

MINUTES

for a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council, held on *Tuesday, August 16, 2022* at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers at the Pittsfield Municipal Building at 112 Somerset Avenue and by teleconferencing technology.

Councilors Present: Deputy Mayor Peter Logiodice, Councilor Jason Hall, Councilor Brent Frost, Councilor Eric Saucier and Councilor Lindsay Holmstrom.

Councilors Present by ZOOM: None

Councilors Absent: Mayor Michael Cianchette and Councilor Ronald Jester

Also Present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth, Public Works Director Don Chute, Heather Donahue and Kyle Wentworth

Also Present by ZOOM: Nancy Breau

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

Deputy Mayor Logiodice 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 August 2, 2022

Moved by Councilor Hall and seconded by Councilor Saucier to adopt the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 03, 2022.

Motion passed with all votes in favor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

3. PRESENTATIONS, CONGRATULATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS:

A. Community and Economic Development Activities and Events

1. Projects and Grants:

- a. Planning Initiative Program Update
- b. Main Street Sidewalk Project
- c. Route #11/10 (Route 100) and Main Street Highway Construction/Rehabilitation
- d. Main Street Sidewalk Project Community Development Block Grant Funding; Northern Border Regional Commission Grant; Project Canopy Grants; and multiple smaller grant projects
- e. Main Street Sewer Main Rehabilitation Project including DEP American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Funding
- f. Airport Grants
- g. Many other smaller Grant Opportunities
- h. Certificates and Ceremonies

The Town Manager advised of updates on the grant projects and brought the conversation to the Planning Initiative Program so that the Council would begin discussions on the updated PPI Scope of Services that MaineDOT Planner Jarod Farn-Guillette forwarded to the Town and was included

in the Council Package. Ms. Ruth advised that when she forwarded the revised scope to the Town Councilors, Planning Board, interested parties, business owners and organizations along Main Street that she was thanked for providing the information with people commenting that they appreciated being included and knowing what was taking place.

The only item that she received input on was the scope and specifically extending the scope to the back entrance of the Industrial Park to Stinson where it was agreed previously the project would end and then to extend from Route #100's intersection with Madawaska up to the hospital and then to the Town line. As it is a small distance to the Town line, it is best to include it as paving is often to Town lines. Excluding this small stretch could result in an area that needed paving left between two stretches of new pavement – in this case between the Detroit/Pittsfield Town line and the beginning of the PPI. The Councilors agreed with the extended scope of the project along Main Street as this makes a lot of sense and will result in a more complete project.

In discussing the downtown along Main Street, the value of having proper ATV parking and ATV/Recreation access as well as access to the parks was considered crucial.

Councilor Saucier inquired whether towns ever made offers for property that abutted town properties or were located in areas of interest such as the Friend property. The Town Manager advised in the affirmative that towns have done this if the community has funds put aside or more likely in our case, grant funding was available. Ms. Ruth cautioned that towns have to be careful about purchasing property. It is recommended in most cases that environmental studies be completed prior to any purchase to ensure that the Town is protected from claims resulting from past uses of property before the Town becomes the owner. This ensures that the taxpayers are protected. It would be typical that two types of environmental studies would be conducted before the Town purchased a property that had been used for any type of industrial or commercial activity.

The Councilors discussed areas of the downtown where it would be beneficial to include in the PPI study area determining the following:

1. ADD the area between the intersection of Main and Central Street extending along Hathorn Park, a major recreation area, up to Somerset Avenue, including Somerset Avenue down to Route #100 at the signal lights.
2. ADD the area between the railroad tracks and Crosby Street off Main Street/Route #100 including a large tract of undeveloped land abutting and including Manson Park.

Ms. Ruth noted that when the Town Council votes to move forward at the next Council Meeting on this project that we should also have the Committee composition and mission voted upon. She asked the Town Councilors to think about the Committee that they would like for this project and to forward her information on the makeup for the next meeting so that the Committee can be created.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

5. REPORTS:

A. Council Committees:

The Finance Committee, Ordinance Committee and Recycling Committees reported that they had not met.

B. Committee Updates by Town Councilors and Manager:

The Town Manager reported that the Planning Board would not be meeting this month as applications had not been received, however, in the near future, the Board should meet to review the requirements for solar projects.

C. Town Manager's Report

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT FOR 08/16/2022:

STREAMLINED VERSION FOR TOWN COUNCIL

1. 2022 Taxes:

Update for 08/16/2022: The Town has a new Assessor assigned to the Town by our Contractor RJD Appraisals. The Assessor has been off for a couple of weeks so we welcome his return next week as we move toward the issuance of the tax bills.

