

MINUTES

for a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council, held on *Tuesday, February 1, 2022* at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers at the Pittsfield Municipal Building at 112 Somerset Avenue and by teleconferencing technology.

Councilors Present: Mayor Michael Cianchette, Deputy Mayor Peter Logiodice, Councilor Brent Frost, Councilor Jason Hall, Councilor Ronald Jester and Councilor Eric Saucier.

Councilors Present by ZOOM: None

Councilors Absent: None

Also Present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth; Heather Donahue; Amanda Collamore; Eric Witham; Ben Hall, Paul Dube, Properties Manager, Cianbro; and Tim Nichols.

Also Present by ZOOM: Chief Bernard Williams; Amy Starbird; Gavin Dugas; Nicole Steeves; Lindsay Holmstrom; Natalie Hall, Nancy Gibson, and others.

1. OPEN MEETING/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mayor Cianchette opened the meeting of the Council by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. The Council observed a Moment of Silence.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting held on January 18, 2022.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Peter Logiodice and seconded by Councilor Frost to adopt the Minutes of January 18, 2022.

Motion passed with all votes in favor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

3. PRESENTATIONS, CONGRATULATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS:

A. Presentation to Timothy P. Nichols for 24 years of service as a Town Councilor

Mayor Cianchette presented Timothy Nichols with a Commendation from the Town of Pittsfield for outstanding devotion to duty through service on the Town Council for 24 years from 1997 to 2021; serving as Mayor for 8 years and Deputy Mayor for 7 years.

The Town officially acknowledges Mr. Nichols' leadership, guidance and dedication. As the longest serving Town Councilor in Pittsfield history, Timothy P. Nichols has had a lasting positive impact on our community and his hometown.

B. Community and Economic Development Activities and Events

1. Projects and Grants:

- a. Route 11 (known as Route #11/10 and Main Street) Highway Construction/Rehabilitation
- b. Main Street Sidewalk Project; Project Canopy Grants; and multiple smaller grant projects
- c. Airport Grants

- d. Many other smaller Grant Opportunities
- e. Certificate's

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

ORDINANCE 22-01: (Public Hearing) Town of Pittsfield Ordinance Authorizing Borrowing of up to \$2,090,000

The Town of Pittsfield Town Council hereby ordains the borrowing of up to \$2,090,000 to finance costs of the certain capital improvements in the Town as identified herein on the following terms:

1. Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Maine, Maine law, including Title 30-A, Section 5772 of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended, and the Town Charter, and all other authority thereto enabling, the Town of Pittsfield is authorized to borrow from the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (the "Bank") pursuant to a loan agreement between the Town and the Bank, or through a private banking or financing institution upon the terms and conditions mutually agreed upon by the Bank and the Town subject to the limitations of this ordinance a principal amount not to exceed Two Million Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$2,090,000), and to expend the proceeds thereof for one or more of the following projects: 1. Up to \$1,000,000 for the purpose of paving roads within the Town and/or site preparation related to such paving; 2.) Up to \$600,000 for the purchase or lease purchase of a fire truck to be used by the Town; 3.) Up to \$180,000 for the purchase or lease purchase of a dump truck to be used by the Town; 4.) Up to \$70,000 for repairs and improvements to certain Town-owned bridges and culverts; 5.) Up to \$60,000 for the purchase or lease purchase of a new truck to be used by the Town's Highway Department; and 6.) up to \$180,000 for the purchase or lease purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus ("SCBA") equipment to be used by the Town's Fire Department (the "Projects"). The Town hereby approves and authorizes the issue, sale and delivery to the Bank or another lender as evidence of any loan and against payment therefor, the Bonds of the Town in a principal amount not to exceed \$2,090,000, for a term not to exceed 20 years, and any Notes in anticipation of such Bonds; such Bonds and Notes to be executed on behalf of the Town by the Town Treasurer and counter-signed by the Mayor of the Town and to be at such interest rates, if any, as may be established by the Bank for its Spring 2022 issue or another lender, and approved by the Treasurer and the Mayor, with such maturities, dates, denominations, place of payment, paying agent and registrar, form and other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Bank or another lender, and as approved by the Treasurer and the Mayor (the "Bonds" and the "Notes"), such approval to be conclusively evidenced by their execution of the Bonds or Notes. The Treasurer and 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.

