

# MINUTES

For a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council held on Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

**PRESENT:** COUNCILORS: Mayor Tim Nichols, Deputy Mayor Wayne Fotter, Gary Jordan, Jr., Louise Baker and Donna Chale. **ABSENT:** Michael Gray and Michael Cianchette. Also present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth and Town Clerk Nicole Nickolan. Audience members included: Donnie Hallenbeck, Carolyn Dodge, Sharon Mack, Mike Lange, Donna Dunphy, Jan Laux, Melissa Hackett, David Whitman, Scott Monroe, Caleb Curtis, Christine Cookson, Scott Noble, Bernard Williams, Dean Billings, Michael Young, P.E. of Sewall Company and others.

1. **Mayor Nichols** opened the meeting by leading the **Pledge of Allegiance**.
2. Adoption of Minutes of the Regular meeting on December 2, 2008 and the First Budget Workshop on November 5, 2008, Second Budget Workshop on November 18, 2008 and Third Budget Workshop on December 2, 2008.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that the Minutes of the Regular meeting on December 2, 2008 and the First Budget Workshop on November 5, 2008, Second Budget Workshop on November 18, 2008 and Third Budget Workshop on December 2, 2008 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** to waive the rules to add Resolution 08-176.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

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

Presentation by Sewall Company Representative Michael Young, P.E. regarding findings and recommendation for repairs to the Pittsfield Community Theatre.

The Town Manager noted we will hear an update on this project tonight including the Engineering Firm's recommendation on the approach to utilize for the work. Then, if the Town Council is comfortable, we can approve the Town to go out with an RFP for that work. The design phase was estimated to be completed by 12/19/2008. Sewall Company would have the RFP or bid package together by 12/26/2008 or 12/29/2008 so that we can go out to bid.

As we are not sure of the cost, have not had 5 Councilors at most meetings which is the requirement for the emergency allocation to go through and thinking about this, it may be good to just see what the contractors' costs come in at rather than advertising a budget that is available. When the Council considers the bids in January, 2009, the emergency ordinance will need to be brought off the table and

acted upon at that time. In order to accept a bid, the ordinance needs to be approved.

Michael Young, P.E. of Sewall Company was in attendance to review the options for the Pittsfield Community Theatre. The solution proposed has a much lower total estimated cost for construction than previously thought. The proposed design consists of installing a series of beams and columns under the existing wood trusses. This design will support the roof from below rather than relying on a suspended system. This will also provide the roof a practical snowload capacity that will allow the building to be used again. The final roof upgrade will consist of removing all the external steel work and replacing the existing roof. If the design gets Council approval, the project will be ready to bid on 12/19/2008. It is estimated that the work on Phase I would be able to be completed in 2 months. The main holdup in Phase I would be acquiring the steel. Phase II would be able to be completed in a 2 month period also. Donna Dunphy, Theater manager, questioned if any of this would have any effect on the air conditioning units on the roof. Mr. Young advised it would not.

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

a. **ORDINANCE 08-18:** (Public Hearing) That the Town of Pittsfield hereby Ordains the 2009 Capital Budget be approved as follows:

Highway Paving	\$ 87,890
Municipal Parking Lots	\$ 15,000
Highway Mower	\$ 10,000
Municipal Building Capital	\$ 5,000
Police Cruiser	\$ 23,500
Theatre Renovations	\$ 5,000
Revaluation Capital	\$ 5,000
Library Building Capital	\$ 5,000
Highway Equipment	\$ 36,000
Fire Utility	\$ 17,860
Fire Equipment	\$ 15,000
Fire Station Capital	\$ 5,000
Fire Engine 1	\$ 275,000
Highway Construction/Reconstruction	\$ 50,000
Industrial Park Expansion	\$ 90,000
Theatre Grants	\$ 20,000
Historical Depot	\$ 10,000
Community Center	\$ 120,000
Downtown Revitalization	\$ 150,000
<u>Energy Conservation</u>	<u>\$ 100,000</u>
Total	\$1,045,250
Funding by Loans/Bonds	-\$ 325,000
Funding by Reserves	-\$ 40,250
Funding by Grants	-\$ 302,500
Funding by other Revenue Sources	<u>-\$ 187,500</u>
Total to be raised by taxation	\$ 190,000

