

# MINUTES

For a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council held on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

**PRESENT:** COUNCILORS: Mayor Tim Nichols, Caleb Curtis, Deputy Mayor Gary Jordan, Jr., Donna Chale, Christopher Carr and Louise Baker. **ABSENT:** Bob Stackhouse. Also present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth and Town Clerk Nicole Nickolan. Audience members included: Don Hallenbeck, Scott Noble, Mike Lange, Donnie Chute and others.

1. **Mayor Nichols** 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 April 17, 2012.

Moved by **Councilor Carr** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** that the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 17, 2012 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

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

#### **Community and Economic Development Activities and Events**

#### **Report on New Business Activity & Opportunities in Pittsfield:**

Some private sector business activities are under review.  
Some projects are on the agenda later this evening.

SAS Property placed on the market by MTC Holdings, LTD of San Antonio, Texas:  
The Trust holding the former SAS building has decided that it will put the property out for sale. The RE agent handling the property has promised that the Town will receive a copy of the information package. Terry Sortwell of LandVest, a company from Camden that handles Luxury Real Estate, was retained by the company. It would be great to have this property on the market so that it could be used, rather than be vacant. The information is on the Town's website as well as distributed to a number of regional and state entities. We have had calls about this building which have proven to be very interesting.

Regional Job Fair scheduled for Wednesday, May 09, 2012 from 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm at the Warsaw Middle School Gym and Cafeteria: The Town has the following employers and staffing agencies signed up: ADECCO; Allies, Inc; Argo Marketing Group; Assistance Plus; @Work Personnel Services; BONNEY Staffing Center; Care and Comfort; Charlotte White Center; Cianbro; Damsel in Defense; Kelly Services; Manpower; MAS Homecare of Maine; Merrymeeting Behavioral; Maine Staffing Group; Inc; Maine State Police; Nikken, Inc; Redington Fairview General Hospital; Reed & Reed Inc.; Seabasticook Family Doctors; Seabasticook Valley Health; Scentsy / Velata; SKILLS, Inc.; Spectrum Generations - Bridges Home Care; T-Mobile; Time Warner Cable; US Border Patrol; Visalus Sciences (As of 04/26/2012) and More to Come . . .

Resource Providers signed up to attend:

Adult Education Representatives; CareerCenter; Kennebec Valley Community Action Program (KVCAP); Women Unlimited; Women, Work, and Community; (As of 04/26/2012) and Many More

There are three free trainings scheduled:

3:30 – 4:35 pm: Business Start Up Resources: Are you thinking about starting a business? Join us to discuss your ideas, discover what steps to take and learn about small business resources available in our area.

4:30 – 5:25 pm: Women Unlimited: To talk about non-traditional positions for women.

5:30 – 6:30 pm: Maximizing Social Media in Your Job Search: Learn how to best use LinkedIn to network with people, companies and how to market yourself. Discussion will also include the best job search websites to use and how to create job search agents in them.

Pittsfield Garden Forum on Saturday, April 21, 2012 at Warsaw School Cafeteria: The group reports a great turnout of approximately 30 people. Tom Robert's talk about getting your garden ready was reflected on the TV news.

Pittsfield Trash to Treasure Re-Use Center – Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 28, 2012 Open from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm: Excellent turnout at the Re-Use Center like usual with a line at 10:00 am. The raffle was drawn by the Mayor, who will report on this later.

### **Upcoming Meetings & Events:**

Large number of upcoming meetings and events. The following will be described:

Recycling Committee Meeting on Wednesday, May 2, 2012 at 5:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

Sebasticook Valley Chamber of Commerce Strategic Planning Committee Meeting on Thursday, May 03, 2012 at 4:00 pm at the Chamber Office in Palmyra: The group is reviewing committees of SVCC and other resources which can work together to implement the strategies in the new Strategic Plan passed by the Board of Directors at their February Board Meeting.

Sebasticook Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday, May 03, 2012 at 5:00 pm at the Chamber Office in Palmyra

Somerset Economic Development Corporation will meet at the Municipal Building on Thursday, May 10, 2012 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. This is the interesting group I reported on back in April. The speaker will be Charlie Cianchette from Cianbro who will discuss some of Cianbro's large projects. Any Councilors who would like to attend are invited.

