

MINUTES

of a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council, held on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT: COUNCILORS: Mayor Nichols, Deputy Mayor Donahue, Councilor Bolster, Councilor Margolskee, Councilor Curtis and Councilor Billings.

ABSENT: Councilor Stackhouse.

Also present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth, Assistant to the Town Manager Michael Feole.

AUDIENCE: Michael Cianchette, Ann Mathews, Pete Logiodice, Jan Laux, Peter Vigue, Carol Vigue, Ron Watson, Pete Bickmore, Nancy Monteyro and Anna Bockis.

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 February 5, 2019.

Deputy Mayor Donahue had three amendments.

Moved by Councilor Bolster and seconded by Councilor Billings that the amended minutes of the meeting held on February 5, 2019 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

4. **PRESENTATIONS, CONGRATULATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- A. 2019 Pittsfield Spirit of America Tribute Award
Councilor Margolskee nominated Tom Brown.
Councilor Billings nominated Bernard Williams.
Tom Brown was voted to be this year's nominee.
- B. Community and Economic Development Activities and Events

The 47th Central Maine Egg Festival theme is: Agriculture and "FarmEgging" Past-Present-Future.

The Central Maine Egg Festival is a group of volunteers who put on the week-long Egg Festival in Pittsfield for the region. The Committee works with the Greater Pittsfield Area Kiwanis Club and the Town of Pittsfield on the Festival.

The theme of the 47th Annual event has just been selected:

It will be Agriculture and "FarmEgging" Past – Present – Future

This decision was made due to this area's deep agricultural influence on the success of the festival. The Egg Festival was founded in part by the egg industry and its important role in the local economy.

Agriculture has definitely come back in our area with milk production, vegetables, several organic farms, alpaca farms among others.

The festival brings so many people to the community and region each summer who come to the Town and spend money. Many people come home to where they grew up for family gatherings. Many people plan their vacation for that week as we are a family-oriented town.

Its time to plan the Egg Festival this year so we are looking for volunteers. Please contact or drop by the Town Office to volunteer to plan or work the festival which is
Monday, July 8 – Saturday, July 13

Major activities have been: Little Chick Contest, Cheesecake & Quiche Contest, Egg-Lympics; Kiddie Parade; Window Painting; Concerts in the Park; Annual Art Show; Sidewalk Art Contest; Street Dance; Open Houses; Marketplace for Maine Made Crafts; and last but not least the Famous Big Parade.

Pittsfield Economic Expansion Corporation (PEEC) Meeting on 02/13/2019:

A meeting of PEEC took place last Wednesday. Michael, our Assistant, accompanied me to the meeting to learn more about our economic development projects. The Directors are comprised of Timothy Nichols, Robert Stackhouse, Michael Gray and Gary R. Jordan, Jr, and myself as Treasurer. The Directors met with two business owners interested in purchasing lots in the Pittsfield Industrial Park Expansion. Meetings were held with each business owner, one being a business owner who wishes to expand here in Town and one which wishes to move his business from another community to Pittsfield. There is a lot of interest in the lots. A general discussion of their proposal and pricing offered took place. There were questions and answers and each business owner left knowing that PEEC was very interested in working with them, that their projects would be good for the Town. The projects involve manufacturing/warehousing and mechanical work. Each party had a few items that they needed to get back to the Town.

So once those materials are back, PEEC will hold another meeting and then make a recommendation to the Town Council. When property is sold, which would be Industrial Park Lots, there would be a Purchase and Sales Agreement signed for the lot/s with the business and then the sale of the lot/s would be set to public hearing. There are 3 steps which can be completed at 2 Council Meetings. Once a lot sale is approved, paperwork to sell the property is prepared by the Town Attorney and reviewed by the prospective buyer and then we go to the closing to exchange funds and the paperwork.

C. Video:

The other item of business was PEEC has agreed to put together a video to promote the Town which we have talked about before, PEEC will pay for this. We will be putting together an RFP and issuing it through PEEC to interested companies. Promotional items of the community, history, to promote our unique assets and being a family friendly community as well as our economic assets.

4. **PUBLIC HEARINGS/OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

5. **REPORTS:**

A. COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

FINANCE-No Report.

ORDINANCE-No Report.

RECYCLING-No Report.

