

MINUTES

For a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT: COUNCILORS: Michael Cianchette, Robert Stackhouse, Caleb Curtis, Timothy Nichols, Howard Margolskee, Heather Donahue and Matthew Bolster **ABSENT:** NONE. Also present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth; Town Clerk Nicole Nickolan. Audience members included Pete Logiodice, Scott Strom and Jan Laux.

1. **Mayor Stackhouse** 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 December 19, 2017.

Moved by **Councilor Cianchette** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Nichols** that the minutes of the meeting held on December 19, 2017 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

3. Council Members elected at the November 2017 Election take the oath of office and are seated:

District 2: Curtis, Caleb K.

At Large: Bolster, Matthew F.

4. PRESENTATIONS, CONGRATULATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Presentation by Town Manager of Goals for 2018:

A brief presentation of focuses for 2018 will be addressed. Focuses are crucial so that the most important projects can be accomplished in an extremely busy community.

The Town Manager thanked the Town Councilors for her evaluation and noted that she greatly appreciated their comments.

The Town Council decided several years ago that at this time of the year, the Town Manager would report on the goals for the next year. I do not believe there are any surprises on this list of goal projects for 2018 given our concentration on town infrastructure. It is important to have focuses in this busy world and this community, which is surprising much busier than other communities our size and even larger communities. Requests can come from many levels of government and layers of the State, region and community, which often can be conflicting in nature. In order to have accomplishments, it is crucial to stay focused on the priorities. The Town has made many commitments and needs to follow through on them:

Those priorities are: Work with the Department Heads, Committees, Volunteers and Partners to provide guidance and support in the following areas:

1. Economic & Community Development:

Includes items such as the Regional Business Forum/Annual Job Fair – decide on whether we are going to do this as we are almost all by ourselves now. The SVCC Annual Meeting was held in Pittsfield for the first time in the history of the Chamber a few years ago. We are pleased that SVCC will hold its Annual Meeting in Pittsfield again this year. Egg Festival activities which generate extensive revenue for local businesses are very important. We were able to recruit new members so I will just be working on publicity and organizing the meetings for President Steve Cianchette. Promoting the Certified Business Friendly Designation. Also attending a variety of intergovernmental/regional/county meetings.

I will continue to work with the Pittsfield Economic Expansion Corporation (PEEC) on the Town's new **Industrial Park Lots**, which are a very valuable inventory. The economy seems to be coming back with an increase in calls about the Town so our time can be put to good use promoting the sites. We have sold 2 which means that 3 are now sold with 4 to go. Two of the lots are currently being developed for the

The UTC Factory will be pushed. In addition, **Business Visits** and the **Lead Generation Project** are important focuses.

There are a variety of additional ideas that can be implemented beyond the very successful **Buy Pittsfield Buy Local Day** that raised \$4,190 for the Theatre in the past. We would continue to work with businesses to promote their discount programs and to buy in Town or some other activities of this nature to promote the businesses.

2. Work with many parties on the Historical Depot Preservation/Restoration

Fundraising. We need to team up with other groups/organizations to assist with this crucial project and other group's projects, which would be beneficial for all. We need to locate large donations so that we can couple it with the \$11,000 grant that is being held for that project.

3. Work with many parties on the Theatre Restoration Project Fundraising. We need to team up with other groups/organizations to assist with this crucial project. We need an overall action plan, engineering and/or architectural work, and fundraising utilizing the Needs Assessment from 2016. I will be very pleased to work on this project this year. I was taken off the project last year as I was directed to not work on it. As long as we have positive Theatre Committee meetings, I will be able to attend the meetings.

4. Work with the Engineering Consultant and the Water/Sewer staff to continue the Sewer System Rehabilitation. We will be working on non-debt items and planning for the future. We need to make sure that all of our debt service can be supported by the enterprise fund fees before we add more debt.

5. Work with the Engineering Consultant and the Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent to continue with Water System Rehabilitation. As with the Sewer System, we will work on non-debt items and planning for the future. We have a new large debt service payment for North Main Street which we need to absorb into the Enterprise Fund with our water fees.

