

MINUTES

For a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council held on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT: COUNCILORS: Mayor Tim Nichols, Deputy Mayor Gary Jordan, Jr., Caleb Curtis, Wayne Fotter, Donna Chale, Christopher Carr and Louise Baker. **ABSENT:** None. Also present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth and Town Clerk Nicole Nickolan. Audience members included: Jim Phillips and his wife, Sharon Mack, Mike Lange, Karen Baker, Lyn Smith, Mike Dugas, Donnie Hallenbeck and others.

1. **Mayor Nichols** opened the meeting by leading the **Pledge of Allegiance**. The Council observed a moment of silence.
2. Adoption of Minutes of the regular meeting on March 17, 2009.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Carr** that the minutes of the regular meeting on March 17, 2009 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

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

Presentation by Tax Assessor James Phillips regarding the 2009 Tax Valuation Process and Factoring of Valuations

The Town Manager noted our long-time Tax Assessor Jim Phillips is here this evening to explain the Town's valuation level and steps that he will need to take to bring our property valuations up to the state required percentage of market values. For many years we have certified well over 70% and we will need to take some actions this year.

Jim Phillips stated Maine law requires that assessments of property represent a percentage of market value at 70 percent or more. This year for the first time, Pittsfield's assessments do not achieve that level, based on the Maine Revenue Service's method of determining the percentage. If the assessment is not increased for 2009, the town will lose some state subsidies.

The simplest thing to do would be what I did in Newport for 2008, that is to factor all assessments, land and buildings, by a factor. In the case of Newport, that factor was 1.60. This would increase the assessments to over one hundred percent. The main reason for using the same multiplier for all properties is that it is easy for the taxpayer to understand and all properties are adjusted by the same percentage. In this case, the tax rate would fall to a level where the only changes to tax levels would be because of budget changes.

One problem with the above is that some properties, namely commercial and industrial properties, have increased in value, but not as much as residential and land. In Newport, we used the 1.60 factor across the board and then dealt with commercial/industrial

properties on an individual basis. We have had only a couple of taxpayers claim overvaluation of their properties.

My recommendation is to use a factor of 1.50 across the board for 2009. This factor is based on a sales ratio study of residential properties for the years 2007 and 2008 and shows that we are assessing property on an average of 57 percent of market value. A 1.50 factor applied to the assessments brings the average up to almost 100 percent. I wouldn't go any higher than this at this time because of the uncertainty of the real estate market.

The Town Manager noted when values go up the mil rate goes down. In doing this the Town will also be able to use a higher Homestead Exemption Value for properties, which will assist taxpayers.

Mr. Phillips will be proceeding with the factoring project for 2009. The Councilors and Town Manager agreed that education was very important.

Community and Economic Development Activities and Events:

Report on Meetings & Events:

Somerset & Kennebec County Transition Team Meeting on Wednesday, April 1, 2009: We heard of the many companies laying off employees and are making plans to assist with Programs. The Career Center in Skowhegan is hard at work. On April 14, 2009, we will hold a Special Meeting of the Transition Team to discuss the needs from the surveys at the businesses where employees are being laid off to determine scenarios for training and resources.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Meeting with the Governor and DECD Commissioner for recognition of the Town's Tax Increment Financing District Designation on Thursday, 04/09/2009 at 2:30 p.m. in Augusta: The Mayor and I are going down to this session. If anyone else wants to attend, you are more than welcome. We were just notified that we would be recognized.

Somerset County Workforce Development Team (SWDT) meeting on Thursday, 04/09/2009 at 2:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers

Regional Energy Forum sponsored by the Pittsfield Recycling Committee on Tuesday, 04/14/2009 at 6:30 p.m. at Vickery School Gym (set-up is at 6:00 p.m.: Ad read along with listed of businesses registered for the event.

The 13th Annual Trade Show and Community Fair for the Sebasticook Valley Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, 05/02/2009: As of last week, we had 30 businesses and crafters signed up. There may be more now. Evolo Home Center will hold free presentations on alternative energy solutions and the University of Maine will be demonstrating their SMART Gardener Program. There may be a SMART Gardner class or two demonstrations.