Egg Festival Committee Meeting on Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

Greater Pittsfield Area Kiwanis Club Bike Rodeo on Saturday, May 12, 2012 at the Somerset Plaza from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. The Club's partners on the day's activities are Bud's Shop 'N Save, MSAD#53, Sebasticook Valley Health, HealthySV Coalition, Pittsfield Police Department and Relay for Life

AARP Drive Safety Program on Thursday, June 21, 2012 from 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm in the Pittsfield Municipal Building Council Chambers. Cost is \$14.00 (\$2.00 discount for AARP Members). Call George Davis at 872-2788 to register.

### **Community Betterment Activities over the last Decade:**

The Town Manager gave a brief presentation on the Town's accomplishments over the last 10 years.

The Town Council received a copy of the project list for our Community Development projects embarked upon since 2003 when we applied for the first grant opportunities. The Town has had a massive infusion of state and federal dollars into the Town's infrastructure. The items I listed on the two page handout entitled Community Development Program Achievements 2003 – 2012 lists the project and major funding source. These are just the capital improvement projects. The total of the projects exceeds \$10,744,330+.

A few projects that we have been interested in completing are still underway or alternate plans were needed due to the cost involved. Some of those items are on the agenda this evening.

The second handout is an update of the grant awards the Town has received. This list is updated every two years for distribution. The 2010 total is at the top and the 2011 total is at the end of the document. A listing of the low interest loans is at the end as there were grant awards with some of them.

We are very fortunate that we have received so many grant awards to accomplish so much work!

4. **PUBLIC HEARINGS/OLD BUSINESS: NONE**
5. **REPORTS: TOWN MANAGER, FINANCE, ORDINANCE & RECYCLING COMMITTEES:**

### **Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 05/01/2012:**

**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. Pittsfield Re-use Celebration Backyard Compost Bin Sale:** The sale is over with, however, people can still order a bin as we were under the maximums required for an order so we have a few more that will be available for each of the Earth Day products.

To celebrate re-use in the community, the Town of Pittsfield is part of a statewide backyard composting bin sale. A home compost bin and how-to-guide with a combined retail value over \$100 can be purchased for only \$45.00 (tax included). The bin is black, has a 10 year warranty, and is made of 100% recycled plastic. It's approximately 35" high and 33" wide, or large enough for a family of five.

The Town will also have the wing digger compost turner for a discounted price of \$17.00 and the Reotemp Backyard Compost Thermometer with a 20" stem for \$18.50.

It is estimated that 25% of the average household's waste consists of kitchen scraps and yard trimmings which can be easily composted. Pittsfield residents can save \$54.12 for every ton of waste they compost rather than placing the material in with their garbage that is shipped out of town for disposal.

Pittsfield's recycling rate for 2011 was 62%. Let's keep working at our recycling rate and boost it even more while helping our gardens grow!

**3. Pittsfield Historical Society Fundraiser for the Depot:** The Pittsfield Historical Society is selling a quality print showing what we believe to be an 1889 map of the homes and businesses in Pittsfield at that time with some smaller photos of historic buildings. The cost is \$20.00. The print is available from the Pittsfield Historical Society and may also be purchased from the Town Office while supplies last.

**4. Pittsfield Spirit of America Award:** The Christmas Project known locally as the Pittsfield Food Pantry was selected by the Town Council as the recipient of the Spirit of America Award. The award presentation will take place at the next Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 7:30 pm.

The criteria for the award was "impact, compassion, intensity, longevity and recency" for the volunteer efforts. The Sprit of America Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity that was established in Augusta, ME to promote volunteerism. Last year, Androscoggin, Kennebec, Lincoln, Sagadahoc and Waldo County events were held and the Spirit of America Tribute was presented in the name of nearly 100 Maine municipalities. The group has expanded into Somerset County this year and has promoted the program to all the Somerset communities. Pittsfield chose to become involved and chose the Pittsfield Food Pantry due to its reach to so many people over such a period of time. The impact of the Pittsfield Food Pantry is enormous.

**Finance Committee:** No Report.

**Ordinance Committee:** No Report.

**Recycling Committee:** The Committee meets tomorrow at 5:00 pm. I did want to mention we had the re-use center opening this past weekend. I went in the afternoon and helped with the raffle. Mayor Nichols also announced the raffle winners.