B. BOARD AND COMMITTEE UPDATES BY TOWN COUNCILORS AND MANAGER

- **Communications Committee-No report.**
- **Bicentennial Committee-** The meeting for March has been canceled. The Head Quarters is open downtown. The Executive Committee will meet with Sub-committees and will hold it's meeting in the Council Chambers to televise the meeting. Jan Laux is working with Joe Levesque to design donuts for the Bicentennial week at Dunkin Donuts.
- **Theatre Committee-** Ann Mathews reported that the committee has reached out to the PTAN. Together they filled the theatre for the recent showing of Mary Poppins and had Mary actually show up to meet with the children. They have a Comic night planned for March 2, 2019 and hope to host an Independent Movie in April. They are updating policies and prices of concession items.

C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Tax Acquired Property Review for Automatic Foreclosure for 2016 Taxes:

Account #2322: Burnt mobile home, land not included, to be written off as uncollectible

Account #493: Map 5 Lot 2-A. Off the Taylor Road. This a vacant lot that does not abut any roads. The deed lists a R.O.W to the lot. An area that may be a woods road off the Taylor Road appears to lead toward this lot,

Account #2636: Map 4 Lot 29-A. 20 Barney Cianchette Road. There is 1978 mobile home on site which appears to be lived in.

Account #1283: Map 18 Lot 64. 456 Canaan Road. Map 18 Lot 64
On 12-19-18. Don Chute and Steve Seekins walked through the buildings. The out buildings have leaking roofs and falling ceilings, junk, non-food trash, open eves, and poor wiring. The house is mostly cleaned out and could be fixed up fairly easy. The basement is dry. There is no evidence of a rat infestation, there appears to be a few mice and Don saw a racoon living in the ceiling of one of the out buildings. There is food in the kitchen cabinets that was un-touched, indicating no rats. Pictures were taken. The site will require removal of boats, junk and buildings.
A windshield survey was done on 02-06-19 and there are no changes since last visit to site.

Account #489: Map 4 Lot 6. 1044 Main Street. This a vacant lot that once had a home that burnt. There is a drilled well on site. Most likely there was a subsurface disposal system on site. The lot is snow covered that prevents seeing if debris from the burn or if a foundation exists.

Account #2605 & #2606: Map 12 Lot 66 and 66-ON. 422 Hunnewell Ave. There is a 1998 mobile home on site which appears to be lived in. There is a garage near the mobile and another building (ON) that appears to be an unfinished home. The site and building appear well kept. Margaret Sinclair is listed as having a life tenant for the mobile home.

Account #323: Map 33 Lot 41, 103 Waverley Street. Building is vacant. A truck, canoe, large flatbed trailer, refrigerator and possible other junk is on site. These items most likely belong to Dream Builders Inc. Sidney Scott.

2. Report by the Maine Service Center on the 2020-2021 Biennial Budget Proposal Highlights:
The Town Manager briefly reviewed highlights of Governor Mill's proposed State of Maine Budget.

3. Next Pittsfield Historical Society:

The Pittsfield Historical Society will be meeting in the conference room of the Pittsfield Public Library on Thursday, February 2, 2019 at 6:30 pm. The Town Manager briefly listed the agenda items.

4. Earth Day Community Cleanup on Monday, April 22, 2019: The Town is pleased to announce that we are teaming up with HealthySV and Maine Central Institute for a Community Earth Day Cleanup. In 2019, school will be in session on Earth Day, which rarely happens. MCI Students will be in charge of organizing the event. We have contacted all SAD#53 schools and they will participate based upon the activities involved. The students are working on the day's activities and we will know more in the near year.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

ORDINANCE 19-2: (To be set to Public Hearing 3/5/2019) The Town of Pittsfield hereby Ordains that Chapter 16 Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, Section 12-C Non-conforming Structures and 12-E Non-conforming Lots be rescinded and the new Section 12-C Non-conforming Structures and 12-E Non-conforming Lots be adopted.

An inquiry was received to learn more about why this would be proposed. The Town Manager read an example that had been compiled by the staff as to how this amendment could assist people to expand their building when located in shoreland zoning.

Moved by Councilor Bolster and seconded by Councilor Curtis that Ordinance 19-2 be put to Public Hearing.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 19-20: Resolved that the Town Council accept the proposal of Harris Computer to add the PayPort module to our TRIO service to support Credit Card processing for the sum of \$900.00 and authorize the Town Manager to execute the Contract.

The Town Manager explained that Harris/TRIO had agreed to move forward without the contract in order to not hold up the process if the State completed their steps.