2. The Mayor, the Treasurer, and other proper officials of the Town be, and are hereby authorized in its name and on its behalf to execute and deliver, under the seal of the Town, attested by its Clerk, any agreements, certificates or other documents relating to the issuance of the Bonds and any Notes in anticipation thereof, to be in the usual and ordinary form utilized by the Bank or another lender, which is hereby approved, and to contain such other terms and provisions, not contrary to the general tenor hereof, as the Treasurer may approve, with his approval to be conclusively evidenced by his execution thereof. The Mayor, the Treasurer, and other proper officials of the Town be, and hereby are, authorized and empowered in its name and on its behalf, to do or cause to be done all such acts and things as may be deemed necessary or desirable in order to effect the borrowing authorized herein.

3. The Mayor and the Treasurer are hereby authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town a loan application and other applications to the Bank or any other lender as needed for approval to issue the Bonds or Notes.

4. The Mayor and the Treasurer and other municipal officers and officials of the Town be and are hereby authorized in its name and on its behalf to do or cause to be done all such acts and things as may be necessary or desirable in order to effect the issuance, sale and delivery of the Bonds or Notes in anticipation thereof hereinabove authorized, including to execute all documents and certificates, as may be necessary or appropriate in connection with the sale of the Bonds

5. The Town is authorized to issue General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes, in anticipation of such Bonds, such Notes to be signed by the Town Treasurer and countersigned by the Mayor and to be sealed with the seal of the Town and attested by its Clerk; and to be in such form and contain such terms and provisions as the officers executing the same may approve, their approval to be conclusively evidenced by their execution thereof.

6. The Town covenants and certifies that, as to any of the Bonds and Notes that are issued with the intent that interest thereon be exempt from federal income taxation, no part of the proceeds of the issue and sale of such Bonds and Notes authorized to be issued by the foregoing (including any notes and bonds in renewal thereof) shall be used, directly or indirectly, in such manner which would cause such Bonds or Notes of the Town to be "private activity bonds" or "arbitrage bonds" within the meaning of Sections 141 and 148, respectively, of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code").

7. This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days after its adoption.

Mayor Cianchette opened the public hearing.

Joe Salley, 251 Madawaska Ave. Mr. Salley handed out some information for those in attendance. He advised that Pittsfield's full value tax rate has always been in the highest level in the State since 1987. He expressed his concern that Pittsfield's property tax rate has gone up every year since 2007 with the exception of 2013 while the State and County average is significantly less and been decreasing every year since 2016. Mr. Salley made some comparisons with Towns with similar size and found that the gap between the State and Pittsfield is widening. Several service center communities are significantly less. In 2019 Pittsfield's full value tax rate was 35th out of 484 organized municipalities and that jumped up to only 22 higher in 2020. Mr. Salley asked that the Council refrain from any more spending. This statistic has been used as a measure of fiscal responsibility for generations, and Pittsfield has been on an upward trend since the 1980's.

Amanda Collamore, Library Street. Asked what the repayment plan would be. Ms. Collamore asked how many years is it able to be spent, when will the repayments begin, and how much will it increase the tax rate over those years. She also asked why lease options are being included when there will be a loan as interest will be paid on both. Ms. Collamore does not want to incur a lease using a bond. She recommended that the language should be clarified.