There was no one who wished to speak for or against Ordinance 08-18. Public Hearing closed.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Ordinance 08-18 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this Ordinance lists the Capital Plan for the Town for 2009. The last six (6) items are listed in case grants or other opportunities arise. The actual tax dollars in the 2009 budget is \$190,000.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- b. **ORDINANCE 08-19:** (Public Hearing) That the Town of Pittsfield hereby ordains that the 2009 Operating Budget in the amount of \$2,684,006 (**2,696,920**) be approved, and the total sum of \$3,729,256 (**3,742,170**) be appropriated (Operating plus Capital Budgets);

AND FURTHER, that \$903,240 (**916,154**) be raised through taxation; that \$1,085,766 (**1,065,766**) be raised from estimated revenues; that \$535,000 (**410,000**) be appropriated from State Revenue Sharing; that \$325,000 ( ) be appropriated from Loans/Bonds; that \$40,250 ( ) be taken from reserve funds; that \$302,500 ( ) be appropriated from grants; that \$187,500 ( ) be appropriated from other Revenue Sources; and that an additional sum of \$350,000 (**495,000**) be taken from undesignated fund balance.

AND FURTHER, that the 2009 Water and Sewer Department Enterprise budgets in the respective amounts of \$394,832 (**404,832**) and \$248,703 (**277,703**) be appropriated from the respective estimated departmental revenues;

There was no one who wished to speak for or against Ordinance 08-19. Public Hearing closed.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Ordinance 08-19 be adopted as amended.

The Town Manager noted this Ordinance lists the operating and capital budgets along with the revenue allocations and tax dollars. The Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds are also listed. Again, any revisions made this evening through the public hearing would be made after the 12/16/2008 public hearing.

The Town has completed a very thorough budget process, which included 3 budget sessions based upon the budget books.

The basic operating budget proposed to the Town Councilors was: \$2,874,006 which is \$79,919 higher than 2008 or 2.9%. Nearly every vendor the Town utilizes has increased its costs resulting in increases in the Municipal Budget.

Through the 3 sessions, a few changes were made:

The Council approved 4 additional items and health insurance rates were less than originally projected by MMA.

The bottom line of the Municipal Operating Budget is \$2,696,920 which is \$12,914 higher and the bottom line of the Municipal and Capital Budget with the CIP is \$3,742,170. Basically less than ½ of 1% increase due to the additional items approved by the Town Council..

Municipal Revenues are projected to increase \$83,427 or 4.4%. I have re-adjusted the revenues, however, the bottom line is the same and it has the same effect, however, protects the Town better.

These proposed allocations will reflect an increase of \$9,406 in the amount of taxes to be raised for the 2009 municipal budget over the 2008 budget. 2009 is the second year that the personal property is starting to be phased out with new personal property purchased in 2009 not being taxed so we do not expect the Town's valuation to increase as it has in the past that helps with the mil rate.

The Town's percentage of the overall budget or tax dollar for 2008 was 25.48% (which includes the TIF Districts and the Overlay). (For 2004 it was 25.53%; for 2005 it was 23.09%; for 2006 it was 26.81% and for 2007 was 25.85%). To decrease the mil rate by 1.0 mil, the Town would have to cut \$155,000 from the Town commitment in 2008.

Thus for the 2007 tax bill, 25.48% went to the Town (includes TIF and overlay); 16.31% to Somerset County and 58.21% for the School Assessment.

For the past five years, the Town's part of the overall budget (Town Departments, SAD #53 and Somerset County) did not impact the tax rate. This is the sixth year, there is a very tiny impact with the Additional added to the budget, however, it is very minor in the scope of a \$3.6 million dollar tax commitment and is basically no increase.

The Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds have been adjusted to have engineering funds to apply for economic stimulus funds as well as to conduct a survey of households and process a water rate increase for funding.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

c. **ORDINANCE 08-20:** (Public Hearing) That the Town of Pittsfield hereby Ordains to authorize the transfers of unencumbered appropriation balances to various departments as follows:

FROM:	10-15	Cemetery	\$3,000
	15-05	Transfer Station	from \$11,000 to \$13,300
TO:	05-10	Police Department	\$4,000
	05-25	Animal Control	\$2,000
	10-05	Public Works	from \$7,000 to \$9,000
	10-10	Buildings/Grounds	from \$1,000 to \$1,300

There was no one who wished to speak for or against Ordinance 08-20. Public Hearing closed.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Ordinance 08-20 be adopted as amended.

The Town Manager noted by following the budget goals set each year, we have very frugal budgets. There are no built in contingencies or emergency funds. Transfers used to be higher, but in the last few years have averaged around \$7,000 - \$8,000. With the fuel, diesel and gas prices for most of this year, it is higher this year. Because we can transfer, it allows the Town to budget bare bones and helps with the amount of taxes raised.

The explanations are on the agenda sheet – the amounts were estimated higher by the staff to try to make sure we are all set. Vickie and I have gone through the estimates several times and requested the changes as shown above.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- d. **ORDINANCE 08-21:** (Public Hearing) That the Town Council hereby Ordains that Chapter 2B General Assistance Ordinance, Appendices A, B, and C be rescinded and the new Appendices A, B, and C be adopted to reflect the revised maximums for the period of October 1, 2008 to October 1, 2009.

There was no one who wished to speak for or against Ordinance 08-21. Public Hearing closed.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Ordinance 08-21 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted each year, based upon the cost of basic necessities, the State sets maximums for general assistance based upon the Counties. The Maine Municipal Association puts together the Appendices for basic necessities.

There were revisions in the following categories: Overall Maximums, Food Maximums and Monthly Rent with heat.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

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

**Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 12/16/2008:**

**Due to the four (4) page agenda, this Report will be brief tonight.**

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

**2. 2008 Board/Committee Openings:** There will be a few board/committee openings after appointments are made this evening. If anyone is interested in serving on one or more of these boards/committees, please contact the Town Clerk at 487-3136 or [clerk@pittsfield.org](mailto:clerk@pittsfield.org)

**3. Congratulations Certificates:** The Town would like to congratulate Pennywise Thrift Shop on their new building and renovations as well as Welcome Nick's Whistle Stop

Restaurant which will be opening later this month, scheduled for around Monday, 12/22/2008.

**4. Christmas and New Year's Closures:** The Municipal Offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 25 and December 26, 2008 in observance of Christmas and on Thursday, January 01, 2009 in observation of New Year's Day. Happy Holidays!

**Finance Committee:** No Report.

**Ordinance Committee:** No Report.

**Recycling Committee:** No Report.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **ORDER 08-07:** Ordered that the Town Council hereby approves the sewer rate fee change from \$2.25 per 1,000 gallons to \$3.25 per 1000 gallons to fund the 2009 Sewer Enterprise Budget.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** that Order 08-07 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted all year, we have discussed the need to have a rate increase for the upcoming 2009 budget and as soon as the meter replacement project was well underway. All year, we have discussed how it will be substantial given the fact that the current extremely low rate does not sustain the system and has not for many years. It was imperative that we have the meter replacement project first so that we had correct flows. The time is here.

As discussed on the agenda sheet:

To sustain the Sewer Budget as originally presented requires a 25.0 % increase.

To accommodate for the significant loss in industrial/commercial billings requires a 13% increase on top of that.

To add in a Sludge Solar Drying Study recommended at \$15,000 by Acheron results in an additional 7.5% increase.

Hiring a company to organize and certify a system-wide survey is estimated at \$5,000 if the Town supplies employees to go door-to-door to collect surveys (with the other ½ charged to the water enterprise fund). This results in an additional 2.5% increase.

Therefore, the total increase needs to be a 48% increase.

This came out to 3.33/1,000 gallons which should be rounded to 3.25/1,000 gallons which is a 44.4% increase.

