

MINUTES

for a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council, held on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the Pittsfield Municipal Building and by teleconferencing technology due to the Governor's Proclamation of State of Civil Emergency for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

PRESENT: COUNCILORS: Mayor Heather Donahue, Deputy Mayor Matthew Bolster, Councilor Timothy Nichols, Councilor Debra Billings, and Councilor Peter Logiodice.

ABSENT: Councilor Amanda Collamore

Also present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth

AUDIENCE: Michael Gray, Nathan Beech, Michael Holland, Heather Holland and Bernard Williams.

Zoom: Gary Jordan.

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

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON June 16, 2020.**

Moved by Councilor Billings and seconded by Councilor Nichols that the Minutes of the regular meeting held on June 16, 2020 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

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

Certificate of Welcome presented to Outland Farm Brewery.

Certificate of Welcome presented to Puritan Medical Products Company LLC.

A. Community and Economic Development Activities and Events

New Businesses:

Pittsfield Solar 1 LLC, Outland Farm Brewery, Puritan Medical Products Company LLC, SIDC 112 LTD moving Walgreens to the Family Dollar location and Somerset Solar LLC.

5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS/OLD BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 20-60: (Tabled) Resolved that the Town Council Act as Necessary due to the civil emergency regarding the Pittsfield Community Theatre.

Moved by Councilor Billings to remove Resolution 20-60 from the Table, seconded by Councilor Nichols.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Moved by Councilor Billings and seconded by Mayor Donahue that Resolution 20-60 be amended as follows: To close the Theatre Operations permanently.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Moved by Councilor Bolster and seconded by Councilor Billings that Resolution 20-60 be further amended as follows: To sell the Theatre building and list it for sale.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 20-62: (Tabled) Resolved that the Town Council Accept the proposal of Siemens of Scarborough, Maine for the Energy Savings Performance Contracting and to authorize the Town Manager to execute all necessary paperwork including the Town's Standard Services contract for the project.

Moved by Councilor Billings to remove Resolution 20-62 from the table, seconded by Councilor Nichols.

Moved by Councilor Logiodice and seconded by Councilor Nichols that Resolution 20-62 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

5. **REPORTS:**

A. COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

FINANCE: No report.

ORDINANCE: No report, we are still waiting on the Planning Board.

RECYCLING: We met on June 17, 2020 and discussed the goals for 2020, composting, a grant, the brush pile, social media for the recycling center, recycling textile via KVCOG and the new Transfer Station Office being in place by the end of July.

B. BOARD AND COMMITTEE UPDATES BY TOWN COUNCILORS AND MANAGER

The Parks and Recreation Committee is forming and should start to have meetings soon.

The Pittsfield Economic Expansion Corporation (PEEC) met last week and elected Councilor Billings as the Director for 2020, Councilor Nichols as the President, Michael Gray as the Vice president, Robert Stackhouse as the Secretary and Kathryn Ruth as the Treasurer. Discussed at the meeting were the commercial properties available in town, the town video project, a recreation project for economic development, projects coming before the Planning Board, Zoning near the Industrial Park and promoting sub divisions for new housing.

C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- 1- Thanks for helping during the Civil Emergency.
- 2- The election is next Tuesday, 7/14/2020 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.
- 3- The Town Office has reopened and the hours will be changing back to the normal hours on Wednesday, 7/15/2020 as Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday open to the public from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, closed on Wednesdays.
- 4- Online services are available.
- 5- A new registration list is available.
- 6- The new fee system is required as of August 1, 2020 for the Transfer Station.
- 7- The Code Enforcement Violations are moving forward.
- 8- The summer recreation program started this week.
- 9- The Egg Festival window painting contest will be held this year only later than usual.
- 10- KVCOG has started its new textile recycling program.

- 11- The Fire Station masonry project has started and is going well.
- 12- The Municipal Building roof project is starting soon.
- 13- The Town Office personnel are attending de-escalation training.
- 14- The Project Canopy Grant has been extended to the end of September.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 20-74: Resolved that the Town Council Appoint Nicole Nickolan as Warden and Karen Kelsey, Melody Fitzpatrick, Michael Feole and Emmalee Reed as Deputy Wardens for the July 14, 2020 State Primary/Special Referendum Election, Special District 2 Municipal Election and the MSAD #53 Budget Referendum.

Moved by Councilor Billings and seconded by Councilor Bolster that Resolution 20-74 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 20-75: Resolved that the Town Council approve the opening of absentee ballots on July 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM for the July 14, 2020 State Primary/ Special Referendum Election, Special District 2 Municipal Election and the MSAD #53 Budget Referendum.

Moved by Councilor Bolster and seconded by Councilor Nichols that Resolution 20-75 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 20-76: Resolved that the Town Council Approve a renewal application for a liquor license for the Seabasticook Valley Lodge of Elks at 140 Middle St., Pittsfield, ME 04967.