History: The Town is now preparing for tax bills to be issued at the end of the month. We are working on new addresses for all of the 30-day notices that were sent to the last known address, however, the owners moved. We are also locating new addresses for mail that came back from the issuance of other mass mailings. Mortgage holders are being updated as well as unassessed owners. If we prepare now, the issuance of the tax bills will be more streamlined.

2. Airport Hangar Contract:

Update for 08/16/2022: The pre-construction meeting is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 22, 2022. Please see Exhibit A. Preliminary Schedule for Construct Taxilane, Apron and T-Hangar.

History: It had been reported by HTA that the Airport Contractor is targeting the beginning of September to start the flat work and foundation. He expects the building to arrive Feb or March 2023 and then to put the building up first thing in Spring 2023. MaineDOT is requesting that a Pre-Construction meeting be scheduled shortly.

The Airport Contractor was issued the Notice of Award the next day after the Council Meeting to move this project along. The Notice of Contract was received in the appropriate filing time. Now the Contractor is working on his schedule which will be forwarded to HTA and then to the Town to issue the Notice to Proceed.

3. Airport Hangar Original Grant:

Notification has been received that Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Budget Period 2 FY2021 funding has been allocated to the Town of Pittsfield in the amount of \$166,666. These funds were planned as part of the grant funding for the project.

4. Airport Hangar Additional Grant:

The grant application project for \$141,806 is being filed with the Federal Aviation Administration. It is expected that approval will take 1-2 months. This grant application will utilize funds from Year 1 of 4 years of allocations of \$159,000 that are available to the Town for qualifying projects.

History: The grant application is underway for the use of the additional allotment of funding available to the Town through the new Bi-Partisan airport program put into place. Using the funds toward the Airport Hangar would utilize one of the four years of funding that has been allotted for the Town.

5. Tax Liens:

Update for 08/16/2022: Property owners continue to pay off the 30-day notices for 2021 taxes. Currently \$201,817.77 is owed consisting of 149 accounts. This figure excludes one account to be abated as the wrong owner was assessed and two accounts that the Town had requested be abated back in September of 2021.

Update for 08/02/2022: The 30-day notices were processed with 204 notices printed. A few people came in to pay the day that the notices were printed. As of 07/31/2022, \$377,021.34 remained unpaid for 2021 taxes consisting of 177 accounts. The number of accounts outstanding as of this time period vs. the last few years is less so that is good news.

Update for 07/19/2022: The tax lien season is fully engaged with research being conducted, calls made and verification of background material for new owners on the outstanding property tax report. The 30-day notices need to be processed before the new program goes into effect as we cannot leave work in the computer during the transition to the new TRIO program as there is a chance that data could be affected. We have talked to other towns to understand that it was not an entirely smooth transitional period.

Update for 07/05/2022: It is now time to start the tax lien process for the 2021 taxes that are not yet paid. This is a very detailed process which needs to take place in July, therefore, I will be dedicating considerable time to it for the next several weeks. This is one of our statutory requirements.

6. Open Positions Recruitment:

The Town of Pittsfield is experiencing the same issues as many employers in Pittsfield and the State with positions unfilled and very few applicants. There are still 17 pages of jobs on the Maine Municipal Association Job Bank, the one site in the State where nearly all municipal positions are listed. It is full of municipal positions in all departments with most pages having 20-30 position listings so there must be more than 500 jobs listed. The major issue we are running across is that people do not want to wait on customers and most applicants want to work remotely. It is certainly a different work environment now.

Updated for Week of 08/16/2022:

Position	Vacancy	Filled/Status
Assistant (Revised by Town Council to handle Personnel/HR rather than assist Town Manager)	As of late 03/2022	Applications & Interviews again
Deputy Treasurer/Tax Collector <u>OR</u>	As of late 08/2021	
Financial Clerk	No vacancy*	Conditional Offer with Background Checks
Public Works Driver/Equipment Operator	1-2 positions open again	Hired several part-timers
Police Officer	1 as of each 04/2022; 05/2022; 07/2022	Conditional Offer made for 1 position
Fire Department	Always recruiting, handles own hires	On-going all year

*Financial Clerk positions are filled. It is easier to hire a Financial Clerk than a Deputy Treasurer so we may hire and promote.

