

MINUTES

For a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council held on Tuesday, May 6, 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:** Also present were Town Manager Kathryn Ruth and Town Clerk Nicole Nickolan. Audience members included: Donnie Hallenbeck, Sharon Mack, Valory Slymon, Clem Spencer, Gabriel Hikel, Una May Lord, Bette Bagley, Lancy Bradshaw, Connie Thies, Angel Freeman, Ted Holmes, Jacob Reifschneider, Rosalie Williams, Bob Downs, Dean Springer, Mike Dugas, Kris Bridges, D. Jeanne Boisvert, Jane Woodruff, Don Woodruff, Beverly Rollins, Lyn Smith, William Bradshaw, Barbara Jones, Mary Parsons, Sumner Jones, Carolyn Cianchette, Mike Gallagher, Doug Frati, Walter Reuter, and Paul Lord Jr.

1. **Mayor Nichols** opened the meeting by leading the **Pledge of Allegiance**.
2. **Adoption of Minutes** of the Regular Meeting on April 15, 2008.

Moved by **Councilor Gray** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on April 15, 2008 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

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

Presentation on Economic and Community Development Initiatives:

Upcoming Regional Job Fair: This is definitely a big event for the region coming up in less than two weeks. The Regional Job Fair - Pittsfield Area is scheduled for Monday, May 19, 2008 from 3:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Warsaw Middle School Gym and Cafeteria.

Job Seekers: Need Help Finding a Job? Make sure to attend to meet Employers & Staffing agencies from the region looking to hire. Event is free. Meet face-to-face with numerous employers & agencies. No registration required – just drop by. Stay as little or as long as you want. Attend workshops. Meet with resource providers and obtain valuable information.

Employers: This is a great opportunity for employers looking for employees. Registration form available at www.pittsfield.org. Ability to interact with prospective employees, receive resumes and applications. Great opportunity to recruit from a large pool.

For employers and staffing agencies registered to date: 22 In alpha order: Allies, Inc., Avon Independent Sales Representatives; At Work Personnel; Bonney Staffing Center; Bud's Shop ' N Save; Cianbro; CM Almy & Son; Family Dollar Store; GCS; Kleinschmidt Associates; Maine Department of Corrections; MaineGeneral Health;

Maine Staffing Group; Manpower; OHI; Pride Manufacturing; SKILLS, Inc.; T-Mobile; Time Warner Cable; US Army; US Navy; and Wal-Mart.

Now, several of the staffing agencies are hiring for some of the major businesses and corporations in the area so we have a lot more than 22 employers represented.

The jobs that the companies and staffing agencies will be recruiting for are: Woodworkers, Laborers, Job Coaches, Customer Service Representatives; Manufacturing and Assembly Labor; Construction and Landscaping Labor; Flagging Personnel; Production; Warehouse; Manufacturing; Construction; Office; General Construction Trades; Stitchers; Cutters; Machinists; Medical; Administrative; Independent Sales Representatives; Military; Civil/Hydraulic/ Structural Engineers; Installation & Repair Technicians; Broadband Technical Support; Associates; Managers and Assistant Managers; Season garden center sales, cashiers and greeters; various permanent and part-time employees in a store; etc.

There will be two free informational sessions - Starting Your Small Business at 4:00 p.m. presented by Janet Roderick, Certified Business Counselor from the Maine Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Is College for You? at 5:00 p.m. presented by Marty Kelley, Advisor with the Maine Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC).

Registration for employers/businesses who want to recruit at the Job Fair and for resource providers who want to provide information and meet with people and businesses was Friday, May 02, 2008. We still have a little room. If any businesses want to sign up now, please call as soon as possible because once the floor plan is done, we can not add anyone else.

We are also seeking a few non-profit groups that are raising money for their projects to sell refreshments at the event. There will be space for refreshments in the cafeteria. Employers and some potential employees will be there for several hours as the event goes from 3:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. We had offered this to several town groups raising money for their causes, but so far, only one has taken up the offer. So any non-profits in town, churches, etc. who would like to sell bake goods, water, sodas, etc. this is your chance. Contact Kathryn at the Town Office at 487-3136.