Therefore, the new rate would need to be \$3.25/1,000 gallons if the Town Council would like to add in this work to the required increases.

The average sewer bill is \$180.00 per year at \$2.25/1000 gallons. This will increase the average bill to \$260.00 at \$3.25/1000 gallons, which is a 44.4% increase. We were the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest in the State of Maine with \$2.25, now we will be the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest rate in the State of Maine. The average sewer rate in the State of Maine is \$402.00.

Councilors noted that we knew this was coming and discussed it numerous times during the year.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- b. **RESOLUTION 08-156:** Resolved that the Town Council Authorize the Town Manager and Public Works Foreman to issue the Request for Proposals for Structural Roof Repairs to the Pittsfield Community Theatre and to seek bids for such.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** that Resolution 08-156 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- c. **RESOLUTION 08-157:** Resolved that the Town Council Authorize a total of \$37,015 for Carry Forwards from the 2008 Budget and Encumber the funds for 2009.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that Resolution 08-157 be adopted as amended.

The Town Manager noted this is a process that is allowable under the Town Charter for those projects whose function is not yet completed. Given the fact that we needed to hold back on projects in the budget that we would have normally performed as they were budgeted for given the revenue trends and how quickly our revenue flow slowed down, we have some projects left to do.

We made our revenue projections on 12/15/2008 so that with the transfers that were budgeted for, we are fine. We will have funds left in the budget to assist with the use of unappropriated surplus for the next year. Not as much as usual, but some. This is a process that we go through to protect the Town, in that the revenues are cautiously estimated so that we usually have more revenue than originally projected which then allows us to budget for more surplus funds the next year. This process works exceptionally well except in the case of those years in which excise tax decreases significantly. But we should make the general revenue amount needed for the municipal budget. It was of concern as to whether we would do this by 12/31/2008. Excise tax has bounced back a small amount, however, not substantially.

With this in mind, the C/F can be revised to the sheet that I passed out this evening: Delete Recycling Supplies, the Dept. head was able to acquire those so all set. Reduce Match for Grants as a bill did arrive for some matching work for a grant. Add the Public Works Dump Truck Debt Service - Waiting for the bid specs from the department, this was the first of 2-3 payments for a new to the town dump truck to replace one of the older models, to be a lease-purchase.

15-05-15-45	Transfer Station Site Upgrade	\$ 7,865	Finish Site Upgrades
25-05-10-05	Recreation Supplies	\$ 5,900	For Programs
25-10-20-10	Library Computer Purchase	\$ 1,000	As Listed
35-05-50-55	Educational Incentive	\$ 2,000	As Listed
35-05-50-65	Match for Grants	\$ 3,750	For Pinnacle Grant
35-05-50-65	Match for Grants	\$ 14,337	For Grant App.
50-05-45-17	PW Dump Truck	\$ 24,582	For lease-purchase

Total Carry Forwards:

\$ 59,434

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- d.* **RESOLUTION 08-158:** Resolved that the Town Council accept all cash donations for the Community Swimming Pool Campaign (G#1-643-00) from 07/01/2008 through 12/31/2008 and authorize the expenditure of the funds in accordance with Town Rules and Regulations.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that Resolution 08-158 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted under the State law, all cash donations need to be accepted by the Town Council.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- e.* **RESOLUTION 08-159:** Resolved that the Town Council accept all cash donations for the Library Capital Campaign (G#1-698-00) through 12/31/2008 and authorize the expenditure of the funds in accordance with Town Rules and Regulations.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that Resolution 08-159 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- f.* **RESOLUTION 08-160:** Resolved that the Town Council accept all cash donations for the Celebrations Committee Activities (G#1-644-00) through 12/31/2008 and authorize the expenditure of the funds in accordance with Town Rules and Regulations.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that Resolution 08-160 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- g.* **RESOLUTION 08-161:** Resolved that the Town Council accept all cash donations for the Neighborhood Watch Program (G#1-945-00) through 12/31/2008 and authorize the expenditure of the funds in accordance with Town Rules and Regulations.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 08-161 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- h.* **RESOLUTION 08-162:** Resolved that the Town Council accept all cash donations for the Keep Neighbors Warm Program (G#1-647-00) through

