

MINUTES

For a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT: COUNCILORS: Mayor Michael Cianchette, Howard Margolskee, Heather Donahue and Matthew Bolster **ABSENT:** Deputy Mayor Robert Stackhouse, Caleb Curtis and Timothy Nichols. Also present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth and Town Clerk Nicole Nickolan. Audience members included Jan Laux, Scott Strom, Peter Logiodice, Scott Noble, Jason Tardy, Ron Watson, Peter G. Vigue and Don Hallenbeck.

1. **Mayor Cianchette** opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Council observed a moment of silence.

Mayor Cianchette noted he would be voting tonight to make a quorum.

2. Adoption of minutes of the regular meeting held on March 20, 2018.

Moved by **Councilor Margolskee** and seconded by **Councilor Bolster** that the minutes of the meeting held on March 20, 2018 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

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

Meeting with SAD #53 Superintendent Jason Tardy re: SAD #53 proposed preliminary budget for the period of July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

There has been some changes in State funding which helped us this year. We are rolling over \$350,000 as undesignated funds forward. In last years budget there were additional funds allocated by the State to allow this. We did a lighting project at the school and road repairs in front of Warsaw. The difference is approximately \$400,000 more. We are looking at adding a full time social worker and school resource officer. We are working on that with the Police Chief, Town Manager and Somerset County Sherriff. There will be an increase on health insurance of 4 ¾%. Another change will be the valuation will be for 2 years, instead of 3 years, which changes the dynamics. Pittsfield will see a 3.2% decrease or approximately \$98,000 decrease. The Social Worker and Resource Officer are included in the upcoming budget. We currently have Guidance Counselors dealing with any mental health issues but they aren't able to cover all the needs.

Community and Economic Development Activities and Events

Events scheduled:

11th Annual Regional Job Fair for Kennebec, Somerset and Sebacicook Valley on Wednesday, 05/09/2018 from 3:30 – 6:30 pm in the Gym and Cafeteria at Warsaw Middle School

Read the list of businesses and resource providers signed up for the event which is amazing

46th Central Maine Egg Festival scheduled for Monday, 07/09/2018 – Saturday, 07/14/2018

Brief Update:

I will mention briefly that we continue to work on a number of economic development projects. One will utilize a building of interest in the community that is in good shape. A federal-state meeting is being established to talk about this project.

On a second project, we have a business owner interested in the Industrial Park Expansion lot/s for a building and/or storage. This is an individual known to us who will deliver. So I have provided pricing and some options and will hear back in a few weeks. The individual does have investors. We have had a number of people “kicking the tires” on the lots which has taken up considerable time. This would be a real project.

The foundation is in on Innovative Specialties’ manufacturing plant off Business Court/Prirrillo Drive. It looks massive. The building should be underway this week.

Last, but not least, PEEC will start meeting at the end of April to talk about a number of projects including those listed above and lead generation for the former UTC location.

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

5. **REPORTS:**

A. COUNCIL COMMITTEES: FINANCE, ORDINANCE & RECYCLING: NO REPORT

B. BOARD AND COMMITTEE UPDATES BY TOWN COUNCILORS AND MANAGER

Bicentennial Committee: Councilor Margolskee noted the next Bicentennial Committee Meeting will be held April 4, 2018 at 6:00 pm at the Pittsfield Municipal Building. We will be looking at various issues and activities. The main issue of discussion will be the boat launch. We need full clearance of snow to move forward.

Ad Hoc Committee: Heather and I have been talking about media. We will be meeting with Lyn at the Librart on Friday regarding options for cabling and investigate the status of the internet, access, etc. We will be looking to see if there is a room for filming discussions. The Question the ad hoc committee has is – how does the Council want us to proceed with SVV/CMMA? We are unclear on how to proceed. They sent a proposal letter at the last meeting. An email was also sent late today from Marie. What is the Council’s will?

Theatre Committee: The Committee met on Wednesday, March 28, 2018 to discuss regular business as well as fundraisers and to establish a mission and vision statement.