Town Manager Ruth addressed Ms. Collamore's questions. This is one enabling legislation, with each Capital Improvement project to be looked at individually. Some of the projects will go through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank while other projects will go through financial institutions

such as lease-purchases. The Town Council will look at several scenarios that have been provided. The Town Manager advised that the Town would not use a lease or lease-purchase through a Bond. The Town's leases and lease-purchases have always been through either a bank or financial institution if financing was required. Town Manager Ruth explained that it is expensive to have a separate Ordinance on each capital improvement given the cost of the legal ads and legal review. She noted that this is the legal language (enabling legislation) from the Town Attorney and recommended that it not be changed at the meeting as it could cause an issue. The Town Manager advised that the Town Council will have to approve each capital project. Some items will require Orders or Ordinances and all will require approval for the bid process and/or purchase process. The Town Council can limit what is bid out or purchased. She indicated again that this is simply the enabling legislation and that all items due to their cost must go back to the Town Council.

Ben Hall, 237 Chester Street. Mr. Hall expressed that he would be happy to spend the money if results are seen, when Pittsfield's infrastructure is crumbling (roads, sewer, bridges). He is concerned about what tangible returns Pittsfield is getting for its investment. Each budget line should be looked at individually. He expressed frustration at seeing other Towns with better infrastructure and lower Tax rates.

Eric Witham, Nichols Street. Mr. Witham stated that the money should be spent responsibly. Used fire trucks can be purchased for approximately \$350,000 less. Don't shoot for the moon. Purchasing 20 SCBA's for a fire department of 12 people is an example of over buying. The "not to exceed" limits should be lowered.

Heather Donahue, 461 Webb Road. Ms. Donahue supported Town Manager Ruth's explanation in that these items will come before the Council and the items will be looked at very thoroughly by the Council and the Department Heads who are tax payers as well. She advised that the Finance Committee and Town Councilors had reviewed these items as part of a very comprehensive budget process and will review them again as part of the approval process.

Ms. Donahue shared that she as a citizen had to watch their house burn because there was no water. She urged the Town to buy the tanker for the Fire Department as well as any items that they need. There are a lot of rural properties with no hydrants. Ms. Donahue also urged the Committee to go forward with infrastructure improvements with caution at cutting things from the budget. She advised of the lengthy and careful review that the Finance Committee had conducted of the budget before it went to the Town Council.

Nicole Steeves, 204 Franklin Street. Ms. Steeves said that these discussions are making her more confused. She stated that she does not know where the money is going and why the Town has any infrastructure issues.

Lindsay Holmstrom stated that the high tax rate is a concern. She wishes to speak to Mrs. Donahue's comment that we have to do these items. She needs to understand more about where the money is going in each budget line and stated it is just lumped together. Mrs. Holmstrom noted that a month ago it was brought up by a citizen who said someone had not received a water and sewer bill in 5 years. She indicated that if there were 20-30 people not being billed that is a lot of revenue. This would mean that items are not tight in the Town Office and there needs to be budget and financial oversight. Mayor Cianchette stated that we needed to keep the conversation on topic. He advised that the Council has gone through the budget process in detail. Water and sewer are another issue. He asked if the Town Manager would like to comment.

The Town Manager advised that the Town Council has a very detailed budget process in which the Town Councilors go through each budget after the Finance Committee reviews each budget. She noted that there is a very large budget book in the Town Office as well as documents on line that people can review. Anyone can come into the Town Office and review the budget book. She noted that she is not going to comment on water and sewer as it is not appropriate for this discussion.

Chief Bernard Williams answered many questions concerning SCBA's, equipment and firefighter staffing. Chief Williams clarified the need to replace equipment that meets NFPL standards and looks toward the future as well.

Mayor Cianchette closed the Public Hearing.

Moved by Councilor Logiodice and seconded by Councilor Hall to adopt Ordinance 22-01 as is.

Motion passed with all votes in favor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

5. REPORTS:

A. Council Committees:

Finance: No report.

Ordinance: No report.

Recycling: No report

B. Board and Committee Updates by Town Councilors and Manager

No updates.

