

MINUTES

For a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council held on Tuesday, September 1, 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 and Christopher Carr **ABSENT:** Louise Baker Also present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth and Town Clerk Nicole Nickolan. Audience members included: Donnie Hallenbeck, Mike Lange, Michael Godfrey, Dean Billings, Scott Noble 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 August 11, 2009.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Fotter** that the minutes of the regular meeting on August 11, 2009 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

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

Community and Economic Development Activities and Events

Report on Meetings & Events:

Sebasticook Valley Healthy Communities Coalition Leadership Meeting on Tuesday, August 25, 2009: This is a quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors. In addition to getting updates on many summer projects, we also went over MAPP which stands for Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP). This is a strategic approach to Community Health Improvement.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Kennebec-Somerset Transition Team Meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at 9:00 am
Sebasticook Valley Healthy Communities Coalition Annual Retreat on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm at the Newport Cultural Center Business and Energy Forum
on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 from 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm at the Warsaw Middle School Gym & Cafeteria. Notice Read.

The forum will focus on the following:

1. Small business: Starting up a small business & helpful tips for small businesses in existence now - money tips, budgeting, low-cost ways to publicize your business, organizations to join, etc.
2. Green energy and energy efficiency
3. Your business can put out a display at the event to advertise and reach the public

Egg Festival 2010 Organizational Meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 5:30 pm in the Pittsfield Municipal Building Small Conference Room.

To Be Announced:

Wind Turbine Grand Opening is scheduled for Thursday, 09/10/2009 at 12:00 noon at the Recycling Center.

State Revolving Loan Applications available for ARRA funding for 2010 have just been announced. Applications are due on October 16, 2009. The State is receiving significant funding and it appears that the allocation for Maine from the federal government will nearly double their typical allocation. Evidently, the funding is available for both water and sewer projects. We have a number of applications to get ready for this fast approaching deadline.

Certificates of Congratulations to New Businesses:

The Dog House, Washington Street – new location
Sally's Top Hat School of Dance – new location on Main Street
Summer Glaze, Main Street

Thank you to Ryan Fendler d/b/a DRT Company for a generous donation of \$2,500 to support Fendler Park. The new park is an amazing resource for the community and is enjoyed by many individuals. With its view of Mill Pond, the site is not only beautiful but also very relaxing.

Grant Updates:

Riverfront Community Development Bond: The boat launch was completed and erosion control materials placed on it as recommended by DEP. It withstood the rainstorm over the last weekend. The skate park which is for both a skating rink and skateboard park was started. The equipment broke down and has just been fixed for a second time. When the Pinnacle property owned by MCI has gravel removed, the town will receive gravel for the Pinnacle parking lot. We just received permission from the State to utilize our purchasing procedures for small purchases.

L&W Conservation Fund: Hathorn Park Revitalization: Legge's Field & Sports Area, Phase I: The box of grant applications was taken down to the Dept. of Conservation last week and filed on time. We asked for \$25,000 or 50% toward a \$50,000 project. The State had advised that there were over \$1.2 million dollars of projects vying for the small grant pool.

PUC Energy Efficiency Grant Applications: RFPs have not been issued as of yet. We are looking at several town buildings that are not undergoing renovations in which case energy efficiency would be included. The candidates are the Municipal Building, PW Garage, and the Recycling Center/Transfer Station buildings. Everything else is either being renovated or planned to be renovated; is not heated; or is a newer building.

Economic Development Administration Grant Application: Project is still in the running for Phase II of the Pittsfield Industrial Park to add 6 industrial park lots to the Park. The project cost is \$1.1 million with the Town's share at \$220,000 and the EDA Federal share at \$880,000. A 20% match is the lowest match we have ever been eligible for during the last few decades. Usually it is a 50-50% match.

Presentation on the results of the EPA Brownfield Grant Project at the Eelwier Property (10 Mount Road) completed in August 2009

The Eelwier Road site was a small site of approximately .87 acre with a very large building of over 10,000 square feet that was in the process of collapsing. The Town acquired the property through an automatic foreclosure of a tax lien as the company that was there at the time shut down. There had been a variety of businesses at the site – it was retail furniture showroom, tanning bed manufacturer and retailer and finally a printing company.

The Town received two (2) grant approvals from the EPA for a Brownfields Cleanup.