We do not want to increase the water and sewer fees and there is so much more work to do so a long-term plan based upon the Olver Study and our applications would be beneficial. We can quote the Olver Study which has over \$9 million dollars of sewer projects, however, we should make our own prioritization for the capital plan. We were fortunate to be able to complete over \$3 million dollars of projects, however, we are not going to have the whole \$9 million accomplished as we cannot afford it.

With all the grants that we have received plus the extensive water and sewer low-interest loans and grants, we have had over \$19,000,000 in capital investment in our community.

While not a goal, **support for our employees** is very important. A majority of the town staff had a difficult time last year. We have multiple staff members with significant medical issues. At times it seems as though every single employee was affected in one way or another when you add up all the medical challenges; multiple loss of loved ones; financial difficulties; mental health issues; and dealing with more issues/complaints than ever before on our small budget.

The Town's health insurance has a great service under the Employee Assistance Program in which an employee can call in and have a confidential discussion with a counselor provided through the insurance company. Each employee can call in and have three discussions on the same subject. So, if someone has three items such as dealing with an illness, financial, stress or emotional distress over an issue, he/she can have 9 counseling sessions and likely would get a referral for more help. Several employees have utilized the service and have said that it helped. Some who need help have not. Our supervisors do not have mental health training and we are not comfortable listening to all of this. There are two department heads/ supervisors and myself that have been dealing with this trying to help people and we simply cannot do it anymore. The employees were encouraged last year to call the EAP and we will do it one more time as a positive 2018 step. We will be distributing a brochure on this service. I believe some of the employees who could use some support with their illness or other items will call in to check out this free service. If this does not happen, then we will review other actions to take as people's behavior at work affects their co-workers.

We still have the lowest budget of any town in our size category in the State of Maine. This is not going to change because we do not have the tax base to support a large budget like other towns. Pittsfield has never had it because we have the same percentage of tax exempt and non-taxable property as large cities have. We also now have the Personal Property Tax Loss. With the 28% personal property base of 6 years ago being phased out by the State Legislature, we are in a difficult financial situation. These are the crunch years and we need to meet them head on by being proactive while being conservative.

With that said, this is a start-up month for many projects and close out for some important ones for myself. Specific projects are:

1. I will need to dedicate time to the **Pittsfield Solar Tax Increment Financing District** as the State processes tax increment financing districts a lot differently in the few years since we had our last one. I have a long list of questions to answer which are new. The State is under considerable stress regarding the Incentive programs due to a recent study finding that they are not worthwhile. Ours is, however, many projects in the State have not been.
2. **End of Year and Beginning of Year** is especially important this year as the Financial system malfunctioned the day we closed the books. We were unable to process all entries needed before closing the books out and now have to backtrack. We had to close off the year as we cannot have two years going at the same time. We also need to make sure everything came over and closed out properly. I am not a bookkeeper; however, I have done this for 7 years and we have received excellent audits. I will figure this out but will need time.
3. Assist two **CDBG Projects** with the employee paperwork for the jobs that have been created under their grants. This is often time-consuming and confusing as people have trouble compiling their required financial records for verification by their employers and the Town will get involved.
4. We have the **Northern Regional Border Grant** we applied for and were accepted with our partner, a business, so that the SAS facility would be developed. The Town would receive \$250,000 for the Madawaska sewer line project. We no longer have the business and even if we did, we were told that business would never be allowed to go into the SAS facility. Without a business, we will not receive the grant funding. Having the school go into the SAS Facility equals no grant funding as it is not a business. So, we need to end this so someone else can have the money that is encumbered for us or figure out how to get an exception which to date does not seem to exist.
5. Finish up all **grant filings and items requested by federal and state agencies**. This affects our audit so it needs to happen. As I noted when we started our pursuit of alternative revenues, we would need to file a lot of reports and so I have a number to complete.