C. Town Manager's Report

1. Maine On-line Burn Permits Became Free of Charge: On-line Burn Permits are now free of charge. Burn permits are available at maineburnpermit.com

2. Important Reminder: 2022 Transfer Station Stickers: In order to reduce costs at the Transfer Station by making sure that only those who should be dumping garbage are doing so, new stickers are being issued each year. Stickers have been sale since December 01, 2021. Residential stickers are \$20.00 each and Commercial are \$40.00 each.

3. Important Reminder: 2022 Dog Licenses: All dogs over 6 months old must be registered prior to January 31, 2022. As of February 01, 2022 there is a \$25.00 late fee per animal licensed. The State law requires the late fee be assessed now. We have been registering dogs since October 15th and have had this information advertised for quite some time with regular updates at the Town Council Meeting. We apologize, however the fee must be charged.

4. Important Reminder: Online Services: For re-registration of vehicles, boats and other services go to www.pittsfield.org and click on the Citizens' Tab, choosing on-line services at the top of the page.

Please remember that Motor Vehicle has advised the Town that there is an aluminum shortage and we will receive a reduced inventory of new plates so if you do not need a new plate and can use your current plate, please do so. We are also going to receive reduced inventories of stickers.

5. On-line Council Materials: We would also like to make sure that people know where to go to get the Town Council packages. Go to www.pittsfield.org to the right-hand side of the home page and click on Government Services, then click on Town Council Packages and then on 2022 Council Packages. Then you can review the pack. If you print it out, make sure that you look at it first to see how many pages it is as you may only want a section of the page along with the agenda.

6. Cleaning out Your Home / Downsizing – Think of the Re-Use Center:

Please consider donating your left-over items to the Trash to Treasure Re-Use Center. Citizens who are cleaning out their homes for sale or just downsizing may contact the Pittsfield Town Office at 487-3136 or finance3@pittsfield.org to schedule an appointment to drop off items to the Re-Use Center. As the Center is now closed due to COVID restrictions, an appointment is needed. Please do not drop off items in the yard as they will get wet and not be of any use to anyone. We are currently re-stocking the building so we need new materials. Please remember, no bedding or clothing. All clothing should be donated to Pennywise. Bedding can be dropped off in our Textile container as you enter the Transfer Station. The building is still accessible this winter so we are still taking items. If at any point, we have to stop taking items, we will advise of this.

Current and Upcoming Activities:

7. Public Hearing to be added to the Agenda of the evening's meeting on an Economic Development item: Please see attached agenda materials for an ADDITION:

This would be unusual so I have provided an explanation below.

An item of importance was mentioned last Friday by a business in the community as the company had been notified of a title issue on a potential purchase here in Town. It was a bit of a mystery with several people looking into the item including myself and a potential solution has been determined today.

This issue will require adding an item to the agenda this evening to schedule a public hearing. The Town does not add items to the agenda due to the filing deadlines as well as the fact that the public would not have proper notice. In this particular case, which is different than other items that have come up before as these items were final agency action. As the Town Council would be adding an item to the agenda to merely schedule a public hearing, the Town Attorney has agreed that this is permissible under the Town Council Rules and Town Charter. This is because the action to be taken is to schedule a public hearing for notice to the public and that the Town Council is not taking final action as that would take place at the next Town Council Meeting on February 15. At that time, public notice will have been given.

Cianbro would like to close as soon as possible to purchase the former Pittsfield Woolen Mill. During the title search, a tiny parcel was found in the middle of the property that abuts the building. It has been determined it is owned by the Town. The property is a total of 1184 square feet. Cianbro would need to own this as they will need it for construction. It was part of a land swap in 1997 with the Town deeding a part of the area by Central Street to the Mill owners. The building that was constructed is close to the road in a District that does not have setbacks. The business has

been closed for years and the Wrights are going to sell the property which is great. Cianbro would purchase the property for storage and other uses to be addressed with the Planning Board. The Mayor provided the background he had received. Cianbro's attorney Fred Bachrach has advised that this would be very helpful.