Other Economic Development Projects:

Somerset County Transition Team: This is a great group of resource, providers, state and federal representatives, U.S. congressional delegation representatives and others who came together as a result of the announced SAS closing, however, are now formed to assist all of Somerset County. The Resource Guide put together by the group is very helpful and will soon appear on the Town's website. The group's purpose is to identify and coordinate all of the resources that would be available to those who have lost their jobs in Somerset County. The Resource guide includes references to important numbers, business development, children & family services, clothing & housewares, education services, employment & training services, financial information & assistance, housing & shelter and so forth. The group is working on the Job Fair and other items that come to its attention. The group usually meets in the Town Council Chambers and will be meeting on a periodical basis after its initial purpose is fulfilled.

Community & Economic Development Initiatives:

The Town was awarded the Brownfields Grant for Clean-up of the Eelwier Road property which was astonishing given how many applications were received. We have received our initial paperwork and a disk of forms so that we can file on-line to reserve the funds. The actual grant period starts October 01, 2008, however, we need to submit a work plan to the EPA by September 2008.

The Pittsfield Economic Expansion Corporation will need to come together and monitor the project. Once the contaminants are removed, the property can be sold right off if we can obtain a buyer or we can apply for further grant funding to take it down or just take it down as a department project during a summer. Some of it may be able to then be burned. Some of the neighbors were very pleased to hear that we had received the award. This property has been a detriment to the Town and that particular neighborhood for years.

We are working full speed ahead on the Pittsfield Municipal Airport Apron Engineering project. This year is the engineering of the apron with next year slated for the construction. The apron is the area that the planes come off the runway to get to the fuel, the area that is access to the runway from all the hangers and there is an area for tie-downs for planes. Due to seriously deteriorated condition, the apron really needs to be reconstructed. The apron allows the planes to go from the runway to the fueling depot; airplanes use the apron to get from the hangers to the runway; and the tie-downs are on the grassy shoulder by the apron. An apron is an important part of any airport. With engineering in 2008-2009, the apron is scheduled for reconstruction in 2009-2010 due to its deteriorated condition.

Mill Pond Loop Walk Map: We are looking for comments on the Mill Pond Loop Walking Trail Map before we finalize it and run off colored copies. Comments should be submitted by May 19, 2008 for inclusion. This was part of a match for the Project Canopy grant but also is a good community development tool. The benefits of the walk are listed on the map. It is good to remind people of what is in their backyard, i.e., right here in our community. The parks are beautiful and there is a lot of scenery and wildlife to enjoy right in the center of a business district.

We knew that we had planted a significant number of trees since 2004 when we received the first grant opportunity for our parks. The number of trees, though, is amazing. In addition, the Town has planted smaller stock through our events and ceremonies celebrating Earth Day and Arbor Day.

These are the following Grants and the leveraged donations, in-kind work and value from the community, businesses, individuals, and staff:

	State/federal funds	Community Investment
Community Gateway	\$ 8,780.57	\$ 6,972.12
Stein Park	\$13,382.70	\$13,382.70
Project Canopy	\$ 4,292.20	\$ 5,994.17

Project Canopy II \$ 3,872.72 \$ 9,150.55

Fendler Park \$49,885.44 \$146,051.07

Total state/federal funds for the Hathorn Park, Stein Park, Remembrance Park and Fendler Park: \$80,213.63.

Total Community Investment of donations, donated time, in-kind donations, staff time, etc. \$181,550.61.

Total Investment that would not have happened without the grants: \$261,764.24.

State and federal funding is very valuable as it stimulates the community and economic development of a Town and often leverages funds/efforts that would most likely not take place. This does not include our arbor and earth day plantings and citizen donations nor the Swimming Pool project under development. The Mill Pond Loop is a very attractive walk and we hope that people enjoy it!

Presentation on Safe Routes to School Project:

The Town Council has received copies of the preliminary plan that has been submitted to the MDOT. Copies are available this evening for the public.

This is the Town's second Safe Routes to School Project. Two major schools service a majority of the elementary school population and the entire middle-school population. The school complex is located off busy arterial streets that are accessed through what one would call a residential subdivision through School and Henry Streets. Henry Street was renamed as part of the E-911 Addressing project last year so the entire school complex is located off School Street. This area is extremely congested from the beginning of the school day until the schools close in late afternoon. Athletic, extra-curricular activities and community gatherings increase the congestion during off-school ours including weekend activities.

The Town and SAD #53 were fortunate to receive a first Safe Routes to School Project in which a sidewalk was constructed along the former Henry Street from Warsaw School Gym to Hartland Avenue and a section of sidewalk was reconstructed and extended along School Street coming in from Somerset Avenue. This helped with the congestion by getting the children out of the road and the shoulder onto an actual sidewalk.