A Brownsfield is a site that is contaminated that can be cleaned up and re-used whether for green space, another business or other use. The grant funding was applied for to clean up the Eelwier site as it was contaminated and we were concerned about the safety of the neighborhood. The Town's intent is to have this property re-developed and used for a productive project. The contamination was centralized on the site and we needed to get the site cleaned up before the contamination spread. In addition, the property was unsightly and the Town had tried a variety of means to get it cleaned up. This project was estimated at \$132,000 with \$110,000 coming from the federal EPA Brownfields program and \$22,000 coming from the Town as its 20% match. The Town's match is mostly in-kind through assistance of staff, use of equipment and other items. To date, the project has come in under budget and when remaining bills are received, is projected to remain under budget.

Currently, there is a difference between the on-site soil testing lab results from the State lab and the off-site other testing from the commercial lab. Once this issue is resolved which may require further testing or not, then we can market the property.

Goals of the Brownfields Program through the Environment Protection Agency (EPA):

- 1. Protecting the Environment:* Addressing brownfields helps to ensure the health and well-being of families and individuals as well as the environment.
- 2. Promoting Partnerships:* Collaborating and communicating are essential to facilitate brownfields cleanup and reuse.
- 3. Strengthening the Marketplace:* Providing financial and technical assistance to bolster the private market.
- 4. Sustaining Reuse:* Redeveloping brownfields will assist in enhancing at town's long-term quality of life.

EPA's Brownfields Program is designed to empower states, towns and stakeholders to work together for economic redevelopment to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and reuse brownfields. It really does work, the Town of Pittsfield's project is an example.

Brownfields projects can creates jobs, revitalize neighborhoods, reduce health risks, and increase property values. These projects can also reduce the development pressure on open land and help with urban sprawl by using up current sites that had previously been developed.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS/OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **ORDINANCE 09-12:** (Public Hearing) The Town of Pittsfield hereby Ordains the amendment of Chapter 6. Offenses – Miscellaneous to add Article 17. Establishment and Enforcement of Designated Safe Zone Areas.

No one wished to speak in favor or against Ordinance 09-12. Public Hearing closed.

Moved by **Councilor Fotter** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** that Ordinance 09-12 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this item was a Councilor suggestion. The State Law now allows for the Town to designate safe zone areas where children would be present. These would be in addition to school zones. I listed out all the major areas where it seemed that children would be present – basically all the recreational facilities in town, which include playgrounds, athletic fields and are designated as parks. I also included the old railroad bed that is utilized by children walking, biking, on ATVs and snowmobiles.

We will need to have some signs made for the town boundaries of the properties listed or the entrance/exit of the location.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- b. **ORDINANCE 09-13:** (Public Hearing) That the Town Council hereby Ordains the following amendments to Chapter 2A, Business Licenses and Permits, Schedule A.

No one wished to speak in favor or against Ordinance 09-13. Public Hearing closed.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Ordinance 09-13 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted every two years, the Town reviews the fees that we have for services and the reimbursement fees that are set. The fees were updated for the first time in 2006, reviewed in 2007 and found to be adequate and now are under review. We have several pages of fees, however, the only ones before you this evening are those which need to be updated. A few fees are part of ordinances and need to be set to public hearing. Most fees can be adjusted by order this evening.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- c. **ORDINANCE 09-14:** (Public Hearing) The Town of Pittsfield hereby Ordains the following amendments to the Building Permit Fee Schedule in Chapter 3. Building Code, Article 4. Permit, Building Permit Fee Schedule:

Demolition Fees

1 to 1000 square feet	\$5.00	<u>\$10.00</u>
1001 to 2500 square feet	\$10.00	<u>\$20.00</u>
2501 square fee and up	\$30.00	<u>\$40.00</u>

No one wished to speak in favor or against Ordinance 09-14. Public Hearing closed.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Ordinance 09-14 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

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

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 09/01/2009:

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

2. New Recreation Manager: Mike Godfrey will manage the Recreation Programs for the Town of Pittsfield starting this week. This is a part-time position and we are going to look at the recreation programs themselves as we move forward. Mike has played sports in the school system and recreation programs throughout his elementary – high school experience here graduating from MCI. Mike currently coaches the JV Girls Basketball Team and assists with the Varsity team. He also coaches the track team at MCI. Mike worked for MSAD#53 last year as a sub. He comes very well recommended from MCI. Mike is here this evening and can say a few words. Mike Godfrey spoke to the Town Council and public. He is very excited to work on recreation opportunities for the children and the community.