Therefore, the action for this evening would be:

A. Waive the Town Council Rules to add Ordinance 22-02 to schedule a public hearing to the agenda under 7. New Business. The vote would require five Councilors in favor.

B. Under 7. New Business, schedule the public hearing to the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting on February 15, 2022.

8. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory sessions:

Although the snow is coming down shortly, we will be planning out the Main Street Sidewalk and learning more about the Main Street Road Rehabilitation Project. Once we have more members for the Committee to oversee the CDBG project, we will start meeting in earnest. Some of the partners have not been available for meetings prior to the holidays, however, we need to start up shortly in order to have plenty of time to make sure that the project is planned out correctly. There are many grants, requirements, deadlines and it is complex so all the help that we can get would be appreciated. Once we are organized as we are still looking for members, then it would be great to have a zoom meeting that people could watch or some slides that explains the progress on the project.

The Town is still seeking citizens for the Community Development Advisory Committee for oversight of the Main Street Sidewalk Project.

9. Airport Hangar, Apron and Taxiway Project updates:

This also will be a major project at the Airport and really put the Pittsfield Municipal Airport on the map as there will be actual new spaces to rent for people to bring or locate their airplanes at the airport. Currently, over 30 planes are housed at the airport, however, some are outside and others are closely fitted in rental spots. Anyone interested in a new T-Hangar spot, please contact Caleb Curtis, Fixed Base Operator and Airport Manager at 487-5213. Once this project starts moving forward, it would be interesting to have some photographs or overhead pictures to place on the Town's website.

The Town, through its Airport Engineer and myself will be presenting before the Planning Board at their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 14, 2022. The meeting begins at 7:00 pm. People can attend in person or by ZOOM.

10. Railroad Quiet Zone:

The Town has a Quiet Zone at the Main Street crossing here in Town. Other crossings such as Lower Detroit and the Industrial Park as well as the country crossings do not have the Quiet Zone, partially because of the lack of devices at those crossings and/or population. The Town was recently notified that the Quiet Zone Risk Index for the Main Street Quiet Zone Risk Index (QZRI) is less than or equal to the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT) with or without additional safety measures such as Supplementary Safety Measures (SSMs) or Alternative Safety Measures (ASMs). These are items such as medians or channelization devices, one-way streets with gates, four quadrant gate systems, and temporary or permanent crossing closures. The QZRI is the average risk for all public highway-rail crossings in the quiet zone, including the additional risk for absence

of train horns and any reduction in risk due to the risk mitigation measures. Our QZR1 is now 9,638.94. It used to be 15,488 which means that the risk is perceived to be less than prior to 2021. Collisions at the crossing would increase the number. The FRA advised that no further action was necessary at this time.

The Federal Railroad Administration then contacted the Town indicating that further action was required by the Town. This consisted of a letter requesting that the Quiet Zone be continued, completing federal forms from the FRA website and forwarding information on the crossing to the FRA, railroad and various State officials. This was completed last week. When the Town Council voted originally to request that the Quiet Zone be enacted in 2005 it was due to the repeated train horns being sounded during the middle of the night that was disturbing a dense population area. We had to purchase the No Signal signs and make sure that the crossing devices are working properly. We should have notification that the paperwork has been processed in a month or so.

Updated and/or Continuing Items:

11. 2019 Tax Liens foreclose on Friday, January 21, 2022:

Update: Unfortunately, a few people did not pay their 2019 property taxes and to redeem their property will have to pay the 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 taxes if after April 1 of this year along with the Town's costs such as advertising fees and notices. Letters will be sent to the last known address for those whose property is now owned by the Town of Pittsfield due to the automatic foreclosure process. If someone does redeem their property within the timeframe that is established, an Ordinance will be placed on the Council Agenda to schedule a public hearing to transfer the property back to the former owner and then the public hearing held. After the public hearing is held, the Council would then vote to authorize the quit claim deed to be issued.

