

# MINUTES

For a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council held on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

**PRESENT:** COUNCILORS: Mayor Tim Nichols, Robert Stackhouse, Caleb Curtis, Donna Chale and Louise Baker. **ABSENT:** Deputy Mayor Gary Jordan, Jr. and Christopher Carr. Also present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth and Town Clerk Nicole Nickolan. Audience members included: Scott Noble, Mike Havey, Steve Long, Judith Long, Mike Lange, Mike Haynes 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 held on October 5, 2010.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Stackhouse** that the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 5, 2010 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

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

#### **Community and Economic Development Activities and Events**

##### Presentation of Business Certificate(s):

The Mayor presented a certificate of welcome to Steve Long, the Manager of New Leaf Naturals, a new store opening in Pittsfield.

Steve Long, and his wife Judith, were at the meeting to describe the new business. It will be a market featuring vitamins, natural foods, herbs and some continuing education classes like organic gardening or composting. The Longs are partners with the owners of the Natural Living Center in Bangor. The inventory of the store will be customized based on the needs of the community. We are hoping to use technology like email and internet to connect with the community. The business will be located in the old space of Monica's Naturally. We are remodeling now and are hoping to be open in the beginning of November.

The Councilors and Town Manager congratulated The Longs on their new venture.

##### Report on New Business Activity & Opportunities in Pittsfield:

##### Business Activity Since last year:

I wanted to emphasize again this meeting as this will be the last opportunity prior to the budget process, that the Town is very interested in small business development.

In 2009, when it appeared that the down economy was here for awhile and our economic development focus turned to putting together major Job Fairs to bring job opportunities to those who were laid off or underemployed, we stated a new economic development focus. This pro-active focus was promoting resources for home-based businesses. We had promoted small business development for many years and had held business forums, brought resources to Town and set up a network of resources in the Ec Dev Plan. The Town's zoning was reviewed for home occupations and found to be usable for most people to start businesses in their homes. Citizens could start those businesses, however, the regulations are set up so that they will not inconvenience their neighbors when all of them are living in a residential area.

We created literature for those looking to start businesses in their homes after being laid off or finding that they could do better branching out on their own. Small business counseling is available free of charge to Pittsfield residents and we can refer people or they can go on their own. Some citizens have not needed the assistance as they had business background previously or other assistance. We had 26 small to medium size businesses start up in 2009-2010. A few new businesses took over an existing business to remodel and/or renovate. Most were new business ventures and the vast majority of those new businesses are still in business today.

So if a town resident has a great idea, knowledge on how to implement it, a business plan and would like to operate the business out of their home and not impact their neighborhood, in most cases, the prospective business can easily meet the zoning requirements. Many of these small businesses do not involve customers on the premises or very few customers.

The Town would be very interested in talking with you. Please contact us at the Town Office by dropping down or calling 487-3136 and asking for Kathryn. Or if you would just like to contact our partners for free assistance, that is fine too. Those resources are:

Janet Roderick, Business Counselor for the Maine Small Business Development Center of Coastal Enterprises, Inc. – located at KVCOG in Fairfield

Nate Rudy, Business Development Specialist for the DECD –located at KVCOG in Fairfield

Cole Palmer, Loan Director for the Revolving Loan Fund at the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments in Fairfield

Jim Batey, Executive Director at SEDC – located in Skowhegan

Many of the individuals will come to Pittsfield for a meeting. Contact information is on the Town's Economic Development Center on [www.pittsfield.org](http://www.pittsfield.org)

### Pittsfield Industrial Park Expansion:

The Industrial Park Expansion Project consists of 6 new Industrial Park lots on 28 acres of property. The Expansion abuts the current Pittsfield Industrial Park. The expansion is situated easterly of Industrial Park Drive, southerly of Somerset Avenue and northerly of the railroad lines. The project is located .20 miles from the Interstate. The main access road is off Industrial Park Drive.

The Town purchased the property in 1990 intending to embark on the expansion of the Industrial park. Funding was an issue as grant money over the years has been very difficult to obtain for industrial park expansions and some communities such as Skowhegan went out and bonded their project. The Town of Pittsfield decided a number of years ago that we would continue to search for funding for the project, however, that we would not finance the project's infrastructure from tax dollars. We were so fortunate when we received the federal stimulus grant for the project originally estimated at \$1.1 million dollars. \$880,000 is the Economic Development Administration grant and \$220,000 came from reallocation from the Town's loan fund which can only be spent on economic development. Due to the economic conditions at the time, we received extremely low bids from companies that needed work for their employees. The project to date is under budget so we are exploring other development work by the Industrial Park such as grinding and paving the Industrial Park Road and replacement/rehabilitation of the sign at the Industrial Park, etc.