3. Pickin' & Picnic In The Park: Come down to Hathorn Park for some good old fashioned pickin'. Bring your guitar, banjo, fiddle, accordion, wash board, a song and other instruments to make music. The event will start with a picnic at 5:30 p.m. and end at dark. This will involve a wide variety of musicians and a family atmosphere. Everyone is invited. The third event will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2009 with a rain date of September 24, 2009. For more information contact Hazel Mitchell at 207-257-2312.

4. Memorial Repairs at Powers Cemetery: The results were excellent. READ Report.

5. Tax Bills for 2009 due on Friday, 10/16/2009: Tax bills were issued last month after Somerset County was able to issue their assessment to the Town. The mil rate is \$16.30 and the Town is at 95% of valuation. The Town was below 70% of market value and was required to increase values, which then lowers the mil rate. The factoring itself does not change taxes, it increases and decreases in budgets and valuation. The Town lost over \$8.4 million dollars in personal property assessment when several of the Town's largest personal property taxpayers reduced the amount of equipment they maintain in Town and the Maine legislature exempted most new business personal property from taxation.

6. Kennebec Valley Council of Governments Annual Meeting: The 42nd meeting of KVCOG will take place on Wednesday, 09/23/2009 at Grandeur Sun off Jefferson Street in Waterville from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

7. Census 2010: Remember that Census workers are out collecting information in the community. The individuals should have signs on their vehicle and proper Census identification.

8. Pittsfield Farmers' Market: The Farmers Market at Hathorn Park is available Mondays and Thursday from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm until October 29, 2009.

Finance Committee: No Report.

Ordinance Committee: No Report.

Recycling Committee: No Report.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **ORDER 09-14:** (To be set to Public Hearing on 10/06/2009) Ordered that the Town Council Adopt the quarterly and monthly rates for the Pittsfield Water Works for metered customers, municipal fire protection and private fire protection effective 11/06/2009.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** that Order 09-14 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Town has identified the need to improve the water infrastructure of the Town. The capital improvement plan and program includes a listing of lines that need to be upgraded, valves that need to be replaced, and hydrants that need to be replaced. We were fortunate that one of our applications for federal stimulus funding was approved – a backup finish pump for the water treatment plant which is underway. Our projects, although very important, did not rank high enough due to a number of reasons – specifically one is that our water rates are among the lowest in the State of Maine. Just as our sewer rates were the lowest in the State of Maine until we approved a rate increase, the water rates in 2008 were the 10th lowest rate in the State of Maine overall. The State documents ranking the rates were dated early in 2008 so since then, we may be even lower if any of those other 9 towns or districts had a rate increase since then.

In addition, we have not been eligible for some grant programs because the community is not considered low-moderate income, such as for Community Development Block Grant funding that would allow \$500,000 of infrastructure repairs with the Town's match of 25% toward the project. This is why we undertook the income survey, which is still underway trying to obtain responses. If income results showed sections of the community might be eligible, we may be able to obtain funding for those areas if they needed improvement. Then those projects would not be paid for entirely by rate increases.

We knew that we would not have a rate increase put into place until we got the meters into better order. In 2006 we obtained financing for the meters and have worked on installing meters from 2006 – 2009. We some left that we can not change over as the people refuse to respond, there is bad plumbing, can not get under the house, they can not afford to upgrade their plumbing, etc. But in all, we now have a reliable metering program so that people are treated fairly and now will need to install rate increases.

The first rate increase is simply to balance the budget: We understood that adding on loans would result in the need to pay for those loan payments. Depreciation is now charged to the Town's water system and we can not absorb an extra \$60,000 – \$90,000 cost to the budget. Future rate increases after this first one would be improvement driven.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Carr** that Order 09-14 be amended as follows:

ORDER 09-14: (To be set to Public Hearing on 10/06/2009) Ordered that the Town Council Adopt the quarterly and monthly rates for the Pittsfield Water Works for metered customers, municipal fire protection and private fire protection effective 11/16/2009 or later.