7. Computer Services / Managed Services Onboarding/Transfer to New TRIO:

Update for August 16, 2022: The Town went live with the new TRIO on August 03, 2022. Verification of financial data transferred is on-going. So far, a few journals were found to need to be re-entered. There are some bugs and definitely this is a learning experience for the staff. We were advised by the TRO staff that there are only three positions responding to customer service calls from across the State which reflects why responses are slow as they are short-staffed. The main projects now are to put the liens on the 2021

outstanding taxes, issue water/sewer bills and issue 2022 tax bills. The staff spent part of three days with Customer Service for the Ez Reader system for water/sewer readings due to receiving conflicting advice on days one and two. Olver Associates' employees are also assisting with the Ez Reader program and being available when staff are working with the software company.

8. Grant Applications:

Update for August 16, 2022: The Acting Police Chief, Administrative Assistant and I worked with Chief Bucknam of Skowhegan on the police grants found in the police station files. While the police have chosen to apply for and submit their own grants, both the Acting Chief and Administrative Assistant have asked that I work with them on future grants. I believe this will be much more efficient and will not lead to dealing with the grants 1-4 months before they expire. Police grants go directly to police departments. I have already received one from the staff.

History: Several new opportunities have been located as well as the ability to revitalize a grant opportunity and connections that had not yet been applied for and completed.

9. Swimming Pool Cover:

Several individuals have been working on obtaining quotations since the pool cover was determined to not be salvageable earlier this summer. Paul Bertrand contacted the pool company that sold the Town our pool for an estimate and after some time and a lot of contacts, we were able to obtain the estimate today. This is for a heavy winter cover similar to the original cover. Other staff members have contacted several companies to no avail. The staff are now working with Philbrick Enterprises as they have several vendors for pool covers with the concept that a lighter cover may be the best alternative. As it has taken so long to obtain estimates due to how backed up and busy suppliers are, Public Works has determined a temporary measure if we cannot get a pool cover until later in the year.

10. Public Works Updates:

Update for 08/16/2022: Paving Update and Road Closure

2022 Summer Paving: Northeast Paving started milling in-town roads on Monday, Aug 15. Work started on a section of Waverly off Hartland Avenue to the bridge first, then the company will proceed to North Lancey, Crosby, Nichols and finally to a section of Cianchette. The company will be back later the week of August 15 to pave. The rural roads scheduled to have binder will be paved later during the paving season. When scheduled, the date will be posted.

Highway Work Update - Webb Road Closure: A large cross culvert by the railroad tracks on Webb Road from the Route #100 Main Street entrance will be replaced on Monday Aug 15 beginning 8:00 am - Tuesday Aug 16 until 6 pm. The road will be closed to traffic due to the size of the culvert. All traffic needing to access Webb Road after the railroad tracks needs to utilize Crawford or Snakeroot Road.

Update for 08/02/2022: The new bridge/culvert inspection reports were provided to Plymouth Engineering. The bid document has not yet been received. We are also waiting for pricing and a plan of action for Lancey Street.

Snowman's Construction, which had been hired to grade the gravel roads has graded several of the roads to very good reviews. The Town's grader has served the Town admirably for decades, however, it is obsolete and hard to obtain parts for so it is time to retire it.

Update for 07/19/2022: New bridge/culvert inspection reports have been received from the State which

shows continual deterioration of the two sites (Mosher Bridge on the Crawford Road and Seabasticook Culverts not previously re-lined).

A number of culverts have been addressed. A grading company was hired with Sibley Pond first on the list to then move toward Town along Route #2 to access the gravel roads.

The Sand Bid will be prepared for the next available Town Council Meeting for authority to put out to bid. We will not need to purchase a lot of sand this year given the size of the sand pile. We may want to put the bid out for a smaller quantity but also have an option to increase by a certain amount if the price is reasonable.

Update from 07/05/2022: Requested that Plymouth Engineering put together a re-bid for the Crawford Road Bridge work and a new bid for the remaining Seabasticook Street culvert/s re-lining. Previously, the Town had bid out the work for the Crawford Road bridge abutments and the re-lining of one of the Seabasticook Street culverts. Due to the cost of the work, only the Seabasticook Street culvert was completed. Funding had been budgeted for some work to be completed to the bridges/large culverts in the Capital Improvement Plan this year. This is included in the large 2022 CIP loan.

Also requested that Plymouth Engineering look at Lancey Street which had been rebuilt entirely in 2001-2002 to determine a course of action in addressing the condition of the road and to put together a budget to do so.