There are 6 new properties added to the town's rolls, properties that we do not want to own so after the redemption period is completed, it is likely that some properties will go out to Tax Acquired bid. If there are people interested in the Tax Acquired properties when the TAP Sale is authorized by the Town Council, please call the Town Office and provide your e-mail address for the notice and packs to be sent to you. There are two parcels of land and some land with dwellings. We need to see if the people can redeem their property in accordance with the law first. A meeting needs to be held with the Planning Board to see if any of the properties should be retained by the Town as a requirement of the TAP Ordinance. Then in the future after all of the steps are completed, there will be a discussion and action, if appropriate at the Town Council Meeting to schedule a sale. From reviewing the history of the parcels dating back to 2019 and before, one has had significant assessing issues and may need to be mitigated.

History:

For those who have not yet paid their 2019 taxes, the liens on the property will automatically foreclose at the end of business on January 21, 2022. This is for taxes that were due in October 2019. There are now 24 properties on the foreclosure list. We urge those owners to pay their taxes in full by Friday. Notices of impending automatic foreclosure went out in December. If the taxes are not paid in full on Friday, the Town will own these properties. The Town does not want to own any tax acquired properties. In order to buy the property back, all taxes, interest and costs for 2019, 2020 and 2021 will need to be paid in full in order to receive a Quit Claim deed from the Town after a public hearing. This would be very expensive so we would encourage you to pay off the 2019 tax lien in full.

12. Computer Services / Managed Services Onboarding:

Update:

The contracts for the new server and new computer equipment were signed the day after the December Public Hearing on the new 2022 budget. The order was then placed for the upgrade. Logically has received a number of the computers and/or parts, however, is lacking a number of strategic electronics in order to proceed ahead. The company is going to start to put the computers together. So far, they do not have a time that the electronics are going to be delivered to their company but hopefully will the next time that we call back. I provided the Assistant with a number of questions on the process and whether on the timetable we can install all or part of the new setup on a Wednesday when we are closed to avoid the disruption of customer service or can we leave two computers up and running to serve customers while they work on the complete upgrade. When our Assistant has the schedule, I will provide an update to the Town Council.

13. Code Enforcement Actions:

All the files with the information sorted and put into order were forwarded to the Town Attorney for recommendations and/or action to be taken after meeting with Alternate Code Enforcement Officer Al Tempesta the day after the last Council Meeting.

While Bob Geaghan was out on leave, Al did a super job and took care of quite a few items including issuing some code enforcement letters on new items that had been referred by the Town Councilors and the public. As you know, Al will need to take any actions to court for any Code Enforcement actions under Rule 80B. I did advise the Town Attorney as to the Somerset Avenue property as the owner had fallen off the roof and is now out of commission for some time. We will have our regular Code Enforcement Officer make a chart of enforcement actions so that they can be followed up on in a timely fashion. If deadlines are met for action at properties that is great, but if actions are not taken and/or the people ignore the letters and phone calls, then these items need to be followed up on and not perpetuate.

Regarding the 4 specific cases, the Town Council has received a report from Attorney McCall working on these code violations and can take the report home to review and see if they agree with the recommendations provided.

153 Washington Street (Map 29, Lots 50 & 51):

140 Leonard Street (Map 26, Lot 37):

231 Somerset Avenue (Map 28, Lot 51):

139 Manson Street (Map 25, Lot 42):

14. Board and Committee Positions:

The Town is looking for volunteers for its boards and committees. This is a yearly process. We know that there are issues over having enough time as life does seem busier now and about COVID concerns. We have set up the Meeting Room with nice air filtering devices. The Fire Chief/EMA Director selected them and in talking with contractors who come to the building as well as people

who have had COVID, we have been told that these are really good units. A list of boards/committees with expiring terms was published in The Rolling Thunder and is available at the Town Office. The Town has many committees and boards and perhaps there is an area that you might be interested in. Since COVID, we have had trouble filling spots and that is understandable, however, we do need to proceed forward with meetings.