VOTE TO AMENDED: UNANIMOUS AYE
VOTE AS AMENDED: UNANIMOUS AYE

- b. **ORDINANCE 09-15:** (To be set to Public Hearing on 09/15/2009) The Town of Pittsfield hereby Orders and Ordains that pursuant to Section 5.09(d) of the Pittsfield Town Charter, the following capital balances shall be transferred from their existing accounts to a new account to be entitled “Revenue Stabilization” which funds will be made available and expended, as needed, in order to meet budget shortfalls at the end of the year: Paving/Resurfacing \$52,640; Municipal Parking Lot \$15,000; Highway Mower \$2,632; Municipal Building \$5,000; Theatre \$5,000; Revaluation \$5,000; Library \$5,000; Highway Equipment \$36,000; Fire Utility \$17,860; Fire Equipment \$15,000 and Fire Station \$5,000 for a total of \$164,132.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Fotter** that that Ordinance 09-15 be set to Public Hearing.

The Town Manager noted the Town Council received a package of the accounts that have been frozen in the regular budget as proposed by the Departments to assist with the significant decline in revenues. The nation-wide trend is certainly here in Maine and the Town Council has been receiving reports since February of this year when I noticed a decline. The economy is slowly turning around but I must emphasize very slowly.

These budget lines frozen will remain in their accounts, not be spent and then help to balance out the loss of revenues in the revenue account at the end of the year. We will need to do more.

It is proposed that we have a one-time freeze on the capital allocations remaining in the budget. Each year we appropriate \$190,000 in tax dollars for a variety of capital needs and the funds generally build up in the reserves until we have enough and then we go do the work. \$164,132 remains after the police cruiser and zero turn mower were purchased. It is great to build up capital reserve accounts and then do the projects, however, without doing something drastic in the budget, we can not come up with the amount of funds that are being put away for future projects. To come up with \$164,132 we would need more than 54 furlough days for the employees. The change in cemetery hours and transfer station hours was not budgeted for on the list the Councilors received as it was an item the Town Council needs to vote upon and we would only have a few months of effect vs. a year's worth.

All the departments were extremely helpful. Our purpose is to keep everyone going with services and to keep the town employees we have. For a town of our size, the staffing is low and the budget is low so we are going to be more impacted than a town that had not held the line on taxes and spending for 7 budget years and actually lowered the tax commitment for the

Town budget from 2002 to now by over \$155,000 a year.

This ordinance was provided as the most conservative approach. The Town Manager and Town Councilors recommended freezing the capital budget accounts and bringing this back in December.

Motion by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Fotter** that that Ordinance 09-15 be amended as follows:

Ordinance 09-15 amended to Order 09-15: Ordered that the Town of Pittsfield hereby Orders that all capital balances in the budget are frozen and will be reviewed in December 2009.

VOTE TO AMENDED: UNANIMOUS AYE
VOTE AS AMENDED: UNANIMOUS AYE

c. **RESOLUTION 09-128:** Resolved that the Town Council Approve the Pittsfield Water Works Terms and Conditions effective 11/06/2009

Amended as follows:

RESOLUTION 09-128: Resolved that the Town Council Approve the Pittsfield Water Works Terms and Conditions effective 10/15/2009

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 09-128 be amended and adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Terms and Conditions are the operating rules for the Pittsfield Water Department which d/b/a as Pittsfield Water Works. The last update to the Terms and Conditions became effective 04/01/2005. At that time, the former Superintendent recommended several revisions to the language of the Terms and Conditions dated 1989.

The Town Councilors received a copy of a proposed revised Terms and Conditions for Pittsfield Water Works which addresses all issues which have come up during the last few years. The Town Attorney has reviewed the town staff's proposed language and then made revisions under the Public Utilities Commission requirements. The Town Council package also has a copy of the current Terms and Conditions that have been in effect since 04/01/2005. There were so many changes that we did not mark up the proposed copy as it became too difficult to read.

In addition, the Town also has a rate increase, which is addressed by a different agenda item. The rates are attached to the Terms and Conditions.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

d. **RESOLUTION 09-129:** Resolved that the Town Council Sign a Resolution in opposition to the initiated bill LD 974: An act to decrease the automobile excise tax and promote energy efficiency.

Moved by **Councilor Curtis** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** that Resolution 09-129 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is a draft resolution for the Town Council's consideration.

Referendum to decrease the Automobile Excise Tax: Projected to cut the Municipal Budget by approximately \$246,370 or raise taxes by \$246,370 or some combination thereof. This is the town's second largest municipal revenue source. Excise taxes, under the State Law, are utilized to fund the community's highway maintenance budget. Our town can not lose over \$200,000 in revenues and not feel a dramatic effect. Shutting down a majority of the highway department expenditures, which address maintenance, plowing, sanding, and other basic necessities will not work. Neither will cutting every other budget to then try to fund highway expenditures.