The new project that the Town and SAD #53 have been approved to go forward on this year focuses on the area between Warsaw and Vickery Schools. The proposed sidewalk will be located in the center of the Warsaw and Vickery Schools Complex at the intersection of what used to be Henry Street and School Street. A cross walk will be painted from the edge of the new sidewalk at the Warsaw School Gym across the road to the new athletic fields. The sidewalk will follow the road next to the new athletic fields and playground to the paved area by Vickery School.

This is 476' of 5' wide sidewalk construction and 1 crosswalk. This will allow for continuous walking of students and adults in an area that is off the road and/pick-up/drop off areas. There will be an option for a curb in case the bid pricing will allow this. The sidewalk will have a 1' base of gravel and 2.5" of bituminous pavement.

Because this is a grant project, it is bid separately from the Town's other work and has a lot of additional federal and state requirements. If there are any questions or comments on the project, we can take them over the next few days.

Presentation on School Reorganization/Consolidation and upcoming Referendum to be scheduled for June 10, 2008:

Mike Gallagher, SAD 53 & 59 Director, gave a brief presentation on the Reorganization/Consolidation.

This reorganization was presented as more of an administrative consolidation than a school consolidation. It was decided that proposals would be sent to districts that SAD 53 would be interested in consolidating with. A proposal with SAD 48 was rejected. We had one proposal that was accepted by the DOE. This was with SAD 59. Each Town requested to maintain their own high school. The (15) member School Board will consist of (3) members from both Pittsfield and Madison, (2) members from Detroit, Burnham, Athens and Starks, and (1) member from Brighton Plantation. The members will have votes that are weighted based on population. There is a plan to eventually have one central office that services both of the current districts. The new RSU members will hopefully be elected to office at the November 2008 election. If both districts do not approve the RSU plan, the State will enforce some heavy penalties on the district that does not vote it in. These penalties freeze funding at the percent that it is currently at this year until the district reorganizes with another district. Robert Downs added that we are already saving money by having consolidated to one superintendent. Mr. Downs also added that community support is important because the penalties would be harsh and would make it difficult to carry on as a singular district.

Sumner Jones questioned if Madison would have a choice to let children come to MCI. Mike Gallagher stated that option was built into the plan for both districts to use. Madison has a K-8 transfer policy currently.

Walter Reuter questioned where the centralized office would be. Mr. Gallagher stated that decision has not been made. There is a large mileage distance between the two towns. Mr. Reuter also stated he has been hearing this consolidation is not saving money as planned. Mike Gallagher stated that while we are not going to save a lot of money, we would save some. By having consolidated to one superintendent position for both districts we are already condensing expenses. Once a centralized location is determined the office staff will also be consolidated. Athens has been mentioned as a possible central location. It is being researched, as we do not want to cause additional expenses to the town chosen. Two smaller buildings may be kept for the time being between the two towns.

Mr. Gallagher mentioned the Council would be invited to an RSVP dinner meeting at Madison High School in two weeks. The invitations will be sent shortly and encourage everyone to attend.

Mike Gray encouraged everyone to attend the Budget Meeting tomorrow at Warsaw School at 6:30 pm.

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

- a. **ORDINANCE 08-11:** (Public Hearing) That the Town Council hereby ordains to hold a Public Hearing on May 06, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pittsfield Municipal Building Council Chambers at 112 Somerset Avenue to discuss an application being submitted to the State of Maine CDBG program for the Municipal Investment Trust Fund Program. The purpose of the grant application is to construct the Pittsfield Public Library Expansion to promote community and economic development. The objectives of the grant application are to (1) add a center for community and economic activity; (2) relieve extensive overcrowding and allow for expanded children and young adults areas; and (3) ensure access for everyone through the construction of a new entrance and a new elevator. Public comments will be solicited at this Hearing and will be submitted as part of the application. All persons wishing to make comments or ask questions about the grant application 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.

There were many people who wished to speak in favor of this Ordinance. Their comments follow below:

Rosalie Williams: The new library will be a beautiful building with beautiful landscaping set right next to our downtown area. If I was driving through town and looked at the library I would say I would like to live in this town. They value their culture. They value learning. The new library will make people want to come to our town.

Mrs. Williams also mentioned that area businesses have been using our local churches for meeting space. This expansion will allow for a common meeting space to be used by all and will be available even when the library is closed. This will be an economic boost for our town. Rosalie thanked Kathryn Ruth for all her help with the grant.