Moved by Councilor Billings and seconded by Councilor Bolster that Resolution 20-76 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 20-77: Resolved that the Town Council Approve a renewal application for a special amusement permit for the Seabasticook Valley Lodge of Elks at 140 Middle St., Pittsfield, ME 04967.

Moved by Councilor Billings and seconded by Councilor Bolster that Resolution 20-77 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 20-78: Resolved that the Town Council decide if a Public Hearing for the consideration of the new on premise license for Outland Farm Brewery located at 113 N. Lancey Street, Suite 6 & 7, Pittsfield, Maine, 04967 is required.

Moved by Councilor Nichols to amend as follows: There is no Public Hearing needed and we will approve the license, and seconded by Councilor Bolster.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Moved by Councilor Bolster and seconded by Councilor Nichols that Resolution 20-78 be adopted as amended.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 20-79: Resolved that the Town Council approve a new on premise application for a special amusement permit for Outland Farm Brewery located at 113 N. Lancey Street, Suite 6 & 7, Pittsfield, Maine, 04967.

Moved by Councilor Billings and seconded by Councilor Bolster that Resolution 20-79 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 20-80: Resolved that the Town Council accept the proposal from F.A.R. & Beyond Lawn Care Services for Departments Mowing and Pittsfield Municipal Airport Mowing in an amount to not exceed \$5,733.60 for Departments Mowing and \$3,430.35 for Pittsfield Municipal Airport Mowing; and authorize the Town Manager to execute the contracts for same.

Moved by Councilor Billings and seconded by Councilor Bolster that Resolution 20-80 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 20-81: Resolved that the Town Council set the rate of interest to be charged on delinquent taxes for 2020 at 8.0% and the due date for payment of taxes at the end of the business day on Friday, October 16, 2020.

Moved by Councilor Billings and seconded by Councilor Bolster that Resolution 20-81 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 20-82: Resolved that the Town Council set the rate of interest for overpayments for 2020 at 4.0% to conform with 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506-A.

Moved by Councilor Bolster and seconded by Councilor Billings that Resolution 20-82 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 20-83: Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Tax Collector/Treasurer to accept payment or decline prepayment of taxes not yet committed or received prior to the due date and pay no interest thereon in accordance with 36 M.R.S.A Section 506.

Moved by Councilor Bolster and seconded by Councilor Billings that Resolution 20-83 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

8. REPORTS:

Audience:

Bernard Williams: At the last meeting you decided to keep the bathrooms closed at the Little League Park (Hathorn Park). I think they ought to be open, cleaned, so that we can get rid of the Porta-Potties that are not the most sanitary things in the world on a good day. The only thing required for those bathrooms, required by the State, is hand sanitizer. There is no requirement to be cleaning them between people using them. (TM-gave background on why the Porta-Potties were ordered.)

Nathan Beech: I am a resident of Pittsfield and own a marijuana dispensary in Waterville. I would like the opt-in process to start in Pittsfield for at least cultivation. I would like to convert some barn space and a field to do that business. When I apply to the State for a growers license they need approval from the town before they will approve it, so I am asking you to start the process of zoning changes, permitting, etc. (Councilor Billings: can you put together a proposal for us to look at and we will address it at a future meeting?) Yes, I will do that.

Council:

Mayor Donahue: I was delighted to see that we have flags on main St. and Somerset Ave. Sidewalk markings are non-existent. If the kids are going back to school in September then we need to make sure that the cross walks are marked. It was good to see patching on Route 100 today. The garden club is doing a wonderful job. The plantings are inspiring and cheerful. The volunteers putting on the concert series are doing a great job. They had their first concert Friday night because of the rain. They had a large turnout. So they will have another one this week with the Porta-Potties being available. Closing the Theatre has been talked about for a couple of years. It is regrettable but I think that we all know it would come to this. Congratulations to the Hollands. They have had curbside pickup now and it is good to have some night life in town.

Deputy Mayor Bolster: no report.

Councilor Nichols: no report

Councilor Collamore: absent

Councilor Logiodice: no report

Councilor Billings: I would like to read an email that I sent to Kathryn: "You have done a superior job handling all of the COVID-19 responsibilities. (referring to an email about a grant) This grant is one example of how the town should be grateful. I know that I am."

I would like to address the email sent to councilors from Donna and Jan on June 2, 2020. The email talks about the council developing a succession plan because Kathryn isn't going to be here forever. It implies that her health would prevent her from doing her job. In response, it is my opinion, and not necessarily the opinion of the council, that this is not the time to be starting new projects such as he is

suggesting. We have so much on our plate right now, trying to allow for housing development, needing new commercial land because the industrial park is full, trying to pay attention to the comprehensive plan, we need to start the budget for 2021 and finally the Police Department. The Town manager is going nowhere at this moment, or for that matter, not even in the near future. We don't have time for this foolishness. We need to be doing the work of the town, as all of the town boards should be doing.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councilor Billings and seconded by Councilor Bolster to adjourn at 9:20 PM.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

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.