The Town is already projected to lose \$40,000+ of excise tax from 2008 to 2009. This \$246,370 is in addition to the revenue already lost.

In review of the Excise Tax Initiative Impact calculated by MMA for each town, our impact is one of the largest. That is because the amount of excise tax projected to be lost is such a high percentage of our projected excise tax.

This law only affects vehicles in the first 6 years of age, therefore, it will not have any impact for most of the citizens of the state and certainly most of the citizens in Pittsfield. Many of our citizens, including municipal officials and town employees, have not been able to buy new cars. The councilors did not feel reducing excise taxes was a solution to help the economy.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

e. **RESOLUTION 09-130:** Resolved that the Town Council Sign a Resolution in opposition of the Town of Pittsfield to the November ballot question seeking to modify the current State law on tax and expenditure limitations on State and Local Government.

Amended as follows, technical amendment only:

RESOLUTION 09-130: Resolved that the Town Council Sign a Resolution in opposition of the to the November ballot question seeking to modify the current State law on tax and expenditure limitations on State and Local Government.

Moved by **Councilor Curtis** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 09-130 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted Referendum known as TABOR II is the second initiative on the November ballot. The Town Council received a draft of a proposed resolution. This draft was from the MMA website and came from the City of Bangor. I utilized the wording as it was a sample for use, however, did delete most of the references to the state budget. It seemed that we should focus on the effect to the municipality.

As we well know, our budgets are extremely tight from years of cutting and/or not increasing expenditures in most areas of municipal responsibilities. The Town has already trimmed its budget to try to maintain the town's portion of tax bill to the same amount each year after having large decreases for several years. Our municipal budget tax amount is less than it was back in 2002. The Town Council, Town Manager and town employees trimmed these budgets. We did not need TABOR II to do this. TABOR II will require that any increase in taxes go out to referendum, which adds additional costs to the budget. If the Excise Tax question passes along with TABOR II, most likely nearly every town in the State would then be forced to send their budget/tax increase to referendum as Towns can not lose an estimated \$81 million dollars in revenue without some type of unfortunate impact on local services.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- f.* **RESOLUTION 09-131:** Resolved that the Town Council Approve the Maine Justice Assistance Council FY 2009 Byrne/JAG grant for the Pittsfield Police Department for two (2) tasers and assorted equipment in the amount of \$2,615.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 09-131 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Town has received a grant from the State of Maine for funding from the Maine Justice Assistance Council. When the funding was unavailable from the budget for the four (4) tasers that the Police Department requested last year, they applied to the State of Maine for equipment. The Town was awarded 2 tasers (1 for each vehicle that is out of regular patrol). The Police Chief has noted that 2 tasers are basically what is really needed. The match was only \$9.55. The application was extremely easy to complete and the results were great.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- g.* **RESOLUTION 09-132:** Resolved that the Town Council Approve Sewer Abatement 2009-01.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 09-132 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted a very unusual situation was found regarding sewer mains. A road has two sewer mains within the right-of-way, the older main and the newer main that is 13 years old. The home was hooked into the old sewer main that evidently was left hooked into the manhole that would flow to the treatment plant. At some point, this main that had been failing then totally failed. After the old line finally collapsed in, the home experienced problems and this situation was discovered. Therefore, for some time there were two active sewer mains on the road. The owner has hooked into the right sewer line, however, had been paying sewer usage fees for years for the sewerage to be treated. State law allows for an abatement for up to 6 years of fees.

The property owner is justified in receiving a rebate on payments made during this period of time: Sewer Abatement 2009-01 is \$950.71 for Account #84.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

- h.* **RESOLUTION 09-133:** Resolved that the Town Council Authorize the Town Manager and Theatre Manager to advertise a Silent Auction and accept high bids for the donated Adirondack Chairs to be dedicated for new theatre chairs.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 09-133 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this project has a number of benefits: community project; raises awareness of the talent in the town and surrounding communities and is a fundraiser for the theatre.

People would put down sealed bids on the chairs. The chairs would be around town until a few hours before the actual bid opening at which point we would move them to a location which would be advertised. We were thinking in front of the Theatre with the chairs up and down the sidewalk out of the way of people walking. People could still bid seeing the chairs all together.

There would be a set time for the bids to be due and a minimum bid amount.