Valory Slymon reading statement for Ann McGowan, Capital Campaign Chair for the Pittsfield Public Library Building Project: For the past four and a half years a team of volunteers, joined by hundreds of townspeople have been raising funds and developing plans to bring our historic Carnegie library into the 21st Century. The plans include a sorely needed 3,600 square foot expansion.

During this process, however; our estimated costs have soared. Thus, it is imperative that we get this project going and done before there is another increase. Approval of our request for this \$250,000 MITF grant would assure that would happen.

Meanwhile, on a daily basis, our library staff faces significant challenges. They cope with the bustle of a very busy and growing 2008 operation housed in an extremely overcrowded and inefficient 1904 building,

People room is at a premium. There are no quiet corners left for researching or reading. Aisles have been narrowed by the inclusion of large-print books, as well as video and audio offerings. Desks and heavily-used computers are crowded into the library entrance and rotunda to accommodate staff and Internet users. Bookshelves hide handsome fireplaces. And, because both the adults' and children's wings are overflowing, it is hard to add to the collections without discarding older, but still useful material.

Funds for a complete restoration of the building have already been set aside and work is expected to be completed in October 2008. Our plans are to move directly from the restoration into the new construction of the expansion.

Fundraising for this expansion is on-going. Another grant request for \$50,000 went out yesterday. Over the weekend, Library Trustees netted \$ 1,073 from a book sale. Later this month, a designer clothing sale will be held downtown with 20% of the proceeds going to the fund. A food sale is planned in conjunction with an upcoming job fair.

A team, including both our town manager and library director, the chair of the building committee, and members of the capital campaign committee, have readied this grant application.

It is a wonderful opportunity that would make an enormous difference for this effort and for the people in our rural area of Somerset County.

Barbara Jones: Our Library is an historic landmark that has needed renovations for quite some time. It has been six years since a group of us began looking into plans for that renovation and by 2004, on its 100th anniversary began a fund-raising campaign in earnest to accomplish that task. We have also aroused much more interest in, and use of, the library since that time, as monthly reports from the Librarian will show.

Every possible avenue to grants from foundations and other donors as well as various activities here in town to raise funds have been tried and pretty much exhausted. Each year the cost of materials for doing the renovation have risen. Nevertheless, we have succeeded in reaching a million dollar goal and more. And it is crucial to the success of these endeavors so far, that we receive this final grant to bring our library into the 21st century and to make it one of the most efficient and up-to-date in the area, at the same time retaining its historic significance here in Pittsfield.

Lancy Bradshaw, Chair, Trustees Pittsfield Library: A renovated and expanded library will serve regular patrons in a better way and will also attract a new clientele-business people, researchers, job seekers and visitors who need up-to-date technology and Internet access; a comfortable and uncluttered meeting space and additional print resources. The new Pittsfield Public Library will symbolize the town's vitality and will strongly appeal to businesses and families who are considering locating in Pittsfield. The library is a

"destination" for citizens and business people and a tool for economic development.

Bette Bagley, Library Trustee, reading for Donna Laux: The library is especially busy in the afternoon. It is filled with teens and the reference room becomes so crowded that it is hard to navigate around the table.

When my grandchildren are with us, we often visit the library and, while the children's room is packed with wonderful books, it's hard to find specific titles due to the overcrowding.

During the summer, I witnessed a traveler coming in to use his laptop. However, he couldn't find a seat upstairs.

Don Woodruff: Not too many years ago the Pittsfield Library was a collection of printed material made available to several communities in central Maine. In a relatively short period of time the Library has taken on many varied new endeavors in service to these communities.

It is the gateway to the Internet for many patrons: youth and adults. It has expanded the media it catalogs from primarily printed hard copies to digital tapes, videos, and compact disks. They have partnered with other facilities using Minerva online catalog allowing all of us access to the media available around the state.

This has all happened in a facility designed and built prior to the advent of electric lighting. With the expanding role in information technology the library needs to make the facility more user friendly and accessible by all who want to enjoy its services. The computer workstations have been placed in the common areas and have changed the very atmosphere of the library. Each new media has competed with a very limited space to catalog items. The Library needs to expand the facility to meet the new direction the board and staff have correctly followed.

The Library is a fantastic resource and more and more people are becoming aware of what it has to offer and the diversity of the media made available free to the patrons. So many people have supported the building program and we need to close the remaining gap and build us a resource now that we have lights.