It would be great to create promotional materials for the theatre in addition to our movie line-up and special events. Specifically we would talk about what the theatre is, why we have it and what we

envision for the theatre. In other words, we would create a mission statement and a vision statement. I provided some very streamlined background including worksheets for the Committee members to work on their ideas. In the end, we took the statements that I came up with a couple of minutes and refined them.

MISSION STATEMENT: APRIL 2018

Pittsfield Community Theatre is a municipally owned and operated community center providing affordable quality entertainment to the Greater Pittsfield Area.

VISION STATEMENT: APRIL 2018

The Theatre's vision is that through enhancements and upgrades that every child and their family will discover their potential to make a difference in the world.

The next step is to create a fundraising plan. We have the Theatre Assessment which talks about the renovations and projects needed in the theatre which exceed \$780,000. So this will be a project of building blocks.

Find some funds, work on a project, find some more funds, Work on the next project and so forth. The assessment was completed by an Architect specializing in Historic preservation. She only charged us a fraction of the cost of the Assessment. We need to remember that this is not a specialized assessment so it does not have the mechanical and electrical review as those projects would have had been outsourced.

C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 04/03/2018:

1. Somerset County Budget Process: The Town has been notified by Somerset County that the FY 2018-2019 Budget Process is moving along quickly with the public hearing on the proposed budget scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 6:00 pm in the Superior Court Room, 41 Court Street, Skowhegan. This budget will cover the period of July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019. The Town's proposed assessment which would be due in November of 2018 would be \$584,718.92. This is an increase of \$3,699.55 or .6%. The proposed budget has been placed in the FYI Book in case you would like a copy.

2. Recycling Program Handouts: As the Town enters the higher cost requirements for waste disposal, we have created a new handout to encourage recycling. The Recycling Program waste disposal cost will be increasing from \$48.00/ton to \$62.00/ton. This is an increase of \$14.00/ton or 29.2%. The Town was able to obtain the \$62.00/ton cost by switching from the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC) to the Crossroads Landfill in Norridgewock. We had been able to amend our agreement with the Landfill to add waste disposal. Other communities are paying over \$80.00/ton. It is imperative that we recycle more. The funds approved to be utilized from the Recycling Reserve are already saving the Town money. We have two of the old containers repaired so they can be utilized longer. We are now working on the glass crusher and finding that there are very few companies that sell this type of unit and the company with best unit for our facility for the best deal wants payment in advance. The Town never does this so we are working with the company to see if this requirement can be waived.

The new Recycling Program handouts are very popular. They have a brief history of the program, the issue at hand which is the cost increase, current savings from the program, the amount of recycling, recycling fun facts to engage people and the recycling tips for handling materials.

3. Trash To Treasure Re-Use Center to re-open later in April 2018: More information coming!
The new Trash to Treasure Re-Use Center will open for the season on Saturday, April 21, 2018 if the ground is firm enough at the building and if not, then definitely on Saturday, April 28, 2018. The Re-Use Center is located in the former Veterans of Foreign Wars Building opposite the Transfer/ Recycling Center. The facility is open Saturdays from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Those who have completed their yard sales and have items left over that they do not want to take back to their homes might consider donating the clothing to Pennywise and the other items to the Re-Use Center. The Town has a comprehensive list of items that can be donated at the facility available at the Town Office.

4. Citizen Concern on Peltoma Avenue: I forwarded a response to the citizen who contacted the Town Councilors and myself regarding Peltoma Avenue, explaining out the history of the paving, ownership of different sections of the road and the project that we would be looking at this summer to start to inventory the roads. A copy of that letter is in the FYI Folder.

5. Maine Department of Transportation Paving and Bridge Milling: The Town has received notification that Lane Construction Corporation has been selected for light capital paving and bridge milling work in 18 communities including Pittsfield. The work will begin this summer. In addition to the I-95 bridge work, most of this work is bridge work such as the Eelwier Road and Snakeroot Road as well as culvert and drainage improvement on Route #100 toward Detroit. Waverly Road Bridge substructure rehabilitation was listed although we have not been contacted yet.