I think it would be great to get a picture of all the chairs on one sheet as well as a sheet with a few sentences about each artist. The Theatre Fundraising Committee has some ideas beyond this. The council discussed how this project would work and offered suggestions.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. Financial Reports as of 07/31/2009:
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
Excise Tax Collections Comparison Report
State Revenue Sharing Comparison Report
Personal Property Tax Collection Report
Real Estate Property Tax Collection
- B. Other Reports as of 07/31/2009:
Building and Plumbing Permit Reports
Library Report-Librarian's and Library Trustees Minutes
Police Report
All reports to be reviewed independently by Council members

1. Update on Water Projects:

Federal Stimulus Funding for Back-up Water Pump: The pre-construction meeting took place. Requisition #1 for Bond Counsel costs, Legal Advertising costs and Engineering costs was submitted. The finish water pump costs came in under loan and the Town is looking at the VFD Change order This is a drive for the pump controls. The new finish pump has its own, however, the original pump has the original drive and it would be good to replace both at the same time. If we can get costs that fit within the loan and the State signs off, I would execute that change order and get approval on the next available Council agenda if the Council concurs. The work would be done at the same time.

Water Meter Replacement and Automated Meter Reading (AMR System): We had enough calibrated and tested manual meters to re-meter the remaining mobile home parks. Installations will be weather dependent. The project took place off and on during July and August. Now we are down to a list of under 100 residential units.

For the Repair of Cuts in the Roadways:

The Water/Sewer Department and Public Works Departments will be repairing cuts across the roadways from emergency water work and other emergency work along with repair work originally scheduled for July 27, 2009. The work was re-scheduled to September. It is expected that this work will take several days. We will rent the equipment and do the work ourselves

2. **Update on Sewer Projects:**

Sludge Removal Project: Review of the bids has shown that several bidders made very good proposals. Funding has been announced for the SRF ARRA program. Approvals will need to move along quickly and be on the 09/15/2009 agenda for consideration.

Water/Sewer Project Possibilities: Income Survey for State and Federal Funding Opportunities: We need to continue to talk to the public about the necessity of completing this survey. We have many results with people refusing to provide income.

Updates:

1. **CMP Project:** The Town Manager noted that CMP has contacted the Town regarding some issues with setbacks on the upcoming project. The Town Manager asked the Council their feelings regarding the situation, as CMP wants amendments made. The Town Council was in agreement that if changes need to be made to the Ordinance, CMP will need to return to the Planning Board and start the process again.

8. **REPORTS:** Audience, Council

Audience:

Donnie Hallenbeck wanted to suggest that we check the specs for Little League when we start to fix the field at Hathorn Park.

Dean Billings questioned if the Town will be fixing the hydrants that are broken here in Town. Mr. Billings feels this is an important issue that needs to be corrected. The Town Manager and Town Council noted that the Town has applied for funding, but was not approved. It is on the list of items that need to be repaired here in Town. With the upcoming Water & Sewer rate increases, it will allow the town to start working on the infrastructure now that the metering project is completed.

Council:

Councilor Baker: Absent.

Councilor Carr: Congrats to Mike on the Recreation position. It is good to see the safe zones put into place. Wanted to note that the courts should follow through with harsher penalties, as the safe zones will actually make the crimes themselves a higher-class crime.

Councilor Chale: Went paddling at Douglas Pond. It was very nice to use the boat launch. The wind turbine opening is very exciting. Wanted to congratulate Mike on the Recreation position.

Deputy Mayor Jordan: Very glad to see the additional safe zones here in Town, but do not feel the court system will follow through with harsher penalties.

Councilor Curtis: No comment.

Councilor Fotter: Wanted to note that Mike Lange had a really nice article in the Seabasticook Valley Weekly. It brought a smile to my face. Wanted to thank Mike for the positive story. This is the best Council I have seen in the 10-12 years I have been involved and I am proud to be a part of it. Tim is doing a great job as our Mayor.

Mayor Nichols: Wanted to address Dean regarding the fire hydrants. Mayor Nichols noted that that his father used to be the Fire Chief here in Town. It has always seemed that once you fixed something here in Town, you need to fix something else. The fire hydrant situation will not be forgotten. Everything takes time. Mayor Nichols noted he drove by the library and things are really going well there. Congratulations to Michael Godfrey. He will do a great job.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Fotter** that the meeting be adjourned at 9:12 p.m. All in agreement.

Nicole Nickolan, Town Clerk