Jane Woodruff: There is something wonderful about stepping back in time. Walking into a building that has in many ways been untouched by the passage of years casts one immediately back to childhood. Some changes have occurred. In the main vestibule where the once white interior-dome now engages one's attention with Tim Sample's "Gateway to the Imagination", there are computer stations, which line the perimeters of any available space. The now painted pine paneled community room where scouting was once held now is crowded with volumes of books.

And so the horrible thing about stepping into this wonderfully familiar place is that it is now overcrowded, lacks appropriate ventilation, and has an elevator system that won't accommodate all wheelchairs. It has had many accommodations to "make do" with the space and resources available, and it looks it. We can do better than that.

Valory Slymon: I am the president of the Pittsfield Arts Club, which is a General/Maine Federation of Women's Club. We have supported the Library Building Project from the beginning by cleaning the library, soliciting funds, and we have had a few fundraisers over the last couple years. We have seen the Library Building Committee work patiently and tirelessly. We believe that this Expansion is vital to our community and is imperative for the future of our children. An excellent library contributes to the education and growth of our work force, which will be key in attracting more companies to relocate in our area. We look forward to this project moving along and have great hopes for this grant. Thank you.

Lyn Smith, Pittsfield Public Library Director: I support the town's application for the Municipal Investment Trust Fund Program Grant for expansion of the Pittsfield Public Library.

This is a very active public library. The use of the library has been growing. I have seen double digit increases in circulation of library materials in recent years. We need more shelf space for library materials. Computer use has risen as a result of people of all ages using them for communication, research, job-hunting, and schooling. We need more space for computer workstations and for people to use notebook computers. There is a need for a functional community meeting space for community groups and for library programs.

The library is a valuable asset to the community. This grant is necessary for the expansion of the library so it can continue to serve the growing needs of the community.

Connie Thies: I took our granddaughter to the story hour along with another little girl for two years. At that time I also helped with the story hour-preparing material for the crafts and providing food for special occasions. The room where we met was not big enough to handle all the children. In the summer and during school vacations there were times when all the children couldn't fit into the room. The plans for the children's room will greatly improve the ability to have more room and a better set up for activities. It will also have room for supplies.

Our other three grandchildren also use the library. One of them likes to go to the library and find a quiet corner where she can read. At the present time there isn't any space for reading that is quiet.

I have been supporting the library through fund raising with the Arts Club. Helping the fund raising committee and also making personal donations.

This grant would greatly help with the expansion. Our library is used by many people in Pittsfield and the surrounding towns. I met many parents from out of town who brought their children and grandchildren to the story hour.

Jacob Reifschneider: My wife, children and I have used this library for over fifty years. The staff is enjoyable and helpful. I am interested in mysteries; my wife likes historical and international novels. The library needs more room, more open spaces.

Gabriel Hikel: I have used the Pittsfield Library for 52 years. It is a cultural center. I would like to see the current programs expand. The staff does an exceptional job of

having programs for young and old alike.

Mike Dugas: I have a couple of children that use the library. I feel this is a good project. They have done a wonderful job raising money publicly and privately. I would like to see this go through as soon as possible as construction cost are continuing to rise.

Mary Parsons: Our library has a wonderful children's section and the library staff does a wonderful job, but it is so crowded. I see children asking their parents to go to the library. Our children love to come to the library. The children and future patrons thank Kathryn Ruth for her help in getting these grants for them.

Doug Frati, Chair, Building Committee: Has spent the last few weeks trying to put together what we needed to submit this grant. Even if the Council approves this tonight, it is not a guarantee we will get the grant. We have raised a large amount of money. Greg Patterson has pledged a yearly grant for help with maintenance of the library. We will be moving forward with the renovations but it would be nice to have this as a separate project. Everyone is in agreement, if we could get this grant, it would be a good thing.

Donnie Hallenbeck: I am an avid library user. I go everyday they are open. Over the past thirty years I have seen the library shrink in size. For instance, the upstairs bathroom used to be a study area. A community room at the library would take some of the burden off the Town Office building rooms that are sometimes so busy they cannot accommodate all the associations that would like meeting spaces. The library is crowded and needs more space and open worktables for its patrons.

Paul Lord Jr.: I have gone to the library for many years. I remember the wonder walking up the steps when I was a kid. I have seen the library shrink, and its not because I have gotten bigger. Our population is growing and we are in need of a bigger library. I believe expansion is necessary and the sooner the better with the current prices in our economy continuously rising.