11. Code Enforcement Status:

Update for 08/16/2022: An update will be provided at the Town Council Meeting including an updated excel spreadsheet separating out those issues that are priority. Alternate CEO Al Tempesta had been out of work but returned last Friday to assist the CEO with regular building and plumbing permit items and then was able to assist staff in getting a few letters issued.

Update for 08/02/2022: A full update will be provided at the Town Council Meeting including the updated excel spreadsheet.

Update for 07/19/2022: Our Alternate CEO had to take last Friday off for some other responsibilities. He will be back in the office on Friday, 07/22/2022. During the week he has been working with the Town Attorney as well as myself. Below is an update from the Town Attorney.

A. Washington Street – The Town Attorney believes they have been able to locate a probable alternate address for the property owners. We have been advised that if Al is still uncomfortable pursuing a dangerous building proceeding as he does not view the building as dangerous, then he should draft a notice of violation detailing the identified MUBEC violations and send to the new address as well as any other address that the Town has on file. Assuming no action within 15 days (the timeframe that the firm has used in the other Notices of Violation, then if the Council authorizes a Rule 80K case, it will be pursued in court.

B. Webb Road – A notice of violation was sent to the property owners on or about June 27. That Notice of Violation only dealt with the lack of an adequate septic system. Further violations may be present, but the CEO has been refused entry to the property, and photographs taken from the roadway do not show a sufficient number of potentially uninspected or unregistered vehicles to qualify the property as an automobile graveyard. The deadline for compliance with the requirements of the June 27 Notice of Violation has passed. However, given the change in mailing address just communicated to the Town, it was recommended that another copy of the Notice of Violation be sent to the property owners on Monday, July 11. The Town Attorney advises that we should reassess at the end of July to determine if

pursuing a Rule 80K matter is appropriate. The Town Attorney advises that given the nature of the alleged violation – failing to have an adequate septic system – it is unlikely that compliance will occur, even with a court order. If the Town wishes to pursue additional violations, *i.e.*, junkyard and automobile graveyard, then we will need to request an administrative inspection warrant from the Court.

C. Leonard Street – a notice of violation was sent on June 21, 2022. The Alternate CEO has verified that as of last week no progress has been made by the property owner in cleaning up the property – despite a free dumpster being provided. The Attorney suggests preparing a citation and complaint (junkyard) if the Council approves moving in that direction.

Please note that the property owner at Leonard Street got his friends together and cleaned up 2/3 of the junk in the yard either late last week or on the weekend so that there is a very distinct improvement. Next, we need to work on the vehicles and the remaining junk.

Update for 07/05/2022:

Our Alternate Code Enforcement Officer has stated it will take some time to address a Code Enforcement Plan. He is here 5 hours a week on Fridays (except when before a holiday). Some of that time is helping the current CEO finish or re-align items. Mr. Tempesta had advised that he is not comfortable with volunteers working in the CEO Office. He is more than willing to meet with any Town Councilor or citizen to update him/her on a specific code issue. However, people could get called into court which is too much for a volunteer position and/or too much can go wrong when people are trying to help. Therefore, he requests only staff work on code issues.

Since the last meeting:

- A. A staff member who lives in town has advised that he is going to assist the property owner at the corner of Madawaska Road and Harriet Street with the falling in barn to get this addressed.
- B. The tenants on the Webb Road property where there are alleged violations arrived at the Town Office to express outrage. The Town Attorney is working with the Alternate CEO to obtain access to the property.
- C. The Town Attorney is reviewing how to address the Washington Street property with the owners having no forwarding address available. The Town Attorney has advised that we are required to serve them to proceed forward and if we cannot, then we have to file with the court for permission to utilize an alternative service. In any case, the owners have to have actual knowledge of the proceeding or any resulting court order.
- D. The dumpster was dropped off at the Leonard Street property but was not fully utilized for the week as the property owner arrived home after arranging this with the Transfer Station, locked up and left for a while. A violation letter reviewed by the Town Attorney had been sent to Mr. Sprague by the Alternate CEO and it was made clear that the availability of the dumpster did not relieve the owner of any of the obligations to clean up his property and bring it into compliance with town regulations.

6. OLD BUSINESS: N/A

7. NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE 22-08: (Set to Public Hearing on 09/06/2022) The Town of Pittsfield hereby Ordains to accept all tax year payments of Bryan L & Heather L Spencer, including interest and lien costs, for the property at 702 Canaan Road (Map 013, Lot 007-002), the Town having acquired said property as a result of automatic foreclosure of a 2019 property tax lien; recorded in the Somerset Registry of Deeds on July 21, 2020 at Book 5575, Page 165 which matured on

January 21, 2022. The Town Council further authorizes the Town Manager to execute a municipal quitclaim deed releasing the Town's interest in said property to Bryan L & Heather L Spencer.