15. The Planning Board is very important:

While we have a list of committees looking for volunteers, I would like to bring your attention to the Planning Board. This is a very important board for the Town. Activity in terms of commercial growth is coming to Town and you can be a part of it by being on the Planning Board. This board generally meets once per month to review applications and may be meeting to review ordinances at various times during the year. The membership is down and as people are already planning for projects for this summer – 3 applications are coming in – we need volunteers. You would receive a package of materials, review the materials and then attend a meeting to make sure that the project meets the ordinance requirements. There is staff assistance including a planner from the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments who reviews materials. If you like helping businesses or you like making sure that business projects are good for the Town, the Planning Board is for you. Although terms are 5 years in length, there are a few unexpired terms available for 3-year terms.

16. Recreation Director:

Update: The Town does have one application so if anyone out there is interested, please download from the town's website at www.pittsfield.org or pick up the job package and bring it back as soon as possible. The position needs to be filled as the committee and other staff are working on items and as the busiest season is coming up being Spring Sports, someone needs to be on board pronto. The Town is seeking positive and proactive candidates for Recreation Director. This part-time year-round position implements a dynamic and active program involving volunteers, committees and groups. If you would like to work for the benefit of children and enhancing program opportunities for not only children but also seniors and other citizens, this would be a great opportunity to make a difference. Application package materials are available at www.pittsfield.org. Applications will be accepted at the Pittsfield Town Office, 112 Somerset Avenue, Pittsfield, ME 04967 (487-3136) until the position is filled. EOE.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

7. NEW BUSINESS:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Peter Logiodice and seconded by Councilor Frost to waive the Town Council Rules to add Ordinance 22-02 to the agenda to schedule a public hearing.

Town Manager Ruth advised as this is a public hearing being scheduled to obtain public input, the Council is able to add this item to the agenda which then saves two weeks in addressing this issue from 1997.

Motion passed with all votes in favor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

ORDINANCE 22-02: (Set to Public Hearing on 02/15/2022) The Town of Pittsfield hereby Ordains to transfer back to Pittsfield Woolen Yarns Co., Inc. a parcel of land transferred to the Town September 02, 1997 by Pittsfield Woolen Yarns Co., Inc. by quit claim deed in Somerset County Registry of Deeds Book 2349, Page 226 – 227 and further shown as Parcel #3 on a Standard Boundary Survey Plan for Pittsfield Woolen Yarns Co., Inc. dated June 30, 1997 prepared by G.B. Robison/Surveyors. Said property was part of a land transfer and is no longer needed as the business has closed. In order to clear up the title and facilitate sale of the property for development and having determined that the 1184 square foot parcel has no use for the Town, the Town Council has determined that the property will be transferred back to Pittsfield Woolen Yarns Co., Inc. The Town Council further authorizes the Town Manager to execute a municipal quitclaim deed releasing the Town’s interest in said property to Pittsfield Woolen Yarns Co., Inc.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Peter Logiodice and seconded by Councilor Frost that Ordinance 22-02 be adopted.

Cianbro Property Manager Paul Dube presented background on the Pittsfield Woolen Yarns property located at the corner of Central Street and June Court. He explained the intentions of Cianbro for this property.

Motion passed with all votes in favor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 22-16: Resolved that the Town Council Authorize the Town Manager to submit a Financial Application for General Obligation Borrowers Long-term Bonds for Capital Improvement Plan Projects to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank.

Moved by Councilor Hall and seconded by Councilor Frost to adopt Resolution 22-16.

There was a lengthy discussion about the various projects and terms. The Town Manager recommended that the Town Council address the paving, bridge/culvert work and the Fire Department SCBA/Tanks due to the importance and timing of these items. The Town Manager reviewed principal and interest estimates printed out from the Maine Municipal Bond Bank website as well as the projected cost in 2023 based upon the amount of a mil in 2021.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Logiodice and seconded by Councilor Hall to amend Resolution 22-16 to add the amount \$1,250,000.00 for a 10-year term for paving, bridges and SCBA tanks.