The last 1.5 years has been spent working on obtaining the grant, filing the pre-application, filing supplementary paperwork, meeting with state and federal officials, obtaining the grant, completing the paperwork for the federal stimulus funding, managing the grant project and filing paperwork. KVCOG assisted with the regular economic development paperwork and I have been completing the federal reporting. We should be able to close out much of the paperwork by the end of the year.

During the Winter of 2011, with the Winter generally being a quieter time, we will then work on our marketing strategy to draw business activity to the expansion.

The recession really started in 2008. In the last couple of years, there have been very few new large business starts in the State of Maine. There have been 3 announcements for large numbers of jobs in the KVCOG region – which is Kennebec and Somerset County with only one starting up. The other two held back waiting for the recovery. The same situation took place here in Pittsfield when a couple of planned major expansions were put on hold or went back on the companies' priority list. No area of the State has been immune from the effects of the economy.

As long as consumer spending is low, companies with money have continued to hold the cash on their balance sheet.

There are 10-12 states that have done well to attract new business as they have supplied large amounts of start-up incentives and cash to draw companies to their state. The companies ask for building purchases, infrastructure investment, workforce development, local grants and basically go to those states where they have cost avoidance. The State and local government make a huge investments in incentives.

That is not going to happen with the State of Maine or the Town of Pittsfield or any town in the State of Maine.

We are going to promote our workforce that has a great work ethic; our quality of life which the Town is well known for; our small Ec Dev Loan program and our ability to obtain grant funding for projects and businesses. We have an extra advantage: these 6 lots, ranging from 2.1 to 4 acres in size, have the ability for the company which purchases the lot to receive tax increment sharing in which a % of the taxes are returned to the business to pay their debt service for lot development, use for lot infrastructure and other needs. We already have approval from the Department of Economic and Community Development for use of our standard agreement. Obtaining state approval ahead of the time, which is a multi-month process, is beneficial as we will not have to rush to obtain approval when a business is interested because we already have that designation. It can certainly be used as an asset in marketing. Any tax sharing would be subject to the approval of the Town Council and be dependent upon the extent of the development and number of jobs created.

The Industrial Park Expansion has 6 lots that would be idea for smaller to medium businesses. We promoted the project for grant on the concept that we would market to certain industry types after a study of the local business climate at that time. We would be marketing to precision manufacturing, applied value wood products, and tech/financial services, although all businesses that fit into an industrial park are welcome. Those are business sectors that fit well with other business sectors that are community is known for, therefore, during the winter, we will be scheduling meetings with local companies to talk to them about the types of businesses that would be helpful to have near by in order for them to grow. This will then bring the business community involvement into the project. We will need to develop a list of businesses or companies to contact and then start the marketing. Marketing the business park will need to be built upon our relationships with the local businesses, all of our contacts and our community's reputation as business friendly and our ability to get grant funding.

Another key component of marketing can be business incubation and assisting those growth businesses, which are ready to expand into the industrial park from their current location, and finding a new small company to move into their location.

Public Works is staking out the lots now so that potential investors and interested parties can look at the lots. One company is interested in a couple of the lots for next year.

As the Mayor has indicated at several meetings, we have been spending all of this time on economic development during the last 1.5 years to position ourselves so that we will be ready to spring forward when the economy does turnaround, which is coming in a couple of years. We will have the infrastructure, the lots will be ready to sell, the marketing materials for this new phase will be completed and we will have made the contacts.

Motion by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** to waive the rules and add Resolution 10-111 to the agenda.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

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

**ORDINANCE 10-11:** (Public Hearing) The Town of Pittsfield hereby Ordains that the Town Council Accept all tax year payments of Betsy A. and Philip A. Oliver for Map 19, Lot 27 and authorizes the Town Manager to execute a municipal quitclaim deed releasing the Town's interest in said property to Betsy A. and Philip A. Oliver.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Ordinance 10-11 be adopted.

There was no one who wished to speak for or against Ordinance 10-11. The public Hearing was closed.

The Town Manager noted all taxes are paid up to date.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

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

**Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 10/19/2010:**

**1. The FYI Folder:** FYI Folder which contains items that come in between the Town Council Meetings has the following this evening: List read.