I will spend the month working on these items. As you know, I have not had a vacation for years. I am physically exhausted from 7 years of 90-100 hour+ work weeks and need time off so I will be working part-time in January - February. This is a quieter period of time so the timing is good. That will use up time and I will have rest. This will work the same as it does now with items saved up/listed out for me in order for my arrival at the office from meetings/appointments. Emmalee is extremely good at organizing these items and of course the staff can call me directly if they have a time constraint or problem.

Community and Economic Development Activities and Events

Events scheduled:

2018 Annual Banquet for Sebecook Valley Chamber of Commerce (SVCC) on Wed., Feb. 21, 2018 from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm at Maine Central Institute Savage Family Dining Room

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

6. REPORTS:

A. COUNCIL COMMITTEES: FINANCE, ORDINANCE & RECYCLING: NONE

**B. BOARD AND COMMITTEE UPDATES BY TOWN COUNCILORS AND
MANAGER: NONE**

C. Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 01/02/2018:

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

2. Theatre Golden Ticket Sale: Although Christmas is over with, we still have the Theatre Golden Tickets that can be a gift or even for yourself: Purchase a book of 10 Gift Certificates at \$55.00. Come and enjoy the Pittsfield Community Theatre!

3. Date Night at the Theatre:

WED: DATE NITE: 2 ADMISSIONS+ 2 MED FOUNTAIN DRINKS+ 1 LARGE POPCORN FOR \$18 + SENIORS \$14.

4. MCI Robotics Team: Would like to send us a personal invitation to the first annual Terror Bytes Kickoff Day Fundraiser. We are hosting an all you can eat Soup, Chili, and Chowder event on Jan 6th, serving starts at 4 PM. We'll also be having a dessert auction starting at 4:30 PM. The Elks Club has graciously donated their hall for us to use. Kick-off day is a big day for the team. It's the day we find out what our robot has to do this season. So this event marks the first day of our build season. So spread the word, the auction is a lot of fun, the soups, chilis and chowders will be hot and the students excited to talk about this year's game.

5. Pinnacle Ski Slope is now open: Ski or Snowboard With Us

Hours: Wed & Fri: 6-8pm (night skiing under the lights); Sat. & Sun: Noon-4pm;

Location: 271 Waverly Street Pittsfield Maine

7. NEW BUSINESS:

(TABLED AT THE 12/19/2017 MEETING):

RESOLUTION 17-131: Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract for the Police Department with the Humane Society – Waterville Area for the period of January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018 at the sum of \$ 1,565.10 per quarter to not exceed \$ 6,260.40 for the year and authorize the Town Manager to sign same.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Cianchette** that Resolution 17-131 be removed from the table.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Cianchette** that Resolution 17-131 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this item was tabled at the 12/19/2017 meeting as the pricing was not yet available. We have been advised that the per capita rate will be \$1.48, up from the \$1.46 rate. We are still waiting to find out which per capita figure is to be utilized. Final pricing to not exceed was available at the Town Council Meeting.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

ORDER 18-01: Ordered that the Town Council elect from among its members a Mayor to serve for the 2018 year.

Councilor Cianchette was nominated. No other nominations were received.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Order 18-01 be adopted inserting Michael A. Cianchette.

VOTE AYE: Bolster/Margolskee/Nichols/Curtis/Stackhouse

VOTE NAY: Donahue

MOTION PASSES

ORDER 18-02: Ordered that the Town Council elect from among its members a Deputy Mayor to serve for the 2018 year.

Nominations were made for Councilor Stackhouse, Nichols and Margolskee.

1st VOTE

For Nichols: Stackhouse

For Stackhouse: Bolster/Nichols

For Margolskee: Donahue/Curtis/Margolskee

Councilor Nichols withdrew his nomination. Mayor Cianchette will be voting for quorum.