Good news for the Airport, as an 8-bay nested T-Hangar is listed for 2019/20 for \$797,220 which requires figuring out how to address the engineering/environmental work.

6. Construction Zone on Snakeroot Road Bridge Rehabilitation: The Town was contacted by MDOT, as we are all for projects in Town, to allow their vehicle to run over the legal weight limits. The Town has never approved this over the decades and especially now, the Public Works Foreman has said definitely not. Running really heavy weights over the Snakeroot Road would not be a good idea. I wanted to let you know that this request had come in as the State MDOT had come to the Town Council Meeting last Fall to update the Council on the project.

7. Main Street Streetlights, Traffic Lights and Municipal Parking Lot Lights: The Public Works Foreman continues to troubleshoot the major blowout of the lights. The conduit covers were exposed and the whole conduit was flooded with water. The Traffic Lights were the first priority and by separating this, these lights were fixed. They thought that the parking lot lights were fixed, however, when I attended the Theatre Committee Meeting last week, there were alas, no parking lot lights. One parking lot light is now on, however, the others will not come on so the Public Works Department is renting a lift to check out all of the photo cells in the parking lot lights that might have all blown out when the system went down. We are also going to fix the Industrial Park Sign lights at the same time and anything else we can think of that needs a lift. The lift was utilized today and the problem was not found so we have eliminated more items. The PW Foreman today believes that a neutral has blown.

The Main Street Streetlights are much more complex as the conduit boxes were unfrozen and cleaned out, however, the entire conduit has to be dried out so this will take time. The conduit is very small so we can not get a camera down it to see where there is a problem. Each streetlight will have to be examined until the problem is located. The electrical conduit has been in place since 1976. We only needed 1.5 more years until next summer/fall when the Main Street project was started.

8. Management Plan while Public Works Foreman is away this Summer: The Public Works Foreman will be away for a bit over 2 months this summer on personal business in the Philippines. While Steve Vance is away, Timmie McCarthy will be in charge of the Garage and regular work. Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent Scott Noble and Transfer/Recycling Coordinator Don Chute will be in charge of all other business, working with the Town Manager. We will all be glad when Steve returns.

9. Mosher Bridge and Seabasticook Street Culverts Project: The Public Works Foreman has been able to review the large book of repair requirements for the bridge/culvert projects. I had put this on the agenda last year for approval to go out to bid once the bid documents were approved. Steve has just reviewed and approved the bid documents. We have requested that the engineering firm get the project in gear so that it can be put out to bid and advertised. These projects need repair and are failing, but they are not in dangerous condition. Therefore, if repaired now while they are still in fair condition, the Town will come out ahead. The Mosher Bridge is on the Crawford Road. The Seabasticook double culverts are on Seabasticook Street. The bridge will have abutment work completed while the culverts will be lined. If the project is put out to bid now and bids are due in late Spring, then the project would realistically take place when the water levels are lower in July-August of this year if the bids come in within budget. If there are any funds remaining in the loan after the projects are completed, we can purchase some large culverts for highway projects for 2019.

10. Paving Program & Major Road Repairs: I had assisted John Dickson, former Highway Foreman, with the paving when we used to have paving every year (and at the time, we just did not realize what a luxury that really was). I am consolidating all of the information on exactly where the paving took place up the last few years when we have not been able to afford paving. This information will be very helpful for the Public Works Foreman when he goes out to evaluate each of the roads. We have purchased a road management system from the State Local Roads Program. The road information is inputted, the roads are evaluated and then calculations can be made specific to each road which determines its ranking and the cost to fix the road.

11. Sidewalk Plow: The Public Works Foreman has major repairs coming up for the two sidewalk plows so he will be in later this year for the purchase of a newer plow that can more properly address having 3 or more major storms over 12". With the last couple of winters especially the 2017-2018 strange winter, a larger sidewalk plow would definitely help. There were too many storms too close together that led to too much accumulation that froze and then the sidewalks could not be easily cleaned. Interestingly enough, the sidewalk plow cut through some areas that were higher and deeper but could not get through other areas where there was less snow. It may also have something to do with how the snow was plowed back in addition to the width of the road. But with these types of storms and the age of the sidewalk plows requiring hefty repairs, a new sidewalk plow is the answer.