**2. Trash to Treasure Day:** PITTSFIELD COMMUNITY TRASH TO TREASURE DAY will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2010 in conjunction with the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Make A Difference Day: The Recycling Committee would like to invite all residents to participate in our Community's *Fall Trash to Treasure Day* from Dawn to Dusk on Saturday, October 23, 2010 in conjunction with *Make A Difference Day*. All residents are invited to participate in an effort to promote recycling, reuse and reduction of unwanted items. Items should be placed within easy access and view on your property on this day to encourage others to claim your discards. Items from your fall cleaning of barns, attics, homes, etc. will be free for the taking and will find new uses and homes. At the end of the day, please remove any items from the side of your property by the road and dispose of them appropriately at the Recycling Center and Transfer Station when it is open. Anyone considering a yard sale is required to obtain a permit from the Town Office. All free items do not require a permit.

The Committee is excited to be working toward a Re-use Facility on Peltoma Avenue to open in Spring of 2011. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help is invited to attend one of the Recycling Committee Meetings. The next Recycling Committee Meeting is Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at 5:00 pm. Participants may call Recycling Committee member Jane at 487-3343 or Kathryn at the Town Office at 487-3136.

**3. ATV Access Trail on Beans Corner Road:** The Police Chief reports that the ATV Club has put up the metal signs on metal posts that the club had agreed to put up at the Town Council Meeting. The Police Chief feels that these signs will help to make the access route much safer. The Police Department reports that they have not received any

further complaints about the ATV use since last month when there were several issues. The Town Manager reported that she called several people who had called in and asked for any issues whatsoever on the ATV use and has not received any calls regarding problems since last month. The ATV Club had been asked to deliver safety facts and proper use details of the ATV access trail to the residents along the Access Trail in both Pittsfield and Hartland by the Town.

**4. Pittsfield Public Library Programming:** The Friends of the Pittsfield Public Library will offer a lively and entertaining program with Hazel Mitchell about the process of illustrating children's books on Tuesday, October 26 at 7:00. Hazel Mitchell, an artist-illustrator of several children's books, as well as creator of commercial artwork, fine art paintings and photographs is from Scarborough in Yorkshire, England. After attending art college in York and Sunderland in England, she 'shipped out' and joined the Royal Navy to earn a living working in military Graphics Studios. After her naval career, she was CEO of a lithographic printing business in Portsmouth, England. She will talk about the steps she takes in getting a contract and creating illustrations to complement the text in the book. This special event will be in the library's Warren Community Room. For more information, please call 487-5880.

**5. Community Theatre Fundraiser:** The Theatre Fundraising Committee invites everyone to a Friends & Family Community Fundraiser at Country Creations on Sunday, October 24, 2010 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm hosted by Dena Hall. A portion of every sale during this fundraising event will be donated to help the Theatre.

**6. Proposed Somerset County Charter:** Copies are available at the Town office.

**Finance Committee:** Met tonight before the meeting with representative from TD Banknorth. We talked about the cemetery accounts, which are going pretty well. We also reviewed the excise tax collection and State Revenue sharing, which are both down this year.

**Ordinance Committee:** None.

**Recycling Committee:** Met on 10/06. The Town Manager gave an update on the re-use center. Talked about using a senior Able worker for the facility. A Go Green Group from MCI came and spoke to the Committee. Talked about educating the Vickery children. Also discussed the possibility of doing a play for the children. Encouraged the group to speak to the Egg Festival Committee.

## 6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

***ORDINANCE 10-12:*** (To be set to Public Hearing 11/03/2010) The Town of Pittsfield hereby Ordains that Chapter 2B General Assistance Ordinance, Appendices A-F be rescinded and the new Appendices A-F be adopted to reflect the revised maximums for the period of October 1, 2010 to October 1, 2011.

Moved by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Ordinance 10-12 be sent to Public Hearing.