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting on Thursday, 05/07/2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the Sebasticook Valley Chamber Building in Palmyra to set up committees to work on the 4 projects identified at the 3rd Leadership Forum: Projects identified.

Regional Job Fair for Somerset County, sponsored by the Somerset County Transition Team and the Town of Pittsfield on Wednesday, 05/27/2009 from 3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Warsaw School Gym and Cafeteria. We have wonderful news – a media sponsorship was donated by the Employment Times to help get the word out in their weekly editions. This sponsorship is worth \$2,600. List of businesses signed up for event read.

The Paul E. Bertrand Community Pool Complex Grand Opening is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 10:00 am at the Complex. We are working on the program for the event – speeches, certificates for the in-kind donations from the contractors, unveiling of the memorial plaques, tour of the facility and the Big Splash.

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

- a. **ORDINANCE 09-05:** (Public Hearing) That the Town Council hereby ordains to accept all tax year payments of Andrea Chamberlain, including interest and lien costs, for the property at 331 Beans Corner Road (Map 017, Lot 055-001), the Town having acquired said property as a result of automatic foreclosure of a 2005 property tax lien, recorded in the Somerset Registry of Deeds on May 26, 2006 at Book 3682, Page 103, which matured on November 30, 2007. The Town Council further authorizes the Town Manager to execute a municipal quitclaim deed releasing the Town's interest in said property to Andrea Chamberlain.

There was no one who wished to speak for or against Ordinance 09-05. Public Hearing closed.

The Town Manager noted this was one of the 3 properties that became tax acquired in 2007. The taxes have been paid off in full and the property can now be deeded back to Ms. Chamberlain.

Moved by **Councilor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Ordinance 09-05 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- b. **ORDINANCE 09-06:** (Public Hearing) That the Town Council hereby ordains that Chapter 2B General Assistance Ordinance, Appendices B be rescinded and the new Appendices B be adopted to reflect the revised maximums for the period of 04/01/2009 – 09/30/2009.

There was no one who wished to speak for or against Ordinance 09-05. Public Hearing closed.

The Town Manager noted Food Assistance would be increased through stimulus funding. Therefore, the Thrifty Food Plan has increased to help provide additional food to the households receiving Food Supplements. Also, this is being done to put additional money into the economy.

Food Maximums have increased for 1 person from \$40.93/week to \$46.51/week. For a family of 4, the Food Maximum has increased from \$155.35 to \$136.74/week.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Ordinance 09-06 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

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

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 04/07/2009:

1. The FYI Folder: The FYI Book contains the following items this week: SEE LIST

2. Paul E. Bertrand Community Pool Fundraiser: We are on the home stretch. Notice Read.

3. Time Warner Programming Notice: Notice Read.

4. Census 2010: There are promotional items that the Town can do to help make sure that everyone is counted. The Census is important to the Town as it is part of the basis for funding formulas, grants, and economic development.

5. Town Training Calendar: The Town will be presenting Haz-mat Awareness training for applicable employees/departments on Friday, 04/23/2009 at 10:00 am and 2:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

6. Biennial Capital Work Plan Fiscal Years 2010-2011: The MDOT 2 year budget for capital road work has been issued for the period beginning July 1, 2010. The Town of Pittsfield is definitely listed. See Program.

7. National Library Week: Notice Read.

8. Town Revenues and Expenditures: Town Revenues are coming in very slowly and are below expected limits, even though we lowered revenue estimates significantly. Excise Tax is now running \$9,512 behind last year's statistics and State Revenue Sharing is running at \$23,786 behind last year's statistics. We are on an unofficial budget freeze. I spoke with everyone, I did not issue a directive.

9. Notice of Public Sale: We have good news in that the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale and required statutory 60 day period expired without redemption on 214 Somerset Avenue. This means that the former Tax Acquired Property on Somerset Avenue, 214 Somerset Avenue can now be put out to Public Sale. READ Notice of Public Sale. I would assume that the situation stands as discussed at the last meeting – we should let the private sector bid on this. If the property sells, we will talk with the individual immediately about clean-up. If the property does not sell, it will apparently become the Town of Pittsfield's the next day. The next day, Public Works will go down and clean up the debris and garage outside the property.