Walter Reuter: My wife and I are originally from away. We have been in town for 5 years. When we first arrived in Pittsfield we fell in love with it. I remember we were shocked by how tiny the library was for this town based on some of the other very nice features of the town such as MCI. Most libraries I have visited are twice the size of this library. I am trilled about this expansion. My children are home schooled and the library is a well-used facility by our family.

William M. Bradshaw: I have listened to what everyone has said and they all make very good points. There are many people who are very serious about this project. The thing about Pittsfield is we take what we have and make it better and maintain it. This building is a gem that cannot be replicated. The Town is desperately in need of a community center and the meeting room at the library would help that situation.

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 Ordinance 08-11 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Municipal Investment Trust Fund has not been offered for a number of years and so we are fortunate that funding has been provided for grant applications this year. It has come along at a crucial time for the Library Project. The restoration is on-going and will be completed later this year. The restoration project stands as a separate project on its own. The Library Addition has been planned and fundraising has been underway for many years. There has been amazing support of the project and equally amazing donations of cash, pledges, grant awards, foundation funds, and state grant funding.

The Municipal Investment Trust Fund's goal is to act as an incentive for towns to supplement programs that:

1. Are part of a long range community strategy;
2. Minimize development sprawl consistent with the State of Maine Growth Management Act;
3. Support the revitalization of downtowns;
4. Foster partnerships and encourage social and financial investments between groups of municipalities, state and federal entities, public and private development organizations to address common community and economic development needs; and
5. Improve local economic conditions.

The competition for the \$1.5 million dollars will be extensive. The grant application for the Library Addition is for a project, which contributes to all of the goals of the Municipal Investment Trust Fund.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

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

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 05/06/2008:

1. Egg Festival Committee: The Egg Festival Committee is geared up for a great event this year. Officers are Steve Craig, President & Chair; Lori Barker, Vice-President & Contact person; Eva Charity, Treasurer, and Tonja Metivier, Secretary. The Town's website has information on the website and for additional details as well as registration forms for the pageant and the marketplace, got to <http://eggfest.craftah.com/>

2. GE Security 1st Annual 5K Run/Walk: Read announcement

3. MDOT Preliminary Public Meeting: Neal Bridge: The State MDOT held its Preliminary Public Meeting on Wednesday, 04/30/2008 to discuss the replacement of the Neal Bridge. MDOT wants to close down Route #100 to traffic for the installation of the new bridge to save construction costs and to put in a new composite material. UMO is working on the project with MDOT. Low flow time is July 15 – September 30 of the year, so MDOT would like to implement the project at that time. More than 20 people attended the public meeting to voice concerns over traffic and the funneling of all of the traffic onto one road. After discussions, ideas came out about breaking up the detoured traffic onto three sets of roads – state roads for the heavy truck traffic, one south-bound

route for regular vehicles and one north-bound route for regular vehicles. This was an idea to be explored. We are to hear back in 2-3 weeks as to how MDOT would like to proceed.

4. SAD #53 Budget Meeting for the 2008-2009 Budget: The Budget meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Warsaw Middle School Gymnasium to vote on the 2008-2009 Budget. The required referendum to vote on whether citizens agree or disagree with the results of the actions taken at the budget meeting will be held the following Monday, May 12, 2008 from 9:00 am – 8:00 pm at the Pittsfield Council Chambers. Under the State law, voting on the school budget is now a two step process so it is important that people are involved with both steps.

5. 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 Sebecook 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.

6. Standard & Poor's General Obligation Bond Rating: The Town's financial situation was ranked by Standard & Poor again this year. For the first time, our bond rating has been increased from the BBB level that we have had for many years to an A-. So the rating on the Town's General Obligation Tax Increment Financing Bonds has been raised reflecting the Town's improved financial position, although the town still relies on midyear tax anticipation notes. The Town's ability to receive considerable grant funding, end of year reserves, financing capital projects as we go and good unreserved fund balances were the reasons for the upgrade along with maintaining a stable economic environment. The report is on file at the Town Office.

Finance Committee: Met tonight with TD Banknorth before the Council meeting. Our trust funds have improved a bit but with the economy in its current state there were not any major gains.

Ordinance Committee: No Report.