The Town Manager noted this is a mandatory process with few changes this year.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**ORDER 10-08:** Pursuant to Ordinance 08-14, as adopted by the Pittsfield Town Council on July 29, 2008, the Town Council orders that the Town issue and sell general obligation bonds to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (the "Bonds") in the total aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$167,100 to refinance and refund the \$208,875 2008 General Obligation Bond, dated August 29, 2008 previously issued by the Town to Merrill Bank to finance costs of the repair and/or replacement of sewer mains and manholes on several sections of roads in the Town, including but not be limited to Main Street, West Street and/or Hamilton Cross. The Town Treasurer and Mayor are authorized to determine the date, maturities, denominations, interest rate or rates, place of payment, paying agent and registrar, form and other details of the refunding Bonds, including the signing and delivery of said Bonds on behalf of the Town. The Bonds shall be executed in the name of the Town by its Treasurer, and countersigned by the Mayor, and be in such form and contain such terms and provisions, not inconsistent herewith, as the Treasurer and the Mayor may approve, their approval to be conclusively evidenced by their execution thereof. The Treasurer and the Mayor are hereby authorized to provide on behalf of the Town that any of the Bonds may be made redeemable or callable, with or without premium, prior to maturity. The Treasurer and the Mayor are hereby authorized to agree to such further terms and conditions and to execute on behalf of the Town a Loan Agreement and such other documents as may be prescribed by the Maine Municipal Bond Bank and the State of Maine pursuant to the State's Clean Water State Revolving Fund program, such Loan Agreement and other documents to be in such form as approved by the Treasurer and the Mayor, such approval to be conclusively evidenced by their execution of the Bonds, Loan Agreement and other documents. The Mayor and the Treasurer are further hereby authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town loan applications and other applications with the State of Maine Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank and an application to the Maine Public Utilities Commission for approval to issue such Bonds. The Treasurer, Mayor and other proper officials of the Town be, and hereby are authorized in its name and on its behalf to do or cause to be done all such other acts and things as may be necessary or desirable in order to effect the issuance, sale and delivery of the Bonds hereinabove authorized, including any arbitrage, use of proceeds, signature, no litigation and other certificates, and other documents as may be necessary or appropriate in connection with the sale of the Bonds.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Order 10-08 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Town issued General Obligation Bonds back in 2008 after going out to bid in order to address several areas of malfunctioning sewer lines to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community.

This was pursuant to our discussions with DEP to begin to work on the Town's sewer mains and sludge removal to start to enhance this older system.

The Town's request to re-issue these bonds through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Program has been accepted for financing. Therefore, the Town has a preliminary allocation of funding through the program. The second step to re-finance the loan involves the necessary order pursuant to the original ordinance passed in 2008. The third step will be to complete the Maine Municipal Association Loan Package. The exact interest rate has not

been set, however, it appears to be around 1.0-1.25% plus 2 sets of fees vs. the current 3.90% rate. At 1.0% plus the 2 sets of fees, the savings over the remaining life of 8 years appears to be around \$12,000 in interest.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 10-109:** Resolved that the Town Council authorize the transfer of funding from the Reserve accounts pursuant to the approved 2010 Budget for Reallocation Revenue funding as the original purposes of the reserve accounts has been met, such Reallocations designated as \$32,000 from G-1-618-00 Cable Access Reserve and \$29,000 from G-1-627-00 Revaluation Reserve.

Moved by **Councilor Curtis** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 10-109 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted during the budget process last year we discussed the reallocation of funding for the Revenue budget to assist as much as possible in lowering the amount of property taxes to be raised for the 2010 budget. After a thorough review of all funds, several reallocations were discussed that included the use of funds from accounts for which the purpose was completed or less funding was actually needed. It is now time to transfer those funds. As most of the accounts were in Fund 1 (General Fund); Fund 4 (Economic and Community Development Fund); and Fund 5 (Grants and Special Revenues), no further motions are needed. Since two of the six reallocations are from Reserve Accounts, the Town Council should approve the transfer of the funds from the two reserve accounts in accordance with State Law.

As of 08/31/2010, the two reserves had the following balances:

PITT 14 Local Cable Access \$73,028.92 - \$32,000 encumbered = \$41,028.92

PITT 29 Revaluation \$46,699.49 = \$29,000 encumbered = \$17,699.49

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 10-110:** Resolved that the Town Council approve the Request for Proposals for Removal of Trees and Stumps and Authorize the Town Manager and Public Works Foreman to seek bids for same.

Moved by **Councilor Curtis** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 10-110 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the last time that the Town has had trees cut and stumps removed was 2008. In 2009, the Town could not afford this work as we were on a budget freeze. We are watching our expenses and conserving as best as possible as revenues continue to decline. As our necessary Power Line Trimming work came in with such excellent pricing, it would be advantageous to put out to bid tree work. We do have some tree problems that have been called in during the last month and we are getting behind on our Street Tree Inventory required work.

The Town's usual procedure in determining which trees will be placed on the list includes the following: The Town utilizes the Project Canopy Street Tree Inventory to determine the remainder of the trees proposed for cutting and trimming each year.