10. Maine Power Options EMF Presentation: Read the Notice.

11. Pittsfield Water and Sewer Users Very Important Survey: As a utility user in the Town of Pittsfield, you will receive a very important survey in the mail. Olver Associates, an engineering firm, will be tabulating the results. The Town is planning improvements to our older infrastructure. Many grant programs or low interest loan programs require that the Town conduct an income survey of utility users. We ask that anyone who has not yet

returned the survey to do so by mail or in person. The survey and its results are very important to the future of the Town and our ability to upgrade the water and/or sewer system. Any questions, please contact the Pittsfield Town Office (487-3136). Thank you so much for completing this survey. We are starting to go out door to door now to collect the surveys so sending the survey back will save the Town money and time and save you time.

12. Pittsfield Community Theatre Opens: The work being conducted by Bowman Brothers is nearing completion. Their last day should be April 10, 2009 at the theatre. We need to do some straightening and cleaning of the theatre after that. The Pittsfield Community Theatre will be opening on April 17, 2009. The opening move will be Hotel for Dogs rated PG with a matinee on Sunday April 19, 2009 at 2:00 pm.

Finance Committee: No Report

Ordinance Committee: No Report

Recycling Committee: The Recycling Committee met on 04/01/2009. It was a brief meeting. The main discussion was the upcoming Energy Forum. Scheduling, clean-up, etc. was discussed. Trash to Treasure was discussed briefly, but will be talked about more in depth after the Energy Forum.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **RESOLUTION 09-44:** Resolved that the Town Council accept the bid of Bangor Savings Bank dated 03/20/2009 with interest payable at maturity at the rate of 1.85% per annum.

Moved by **Councilor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 09-44 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Town received four bids ranging from a low of 1.85% to a high of 4.25% for the Town's 2009 Tax Anticipation Note. This is a yearly process in which the Town borrows funds to cover expenses until the Tax Dollars, which fund a high % of the budget, are due in October. The taxes paid in October cover the period of January – December of that year. This is an excellent interest rate. As it is a line of credit, the Town only pays on exactly what we borrow.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- b. **RESOLUTION 09-45:** Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract with Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. for the electricity supply agreement for the Town's streetlight account for the period of 05/01/2009 through 12/01/2011.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** that Resolution 09-45 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted we requested pricing for streetlights when we applied for the Maine Power Options Cooperative pricing for the Town's medium accounts. The streetlights needed to be priced separately. The rate was great. Pricing right now is

.099739 per kwatt hour on the standard offer to change to .089 per kwatt hour until 02/2010. We obtained pricing for .0715 per kwatt hour which is a savings of 28.3%.

If our kwatt usage stayed the same for the period of time until 02/2010, we would save \$4,615 per year. Obviously, it will change, but the savings will still be excellent.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- c. **RESOLUTION 09-46:** Resolved that the Town Council accept the donation of TD Banknorth, N.A. of a portable popcorn machine and authorize the Town Manager to execute the hold harmless and indemnification agreement for the same donated property.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 09-46 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted TD Banknorth, N.A. needs to clean out the facility. The popcorn machine is now taking up a lot of space in the upstairs conference room. TD Banknorth has offered the popcorn machine to the Town so that the non-profits can still borrow it. We would store it and by use of a sign-out form and hold harmless agreement, let non-profits borrow it for fundraisers and the Town can use it for fundraisers.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- d. **RESOLUTION 09-47:** Resolved that the Town Council approve the Request for Proposals for the additions and alterations to the Pittsfield Public Library Project and authorize the Town Manager and Librarian to seek proposals for same.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 09-47 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted at long last, the project comes up to request approval to go out to Request for Proposals. This project is Phase II, the Addition and Alterations to the Pittsfield Public Library Project.

This is also probably the best time to go out to bid for a project in a decade due to the low volume of commercial work. We of course would prefer it was busier in the commercial sector so that people were at work. This project would definitely be a good project to keep people busy for several months.