## 6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

***RESOLUTION 12-59:*** Resolved that the Town Council sign the Somerset County ME Hazard Mitigation Plan 2012 Update.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Resolution 12-59 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Town Council received a copy of the updated Somerset County Hazard Mitigation Plan which is required in order for the County and the Towns to receive certain types of funding.

The Plan was dropped off last week and we were advised that we need to address the plan as soon as possible so that all signatures are acquired.

The Plan was distributed to the applicable department heads and the CEO.

There were just a few minor items that I have forwarded to the County to see if they can fix them.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 12-60:** 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 \$ 10,000 for the purchase of 5 Waterous Fire Hydrants.

Moved by **Councilor Curtis** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 12-60 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent has talked to companies that sell fire hydrants to obtain a very good price if we purchase several hydrants at once. As the total cost is over the bid amount, the purchase requires action by the Town Council.

The funds are in the Water Enterprise Fund this year. Replacing fire hydrants is a good investment for the Town.

The Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent noted that the old fire hydrants require a large amount of digging, which is very time consuming, to access the hydrant for repairs and require up to 4 people to help with the project. The new hydrants do not require digging for access and any work can be done by one person and will require much less time.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 12-61:** Resolved that the Town Council waive the bid policy, Chapter 2, Administrative Code, Section 106, to follow the State Bid Package for Police Cruisers and to accept the proposed bid of Quirk Ford of Augusta in an amount not to exceed \$22,659.00 (original price is \$26,135.00 - \$3,477.00 trade in for 2007 Police Cruiser) for a 2013 Ford 4-door Sedan Police Interceptor.

Moved by **Councilor Baker** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 12-61 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Capital Budget included \$26,650 for a new cruiser. The Police Reserve Account has a balance of \$2,430.56 as of 03/31/2012 left over from prior purchases for major repairs that may come up or to be used toward a future cruiser.

Councilor Jordan questioned what kind of a vehicle the new cruisers were exactly. Councilor Carr noted the new vehicle is basically a Ford Taurus, with a heavier suspension package.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 12-62:** Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Recycling Coordinator and Town Manager to waive the bid policy, Chapter 2, Administrative Code, Section 106, transfer and expend funds from the Capital Reserve Account designated "Waste Transporter" (PITT47, G#1-656-00) to pay Whited Truck Center of Bangor for major repairs to the Town owned 2004 Sterling Solid Waste Transporter to not exceed 7,500.00.

Moved by **Councilor Carr** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Resolution 12-62 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted The Transfer Station/Recycling Coordinator is here this evening to answer any questions that you have regarding the break down of the Waste Transporter. The work started out smaller and became larger as the truck was worked on by the company.

The Transfer Station/Recycling Coordinator noted the 2004 Sterling Waste Transporter broke down on Peltoma Ave. on 4/18/2012. The truck driver Dean Billings notified me that the truck made a sound and it wouldn't move. I went to inspect the truck and noticed oil trailing behind the truck and that the drive yoke had pulled out of the rear-end. It looked like the pin had snapped in the yoke and damaged the gear spline to the drive axle. I called T&W garage to tow the truck to our Sterling Authorized Dealer Whited Ford in Bangor. They order a new yoke on Thursday 4/19/12 and anticipated to have the truck fixed by 4/20/12. I called on 4/20/2012 and Gerard the service manager told me that Sterling sent the wrong yoke and that we should have the truck back on Monday 4/23/2012. I went to Whited Truck Center on Monday 4/23/2012 after receiving a call from Gerard stating that there were bigger problems going on with the Waste Transporter. After arriving at Whited Ford and looking at the Waste Transporter the drive axle was still locked up after installation of the new yoke and pin in the drive train. They took the axle pan off and discovered broken gears and spline connector broken in the axle. We weighed the options of trying to rebuild the axle differentials versus getting new differentials. I than met with Gerard and decided with the \$125.00 an hour labor fee that it would cost more to rebuild the differentials and it would be cheaper to buy new because the labor to rebuild would have been \$750.00 more than installing a new one. The new one would take care of any future issues in case other gears were damaged and not noticed during the rebuild and trying to cut corners to save a few dollars. At the time that I wrote this we were still without a Waste Transporter on 4-25-2012 and waiting for the differential to be delivered. During the past week we have used Mike Bolster to haul only essential trashcans to PERC in Orrington. We have had Bolsters haul 6 cans at a cost to the Town of \$1800.00. The company Oxus has allowed us to use their roll-off truck to do some simple swap-outs of cans and do our multi-bin recycling can at no cost to the Town. I believe they should receive a special thank-you from the Town for their help during our crisis.