12. Theatre Fundraisers:

More information will be available shortly. The Theatre Committee will be holding several fundraisers beginning in May through this Summer to supplement the operational revenue.

13. 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!

14. Date Night at the Theatre:

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

15. Theatre Movie Line-Up:

Mar. 23-29 BLACK PANTHER PG-13
Matinee Sunday at 2 PM

Mar. 30-Apr. 5 EARLY MAN PG
Matinee Sunday at 2 PM
Matinee Wednesday at 10 AM also plays at 7:30 PM

Apr. 6-12 GAME NIGHT R
Matinee Sunday at 2 PM

Apr. 13-19 A WRINKLE IN TIME PG
Matinee Sunday at 2 PM
Matinee Wednesday at 10 AM also plays at 10 AM

Apr. 20-26 TOMB RAIDER
Matinee Sunday at 2 PM

Apr 27-May 3 PACIFIC RIM UP RAISING PG-13
Matinee Sunday at 2 PM

16. Maine Venture Fund: A Match Made in Maine: A common theme among growing Maine companies is the difficulty in finding, attracting, and hiring talented employees. Some companies resort to hiring out-of-state remote workers and have even opened offices in Boston and beyond. This is certainly a drag on Maine's economic growth, and a complex problem with no one solution. However, one program, aimed squarely at this problem is making a difference – the Innovate for Maine Fellows Program.

The program's goal is to match talented college students with Maine's growing companies for an internship of 400, 200, or 100 hours over the course of a summer. Companies are selected for the program based on their interest in innovation, a desire for scalable growth, and ability to provide fellows with a meaningful learning experience. Student interns must either be enrolled in a Maine-based college or be a Maine resident attending school outside of Maine. All selected fellows are expected to live in Maine and work on-site during the internship.

The program is designed to add no extra burden to the companies. The Foster Center for Student Innovation at University of Maine handles all recruiting, screening, matching, payroll, and initial innovation and workplace training. This allows the company and paired fellow to focus on achieving workplace goals.

Several Maine Venture Fund portfolio companies have successfully used this program which had a number of students intern with them, many of whom have later been hired on full-time. Companies are finding what worked best for them was to have the interns work alongside employees on real-time problems, as opposed to having them focus on independent work projects.

17. Maine Municipal Association's Hometown Heroes: There was a nice article in the Maine Townsman that just came out describing the efforts of MMA to assist communities as there are vacancies throughout towns. At a meeting earlier this month, there were 124 towns represented and we were asked that towns raise their hands if they had vacancies. Almost everyone put up their hand – all but the really small towns where they have just a few people. We did become a part of that effort and are advertised for the Administrative Assistant's position.

JobLink, the State's free job service has located the error that resulted in the Town receiving strange applications. We had inputted the position details as well as pay. Our copies printed out and going in through the Employer tabs/section of the webpage showed everything as fine. In the job seekers section the job had gone, as other positions, to a \$10.00 minimum wage. Therefore, that explained why were getting unqualified candidates. That was discovered by Michael Shirley, who assists with the Regional Job Fair. Dana Hamilton, our other partner on the Regional Job Fair, has sent out the position to all of her contacts and former citizens to assist us.

18. Somerset Cultural Plan: The [Wesserunett Arts Council \(WesArts\)](#) is a regional nonprofit that works to build cultural connections in Somerset County through visual and performing arts, heritage, agriculture, education, and recreation and has been working with Skowhegan Main Street. The two groups were working on a strategic plan for raising awareness of cultural offerings, enhancing cultural education and creating cultural opportunities and experiences in Somerset County. The Heart of Pittsfield will be reviewing this plan at a future meeting. This discussion had been planned for the March meeting, however, was moved to their April Meeting. I placed a copy of the Cultural Plan in the FYI Book in case you would like to receive a copy.