Category #1 trees on the Street Tree Inventory are to be cut or trimmed first. As there are so many trees in Category #1, the PW Foreman reviews the list and trees along the roads to choose a number of candidates. In addition, the Town also includes those trees that have been found by the Town or called in by residents which have seriously deteriorated.

We were requested to add 1 more tree, part of which fell down on Friday during the wind storm – 272 Main Street to the list. The work that we will do will be based upon the bids that come in and the amount of funding available.

All trees to be cut also include grinding of the stump.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 10-III:** Resolved that the Town Council waive the bid policy to authorize the Town Manager, Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent and Recycling Coordinator to trade in the 2008 F350 Water/Sewer truck, purchase a replacement operational vehicle for the Water/Sewer Operations, and to not spend more than \$20,000.00 from the 2010 Water/Sewer Enterprise Operational Budget for the replacement vehicle, thereby utilizing the trade in value to lower the cost of the purchase of the replacement vehicle.

The Town Manager noted the Water/Sewer Department has asked for consideration of an emergency agenda item. The Water/Sewer Department has found itself in somewhat of an emergency situation due to the lack of not having two vehicles. Late last week, it was determined that the motor in the 2008 F350 Ford was internally damaged and could not be repaired. This information was confirmed on Monday, 10/18/2010. In order to use this vehicle, a new diesel motor is required. The Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent has indicated that the Town was not advised that idling hours would require additional maintenance, such as an oil change every 200 hours, which when it did not take place resulted in clogging up the exhaust system. Scott advises that there is no hour meter on the vehicle. After idling the vehicle for so many hours, the Water/Sewer Department has been told by the dealer where the vehicle was purchased that it should have run the vehicle twice a week on the Interstate to make up for the idling. This has resulted in two blown cylinders and three damaged injectors.

When the Water/Sewer Department contacted multiple dealerships for a replacement diesel motor, it was determined that the cost to replace this engine would exceed \$15,000. The vehicle, when new was \$38,109.42 (including interest). This would mean that the engine cost would be close to one-half of the cost of the actual vehicle. Due to the idling issue, the lack of an hour meter that the Department would have to have access to in order to determine when additional maintenance should take place and the additional requirement of running the vehicle on open stretches to clear up the exhaust issue which will utilize additional diesel, it is recommended that the Town not repair this vehicle. This vehicle should be traded in (at a reasonable trade-in value) and a replacement vehicle purchased. It is recommended that the Town purchase a replacement vehicle outright that can be afforded within the Town's 2010 Water/Sewer Budget by utilizing the 2008 F350 as a trade-in.

The Water/Sewer Department has contacted multiple dealerships looking for reasonable

pricing for used and new vehicles. Although pricing for a used vehicle in good working order was requested, some dealerships have not provided any pricing on used vehicles, choosing to price only new vehicles.

The Water/Sewer Department is looking for a basic vehicle with a gasoline engine that is in good running order. A used vehicle that is in good running order would be fine. If it turns out that a good used vehicle would end up costing more than a new vehicle (with all of the rebates/incentives/etc.), then it may be more cost effective to purchase a newer vehicle.

The 2006 F350 has a gasoline engine and therefore does not have the same motor or exhaust system. There have been no issues to date with this vehicle and it has been a high performer during the last four years.

Water/Sewer Assistant Superintendent, Scott Noble, noted that the 2008 F350 diesel truck has what is called a ReGen System, due to the fact it had to have the environmental emissions exhaust. This system puts oil back into the motor. As this system cleans your exhaust, it needs airflow. 2 or 3 times a week we would need to run it on the highway to clean the exhaust to make up for the idling hours. Idling hours doesn't mean it is sitting still, but it means its being used in Town, not getting adequate airflow. Oil changes were being done based on mileage, not hours used. When the truck was ordered it was supposed to be just like the 2006 F350. Scott noted that everything in the owner's manual states oil changes are to be done based on mileage. Scott noted the dealerships have advised municipalities against buying any diesel vehicles, as the new motors don't do as well with just in-town use or idle time.

After some discussion, the Council agreed that Councilor Curtis would call and speak to a few retired associates he knew at the dealership tomorrow. Councilor Curtis and Water/Sewer Assistant Superintendent would also meet tomorrow morning to discuss some additional details.

The basic feeling of the Council was that the dealership should assist the Town with this problem seeing that they had never caught this issue during any maintenance nor mentioned the situation of idling hours until after the damage was done.

