

MINUTES

For a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council held on Tuesday, November 01, 2016 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT: COUNCILORS: Robert Stackhouse, Timothy Nichols, Trudy Ferland, Heather Donahue, Scott Strom and Marie Manning. **ABSENT:** Michael Cianchette. Also present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth and Town Secretary Karen Kelsey. Audience members included Don Hallenbeck, Peter Logiodice, Joe Getchell, Sr., and Joseph Getchell, Jr.

1. **Mayor Stackhouse** opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. The Council observed a moment of silence.

The Town Manager explained the steps required to add a time-sensitive required item to the agenda.

Deputy Mayor Nichols made a motion to waive the rules, seconded by **Councilor Manning**.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Manning** that Resolution 16-137 be added to the agenda.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

2. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

ORDINANCE 16-17: That the Town Council hereby ordains to transfer property located off the Hussey Road, Map 005, Lot 020 to Ronald L. & Lyn E. Hawkins for the sum of \$51,100.00 as the result of a Tax Acquired Property bid. The Town acquired said property as a result of automatic foreclosure of a 2013 property tax lien, recorded in the Somerset County Registry of Deeds on June 10, 2014, at Book 4793, Page 134, which matured on December 10, 2015. The Town Council further authorizes the Town Manager to execute a municipal quitclaim deed releasing the Town's interest in said property to Ronald L. & Lyn E. Hawkins.

Moved by **Councilor Donahue** and seconded by **Councilor Ferland** that Ordinance 16-17 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Tax Acquired Property Bid was authorized by the Town Council with bids due on September 07, 2016. The minimum bid was \$15,000 to cover the taxes, interest and costs plus it was a large lot. The Assessor assisted with a value given the location. The bid was accepted by the Town Council at their October 04, 2016 meeting.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

ORDINANCE 16-18: That the Town Council hereby ordains to transfer property located off the Phillips Corner Road, Map 018, Lot 052 to James M. Kirk for the sum of \$1,800.00 as the result of a Tax Acquired Property offer. The Town acquired said property as a result of automatic foreclosure of a 2012 property tax lien, recorded in the Somerset County Registry of Deeds on June 05, 2013, at Book 4669, Page 30, which matured on December 05, 2014. The Town Council further authorizes the Town Manager to execute a municipal quitclaim deed releasing the Town's interest in said property to James M. Kirk.

Moved by **Councilor Donahue** and seconded by **Councilor Strom** that Ordinance 16-18 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted at the October 04, 2016 Town Council Meeting, the Council accepted the offer made by Mr. Kirk. He came forward to request to purchase the remaining Tax Acquired Property from the most recent sale. Mr. Kirk agreed to make an offer to cover all of the Town's taxes, costs, and interest. An offer of \$1,800.00 was received from Mr. Kirk.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

3. **NEW BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 16-137: Resolved that the Town Council approve the Town Manager's appointment of Timothy Roussin as Acting Police Chief and to further authorize the Acting Police Chief to execute concealed weapon permits.

Moved by **Councilor Donahue** and seconded by **Councilor Ferland** that Resolution 16-137 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted that as our long-time Police Chief passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, 10/29/2016, the Town needs to appoint an Acting Police Chief. In the past, Sgt. Roussin has covered for the Police Chief a number of times when he was out on leaves. Sgt. Roussin is experienced in this position. The Town Manager will be working closely with Sgt. Roussin as the Town moves forward. There is a specific requirement that the Acting Police Chief be authorized to execute the concealed weapon permits for the Town.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

4. **REPORTS:** Audience, Council

Audience:

Don Hallenbeck presented a history of Manson Park due to the anniversary this year of the donation of the land to the Town from J. W. Manson. He noted that he was sorry to hear that Steve passed away as he enjoyed talking with him.

Joe Getchell, Sr. offered condolences to the Chief's family. Steve was an easy-going guy. No one can replace Steve but Tim is a great guy and able to take the work on.

Council:

Councilor Strom: Had recently sit with the Chief to learn about the Police Budget. The Chief will be missed. The MCI Field Hockey Team went to the States but did not win. They had a great police escort.

Councilor Manning: With her recent interaction with Tim, she feels he can do the job well. Dr. David Austin was a huge success. He used to live in Pittsfield and has been living in the Berkshires. Many people showed up to the book signing. It was Challenge Day at MCI today. It is a remarkable program about emotional literacy, balancing oppression, identifying common bonds, violence, loss of loved ones, drug abuse, domestic violence and more. The participation was wonderful and she is grateful to have participated.

Councilor Donahue: She would like to pass on condolences to the Chief's Family. Based on the love and outpouring of the community, it is a testament as to who the Chief was. She inquired as to what was going on across from the Webb Road. The Town Manager advised that the Planning Board has just approved Brent Newhouse to store materials on the lot which he had acquired a number of years ago for his business expansion. Brent previously had approval to build a garage for his Construction business and plans to go back to the Planning Board to update his permit as that project will be going forward in the near future. Councilors commented that was a very positive economic development project for the Town.

Councilor Ferland: The Chief's passing is a major loss for the Town. She would like to send condolences to the family. He was a good listener and will truly be missed.

Deputy Mayor Nichols: He would like to send condolences to Steve's family. His parents were friends with Steve's parents. He has known Steve for decades. He had an easy-going demeanor and always listened to people. If there is a silver lining, it is that Tim Roussin will do fine although it will be tough shoes to fill. He listens to people. The Deputy Mayor thinks we will be okay. At the next meeting, the election will be over. People have gotten really wound up about the Election so it will be good to have this over with. We need to take a break from the news to put everything in perspective.

Councilor Cianchette: Absent

Mayor Stackhouse: He would like to send condolences to Steve's family. Steve was the voice of reason; he always had time to talk to you. There have been drug problems all around us and we have been fortunate that we have not had the issues that exist in other towns. But still, there was a drug bust recently in Pittsfield. He would like to congratulate the police on taking down a major drug house.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by **Deputy Mayor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Manning** that the meeting be adjourned at 7:05 p.m. All in agreement.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Kathryn Ruth, Deputy Town Clerk