19. Easter Egg Hunt: Greater Pittsfield Area Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, March 31 at 9:00 am at the Pinnacle Ski Club at 271 Waverly Avenue, Pittsfield. A great time was had by all.

20. Greater Pittsfield Area Kiwanis Yearly Bike Rodeo will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at 10 am: The Bike Rodeo has been here in Pittsfield for a couple of years so it now needs to move over to Newport. The rodeo will be held at Nokomis Regional High School. The event is educational, fun and there are prizes.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 18-23: Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute the Application for an Outdoor Fireworks Display as property owner for the Greater Pittsfield Area Kiwanis Fireworks for the 2018 Egg Festival to be conducted by Central Maine Pyrotechnics subject

to receiving approval of the FAA and the appropriate insurance certificate naming the Town as additional insured.

Moved by **Councilor Donahue** and seconded by **Councilor Margolskee** that Resolution 18-23 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this item is on the agenda in order to start the approval process for the Pittsfield Greater Area Kiwanis Club and the Central Maine Egg Festival Committee. Details are being finalized with a larger fireworks celebration for 2018. Central Maine Pyrotechnics will provide the fireworks display for the 46th Anniversary of the Egg Festival. In order to file with the FAA, we need the completed State Fire Marshal Office's Application for Outdoor Fireworks Display including the map and materials from the fireworks company. The Greater Pittsfield Area Kiwanis has hosted the fireworks for decades at the Egg Festival. As the Town is the property owner, we are required to sign the State application. The application materials have been under progress for a while now and we are getting closer to the cutoff date for approval. The company has had ample insurance in the past.

The Town will need to apply to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for approval for the Greater Pittsfield Area Kiwanis to be able to utilize the airport for the fireworks. This process takes several months.

I will file for the FAA permit when we receive all of the necessary items so that we can file. As we get closer to the federal deadline, it is harder to obtain approval and very time-consuming. If we can apply earlier, it is much better. We have almost all items required and I am assisting the Egg Festival.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 18-24: Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute the Application for an Outdoor Fireworks Display as property owner for the Windy Warrior – ATP Season Opener to be conducted by Central Maine Pyrotechnics on May 28, 2018 subject to receiving approval of the FAA and the appropriate insurance certificate naming the Town of Pittsfield as additional insured.

Moved by **Councilor Bolster** and seconded by **Councilor Donahue** that Resolution 18-24 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this item is on the agenda in order to start the approval process for the opening of Vacationland Skydiving. Brad Fisher's company located at the Pittsfield Municipal Airport has requested to have a fireworks celebration in conjunction with their season opener and the Windy Warrior launch at the drop zone.

Details are being finalized between the applicants with what is listed as a one-hour display. Vacationland Skydiving reports that it is gearing up to get the drop zone open for the summer and one of the items they are working on is a joint venture with Windy Warrior – ATP and a formal launch on May 28, 2018. As the Town is the property owner, we are required to sign the State application. The application materials have just been received and we are basically extremely close to the cut-off date for approval.

The Town will need to apply to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for approval of the event. The fireworks company states that they will do everything, however, the Town is required to file for the permit on-line. The paperwork has been filed with the Town.

Mayor Cianchette questioned the application noting a 1 hour fireworks display. Are there any laws or Ordinances that limit the time the display will go on? It seems rather extreme to be an hour long. He also questioned what times the event can be held. The Town Manager noted we will look into this for further information.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 18-25: Resolved that the Town Council waive the bid policy, Chapter 2, Administrative Code, Section 106, to accept the proposal from E.J. Prescott of Gardner, Maine for a total to not exceed up to \$20,000 for the purchase of 6 Waterous Fire Hydrants and Valves for each hydrant.

Moved by **Councilor Margolskee** and seconded by **Councilor Donahue** that Resolution 18-25 be adopted.

The Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent noted E.J. Prescott has again offered us a great price for the purchase our hydrants this year. These hydrants will be used on Main Street from Crosby Street to Peltoma Avenue. The Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent noted we are trying to plan for a one day project again. These replacements will require the MCI campus water to be shut off so by completing the process in one day we would have less disruption.