Moved by Councilor Hall and seconded by Councilor Frost to schedule Ordinance 22-08 to public hearing on 09/06/2022.

Motion passed with all votes in favor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 22-78: Resolved that the Town Council waive the Bid Policy, Chapter 2, Administrative Code, Section 106, Regulation of Bids and Contracts to accept the proposal of Facility and Construction Services (FCS) of Old Town, Maine in an amount to not exceed \$12,456 for the lagoon gate railing replacement project.

Moved by Councilor Hall and seconded by Councilor Frost to adopt Resolution 22-78.

Motion passed with all votes in favor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 22-79: Resolved that the Town Council approve the Request for Proposals to purchase Sand for the 2022-2023 winter season and authorize the Town Manager and Public Works Director to seek bids for same.

The Councilors asked questions regarding the sand pile and how much should be ordered for this upcoming season. Public Works Director Don Chute advised that the Town finished the last season with a good sized pile of sand estimated to be between 2300-2400 yards. This is a much different situation that some years in the past and always depends on the weather conditions and storms. With projected fuel and price increases across the board for products and services, it would be a good idea to issue an RFP for less yards this year. To fully protect the Town, a range of 1500-2000 yards was included in the RFP.

Moved by Councilor Hall and seconded by Councilor Frost to adopt Resolution 22-79.

Motion passed with all votes in favor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 22-80: Resolved that the Town Council adopt the Budget Calendar for the 2023 Budget Process titled Proposal _____.

Deputy Mayor Logiodice began the discussion noting that the Mayor's recommendation of finishing the budget season prior to Thanksgiving was very ambitious. Councilor Hall volunteered that he did think the Mayor had any other reason than to have people be able to enjoy the holiday season. The Council asked the Town Manager to discuss the two options.

The Town Manager advised that Option A is the Traditional budget calendar finishing at the time that the Charter requires. It is the overall schedule that the Town has had for at least 45 years from the documents in the office. She advised that Option B would have the Town Council pushing through to finish prior to Thanksgiving. While it would be nice for everyone to have the holiday season off and not work on the budget, it would be difficult to complete the budget early. This is due to starting later than usual for the initial budget workshop due to peoples' schedules and having to deal with the issues from the former financial software program and now the new software

upgrade. She recommended finding a compromise where the public hearing could possibly be scheduled at the first December Council meeting rather than the traditional second meeting in December or trying to hold it prior to Thanksgiving. She advised briefly of the differences between the two draft calendars.

Councilor Frost recommended that the discussion be shut off at 10:00 pm as it is hard to make decisions at the end of an evening. Further he recommended that additional budget sessions be available in case needed. All Councilors present agreed that the meetings for the budget sessions following the first budget workshop could be scheduled for 6:00 pm.

Councilor Holmstrom recommended that a time limit be provided to the presenters to keep the meetings on schedule.

Heather Donahue asked to speak on this subject. She noted Proposal A would not be realistic given the fact that a lot of the expenditures take place in the last two months of the year and the budget expenditures for 11/30/2022 are needed to make proper decisions. She also cautioned Councilors that this is the one time when the department heads have the opportunity to discuss their entire year's work and they want to make the most of this time before the Town Council. She advised that this was an opportunity for the Council to learn about the operations of the departments. Mrs. Donahue indicated that from experience, it takes longer to get through the sessions.

The consensus was to (1) have the Council meetings and workshops in October – December begin at 6:00 pm rather than 6:30 pm; (2) install a cut off time for the meetings at 10:00 pm; (3) add in the opportunity for additional sessions if needed; and (4) hold the public hearing prior to the second meeting in December but have the option if necessary to have that date available for the budget hearing and/or vote.

Moved by Councilor Hall and seconded by Councilor Saucier to amend Resolution 22-80 to have the Town Manager revise the Budget Calendar as discussed.

Motion passed with all votes in favor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

RESOLUTION 22-81: Resolved that the Town Council approve the Application for a License for an Incorporated Civil Organization for Catering for Bare Cove LLC d/b/a Alice and Lulu's for the Maine Cheese Guild's Maine Cheese Festival on September 11, 2022.

Heather Donahue updated the Town Council on the upcoming Cheese Festival and advised of the safety precautions taken by the Guild regarding the Beer Garden.

Moved by Councilor Hall and seconded by Councilor Frost to adopt Resolution 22-81.