It was noted that the Waste Transporter Reserve Account has a balance of \$19,990.51 as of 03/31/2012.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 12-63:** Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager and Assistant Treasurer to transfer and expend funds from the Municipal Building Capital Reserve (PITT28 G/L #01-605-00) to not exceed \$3,432.00 for necessary work to the sprinkler system in the Municipal Building.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Carr** that Resolution 12-63 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Municipal Building was constructed in 1975-1976. The Building was a quality construction project that is now in its 36<sup>th</sup> year. Work is required each year of some nature due to the advancing age of the facility.

This year, we have identified work to the Sprinkler System. The Town's sprinkler system maintenance and inspection company would complete the work on the system. The quotations were received earlier this month in the mail after being sent to the wrong individual and address.

The required work is identified as:

1. Corroded Sprinkler Head in the Men's Restroom \$ 954.00
2. Leaking of the 5" Gate Control Valve on the Fire Sprinkler System \$2,478.00

The Municipal Building Budget does not have enough funding to cover these projects. Therefore, we need to fix these items with funding in the Municipal Building Reserve. As of 03/31/2012, the Municipal Building Reserve has a balance of \$24,868.85.

The Town was budgeting toward the cost of replacement of the antique boiler, the air conditioning/heating system on the roof and other building capital expenses that develop during the year. Fortunately, the Town received a large grant to replace the boiler with an energy efficient furnace, which was completed last year so one of the large projects that required funding is completed.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 12-64:** Resolved that the Town Council approve the issuance of a parade permit to the VFW/American Legion for a Memorial Day Parade on May 28, 2012 and waive the permit fees.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Carr** that Resolution 12-64 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted some of the members of the former VFW and American Legion are working together to put on the Memorial Day Parade after their organizations decided to shut down. The Town has offered any assistance that they may need.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 12-65:** Resolved that the Town Council approve the issuance of a parade permit to Hoperuns.org for a fundraising 5K Run on May 21, 2012 and waive the permit fees.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 12-65 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is a housekeeping matter to approve a fundraising run. The runs and walks are approved through the Town Council meetings more of a communication and advertising of their events so that everyone knows the walks and/or runs are taking place.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 12-66:** Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager and Assistant Treasurer to transfer and expend up to \$ 6,279.00 from G4-110-02 the Economic Development Fund at People's United Bank to refurbish the Industrial Park Sign awarding the refurbishing to Sign Services, Inc. and the business placard signs to Finyl Vinyl.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 12-66 be adopted.

Sign Services, Inc	\$5,191.00
Finyl Vinyl	<u>\$1,088.00</u>
Total:	\$6,279.00

The Town Manager noted this project was first discussed and included in the Industrial Park Expansion pre-application grant that we applied for in 2003 when we were told that we were too rural for this type of funding and did not proceed forward to a full grant application. At that time, costs from sign companies were in the vicinity of \$18,000 - \$22,000. Therefore, as this was a large cost, the project did not proceed forward.

The project was to take place as part of the Industrial Park Expansion Grant that we applied for again in 2009, when we were approved for the Industrial Park Expansion under the new regulations. The Contractor for the project was unable to finish everything and we choose to concentrate on finishing the Industrial Park Street upgrade Mill & Pave job that we were approved for as the bids were very competitive.

Multiple contacts with companies, issuing a bid, and then multiple contacts again resulted in one interested company for the refurbishing work to stain the sign and one company to provide the placards or tenant signs.

Refurbishing is needed for the sign located at the Industrial Park. This sign acts to Welcome business people, citizens and visitors to Pittsfield. Originally this work was to be completed as part of an Economic Development Grant; however, due to time constraints with the contractor, the project could not be completed. In February 2012 the Council approved the issuing of an RFP for this work. Copies of the RFP were sent to companies as well as advertised in newspapers. Neither the Town Manager nor the Public Works Foreman received a response from this RFP. The Public Works Foreman contacted the companies who received the RFP with no response received. Recently companies who had expressed interest in working on the sign in 2010 were contacted and asked to look at the project again. New companies were asked to look at the project as well. The work will consist of cleaning, preparing and staining the entire structure with solid latex stain. The sign has been thoroughly reviewed and found to be sturdy with no evidence of rotted wood. After this work is completed new tenant signs will be attached to the sign.

