

# Minutes

for a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council, to be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT: COUNCILORS: Mayor Timothy P. Nichols, Deputy Mayor Heather J. Donahue, Councilor Robert Stackhouse, Councilor Matthew Bolster, Councilor Howard Margolskee, Councilor Debra Billings

ABSENT: Councilor Caleb Curtis

Also present: Assistant to the Town manager Michael Feole

AUDIENCE: Don Hallenback, Steve Vance, Don Chute, Denise Savage, Jan Laux, Michael LeBlanc, Scott Thierren, Molly Thierren, Michael Lynch, Michael Dugas, Peter Logiodice, Ben Hall, Anne Mathews, Ron Watson, Jennifer Watson, Amber Quint, Leslie Knowles, Peter Vigue, Caroline Vigue, Nancy Monteryo, Pete Bickmore and Erin Lawrence.

1. Mayor Nichols opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The Council observed a Moment of Silence.
3. Adoption of minutes of the regular meeting held on November 20, 2018 were not available due to the length of the meeting content and will be adopted at the next regular Town Council meeting to be held on February 5, 2019.
4. **PRESENTATIONS, CONGRATULATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS**  
Mayor Nichols announced that the Town Manager was on vacation.  
Community and Economic Development Activities and Events

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS/OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Resolutions tabled at the 01/02/2019:**

Moved by Councilor Donahue and seconded by Councilor Stackhouse that Resolution 2 19-1 to 19-10 be moved from the table to the floor.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 19-01:** Resolved that the Town Council appoint Kathryn Ruth as Official Representative, Councilor Stackhouse as Official Representative and Councilor Donahue as Alternate to the general Assembly for the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG).

Moved by Councilor Bolster and seconded by Councilor Donahue that Resolution 19-1 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 19-02:** Resolved that the Town Council appoint Mayor Nichols as the Alternate representative to the General Assembly for the Kennebec Regional Development Authority (KRDA) also known as FirstPark.

Moved by Councilor Donahue and seconded by Councilor Bolster that Resolution 19-2 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 19-03:** Resolved that the Town Council appoint Councilor Margolskee as an Alternate to the Maine Services Center Coalition in addition to the Town Manager.

Moved by Councilor Stackhouse and seconded by Councilor Billings that Resolution 19-3 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 19-06:** Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to hire Independent Review(s) and execute all paperwork for Airport Grants for the Year 2019 as necessary in accordance with the Town's Bid Policy, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) regulations.

Moved by Councilor Bolster and seconded by Councilor Margolskee that Resolution 19-6 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 19-07:** Resolved that the Town Council sign the Earth Day Proclamation supporting community-wide activities (Earth Day is Monday, April 22, 2019).

Moved by Councilor Stackhouse and seconded by Councilor Billings that Resolution 19-7 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 19-08:** Resolved that the Town Council sign the Arbor Day Proclamation supporting community-wide activities (National Arbor Day is the last Friday in April: Friday, April 26, 2019) and Maine's Arbor Day Week is the 3<sup>rd</sup> full week in May: Sunday, May 19 – Sunday, May 25, 2019.

Moved by Councilor Bolster and seconded by Councilor Stackhouse that Resolution 19-8 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 19-10:** Resolved that the Town Council appoint Jennifer Watson to the Theatre Committee to fill an unexpired term through 12/31/2019.

Moved by Councilor Donahue and seconded by Councilor Margolskee that Resolution 19-10 be adopted.

**VOTE: AYES: Bolster, Donahue,  
Margolskee, Stackhouse, Nichols  
NAY: Billings**

4. **REPORTS:**

**A. COUNCIL COMMITTEES: FINANCE, ORDINANCE AND RECYCLING**

**B. BOARD AND COMMITTEE UPDATES BY TOWN COUNCILORS AND MANAGER**

**C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 19-11:** Resolved that the Town Council appoint Amber Quint to the Theatre Committee to fill an unexpired term through 12/31/2019.

Moved by Councilor Stackhouse and seconded by Councilor Bolster that Resolution 19-11 be adopted.

**VOTE: AYES: Bolster, Donahue,  
Margolskee, Stackhouse, Nichols  
NAY: Billings**

6. **DISCUSSION ITEMS: NONE**

7. **REPORTS:** Audience, Council

**Audience:**

Don Hallenback- There has been a lot of discussion on the Theater. I would like to let you all know some of the history of the Theater. Before the 1970s Glen Weaton owned the Theater. A committee was formed when I was in High School to try to buy the Theater when it was up for sale. We sold memberships that allowed you two admissions once the Theater was bought and opened. The funds raised were insufficient to cover the costs. The town stepped in and bought the Theater for \$1. It was never meant to make a profit. Once the Theater opened the inspector told us that we needed to change out the carpets. The projector was a carbon arc projector and they were not cheap to change the electrodes. In the 1950s, there was an Osteopath office on the second floor. I have also seen a picture that showed the box office under the marquee in front of the building. We also had a picture of a lady leaning out the second floor window when President Eisenhower came to visit.

Leveret Fernald- I am glad that some other groups are forming to help. I am a member of 503c organizations and will be happy to help if you want to form a 503c.

Ron Watson- I attended the last council meeting. As we went through the meeting I saw the process get chaotic. I recommend someone take training as a parliamentarian. I had a hard time finding background on some of the resolutions this year, so I would like to suggest that supplemental material be provided along with the agendas. About accessing information, we should have the username and password to the WIFI on the center table so that people can access the internet during the meeting. The Seabasticook Valley Health coalition have regular meetings and a councilor should join or at least attend those. (Councilor Margolskee is already on the mailing list) For more information you can contact Jessica Ouellette. The governing documents such as the Town Charter, the Town Codes and the Administrative codes should be available on the town website. (The Administrative codes are State

codes and a link to them is also requested) We should also digitize the tapes from previous meetings and make them available on the town website.