2nd VOTE
For Stackhouse: Bolster/Nichols/Stackhouse/Cianchette
For Margolskee: Donahue/Curtis/Margolskee

MOTION PASSES WITH STACKHOUSE

ORDER 18-03: Ordered that the Mayor appoint from among the Councilors a Finance Committee, an Ordinance Committee and a Fair Hearing Authority consisting of three (3) members each and a Police Labor Negotiating Committee consisting of two (2) Councilors and the Town Manager.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Donahue** that Order 18-03 be adopted inserting the following names:

Finance – Robert Stackhouse, Howard Margolskee and Heather Donahue
Ordinance – Michael Cianchette, Robert Stackhouse and Heather Donahue
Fair Hearing – Michael Cianchette, Caleb Curtis and Matthew Bolster
Police Labor Negotiating –Tim Nichols, Howard Margolskee and Kathryn Ruth

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 18-01: Resolved that the Town Council appoint Kathryn Ruth as Official Representative, Councilor Stackhouse as Official Representative and Councilor Nichols as Alternate to the General Assembly for the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG).

Moved by **Councilor Nichols** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Stackhouse** that Resolution 18-01 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is a yearly appointment. KVCOG is the planning agency for Kennebec, Somerset and a part of Knox County. KVCOG also serves as the agency representing the region before the federal government through the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Program (CEDS) for regional economic opportunities. The Annual Meeting is held in September during the day, generally on a weekday morning. Once in a while there will be a General Assembly Meeting on a Wednesday morning if business cannot be held until September.

Last year, Mayor Stackhouse was the Official Representative and Deputy Mayor Nichols was the Alternate

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 18-02: Resolved that the Town Council appoint Michael Cianchette as the Alternate Representative to the General Assembly for the Kennebec Regional Development Authority (KRDA) also known as FirstPark.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Margolskee** that Resolution 18-02 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted KRDA is the group that oversees the FirstPark regional business park in Oakland. It would be helpful to have an Alternate for the KRDA General Assembly Meetings in case the Town Manager cannot attend. These are generally held at 5:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month several times a year.

Last year, Councilor Strom was the Alternate Representative.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 18-03: Resolved that the Town Council appoint Timothy Nichols as an Alternate to the Maine Services Center Coalition in addition to the Town Manager.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Margolskee** that Resolution 18-03 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Maine Services Center Coalition assists communities with updates and legislation. Communities such as Pittsfield are recognized as service centers because they have more of a burden on their services than other communities in the State.

Last year Deputy Mayor Timothy Nichols was the Alternate.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 18-04: Resolved that the Town Council appoint Howard Margolskee as Council Representative to the Housing Revolving Loan Committee.

Moved by **Councilor Nichols** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Stackhouse** that Resolution 18-04 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted last year Councilor Margolskee was the Council Representative.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 18-05: Resolved that the Town Council form an Ad Hoc Council Committee on Cable and appoint two Town Councilors and the Town Manager to the Committee with one Councilor to serve as Council Liaison and the Town Manager as staff; and task the Committee to bring back an Action Plan to enhance cable and programming for the community.

Moved by **Councilor Donahue** and seconded by **Councilor Margolskee** that Resolution 18-05 be tabled to the next scheduled meeting.

The Town Manager noted a proactive approach is desired toward cable enhancements as well as other programming that could be provided over the web or by other means. From time to time, the Council has created Ad Hoc Council Committees and Ad Hoc Citizen Committees. An Action Plan focused on areas such as addressing our older Cable Franchise Agreement; covering Council Meetings and other events/programs of interest; networking with the school system for projects; and reviewing opportunities available to engage the public would be a very proactive project for the Town Council.

Councilor Donahue noted there is an upcoming meeting she will be attending on 01/04/2017 regarding the PEG station. The item should be tabled so she can get an update on the station.

When asked about the history, Councilor Donahue noted Marie Manning set up a PEG station, which is like public TV, but public generated. When the contract was signed in May, SVTV would provide the equipment and training. The initial funds were provided for establishment of the PEG station. The Town Council asked the Town Attorney to review the contract in December. The Town Council then voted not to provide additional funding or franchise fees.

Councilor Margolskee stated no receipt of the funds spent has been received. We have questioned, where is the money? Do we learn a lesson from this? Where did we go wrong? What is next? Where do we go from here? After review the Town Attorney notes the agreement does not establish exclusive rights between SVTV and the Town. It is not an exclusive entity so we can look at other alternatives.