Motion passed with all votes in favor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. Financial Reports as of 07/31/2022:
 - Budget Expenditure Report
 - Revenue Collections Report

Excise Tax Collections Comparison Report
State Revenue Sharing Comparison Report
Economic Development Accounts Update
Housing Revolving Loan Update
Tax Increment Financing Update
Pittsfield Future Account Update
Transfer Station/Recycling Monthly Report

The Town Manager briefly explained the reports and specifically reviewed the State Revenue Sharing and Excise Tax reconciliations which continue to reflect better than expected revenue collections. She advised that she continues to work on the TRIO malfunctions and that the changeover has been a challenge. Both the Expense and Revenue reconciliations for the month reconciled to the penny. She will now have August to reconcile which will be interesting as that is when the upgraded TRIO software was implemented. She has been documenting the issues found for the Auditor and then hopefully all the bugs will be out of the software in the near future.

9. REPORTS:

Audience:

Kyle Wentworth indicated that he had attended the meeting to have the Town Council sign off on his wife's business license for Function First Therapy. He advised that he had the Business license application in hand that the Code Enforcement Officer gave back to him to bring to the meeting this evening after being advised that he needed to meet with the Town Council. The Town Manager apologized that Mr. Wentworth had been directed to the meeting by the Code Enforcement Officer. She explained that inspecting and approving business licenses like his wife's is the responsibility of the Code Enforcement Officer and not the Town Council. She advised that she would have this taken care of tomorrow and made arrangements with Mr. Wentworth to obtain the original Business License application and make a copy for him after the meeting. She apologized for Mr. Wentworth's inconvenience on behalf of the CEO and advised that the CEO continues to learn his position over the last year.

Heather Donahue: Asked the Town Council if members would like to volunteer as they did last year to have a booth (table) to promote the Town of Pittsfield. With 1600 tickets on sale, it is a great opportunity to talk to a lot of people and show off the town and its assets in a short period of time. She advised of the arrangements made by the Town Manager and the Public Works Director for the event for the Town's booth. She thanked the Town Council for the license for the event. Mrs. Donahue presented research that she had undertaken for the purpose of showing why it is important to have a moratorium on commercial solar projects so that the Planning Board has time to review the Town's regulations and requested that the Town Council re-visit this subject. She called the FSA (Farm Service Agency) in Skowhegan to be advised that 2,550 acres of land were registered for agriculture use in Pittsfield. This does not include hobby or horse farms. Mrs. Donahue explained the math resulting in her estimate that there are 29,264 acres of land available for agriculture in Pittsfield and that 2,550 acres are registered for such use. In approving the Solar Moratorium, it would allow the Town to pause the solar development in Town not already approved in order for the Planning Board to have time to review the regulations and obtain feedback from citizens. She noted that it is time to review the Comprehensive Plan. She advised that it is important to have a long-term vision with the Town Council doing this in a thoughtful manner as they did with marijuana development. The Town needs to decide where to put uses and needs the time for this determination.

Councilors:

Councilor Hall: Requested the contacts for TRIO and Logically. (Town Manager noted she had advised Councilor Hall that when the Town Clerk was back that she would provide the contacts she utilizes in her oversight of the system. If she is unable to be back soon, the Town Manager will contact the companies). Requested the payroll records. (Town Manager advised she cannot legally provide the payroll records as they are confidential. She noted that as discussed previously with Councilor Hall, there is another way to obtain the information that he wants – the overtime spent. She used to be able to print out 3 years of data by creating reports on certain subjects such as health insurance. As indicated previously, once it quiets down with the TRIO software conversion, changeover, she will work on this. The budget period is a logical time for this type of information.

Councilor Saucier: Indicated that he missed the solar discussion and would watch the video. Indicated that he does not think that the discussion is over with. His vision is not to have solar power right next door to homes. There needs to be a balance. In 30 years, he would like his children to be able to put up a house and to do so, land needs to be available. (Councilor Holmstrom explained that Pete Vigue attended the meeting and spoke of why solar projects were good for the Town and how the regulations are in place).

Councilor Jester: Absent.

Deputy Mayor Logiodice: Thanked everyone for their patience as he ran his first meeting.

Councilor Frost: No Report.

Councilor Holmstrom: Indicated that she is still learning about the Town's processes. Noted she does not want to rush the department heads during the budget process, however, that we need to keep to time limits and to continue to improve items in Pittsfield. Thanked everyone who attended.

Mayor Cianchette: Absent.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Councilor Hall and seconded by Councilor Frost to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.

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.