As of April 25, 2012 only one contacted company has shown interest in the refurbishing project. Examples of their work can be seen at all Irving, AE Robinson, McDonald's north of Augusta and most recently the Hollywood Slots. The company is currently contracted to complete the signs showing the Hollywood Slot name change to Hollywood Casino. This company estimates that there would be a two-week wait for materials to arrive once the job is approved and then one-week timeframe to complete the work.

A local vendor has expressed interest in completing the individual tenant signs.

The Economic Development Fund had \$71,359.82 as of 02/28/2012.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 12-67:** Resolved that the Town Council execute a letter to MDOT Commissioner David Bernhardt, P.E. requesting that MDOT pave and mill Somerset Avenue in the next MDOT Biennial Capital Work Plan for the Fiscal Years 2014-2015.

Moved by **Councilor Carr** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 12-67 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted a letter to the Commissioner of the MDOT may be of assistance in the State's planning for the next two year period. The severe deterioration and lengthy period of time since work has been completed on the section of Somerset Avenue from Hathorn Park to the I-95 Exchange is of grave concern. We have fit as many details as allowable under the BTIP form and listed the project as our #1 ranked project for many years. It is recommended that a letter detailing the issues with the roadway and concern of the traveling public be sent to the Commissioner.

A copy of a draft letter was forwarded to Councilors and is available on your desks this evening. A copy is available for the public to review on the handouts table.

The Town has requested work to this road since 2002. A request for rehabilitation has been forwarded as part of the BTIP Capital Plan Submittals every two years when the requests are available as well as multiple requests during the year. We had an excellent meeting with MDOT representatives from Division 4 Bangor Office last November 2011, at which point, the representatives noted they would support work to Somerset Avenue.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 12-68:** Resolved that the Town Council approve the following list of Election Workers effective until May 1, 2014 pursuant to Title 21-A, Section 503.

REPUBLICANS	DEMOCRATS	GREEN	UNENROLLED
Melissa Flewelling Ronda Belgard Marilyn Humphrey Eloise Bane Arey Bryant Peter Snow Walter Reuter Connie Lasselle Wendi Knowles Faith Vanadistine Charles Moon Linda Moon Charity Bean Constance Thies Matthew Bagley Danielle Bagley Brenda Goewey Kelly Flanigan	Donnie Hallenbeck Rhonda Woodman Rebecca Geagan Frank Geagan Suzanne Mercier Donald Belgard Cynthia Lewis Rebecca Johnson Dawn Witham Belinda Stackhouse Linda J. Snow Debra Short Stan Short Trudy Ferland Joyce Ackroyd Julianne Bousquet Nancy Shorey Francis Pratt Bev Newton Eileen Wright Nancie Mcleod Donna Dunphy Marie Rollins Connie LaGross Tom Brown Zyra Murray Carolyn Langert Michelle Biron	James Cianchette	Joseph Veilleux

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Resolution 12-68 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 12-69:** 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 Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Resolution 12-69 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted Suzy Morton is interested in serving on the Theatre Committee. She has already attended one of the meetings and will be a great addition.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 12-70:** Resolved that the Town Council Accept Mini Grants for the Town's Recreation Programming and authorize expenditure of the funds for programs.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Resolution 12-70 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted The Town has received a number of mini grants from the Pittsfield Greater Area Kiwanis and the Jobs for Maine's Graduates as follows:

- \$1000.00 toward the town's Swimming Program – after the Town Manager spoke with Kiwanis
- \$ 500.00 for new 2012 Recreation Programming – after the Rec Director spoke with Kiwanis
- \$ 500.00 for a Sponsorship Program – so that all children can attend the Recreation programming from Kiwanis
- \$ 500.00 for a Jobs for Maine's Graduates JOY grant to be awarded in April, 2012 from the Rec Director's mini-grant application

Lots of great improvements are taking place in Recreation. We should have a few new programs this summer to compliment the Summer Recreation Program.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 12-71:** Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to file the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Application for the Pittsfield Municipal Airport for the Engineering Design for the Apron Expansion.

Moved by **Councilor Carr** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 12-71 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Town Councilors received a copy of the grant application for the Design Work for the Pittsfield Municipal Airport Apron Expansion. The work for an apron expansion, which is critical for safety, airport growth and use of the facility, will be designed under federal requirements for the airport.

