS:** Audience, Council

Audience: Donnie Hallenbeck stated today is the 21st anniversary of the flood of 1987. Also wanted to mention this Saturday, Floyd Humphrey is celebrating his 96th birthday.

Clem Spencer stated that it was brought to his attention at the historical society meeting that some people are looking to do research in our vault regarding genealogy. They would like to compile a book with the history of deaths, births and marriages. The Town Manager stated that the Town Clerk has spoken with Kathy Palmer and arrangements have been made for Kathy to do research on these records at the Town Office.

Bob Stackhouse stated it is good to see the Town going the way it is, it seems like a very positive direction.

Council:

Councilor Baker: Added that she remembers the flood back in 1987 and spending time at Edward's sandbagging.

Councilor Cianchette: Wanted to thank the audience for attending and thank WMCI for all the work they do to put these meetings on air. He was surprised to find out how many people follow it on the local TV channel.

Councilor Chale: It is a huge amount of work for Kathryn on all these grants, but appreciates the fact that even with all the current grants, Kathryn is still considering some that will benefit the downtown and some of the non-profits. Great job on the business forum. It was very interesting to see all the available opportunities.

Councilor Jordan: No Comment

Councilor Gray: No Comment

Deputy Mayor Fotter: No Comment

Mayor Nichols: Wanted to say the business forum was really informative and served a very good purpose. Mayor Nichols also stated that the upcoming job fair

will be a very important event. We have an opportunity to help find gainful employment for people. Mayor Nichols wanted to volunteer to help. He also mentioned there is a retention committee at his job that may have people available to help. He also mentioned the importance of the upcoming energy forum, and that everyone that can attend, should. Congratulations to the library on receiving the grant. Thank you to Kathryn and all the employees for all the hard work. It couldn't be done without them.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that the meeting be adjourned at 8:23 p.m. All in agreement.

Nicole Nickolan, Town Clerk