12/31/2008 and authorize the expenditure of the funds in accordance with Town Rules and Regulations.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 08-162 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- i.* **RESOLUTION 08-163:** Resolved that the Town Council Authorize the Transfer and Expenditure of \$4,537.73 from Airport Improvements Reserve (G#1-611-00) to pay for the costs incurred by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for services under the 06/21/2004 Agreement for relocation of the FAA Runway 01-19 lighting system.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** that Resolution 08-163 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this was a required agreement and cost in order to have the safety enhancements back in 2004 and we received the billing in 2008. It is our responsibility to pay. We discussed how this may happen – that we could receive a bill later on after we had to close off the grant it would have pertained to in order to get the next several grants and keep on line for the airport improvements. Therefore, this bill is our responsibility to pay. We needed to close off the grant so that we could get 100's of thousands of dollars.

The reserve has \$92,575.50 available, to be utilized as the match for the airport apron project as well as a small amount to be utilized for obstruction removal which is the Town's responsibility.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- j.* **RESOLUTION 08-164:** Resolved that the Town Council create new reserves called Sewer Restoration Reserve and Water Restoration Reserve and authorize the Town Manager and Assistant Treasurer to transfer any funds that remain in the Enterprise Fund Budgets after all charges are made for the end of the year.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 08-164 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Town Auditor recommended that we set up these reserves. As we explained to the Auditor, it is highly unlikely that any funds will be available if the auditor nets the revenues vs. the expenses, however, we will set up the Reserves. The Sewer and Water enterprise accounts are not like the Municipal Budget, which we close off. The auditors move a lot of money around in the enterprise accounts by posting a lot of entries.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- k.* **RESOLUTION 08-165:** Resolved that the Town Council Authorize the Town Manager to Execute a contract for the Police Department with the

Somerset Humane Society for the period of January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009 at the sum of \$437.50 per month.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 08-165 be adopted.

It was noted there was a typographical error stating the contract period was January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008. This was corrected to show the period January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009.

The Town Manager noted this is the renewal of the contract for the Somerset Humane Society. The cost for the year will be \$5,250, certainly an increase over what we paid for years, however, is more the going rate as we had a very low cost shelter for years which closed. The Somerset Humane Society has been good to work with and very accessible

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- l.* **RESOLUTION 08-166:** Resolved that the Town Council Accept the bid of \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in an amount not to exceed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Engineering Assistance for the Brownfield Clean-up Grant for property owned by the Town located at 8 Mount Road (formerly known as 10 Eelwier Road) on Tax Map 7, Lot 47-A.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** to table Resolution 08-166 to the next scheduled Council meeting.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- m.* **RESOLUTION 08-167:** Resolved that the Town Council Accept the bid of Manter Construction of Sidney, Maine in an amount not to exceed \$35,499 for the Request for Proposals for the Safe Routes to School Project, Phase II, PIN 16359.00 pending the approval of the MDOT.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** that Resolution 08-167 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the bids were opened on 12/02/2008 with 8 bids ranging from the low bid of Manter Construction at \$35,499 to the high bid T. Buck Construction at \$47,202.

As noted on the agenda sheet, we had permission to accept the low bid if the project came in within budget and it did not, it is \$1,668 over budget. So I have been reviewing the budget.

In discussions with the State of Maine, they have offered the Town the funds under the Safe Routes to School Project to complete the project and forwarded a grant amendment. There are no extra responsibilities beyond the original grant application that we signed with them and the project will be fully funded. I will put that approval on the next Town Council Agenda, however, I am sure you concur with having the project fully funded.