The Architect, Engineer, Cianbro which is our volunteer Project Manager, Lyn, Doug and I met on Friday, 04/03/2009 to go over the details. There are minor changes on the bid documents for the alternates and who will issue the bid books, etc. The schedule remains the same:

Final Bid Package for Council Approval	April 1
Council Approves Bid Documents	April 7
Project out to bid	April 13

Prebid Meeting	April 22
Bids Due	May 8
Review Bids & Recommend	May 13
Council Approves Bid	May 19
Pre Construction Meeting	June 1
Construction Start	June 2
Project Complete	December 1

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- e.* **RESOLUTION 09-48:** Resolved that the Town Council approve the Interlocal Agreement for the State of Maine Community Development Block Grant Program for Jobs for Maine Graduates Grant for the Town of Skowhegan, Pittsfield, Madison and Anson and to authorize the Town of Skowhegan to act as the Lead Grantee and thereby be responsible for compliance with all State and Federal requirements.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 09-48 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted we received an informational package from the Jobs for Maine Graduates Program and a letter from the Superintendent yesterday describing this very worthwhile program. Late last week, the Town of Skowhegan contacted us with an interlocal agreement to sign for the Community Development Block Grant Program, which will fund the Towns of Skowhegan, Madison, Anson & Pittsfield. Each Town will receive \$50,000 worth of assistance (not cash) for their school system. In our case, this would be for the program to be set up at MCI.

Skowhegan will be responsible in the interlocal agreement to file all of the necessary CDBG paperwork. This is not a full scale CDBG project such as the Library or the Pinnacle, it is similar to the grant we got for assistance for Global Contact Services. DECD will address the 51% low and moderate-income requirement so neither Skowhegan or I will have to distribute all the surveys and compile all the statistics.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- f.* **RESOLUTION 09-49:** 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 **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 09-49 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is a renewal application for the Broken Putter. Mike and Dawn will be running the restaurant this year.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- g. **RESOLUTION 09-50:** Resolved that the Town Council approve the Renewal of the Special Amusement Permit for the Broken Putter Restaurant & Lounge at 382 Hartland Avenue, Pittsfield, Maine 04967.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Carr** that Resolution 09-50 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- h. **RESOLUTION 09-51:** Resolved that the Town Council sign the Application for Catered Function by Qualified Catering Organization for a reunion reception to be held 7/31/2009 and 8/1/2009 at MCI student center by qualified caterer Jeff's Catering & Banquet Center.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 09-51 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted it is a State requirement to apply for a catered function in a community. We do not have a lot of these. Jeff's Catering & Banquet Center will be catering an indoor activity at the MCI Student Center on 7/3/12009.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- i. **RESOLUTION 09-52:** Resolved that the Town Council accept the bid of GreenWay Equipment of Bangor, Maine in an amount not to exceed \$6300.00 for a zero turn mower.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 09-52 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Town Councilors received a copy of the bid results in their Council Package.

The Public Works Department recommends approval of the low bidder GreenWay Equipment of Bangor for 1 of their two bids, the John Deere Z820 Heavy Duty Zero-Turn Mower for \$6,900.

As discussed during the budget period, the Public Works Crew was to take over the mowing of the parks and the smaller lots such as the Town Office, Library, etc. It is strongly believed that the Town crew, whether they hire a part-time student, or do it themselves, will have the facilities in very good order.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 09-52 be amend as follows:

RESOLUTION 09-52: Resolved that the Town Council accept the bid of GreenWay Equipment of Bangor, Maine in an amount not to exceed \$6900.00 for a zero turn mower.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

VOTE AS AMENDED: UNANIMOUS AYE

- j.* **RESOLUTION 09-53:** Resolved that the Town Council accept the bids for the Town owned used equipment on an as is, where is, as seen basis.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Resolution 09-53 be adopted as recommended by the staff.

The Town Manager noted Don Chute, our Recycling/Transfer Station/Safety Coordinator, priced the removal of these items with three scrap dealers to make sure that the bid prices were reasonable.