Moved by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Resolution 10-111 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

7. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Financial Reports as of 09/30/2010:**

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  
**Reviewed briefly by Town Manager**

**Other Reports as of 09/30/2010:**

Building and Plumbing Permit Reports  
Library Report-Librarian's and Library Trustees Minutes  
Police Report  
**Self-Explanatory – Not Reviewed**

**Grants Update:**

**New Grants:**

PUC Energy Efficiency: Block Grant to Towns: The PUC has issued its list of projects and the Town of Pittsfield's Energy Efficiencies for the Municipal Building including an energy efficient boiler for part of the Town Office; solar thermal panels for the roof; show volunteers how to weatherize the Town Office better & review the Town Ordinances to encourage alternative energy sources. The PUC received a lot of the Custom Applications. Our project was approved for the requested amount of \$84,025. We filed our first report on this project. Just received our contract package. This will be a project for 2011.

Riverfront Community Development Grant: Need to develop bid specs for the paving of the parking lot and skate rink area. I started this, however, the book is over 1 inch thick of requirements for this project. The Public Works Department has finished the bird watching blinds and now will start the fishing platforms, which are part of the Riverfront Grant project. We already completed a lot of the renovation work including the parking lot, some trails, boat launch and the skating rink last year. It is anticipated that we will put the paving out to bid during the winter (along with the Hathorn Park Basketball Paving) to try to get better pricing.

Sewer Replacement including Sewer Evaluation Study with Camera Work,

Dye Test/Smoke Test and Report: Approved by the USDA for \$1.5 million dollars. The grant funding will be used for the bills that are submitted after we spend down the \$1.9 million dollar loan, therefore, it will cover parts of both sludge removal and sewer work.

United Way/Keeping Mid-Maine Warm Grant: We still have funding to clean three (3) or so furnaces of seniors. This has been advertised before and discussed at prior meetings.

8. **REPORTS:** Audience, Council

**Audience:**

Mike Haynes: I am a heavy equipment operator by trade. I have been doing it for 30 years. I have never come across a truck that needed an hour meter on the engine. Hour meters are required on equipment that run very slow on a high RPM. Examples would be dump trucks, rollers, paving machines and backhoes. Why was the engine overfilled with oil to begin with? Why did it go so long between oil changes, from the last oil change to the engine being blown? When you overload an engine with oil pressure builds up and it

has to go somewhere. Fluid levels need to be checked on a daily basis. If this vehicle had been serviced correctly this incident wouldn't have happened. There are other Towns in this State, and this country, that buy these trucks with these engines and they don't blow apart cause there is no hour meter on them. Mayor Nichols stated just cause we don't hear about other trucks having these issues doesn't mean it doesn't happen. There are a variety of issues going on here. Mr. Haynes stated having an oil change done somewhere other then the dealer does not void the warranty. If you keep records and receipts of maintenance done, if an issue like this comes up of a blown motor, you have a paper trail to prove the work was done in a timely manner. There is negligence on both sides as far as I am concerned. I was here two years ago fighting against this truck being purchased to begin with. It was too much money to be spent on a truck in the first place.

**Council:**

**Councilor Baker:** It has been an interesting night. I want to welcome Mr. Long to Town. Thank you for staying through the meeting, not many people do. As far as the truck, I am not a mechanic. I do know we need another truck.

**Councilor Carr:** Absent.

**Councilor Chale:** Hope we are able to answer Mr. Haynes questions. Would like to Welcome to Town, New Leaf Naturals. It is nice that we have a well-developed growth plan for business and economic development. I don't know what has been making your phones ring, but I hope that we come up with a code of behavior for parents participating in recreation activities. Our children deserve to be treated with respect.

**Deputy Mayor Jordan:** Absent.

**Councilor Curtis:** I had just sat down and talked with someone the other day and they said one thing we didn't have in Pittsfield is a good health food store. As far as the truck – we have talked a lot about it. We just need to come up with a maintenance plan for any future vehicles in this department.

**Councilor Stackhouse:** Would like to Welcome Mr. Long to Town. Congrats on the new business. I have a gentleman I work with that drives to Skowhegan to the health food store. I will put him in your direction once you are open. As far as the truck – the damage is done. Kathryn you are doing a great job on Economic Development in Pittsfield. Keep up the good work.

**Mayor Nichols:** Thank you to Mr. Long for coming in and staying through the meeting. I would like to see the information on the truck that we come up with.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 p.m. All in agreement.

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Nicole Nickolan, Town Clerk