There was a discussion about the fees that would be charged for using this service. Only those who use the service will pay the processing fees so the cost will not be borne through tax dollars.

Moved by Councilor Curtis and seconded by Deputy Mayor Donahue that Resolution 19-20 be adopted.

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

RESOLUTION 19-21: Resolved that the Town Council approve paying Animal Control Officer (ACO) Connie Cummings on a weekly basis.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding this request. The Town will call the IRS to glean more information about how this arrangement could be set up. The request involves a payment to an employee for a set number of hours regardless of the hours worked. The set number of hours would provide for a set amount of pay per week.

Moved by Councilor Curtis and seconded by Councilor Bolster that Resolution 19-21 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 19-22: Resolved that the Town Council authorize the expenditure of \$39,806.90 from the Pittsfield Future Fund for the 2019 Ford Utility Police Interceptor and required equipment, with such funds to be reimbursed to the Pittsfield Future Fund if and when a loan or bond is processed to fund 2019 Capital projects.

The Town Manager advised that there was sufficient interest available in the Pittsfield Future Fund to pay for the new Police vehicle and required equipment.

A discussion took place regarding how many steps will be involved in determining the cost for each of the projects contained in the bond/loan to be issued. Because of the need to determine the roads to be paved, estimates of costs put together and RFPs issued for building enhancements, a RFP for a loan will not be issued at this time.

Moved by Councilor Curtis and seconded by Deputy Mayor Donahue that Resolution 19-22 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

7. **DISCUSSION ITEMS: NONE**

8. **REPORTS:**

Audience:

Carol Vigue-

- Rocks are being spread on roads in addition to sand. This is dangerous and could cause damage to snow blowers when plowed into driveways.

Peter Vigue-

- The Town Report has personal property listed for those who have passed.
- This report and the accounting report are signed by the Town Council and Town Manager.

Ron Watson-

- Thank you for putting the Town Council package online and for the website update.
- Stated that the Finance committee needs to follow the list of items in the Town Ordinances. Advised that he asked the staff for copies of the minutes of their meetings as they were not on the website. He feels that there need to be minutes.
- Thank you for nominating Tom Brown.
- Would like the Ordinance Committee to update the Council Committee lists to reflect the current work being done.

Jan Laux-

- Can we put the Town Council's goals into the time capsule?

Michael Cianchette-

- Thank you to the Town Councilors for the time and effort that they put in.
- Remember the town when you make your hard decisions.
- We could put the goals on a wall and check them off as we meet them.

Council:

Councilor Bolster:

- Thank you to Heather for being so together.
- Thank you to Tom Brown for all of your work.
- Recommended making on-line vehicle registration to be a goal for March.
- Likes the idea of having residents on the Town Council committees as a balance.
- Recommended having a discussion on which roads will be paved this year.

Deputy Mayor Donahue:

- Thank you to the audience for sitting through these meetings.
- Thank you to Tom Brown.
- Thank you to the Historical Society.
- Thank you to Pete for pointing out dead people on the property list.
- Told Ron to hold our feet to the fire on the Finance committee.
- I would like these goals: Economic growth measured by events rather than manufacturing and to promote the town more through tourism.

Councilor Margolskee:

- Thanked everyone for coming tonight.
- Thanked Ron for becoming an asset to the town.
- Interested in having residents on the Town Council committees.
- Thank you to the Egg Festival Committee for the theme this year.

Mayor Nichols:

- Likes the idea of a Vision.
- Thank you to Kathryn for all of her hard work and also the staff.
- Supports having the Comprehensive Plan reviewed..

Councilor Curtis:

- Thank you to the audience for a lot of good comments.
- I think that the idea of goals for the Town Council is a good idea.

Councilor Stackhouse: absent.

Councilor Billings:

- I want to thank everyone for coming tonight.
- I would like a copy of the 2019 budget that has all of the changes.
- Suggested cutting down how many pages we have in the package. Requested that we receive just the pages with amendments rather than the entire Ordinance.

- Interested in making changes to the Ordinance to allow residents to be a part of Town Council committees. Requested that this be a discussion item for the next meeting.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councilor Billings and seconded by Councilor Bolster to adjourn at 9:00 PM.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Michael Feole, Deputy Town Clerk

Minutes are a synopsis of a meeting. For more detail, please go to www.pittsfield.org and click on Town Meeting Videos to listen to videos of Town Council and other Board/Committee Meetings.