It is recommended that we sell to the highest bidder all of the items with the exception of the 1993 Ford Ranger and the 1986 Ford Ambulance. Both of those vehicles work, therefore, they are worth more than the \$100 that was bid. Public Works, Water and Sewer and the Transfer Station agree with this recommendation.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- k.* **RESOLUTION 09-54:** Resolved that the Town Council sign the Warrant for prosecuting owners of unlicensed dogs, effective 04/08/2009, on which date a \$25 late fee may be charged to all whose names appear on the Warrant.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Resolution 09-54 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is a State law process. The Town Clerk has called all individuals whose names are on the list for which she can locate a working phone number.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- l.* **RESOLUTION 09-55:** 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 Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Carr** that Resolution 09-55 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted Donna had volunteered to be the Councilor representative for the Housing Revolving Loan Committee.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Update on Water Projects

Federal Stimulus Funding: The Town was selected for a federal stimulus-funding project for the back-up water pump. The engineering is taking place now. We filed the loan application for the MMBB. We filed the PUC Securities Issuance request. All engineering needs to be completed by 04/15/2009.

Water Meter Replacement and Automated Meter Reading (AMR System): We have enough calibrated and tested manual meters to re-meter the remaining mobile home parks so this project will start shortly. Letters were sent to Carriage Estates.

2. Update on Sewer Projects

Federal Stimulus Funding: The State will receive about \$30 million dollars in federal stimulus funding. Over \$300 million dollars in project requests were received by the State. The projects that ranked high were ones such as Combined Sewer Overflows in which sewage dumps into the river and is not supposed to and sewer projects that would reduce or eliminate sewage.

We simply have an older sewer system in which the lines break often and an accumulation of sludge that needs to be pumped out so we did not get a lot of points similar to all of the other towns with sewer replacement lines. If there was no pollution, you did not get a lot of points. This also showed the condition of the sewer system across the State of Maine.

Work Plan/Study for Removal of Sludge from Lagoon System: The Sludge Removal Project is back on to determine a Plan of Action. Acheron wants the sludge drying project and the State of Maine does not like it. So we are back to trying to work out a compromise so we can move forward.

3. Water/Sewer Project Possibilities: Income Survey for State and Federal Funding Opportunities: By the deadline of 03/31/2009, the Town had received approximately 50% of the surveys back through the mail which is exceptional. Mail surveys are usually 20%. Approximately 91 of those surveys had a piece of missing information so we have 1 person calling to verify the survey details.

The training session was held for the Town employees who will start going door to door to the homes of those who did not respond to the survey. In addition, the consultant did not send the surveys out to the housing projects because these facilities should really be surveyed in person. Several departments volunteered to work at a lower capacity and have volunteered an employee. The Water and Sewer Department – both of the employees are doing surveys (and once that is done will start on the water meter replacement for the 2 mobile home parks).

It is important that people complete the survey. Right now, the Town of Pittsfield based on the last Census is not eligible for water and sewer improvement funding. We need to prove that we do not have the capacity to pay for these improvements and to do this, we need to determine the exact

income level of the entire community and then road by road. We do not have a choice. If we do not get enough surveys back we either will not fix the system or the user fees will increase a lot (and perhaps property taxes will need to go to the system too).

If people still have their surveys, please complete it and send it in. It will save a trip to your house and save the town money and time and save you time.

Grants Update:

New Grants:

Airport Grants: Design Engineering for Apron Reconstruction: The Design work was completed earlier this year. After I get all the bills, we will file for reimbursement. This project was rushed in order to apply for the early grant round in February.

Airport Grants: Apron Reconstruction Grant Application: The grant application was filed for \$1.2 million dollars by the deadline and we received the grant. Special Council Meeting was held on March 02, 2009 to accept the funds. The grant paperwork was filed on time. Waiting for the signed agreement so we can decide on a contractor and move forward. I have filed for approval to hire the engineer and am waiting for a response from MDOT and the FAA. So we are on hold until we receive the signed grant application and approval to hire the engineer to proceed forward.

Brownfields Grant: Clean-up Grant for Eelwier (now know as 8 Mount Road): We submitted a former grant request to EPA for an additional \$70,000 to remove the building as an option to removing it ourselves over the next couple of years. EPA instructed the Town to file the revised grant application as soon as possible and the paperwork was filed 3 weeks ago. EPA called about the 2nd grant application so I know they are processing it. We were also contacted by another division of the agency unrelated to this that we were chosen for a special review that will take up a lot of our time.