Motion passed with all votes in favor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Mayor Cianchette then called the vote on the adoption of Resolution 22-16 as amended.

Motion passed with all votes in favor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 22-17: Resolved that the Town Council Authorize the Town Manager to open a bank account at _____ as a holding account for recreation registration fees, receipts for other services and donations from MyRec.com; execute all required paperwork and transfer those funds to the Town’s regular checking account at appropriate intervals.

Moved by Councilor Hall and seconded by Councilor Jester to adopt Resolution 22-17.

Moved by Councilor Jester and seconded by Councilor Hall to amend Resolution 22-17 for Androscoggin Bank to be added to the Resolution.

Motion passed with all votes in favor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 22-18: Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager and Cemetery Sexton to issue the Request for Quotations for the purchase of a garden tractor-mower.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Logiodice and seconded by Councilor Hall to adopt Resolution 22-18.

Motion passed with all votes in favor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 22-19: Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute the new Umbrella Cooperative Agreement – Maine Department of Transportation Cooperative Agreement for the funding of Aviation projects (Non-Primary Airports) for up to \$1,000,000 through December 31, 2041.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Logiodice and seconded by Councilor Hall to adopt Resolution 22-19.

Motion passed with all votes in favor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 22-20: Resolved that the Town Council appoint members to fill the vacancies on the various Town Boards and Committees.

Moved by Councilor Jester and seconded by Councilor Hall to adopt Resolution 22-20.

Donna Laux for Library Trustees (1st Term)

Sarah DiMartino for Parks and Recreation Committee (Remainder of 2-year Term)

Motion passed with all votes in favor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS: N/A

9. REPORTS: Audience, Council

Audience:

Amanda Collamore commended Public Works for the work they did during the last storm getting snow cleared. She asked if there would be clearing of the sidewalks on the corner of Library and Manson Street (the clearing stopped 2 houses down). The Town Manager thanked Ms. Collamore for advising of this issue and noted that she would contact Public Works on this issue.

Ben Hall commended the Council for asking questions and discussing items during the hearing. Mr. Hall said that he did not think that there was a comprehensive capital plan that includes every building, piece of equipment and item with replacement costs and life expectancy and depreciation but wanted to ask if there was one and then if not, recommended it be put together. The Town Manager advised that the Town has a \$44 million dollar Capital Plan, however, that the buildings are not on the plan. The Department heads had started working on the building improvements when COVID hit and then had to divert their efforts to address all of the effects of COVID.

Heather Donahue announced that the Maine Cheese Guild had its annual meeting in December and the feedback was that they would like to hold it again in Pittsfield in September.

Ms. Donahue expressed her disappointment about the land swap with Cianbro. While it is great for Cianbro, a large space in Pittsfield's downtown near the Library, schools, park and Town Hall will be taken up by a massive storage warehouse building for equipment storage. This will be a very passive space versus the opportunity for the active space to be turned into something that would be more engaging to the community where people could congregate.

Councilors:

Councilor Hall thanked the people that attended and would like to see more.

Councilor Saucier noted that asking hard questions is a good and provides a learning tool for him. He mentioned the Fire Department and its setup. He noted that there are ways to save money. Town Manager suggested that there could be a workshop in the Fire Station. Chief Williams said that would be possible.

Councilor Jester thanked everyone for their attendance as this was an educational meeting for him.

Deputy Mayor Logiodice thanked the audience for participating.

Councilor Frost noted while you may save some money, he voiced his concern about where would the Town find \$1,000,000 in the current budget to fix the roads.

Mayor Cianchette has been thinking about how a business saved money and suggested that everyone look at the budgets more critically in order to give 5% back on every line item. Mayor Cianchette thanked Tim Nichols again for his service. He thanked everyone for attending.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Logiodice and seconded by Councilor Hall to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Motion passed with all votes in favor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Ruth, 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.