The Town Manager noted she was requested to add this item to the agenda and sees it as a positive step for the Town.. Councilor Donahue questioned who requested it? Deputy Mayor Stackhouse noted he, for one, asked for the item to be on the agenda. Councilor Donahue said we need to keep in mind this is yet another committee we are asking the Town Manager to take on with her already busy schedule.

Councilor Curtis noted he received an email from Twinkle Marie Manning at 6:15 pm tonight. It discussed breach of contract and legal action against the Town. Councilor Curtis felt this sounds like threatening. He was not impressed with this. As I am new on the Council, as well as Councilor Bolster, we should have a brief review of the situation.

Mayor Cianchette noted with its long history and new Council members the item can be tabled to be able to provide the new Councilors history before voting on this item.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 18-06: Resolved that the Town Council sign the Expense Warrants upon recommendation of the Finance Committee for the year 2018.

Moved by **Councilor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Bolster** that Resolution 18-06 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Town is governed by a variety of rules, regulations and laws which sometimes makes action a bit complicated. By signing and/or reporting on the Expense Warrants at each meeting and between meetings, the Finance Committee as a Council Committee is recommending their approval. We should have a majority of the Councilors then sign the warrants after the Finance Committee reviews them. This resolution authorizes that action for the Year 2018.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 18-07: Resolved that the Town Council sign the Certificate of Commitment for Sewer User Rates and Water User Rates during the Year 2018.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Resolution 18-07 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this agenda item is a housekeeping function only and does not address rate changes.

In 2005 – 2017, the Town Council has authorized the signing of the certificates for that year. This resolution authorizes the signing of the certificate of commitment of sewer user rates and water user rates for the calendar Year 2018. It may be necessary to put sewer and/or water liens on some of the accounts if they are not paid in a timely fashion. To do so, the Town Council needs to sign the Certificate of Commitment.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 18-08: Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to hire Independent Review(s) and execute all paperwork for Airport Grants for the Year 2018 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 **Deputy Mayor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Donahue** that Resolution 18-08 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted some of the projects we are awarded require an Independent Review and advice to the Town on the engineering and specialty consulting work estimates provided by the Airport consultants. All independent reviews are paid for by the grants. Once the work on the grants start, it moves very quickly and this yearly authorization assists in facilitating the grants. This particular housekeeping approval may not be required this year, but no one knows if a project we have applied for may be moved up or moved back due to federal and state funding issues. We have been fortunate that for the last few years, MDOT has performed the

Independent Review. If this continues, this agenda item is not needed. However, we will not know until the item develops so it is best to be covered by having approval.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 18-09: Resolved that the Town Council sign the Earth Day Proclamation supporting community-wide activities (Earth Day is Sunday, April 22, 2018).

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Nichols** that Resolution 18-09 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted Earth Day celebration activities have been taking place for years in the Town of Pittsfield with a Council proclamation endorsed since 2003. The Recycling Committee will be planning its Earth Day Celebration activities, which are likely to be combined with other events, at its January and February, 2018 meetings.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 18-10: 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 27, 2018) and Maine's Arbor Day Week is the 3rd full week in May: Sunday, May 20 – Saturday, May 26, 2018.

Moved by **Councilor Nichols** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Stackhouse** that Resolution 18-10 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted that at the January and February, 2018 meetings, the Recycling Committee will plan a number of activities to celebrate Arbor Day. It is likely that the Arbor Day and Earth Day activities will be celebrated together.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 18-11: Resolved that the Town Council appoint members to fill the vacancies on the various Town Boards and Committees from the attached list.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Nichols** that Resolution 18-11 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted a number of individuals are interested in board and committee positions. We will have a more complete list at the next Council Meeting.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Updates:

Ordinance Amendment: There has been discussion about amending the Administrative Code so Councilors cannot have projects with funds that are administered separately from the Town. I think we had a unique case in 2017 and since I have never seen anything like this before, I would not be inclined to process an amendment unless the Council wants to proceed forward. If anyone does, let me know and I will schedule a discussion for the Ordinance Committee.