Are PEEC meetings open to the public? (Councilor Margolskee-No.) Can we put up information on the website about the PEEC?

The Historical society is having a meeting in the Library on Sunday, January 20, 2019 from 2:00-6:00 PM. We want to plan the next few years. The Historical society is setup as a 501c3.

Becky Thompson- Does money run out in June or does the funding stop? Councilor Donahue-If the money can be stretched, the Theater can stay open until it runs out. Councilor Billings-The town needs to get out of the responsibility of running the Theater.

Ron Watson- What is the sale price of the Theater? My suggestion is that the Town Council have a discussion about selling the theater to a non-profit group or if it becomes profitable then we could keep it.

Michael Dugas- Do we have figures about how much it would cost to make the building saleable? (\$793,000 is the figure put into the report a few years back).

Pete Vigue- There are structural issues in every part of the building. The roof needs more work than just putting on a new cover. The restrooms are inadequate to support a theater playgroup. It would take \$1.5 million to bring it up to standards. The Libra Foundation has concerns because there are a number of theaters in the state that are not occupied.

Jan Laux- First I want to suggest that Ron Watson change his name to Moses Watson. As far as the Bicentennial, we have a lot of activities planned. The theme is "Now and Then". It should be "Now and Tomorrow". We need to look at what has happened over the last 200 years. Both the bad and the good and learn from them. There is a time capsule in the Library. Please sign the guest book and take a guess at what is in the capsule.

On 60 minutes there was a segment talking about 40% of jobs disappearing in the next 20 years. We should be on the front side of those things. We had a lot of support at our last meeting even with the storm except for the Town Council, but Councilor Margolskee did show up.

Pete Vigue- Has anybody not read Sanger Cook's book? Go to the Library and get a copy. The point about that book is that it is about this community. There was a fire where half the town burned down. The Lancy House burned down twice and the last time it didn't come back. A lot of the town was boarded up. This town has risen from the ashes many times. It was the people who rose it up. The Edwards company came when the people funded them to come. Should we dump this all on the town? The town should reject it. In the 1970s, we were dumping our sewage into the river. We had no shopping centers. The interstate had bypassed us. The Theater was rebuilt by JR Cianchette, the father of our last Mayor. The Kiwanis club was very active here. We had the JCs. We need to come together as a community.

Nancy Montereyo- I appreciate what Mr. Vigue just said. But where are we going? Half of us want to keep us in the dark ages and others want to move forward. We want things and we don't think we can afford things.

Michael Dugas- The Comprehensive plans are not done? (Councilor Billings-No)

**Council:**

**Councilor Bolster:** I have no report tonight.

**Deputy Mayor Donahue:** I want to remind everybody that the Maine State Agricultural trade show is in Augusta for the next two days. I am on the board of the Maine Cheese Guild. We have a few people who are getting licensed through the guild soon. This year is the 4<sup>th</sup> time that we are having the Cheese Festival. I am on the site selection committee and I put Manson Park on the list. The thing holding us back is that we need parking for 2000. (Audience had a few ideas-Main St. driveways, The discontinued airport runway.)

**Councilor Margolskee:** I forgot to mention that we are opening a headquarters for the Bicentennial Celebration on Main St. next to Stan's Barber shop. License plates are still available at the Town Office and the Transfer Station.

I would like an update on the Librarian position at the next meeting.

We need several plans or options for operating the Theater.

We are taking a look at the town website.

When I moved to town I appreciated the smallness of the town. One of the dearest parts of a town like this is the volunteerism. All of the amenities of the town. We need a vision for the town. Lets reinvent ourselves. Older folks need to live. At dark moments people band together and have good ideas. I have faith in humanity.

**Mayor Nichols:** I again apologize for missing some of the meeting last week. If you look at the town as if it were a patient in the hospital, we can agree that something needs to be done. We can't live in 2005. I think that Pete hit the nail on the head, we have to come together. Non-profits need to be involved. The pool needed help and people came out of the woodwork. I think that we will have a Theater, if the townspeople want it bad enough. That remains to be seen. I think that where we get lost in the translation is that I don't want someone to say "this used to be there", "this used to be there". I don't want to fight with Pete Vigue and Cianbro, I want to pick their brain. In 2007 we had a bad recession. We didn't raise taxes. We live in 2019. We need to look at every idea. Ask "how do we go about it?" If we have to raise taxes, we have to have a balance so we don't push the elderly out of their homes. This can be done. Run it through our legal system to find out how. It has happened before. I don't believe these nay-sayers. I think cinemas won't be around in the same ways. There may be other things that bring people to the Theatre. Lets look at it as how do we make it happen. I want to live in the future. I don't want to push the elderly out. Everyone here will be elderly some time.

**Councilor Curtis:** Absent

**Councilor Stackhouse:** Thank you to everybody in the audience tonight. There were good dialogue and good ideas.

**Councilor Billings:** Thanks to everybody who came tonight. To the two women who were voted on to the Theater Committee, it was not personal. It has come to a point where we have to make a choice. I don't think the town is in a position to support it.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councilor Stackhouse and seconded by Councilor Bolster to adjourn at 8:05 PM.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

---

Michael Feole, Deputy Town Clerk