Recycling Committee: Met on 04/02/2008. The committee worked on the details of the upcoming energy forum that will take place on 05/14/2008 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Pittsfield Elks Lodge. The keynote speaker will be Richard Fortier who is the Solar Program Manager at the Maine Public Utilities Commission. His presentation will be

on tracking and reducing your energy costs. The committee discussed advertisement ideas for the event and the format of the event.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **RESOLUTION 08-47:** Resolved that the Town Council accept the donation from the Pittsfield Public Library Trustees in the amount of \$13,113.74 from a closed CD at Merrill Bank to be placed in the new Library Trust.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Cianchette** that Resolution 08-47 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- b. **RESOLUTION 08-48:** Resolved that the Town Council accept the proposal of Central Maine Stone Works of Etna, Maine for Roadside Mowing in an amount to not exceed the lump sum figure of \$1,800 for 2008; \$1,800 for 2009; and \$1,800 for 2010 for the rural roads and \$60.00/hour for 2008; \$60.00/hour for 2009; and \$60.00/hour for 2010 for in-town mowing and authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract for same.

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 08-48 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted Howard's withdrew their bid. Central Maine Stoneworks was the next lowest bidder. Central Maine Stoneworks had this contract for the past 3 years and did an excellent job.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- c. **RESOLUTION 08-49:** Resolved that the Town Council adopt the Proclamation for the Mayor to declare May 2008 as Foster Care Awareness Month in Pittsfield.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that Resolution 08-49 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- d. **RESOLUTION 08-50:** Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute the Application for Outdoor Fireworks Display as property owner for the Greater Pittsfield Area Kiwanis for the 2008 Egg Festival to be conducted by Central Maine Pyrotechnics subject to receiving the appropriate insurance certificate naming the Town as additional insured and approval of the FAA.

Moved by **Councilor Cianchete** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 08-50 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- e. **RESOLUTION 08-51:** Resolved that the Town Council approve the Request for Proposals for the 2008 bituminous paving program and authorize the Town Manager and Public Works Foreman to seek proposals for same.

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Gray** that Resolution 08-51 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is the same as in years past. The paving priority list was compiled and is being followed.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- f. **RESOLUTION 08-52:** Resolved that the Town Council approve the Request for Proposals for the Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant for 2008 Asphalt Paving – Swimming Pool Lot and Walkways for the Community Swimming Pool Project Essential Components, Project #23-__ and authorize the Town Manager to seek proposals for same upon approval of the Department of Conservation.

Moved by **Councilor Gray** and seconded by **Councilor Cianchette** that Resolution 08-52 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- g. **RESOLUTION 08-53:** Resolved that the Town Council approve the Request for Proposals for the Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant for 2008 Security Fencing for the Community Swimming Pool Project Essential Components, Project #23-__ and authorize the Town Manager to seek proposals for same upon approval of the Department of Conservation.

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Gray** that Resolution 08-53 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- h. **RESOLUTION 08-54:** Resolved that the Town Council approve the Request for Proposals for the Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant for 2008 Security Lighting for the Community Swimming Pool Project Essential Components, Project #23-__ and authorize the Town Manager to seek proposals for same upon approval of the Department of Conservation.

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Gray** that Resolution 08-54 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- i. **RESOLUTION 08-55:** Resolved that the Town Council approve the Request for Proposals for the Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant for 2008 Picnic Tables for the Community Swimming Pool Project Essential Components, Project #23-__ and authorize the Town Manager to seek proposals for same upon approval of the Department of Conservation.

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 08-55 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- j.* **RESOLUTION 08-56:** Resolved that the Town Council authorize the filing of the Federal Aviation Administration Grant Application for the Pittsfield Municipal Airport for Design to Reconstruct the Apron.

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 08-56 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- k.* **RESOLUTION 08-57:** Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to Execute the Agreement between the Maine Department of Transportation and the Town of Pittsfield regarding a stormwater drainage connection for the Summer Street and Court stormwater drainage system.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Cianchette** that Resolution 08-57 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- l.* **RESOLUTION 08-58:** Resolved that the Town Council approve the Request for Proposals for exterior painting of the Pittsfield Public Library and authorize the Town Manager and Library Director to seek proposals for same.

This Resolution was listed on the agenda; however, the Library has decided to just do maintenance painting now until the construction is completed. The reading of the Resolution can be skipped. As the reading was skipped, this item was passed over. No action taken.

- m.* **RESOLUTION 08-59:** Resolved that the Town Council Sign the Warrant for prosecuting owners of unlicensed dogs, effective 05/07/2008, on which date a \$25 late fee may be charged to all whose names appear on the Warrant.