CDBG Grant/Public Facilities/Historic Preservation/Library: We are still in the process of completing the close-out documents. We received the last change order from Nickerson & O'Day for the project completed in November last week and submitted it for payment.

FEMA Reimbursements: 04/28 – 05/14/2008: Still waiting for paperwork and final State match.

L&W Conservation Fund: Swimming Pool Essential Components: The low bidder for the 2 recycled plastic picnic tables was Bard. The tables are expected in a month. We will then expend the funds and close out the grant. I would plan to submit 1 reimbursement. Needs to be done and closed by April-June in order to apply for another grant. The next grant would be to focus on Hathorn Park Basketball/Baseball Field. Have contacted the Recreation Director and the Bureau of Conservation to discuss this opportunity. A citizen asked for night lighting at the Hathorn Basketball court. We received estimates for that and found the cost to be a lot. This is one of the items for the grant opportunity. The next L&W Conservation Fund Grant application is due at the end of August 2009.

Renewable Energy Grant: The Town just received the signed and encumbered grant application back so we can schedule this for the next Council Meeting to hire a contractor.

Riverfront Community Development Grant: The Building Inspector worked on this continuously for a long time. I am now working on it. I have received back 11 of the 22 responses from the state and federal agencies. The Federal Floodplain Approval process began with the first notice in the paper that we will be working with .03 of 1 acre (at the most of the 1.3 acres of the entire Pinnacle Site that fall in the floodplain). Anyone who has a comment on this can submit the comments to the Town through 04/20/2009. Site Plan Review is scheduled for the April 13, 2009 Planning Board Meeting.

Safe Routes to School, Phase II: Approved to go with the Pre-Construction Meeting with MDOT scheduled for this Thursday, 04/09/2009.

Pending Grants:

CDBG Grant/Business Assistance: Moosehead Cedar Log Homes: Grant opened back up, Town has acquired all signatures on the paperwork for the Accts. Rec. and has paid all 3 subs of the sub of the general contractor who were not paid.

Other Grant Opportunities:

Economic Development Administration Grant Application: I had been updating the Council on how I had a meeting with the EDA, reapplied for the pre-application and was still working on this project. Right now, there are no Industrial park lots for projects except for the tiny footprint on the corner lot across from Land Air Express. The Town sold all the other lots and buildings or businesses have been placed on the lots owned by the Town with TIFS/Long-term Lease-Purchase Options. The Pittsfield Industrial Park Addition, which is 6 lots, to be accessed off Industrial Park Drive or by Scrub A Dub where we have a ROW, is estimated at \$1,060,430. The Town would be eligible for 75% of the project or \$795,323. We would need to obtain a match of 25% or \$265,107 which we did through reallocation of former grant funds that were loaned to a business and paid back to the Town. Our application is being reviewed by the federal government.

Also mentioned:

The Fire Department is interested in applying for a fire grant for a new aerial truck and for a new fire station. I thought that the Council should be apprised that the Fire Department was looking to apply for those items in addition to putting together the review process for a new truck to be considered under the Capital Improvement Plan.

The Water/Sewer Department is working with other departments on an outside generator that could be transportable to where it is needed. At this time, there does not appear to be a match according to the Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent, however, I have asked him to verify this in writing

8. **REPORTS:** Audience, Council

Audience:

Sharon Mack: Noted she was addressing the Council as a Pittsfield resident, not in the capacity of a news reporter. I am a lead person in a community art project. I came up with this idea and went to Walpole with hat in hand and asked for chairs. They graciously donated 10 Adirondack chairs. A local man Joe MacIntire makes these chairs in his garage. He also donated 3 chairs. Walpole also offered to sell their chairs to local businesses that wanted to participate at their cost. Sometex has purchased two. We now have 15 chairs and 13 artist signed on. The project is called get comfortable in Pittsfield. The artist will decorate the chairs in whatever fashion they choose by some of the extraordinary artists in the local area. They will then be sealed to be weather resistant and placed around Town at places like the Library, the Town Office and businesses. The places participating would agree to bring them in at night for security reasons. We are hoping to have them out by Mid-June. Then at the end of the summer we would like to give them to the Town. The Town could then have a silent action, sell them for fundraising, put them out next year. They would become a gift to the Town of Pittsfield.