Hydrant cost: \$2703.64 each and the Valve cost: \$716.76 each

It will be tight in the budget when the expenses are balanced against the revenues, however, we will make it. The Town has never overspent the enterprise accounts with expenditures. The depreciation that is charged is then added to each enterprise account so that our municipal enterprise account functions like a business account in terms of expenses and revenues.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 18-26: Resolved that the Town Council waive the bid policy, Chapter 2, Administrative Code, Section 106, to accept the proposal from Eagle Rental of Waterville, Maine for a total to not exceed up to \$2,700 per month excavator lease for up to six months for a total of \$16,200.

Moved by **Councilor Donahue** and seconded by **Councilor Margolskee** that Resolution 18-26 be adopted.

The Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent noted that Eagle Rental has offered a six month lease in the amount of \$16,200; this is \$1,200 over the cost in the last two lease agreements. The normal monthly rental cost at Eagle Rental is \$3,500 plus additional charges for having multiple buckets.

After contacting five other rental companies, I have figured out we will not get a lower price. The other companies have pricing ranging from \$3,158 up to \$4,110 per month, this does not include the second cleanup bucket and hydraulic thumb that we require.

Eagle Rental has been a friend to the Town of Pittsfield for quite some time; they allow us to keep machines here in town for use during water breaks and other winter emergencies without added cost, this in turn saves us money by not having to pay for transportation every time we need a machine.

Sunbelt Rental - \$4,110, URentIt - \$4,005, United Rental - \$3,728, Budget Excavator Rental - \$3158 and Beaugard - \$3,195

With the Water and Sewer Enterprise Accounts Receivables, at this time we can afford 3 months for the excavator which if weather permits, will start on May 1. Scott will complete his projects while Steve Vance is off on a personal leave and likely Timmie can complete some projects and then Steve will be back to finish up the last month of the lease. The approval is for "up to six months".

Councilor Doanhue questioned why we don't purchase a machine instead of renting one yearly. The Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent noted it is an expensive machine to purchase and even more expensive to maintain. It is not something that is needed all year long. Along with the excavator we would also need to purchase a trailer, have employee training for the license requirements and a budget for maintenance. Councilor Bolster felt the Town would benefit greatly from this equipment. Councilor Donahue noted she would like to see some pricing worked up for this possibility in the future.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 18-27: Resolved that the Town Council appoint members to fill the vacancies on the various Town Boards and Committees.

Moved by **Councilor Margolskee** and seconded by **Councilor Bolster** that Resolution 18-27 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted Jan Laux has volunteered to be on the Personnel Appeals Board. This would be a 3 year position.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

7. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- A. Financial Reports as of 02/28/2018
 - Budget Expenditure Report
 - Revenue Collections Report
 - Tax Acquired Property Report
 - Economic Development Revolving Loan Update
 - Housing Revolving Loan Update
 - Transfer Station /Recycling Monthly Report
 - Theatre Monthly Report
 - Excise Tax Collections Comparison Report

State Revenue Sharing Comparison Report
Personal Property Tax Collection Report
Real Estate Property Tax Collection Report

- B. Other Reports as of 02/28/2018
Building and Plumbing Permit Reports
Library Report – Librarian’s and Library Trustees Minutes
Police Report

The Town Manager advised of the following:

Budget Expenditure Report: 16.67% of period; 19.0% of municipal; 17.2% municipal, water & sewer (depreciation and transfers done by Auditor so percentage will increase)

Revenue Collections Report: 16.67% of period; 10.6% municipal; 11.1% municipal, water & sewer

Excise Tax Collections Comparison Report: For this period, \$13,188.32 ahead of 2017 collections at this time of the year.

State Revenue Sharing Comparison Report: For this period, \$6,287.65 ahead of 2017 collections. This account needs to be watched closely in case it falls behind.

The remainder of the Financial Reports are self-explanatory.

8. **REPORTS:** Audience, Council

Audience:

Jan Laux: Noted 2 of 3 businesses he approached regarding holding a meeting to discuss the future needs of the town were very interested. One of the businesses offered space to hold the meeting and to provide food.