Code Enforcement Violations Update: Discussed the chart and legal action.

Tax Acquired Property – 0 foreclosures for 2017 on the 2015 taxes: Deputy Tax Collector Emmalee Reed does very well connecting everyone. So, we have the dam properties that will be legally reviewed and the one property with the uninhabitable dwelling on North Main Street

Water and Sewer Liens: Reviewed the Liens.

2017 Waste Transporter Arrival – The new Waste Transporter arrived late last month. It is operational and then an override button was not set correctly so it did not start this morning.

Grants Update: We are fortunate to have all these grants. A report will be provided.

Spirit of America Nominees for 2018: This tribute is presented in the name of Maine towns to local individuals, organizations and projects for commendable community service. If we already nominated an individual or group for an award and he/she/they received it, then we do not nominate them for this award. We would make the choice at the next Council Meeting and then make the award at a February 2018 meeting. They are able to invite their family and friends and it is a wonderful event. There may be some volunteer appearances such as riding in the Egg Festival Parade, being Grand Marshall and/or lighting the Christmas Tree. The list of nominees will be forwarded to the Town Councilors. Councilors will contact the Town Manager by next Wednesday, January 10, 2018 if there are any other candidates.

9. REPORTS: Audience, Council

Audience:

Representative Strom: Congratulated the Mayor. Read a summary of LD 1629, an Act to protect the elderly from tax lien foreclosure. Councilor Donahue and the Town Manager said our town goes above and beyond to assist citizens to keep their property. As discussed last year, this is a non-issue for us but will add cost and liability. Noted the Moratorium on marijuana sales expires on February 1st. Announced there were overdose deaths in all of the surrounding towns and Pittsfield. The arrest by Somerset got a lot of drugs and guns.

Council:

Councilor Bolster: No Report.

Councilor Donahue: Asked what is needed for internet in the Council Chambers so it can be available for groups and we can promote use of the building. The Town Manager advised interconnectivity was an area for the tabled Council Committee. Many groups have utilized the room, bring their presentations and to date, there have been no issues. Wants coaches to be fingerprinted. Hopes for a productive 2018 with lots of great things.

Councilor Margolskee: Welcomed the new Councilors. Asked about the American Legion's progress. The Town Manager advised of the plan for a donated modular unit for the property. Indicated he was one of the Councilors who wanted the Council Committee on Cable as well as the Deputy Mayor.

Councilor Nichols: Congratulated the new Mayor. Noted an employee he works with tried to save someone on drugs. There have always been drugs, however, this is not the 1970's with marijuana as the drugs are a lot stronger.

Councilor Curtis: It's good to be back. Looking forward to getting to know the new Councilors. Agreed coaches need background checks. Glad for the arrest mentioned by Representative Strom.

Deputy Mayor Stackhouse: Thanked the audience especially those staying until the end. Congratulated the Mayor. Thanked those who voted for him for Deputy Mayor. Asked about a time limit on the Depot Grant. The Town Manager advised no, the funds need to be utilized for that specific project. Asked about the old fire hydrants. The Town Manager advised some were sold for scrap. Thanked the Town Manager for the updates on Holly Cote. Would like to attend the Chamber dinner. Thanked the new Councilors for coming forward. Went to the Theatre last evening and was pleased to see such good attendance as well as the business ads promotion. Looking for 2018 to be a productive year.

Mayor Cianchette: Thanked everyone for putting their faith in him as the Mayor. Pledged to do the right, good and respectful thing. Looking forward to a productive year. Asked the Councilors to let him know if he needs to do something differently. Thanked the audience. Thanked the new Councilors for stepping up. Agreed with background checks for coaches. Noted Pittsfield is on the verge of great things with all of our work and assets. One thing will push us forward. Offered thoughts to Officer Cote and his wife. Asked about the Spirit of America award and the Town Manager briefly discussed the process.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by **Deputy Mayor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Nichols** that the meeting be adjourned at 8:46 p.m. All in agreement.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Nicole Nickolan, Town Clerk