Some of the local artists participating so far are Hazel Mitchell, Renatta Carabello, Connie LaGross, Jim Hammond, the art teacher from both Vickery and MCI and of course our own, Sharon Mack. This is Sharon's way of giving back to the community.

Donnie Hallenbeck: Stated the Theatre Committee is having trouble getting Committee members to attend the meetings. Decisions cannot be made without a quorum of Committee members. Also noted that the Theatre will be losing a total of 25 seats. Donnie feels this will cause a great loss in revenue for each seat lost. Donnie suggested that Council members visit the Theatre to see the progress.

The Mayor noted that there really are no options for not having the loss of the seats. Donnie noted the building needs major renovations but there is no funding for it. Taking the second story off the building decades ago was not a good idea, whoever made that choice. The Town Manager noted Bowman Brothers are doing a good job. We were aware there would be a loss of seats but we wanted to save the Theatre instead of leaving it closed. The Town Manager also noted the Fundrasing Committee would be having many upcoming fundraisers that will help with renovations.

Council:

Councilor Baker: Glad to see the Theatre will be opening. Councilor Baker noted she would like to visit the Theatre to see the progress. Councilor Baker also thanked Sharon for her idea of the Adirondack chairs. This is a wonderful idea. In Belfast they do a project like this with bears and then auction them off. This could also be a possibility of what we do with the chairs. Councilor Baker noted she has been watching all the work done on the Pinnacle on the MCI channel. She didn't realize how involved Councilor Jordan was with the project. It is a lot of work and wanted to express her gratitude to him. It will be a great asset to the Town when it is all finished. Councilor Baker noted she would like everyone to find time to watch the MCI channel if possible. She has learned many things from the many programs the students have put together.

Councilor Carr: Councilor Carr also wanted to thank Sharon for her Adirondack chair idea.

Councilor Chale: Noted she was very impressed by the fundraising the Pool Committee has done. To come within \$10,000 of funds needed is amazing. Thrilled to see the Theatre is opening, it is too bad we will loose seats. As a schoolteacher I can tell you the kids want that Theatre open. Wanted to note that the Town did a great job sweeping the streets. It is wonderful to hear we are having a community art project. Thrilled to hear the Library bid will be going out on National Library Week.

Deputy Mayor Jordan: Questioned if the sweeping is completely done in Town. The Town Manager noted that we would be going out with our sweeper, but we could never get all the streets done in a week, even with the rented sweeper. We will do a chart to track everything out when done sweeping to see if the renting the sweeper is beneficial. Deputy Mayor Jordan noted starting in May we will be starting work again on the Pinnacle. We will be cleaning up and cutting wood again and then we will have some events for the kids. The goal is to do one a month.

Councilor Curtis: No Report.

Councilor Fotter: Councilor Fotter noted that the Town Crew swept Hartland Avenue and did a good job, but questions if the rental was cost effective. It was still necessary to have a truck that follows behind to dump the sweeper, and if it is not raining a water truck is necessary. This would add a third truck. This uses more fuel and more manpower. We need to compare if this was really cost effective. The Town Manager noted that this project was approved to see if it would be more cost effective or not. Once the sweeping is completed and the charting is done, we will be able to see. Councilor Fotter also stated he spoke to a member of the Pool Committee and they said the pool requires 4 pumps running 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Councilor Fotter would like to see if there is a way to shut these off or perhaps use 2 at a time. The Town Manager noted the design of the pool requires all the pumps, but although the electric bill may be higher, we are saving on chemicals we used to use when there was little circulation and water leakage. It is more efficient and safer. Wanted to thank Sharon for the Adirondack chair project. It will be great for the Town.

Mayor Nichols: Wanted to thank Sharon for her Adirondack chair program. It will be very appreciated. I would like to encourage the Theater Committee to do what they can when members are unable to attend. It is too bad we lost seats in the Theatre – but people want it open. Hopefully what we lost in seats we can gain in attendance. The pool opening is coming up, which is exciting. The library is also coming right along, which is great.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that the meeting be adjourned at 9:21 p.m. All in agreement.

Nicole Nickolan, Town Clerk