Scott Strom: There are currently no bills that will effect Municipalities in the Legislature. The marijuana bill has not been to the legislature but regardless of what happens it will not be made illegal in the State. I was glad to hear the good comments from the Superintendent.

Pete Logiodice: I know DOT did a traffic study that no light was needed at Dunkin’ Donuts, but can anything be done. It’s a very congested area. The Town Manager noted that we can ask for the location to be reassessed after Dunkin’ Donuts has been there a year.

Ron Watson: I would like to commend the Police Department in general. I walk my dog regular around 1:00 or 2:00 in the morning. They have stopped to say hello. It has even been Chief Bickmore that has stopped before. I have been impressed with our Police Department as a new citizen.

Peter G. Vigue: Wanted to compliment the windows being cleaned up. Keep up the good work. The municipal building is over 35 years old and never seen a paintbrush. This needs to be looked at. I compliment the Town Council on the excavator discussion. Earlier this year a Maine State

Police Lieutenant gave me a significant compliment on our Police Chief. His competency and capability was noted. I was advised by Mike Cray of disparaging remarks made by Councilor Nichols regarding our Police Chief. Our Organization, as well as numerous citizens I have spoken to, have had only positive things to say regarding Chief Bickmore. He is the type of Chief we want in our community. Please get to the bottom of this situation of inappropriate remarks and correct it.

Council Items:

Councilor Bolster: Noted as a new Councilor trying to get a better understanding he is planning on visiting the Town Departments. There is a large amount of old equipment at the Public Works Department. Is there a plan for the disposal? The Town Manager noted we will be holding a surplus sale. The details were discussed. Councilor Bolster noted in reviewing the budget he has noticed the high cost of heating the municipal building. There was the suggestion of monitoring the fire bay doors closer.

Councilor Doanhue: I would echo the comments of Councilor Margolskee. Councilor Donahue questioned who the Town uses for a Wi-Fi supplier. The Town Manager noted she can get that information. Congrats to Councilor Curtis and his wife on the baby. I hope Councilor Stackhouse is recovering. Councilor Donahue questioned any update on PEEK. The Town Manager noted they are scheduled to meet in May. Councilor Donahue noted the need to get the TAP from Hoopa Inc. off the rolls. The Town Manager noted the amount of back taxes owed at this time is too high to be written off. We have to have the money in the budget to do this. This is something Councilor Donahue would like to see planned. Will there be additional help hired for the Public Works Department with Steve being on vacation? The Town Manager noted we have hired a part time temporary worker. Councilor Donahue noted the Industrial Park lights are out and there is debris around the sign. The Town Manager noted someone has hit the sign and the bulbs are out. It is on the Public Works list to be repaired. Pete Vigue offered to help by sending equipment, we just need to ask.

Councilor Margolskee: Noted streets are being cleaned but debris still on sidewalks. The Town Manager noted we have rented a sidewalk machine for cleanup. Councilor Margolskee noted the need for internet access in the Council Chambers. The Town Manager noted this is something we can discuss. Councilor Margolskee noted the interest that the businesses in Town have in meeting as a group to discuss the future. This is something the Bicentennial Committee can assist with.

Councilor Nichols: Absent.

Councilor Curtis: Absent.

Councilor Stackhouse: Absent.

Mayor Cianchette: The business forum is a great idea. I want to commend Councilor Bolster for stepping up. Congrats to Councilor Curtis on the new addition. Thank you to the audience for attending. Scott Noble, we are lucky to have people like you. You are one of the people who help run this town. Great job on recycling handouts. Mayor Cianchette suggested reviewing the Personnel Policy for coverage at times when employees need to take longer than usual vacations

or time off. The street sweeping looks terrific. Mayor Cianchette read a letter into the record from the District Attorney commending Police Chief Bickmore. What our employees of the Town do goes above and beyond. It's a description of how Pittsfield is.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by **Councilor Donahue** and seconded by **Councilor Margolskee** to adjourn at 8:27 pm.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Nicole Nickolan, Town Clerk