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Gray** that Resolution 08-59 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- n.* **RESOLUTION 08-60:** Resolved that the Town Council Approve the issuance of a parade permit to the Make-A-Wish Foundation for a fundraising walk on May 29, 2008 at 6:00 pm and waive the permit fees.

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 08-60 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- o.* **RESOLUTION 08-61:** Resolved that the Town Council Appoint Nicole Nickolan as Warden and Emmalee Reed and Cammie Jemery as Deputy Wardens for the May 12, 2008 election.

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that Resolution 08-61 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- p.* **RESOLUTION 08-62:** Resolved that the Town Council Approve the after 4:00 PM opening of the absentee ballots for the May 12, 2008 School Administrative District Budget Referendum Election.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Gray** that Resolution 08-62 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- q.* **RESOLUTION 08-63:** Resolved that the Town Council Approve the Town Manager's appointment for the Recreation Director Position.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that Resolution 08-63 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- r.* **RESOLUTION 08-64:** Resolved that the Town Council Approve the expenditure of \$3,975.00 from the Road Construction Reserve (G/L #1-607-00) for the purchase and installation of guardrail on the Mount Road.

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Gray** that Resolution 08-64 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is guardrail will be just past the chicken barn on the right. It has been discovered there is a drop into the water if someone was to go off the road. **Councilor Cianchette** questioned if the State will foot the bill if a larger guardrail is needed due to funneling traffic for the upcoming Neal Bridge replacement. The Town Manager stated this is being looked into by the Public Works Foreman.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- s.* **RESOLUTION 08-65:** 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 Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Gray** that Resolution 08-65 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

7. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Financial As Listed Below:

- A. Financial Reports as of 03/31/2008:
- Budget Expenditure Report
 - Revenue Collections Report
 - Tax Acquired Property Report
 - Economic Development Revolving Loan Update
 - Housing Revolving Loan Update
 - Transfer Station/Recycling Monthly Report
 - Theatre Monthly Report
 - Personal Property Tax Report
 - Real Estate Property Tax Collection
- Briefly reviewed by Town Manager**
- B. Other Reports as of 03/31/2008:
- Building and Plumbing Permit Reports
 - Library Report – Librarian’s and Library Trustees Minutes
 - Police Report
- Self-explanatory – not reviewed**

8. **REPORTS:** Audience, Council

Audience: Donnie Hallenbeck mentioned that people at his apartment building are not recycling properly. There are some new tenants that may not know the rules. Suggested that the recycling law be sent to apartment building manager.

Paul Lord Jr. stated he was looking to buy the property currently owned by Eleanor Whitman. The only roadblock is the deed. He came into the office today and paid the water & sewer and taxes. He stated he was advised the process would take place over two Council meetings. He would like to receive the quitclaim deed before the meetings are held. Mr. Lord stated we could always revoke the quitclaim deed if there was a problem. He stated Eleanor needs the money from the house sale to purchase a new home. The Mayor advised Mr. Lord that per Town Charter, there are certain rules that need to be followed. It must go through the two Council meetings to meet legal requirements.

Council:

Councilor Baker: It was great to see everyone here tonight. Would like to see that many people attend the meeting more often.

Councilor Cianchette: Good to see all the people in the audience. Wanted to mention that he was notified of an issue recently of no trashcans on Main Street and the alley between Main Street and the parking lot. Councilor Cianchette was concerned because the kids walking in Town for lunch have no way of disposing of trash. The Town Manager stated there is a trashcan there. She will look into this issue.

Councilor Chale: Thrilled so many people were here tonight for the grant. Thank you to Kathryn for all her help. Congrats on the Town's updated rating to A-.

Councilor Jordan: Wanted to say good job to Kathryn on getting all the grants. It was nice to see a large turnout for the Council meeting. Mentioned the Pinnacle is still being worked on. On May 18th from 10-4 pm we will be cleaning underbrush and looking at the possibility of cutting some new trails. We hope to have some summer events this year.

Councilor Gray: Would like to echo what everyone said regarding the number of attendants at the meeting tonight.

Deputy Mayor Fotter: Glad to hear all the conversations on what is happening with the Library. Everyone is really working as a team.

Mayor Nichols: Good to see all the participation at the meeting tonight. Wanted to thank the audience for coming tonight. There is no guarantee we will get the Library grant – but we have a good chance. Wanted to thank Kathryn and all the Town employees. They do a great job and we are lucky to have them.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Gray** that the meeting be adjourned at 9:35 p.m. All in agreement.

Nicole Nickolan, Town Clerk