The first step is to authorize the filing of the grant application.  
If the project is approved, the Town should hear back in late June – early July 2012.

This is the next project, which the Town has been working toward on the Pittsfield Municipal Airport Capital Improvement Plan.

Councilor Curtis gave a brief update to Councilors on some special events planned for the Egg Festival.

These events will include a fly-in and free plane rides for kids.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

## 7. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **Updates:**

#### 1. Community Development Update:

Sidewalk Work Projections: We have received requests to reconstruct or rebuild all sidewalks in Town. The cost to rebuild the main sidewalks which are Somerste, Main and North Main excluding engineering was estimated a s\$1,125,000 to \$2,184,600 dependent upon options. PW is scheduled to start brick work on Main Street in two esplanade areas this summer and the Town is applying for a Quality Community program for work at Vickery, Warsaw and a section approximately 1709' of Somerset Avenue from School Street to Hartland Avenue to provide for an updated and safer walk for the children. Is there any more that we should undertake?

Junky Yard Cleanup Project: There are 17 properties that are under review with only 3 not responding of the original 17 contacts.

#### 2. Summer Highway Projects: PW has a full list of work ahead of them. The schedule was reviewed.

#### 3. Sewer: CWSRF Application: Due to the need to plan for another loan payment shortly after starting loan payments for the USDA \$1.9 million dollar sludge and sewer enhancement projects, we turned down the funding for a low interest loan from the CWSRF project with a small grant. A number of towns did not go forward. I thanked the program and explained how we had just increased our rates and had not yet made our USDA payment so we needed to be financially diligent about being able to fully made new loan payments before we embarked on another project. DEP was very understanding.

#### 4. Political Signs on Town Properties: Just a reminder that the Town did vote through restrictions about placing political signs on the Town parks and Town building lots due to the activities that took place several years ago when we found dozens of signs in Hathorn Park and signs were on the side of the Municipal Building, Theatre and Library. Signs along the town ways and on town properties without buildings are not an issue as they due not cause visibility issues and are picked up after the campaign.

#### 5. Theatre Fundraising Projects & New Regulations: The Theatre Committee will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, May 08 at 5:00 pm (the time was just revised).

The Town Manger gave a brief update to the Councilors regarding the Waverly Street River crossing & drilling and a recent call from the US Fish & Wildlife which is back about a fish passageway at the dams in Town.

## **Grants Update:**

The Town Manager noted that numerous grants are currently in process.

### 8. **REPORTS:** Audience, Council

#### **Audience:**

**Don Hallenbeck:** Noted that it would be nice to let the Veterans know about the fly-in.

#### **Council:**

**Councilor Baker:** Thinking about the fly-in, I went to one in Bingham once. They had gliders there – and they played the song “Born Free”. It gave me goose bumps. I love the idea of planes flying in!

**Councilor Carr:** I think its great that Caleb is putting this together. It will really bring people in to the Egg Festival. I wanted to mention we are planning “Hooked on Fishing” again this year. The date will be June 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am – 12:00 noon.

**Donna Chale:** I wanted to thank Donnie and Scott for coming in tonight to explain their financial needs.

**Deputy Mayor Jordan:** I think that the airport news is very exciting. I had a friend visiting and they couldn’t believe we had an airport in Town. The fly-in will really showcase the airport and Pittsfield.

**Councilor Curtis:** Looking down through this list of Community Development Program achievements we see a lot being spent on the airport. I had inspectors visit recently and the noted that we had been documented as the airport in Maine with the worst pavement. Now after all the work we have had done, the airport looks great. We are getting more people every year at the airport. It’s a very clean and active place. I want to thank the Town Manager and the Town Council for making the airport improvements.

**Councilor Stackhouse:** Absent.

**Mayor Nichols:** I wanted to say that I remember people saying, why are you working on the airport. Now, its starting to pay off. People are really going to be surprised this year at the Egg Festival. Its going to be a really good year. I wanted to thank Donnie and Scott for coming in. I am sitting here looking at this list of grant funding activity. Next time I hear any of these nay-sayers complain about the Town employees, they can look at this list and see all the hard work Kathryn and the Town Employees have done. They should be commended.

### 9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by **Councilor Curtis** and seconded by **Councilor Carr** that the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m. All in agreement.

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Nicole Nickolan, Town Clerk