We like the company, their work is very good and they are excellent to work with in the field.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- n.* **RESOLUTION 08-168:** Resolved that the Town Council Excuse the absence of Councilor Wayne Fotter from the 10/21/2008; 11/05/2008; and 11/18/2008 Council Meetings.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 08-168 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**  
**Deputy Mayor Fotter abstained from voting**

- o.* **RESOLUTION 08-169:** Resolved that the Town Council Confirm the Town Manager's appointment of Stephen Seekins as Code Enforcement Officer and Building Inspector for the Period of January 01, 2009-December 31, 2009.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that Resolution 08-169 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the following resolutions pertaining to appointments are a requirement of State law.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- p.* **RESOLUTION 08-170:** Resolved that the Town Council Appoint Stephen Seekins as Licensed Plumbing Inspector with a term expiring 12/31/2009.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 08-170 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- q.* **RESOLUTION 08-171:** Resolved that the Town Council Appoint Charles Porter as Code Enforcement Officer Alternate with a term expiring 12/31/2009 for the following areas: Zoning & Land Use Ordinances and Shoreland Zoning Ordinances.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 08-171 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- r.* **RESOLUTION 08-172:** Resolved that the Town Council Appoint Jay Guber as Code Enforcement Officer Alternate with a term expiring

12/31/2009 for the following areas: Zoning & Land Use Ordinances and Shoreland Zoning Ordinances.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 08-172 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- s. **RESOLUTION 08-173:** Resolved that the Town Council Appoint William Murphy as Licensed Plumbing Inspector Alternate with a term expiring 12/31/2009.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 08-173 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- t. **RESOLUTION 08-174:** Resolved that the Town Council Appoint Luke Goodblood as Sealer of Weights and Measures with a term expiring 12/31/2009.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that Resolution 08-174 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- u. **RESOLUTION 08-175:** Resolved that the Town Council Appoint members to fill the vacancies on the various Town Boards and Committees from the attached list.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 08-175 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- v. **RESOLUTION 08-176:** Resolved that the Town Council waive the bid policy and authorize the Town Manager and Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent to hire engineering assistance as necessary to position the Town to be able to apply for Economic Stimulus Funding for sewer and water projects.

Moved by **Councilor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 08-176 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is an exciting new development and has come about quite quickly. Applications for Economic Development Stimulus Funding, which has been explained to be loan funding at 0% interest, are due on 01/09/2009 for water projects. We have been advised that details are coming down shortly regarding Economic Stimulus Funding to involve sewer projects.

The Town Councilors thought this was very important and that we needed to position ourselves to be able to obtain funding.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

7. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Town Goals: The Town Manager briefly presented the 2009 goal projects.

8. **REPORTS:** Audience, Council

**Audience:**

Donnie Hallenbeck: Wanted to wish the Council and the audience a Merry Christmas. Also noted the historical society is always looking for volunteers.

Caroly Dodge, Intern: Shared some brief remarks summarizing her time here at the Town of Pittsfield and thanked the Town for the opportunity.

**Council:**

**Councilor Baker:** Wanted to thank Carolyn for helping with the windpower grant. It is good to see so many people interested in windpower. Not everyone is in agreement – but this is the way of the future.

**Councilor Cianchette:** Absent

**Councilor Chale:** Wanted to welcome Councilor Curtis, who is in the audience tonight. Also, would like to acknowledge Melissa Hackett and Jan Laux in the audience tonight. They are candidates for the upcoming election for Council. Noted she was able to attend the Pennywise grand opening and it was great to see all the support.

**Councilor Jordan:** Wanted to note Olver Associates did a really good job on the report they provided. Councilor Jordan is very impressed with Olver Associates work. Also noted that when we had the water main break, the Water and Sewer Department did a wonderful job.

**Councilor Gray:** Absent

**Deputy Mayor Fotter:** Wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Also wanted to note the Water and Sewer Department did a great job during the water main break. The Department was out there all night in the cold trying to service the residents best they could.

**Mayor Nichols:** Wanted to thank Bernard and Dean and all the firefighters for all the support they gave to the Snowman family. Mr. Snowman was a great man and will be missed. Wanted to echo the comments on what a great job the water department did. Welcome to Councilor Curtis and wanted to wish Jan Laux and Melissa Hackett good luck at the upcoming election for Council.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Jordan** that the meeting be adjourned at 9:14 p.m. All in agreement.

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Nicole Nickolan, Town Clerk