

# MINUTES

For a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers.

**PRESENT:** COUNCILORS: Mayor Michael Cianchette, Caleb Curtis, Timothy Nichols, Howard Margolskee, Heather Donahue and Matthew Bolster **ABSENT:** Deputy Mayor Robert Stackhouse. Also present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth. Audience members included Jan Laux, Michael LeBlanc, 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.
2. Adoption of minutes of the regular meeting held on March 6, 2018.

Moved by **Councilor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Margolskee** that the minutes of the meeting held on March 6, 2018 be adopted with one minor technicality addressed.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

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

Community and Economic Development Activities and Events

#### Events scheduled:

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

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

Both events were reviewed briefly by the Town Manager, especially the great results on the registrations for the Job Fair. This will be one of the largest yet for Pittsfield in our 11 year history.

The Town Manager also advised that the Egg Festival has a great group of people working on it and she is pleased to work with them.

### 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 updated the group on the next Bicentennial Committee Meeting to be held on April 4, 2018 at 6:00 pm at the Pittsfield Municipal Building.

### **C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Town Manager advised that due to the appointment with legal counsel about the rights and responsibilities on cable contracts/agreements at 6:45 pm she would defer as time is limited and she wanted to make sure that we had enough time for the public as a number of people were present.

6. **NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

7. **DISCUSSION ITEMS: NONE**

8. **REPORTS:** Audience, Council

Jan Laux: Indicated that he just came from another meeting where they were talking about what is going on in this region. He spoke of his deep concern that people will not move here referring to a recent drug bust. He was concerned that all of the towns in this area of the State have the same population or are losing population. We need people to move here and he expressed his concern again about the drug bust that took place. Jan advised that the Town Council and Planning Board should get together shortly to discuss the Comprehensive Plan and our goals to get people to move here. The Town Manager advised that we are very fortunate that all of the bad items that have gone on in Southern Maine have taken many years to get here. She advised that there will likely be some actions taken in the region in the future. It seems that there are drug busts everywhere now.

Councilor Margolskee: Indicated that he feels the Town Manager should spend less time on Facebook sharing the menus of Vittles and PoponOvers and more time on important items like the drug bust last Friday. The Town Manager advised that she did not know that there was a drug bust that day. Councilor Nichols advised that drug busts take place in every town now across the State. He recommended that the Police Chief provide the information to the Town Manager. The Town Manager advised that would be helpful, however, the philosophy now is that the Town Manager will not know about the arrests that are going to be made like she used to be. She will inquire again to see if at the least, she can be advised right after an arrest. The Town Manager advised that she has sent many updates to Town Councilors, however, if she does not know about something, she cannot advise them.

Don Hallenbeck: Wanted to know where some of the new chairs are located. The TM advised they were in the Back Conference Room in case they were needed.

Ron Watson: Attended his first Planning Board Meeting and was impressed with the commitment of the members.

Peter G. Vigue: Noted that he had not planned to speak but will do so. He relayed how his company has been asked to move to other locations. He will state that Cianbro should be located

in Pittsfield. But he is concerned. He stated that he cannot get employees to move to Pittsfield. He said that he might have the employee agree but then the spouse will not agree to move here. Pete spoke of the necessity to clean up the Town so that it is more attractive. He advised that a good way to start is very inexpensive - to have the Town Office windows in the entryway look better. He asked the Councilors to look at the windows. This would be a small way to have pride. He stated that the Town expresses pride over how we do not raise taxes for 16 years, but that the Council should look at this differently. Pete stated that taxes need to increase to make this town be more attractive. He noted that there is a lot of work to do to make this Town look good again as it did in the 1970's when he was on the Council. Mayor Cianchette acknowledged his concern and noted that the Town would take all of these comments into consideration.

**Council Items:**

**Councilor Bolster:** Received a complaint regarding Peltoma Avenue and potholes. He also heard about the sidewalk plowing. The Town Manager advised that Public Works will be out patching again. The Town Manager also relayed the issues that the PW Foreman is having with the sidewalk plows which are old and unable to handle very large storms. The Town has had 3 storms where there has been more than 12" of snow. The 1960's and 1970's sidewalk plows cannot take it. The TM noted that the Public Works Foreman will be in to request the purchase of a larger unit that can break through the snow accumulation better.

**Councilor Doanhue:** Same complaint on Peltoma Avenue; also Webb Road was not plowed in the last storm until there was 6" of snow.

**Councilor Margolskee:** Agrees with Jan Laux. The TM advised that drug busts are happening everywhere and unfortunately, this whole area is having a lot of issues. Howard stated that he is operating from a less than desirable state in which he is hearing lots of rumors. He wants the information.

**Councilor Nichols:** Stated that there will always be rumors as there are rumors everywhere. Drug busts are going on across the state. The drug dealers are coming up from New York and this region is getting hit with it like the rest of the state.

**Councilor Curtis:** No Report

**Mayor Cianchette:** Inquired about the Bicentennial.

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: Scheduled for 6:45 pm**

**Title 1, Section 405, 6. E., Consultation with Legal Counsel of the Council's legal rights and responsibilities regarding cable contracts/agreements scheduled for 6:45 pm**

Motion by **Councilor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** to enter into executive session for Title 1, Section 405, 6.E., Consultation with Legal Counsel of the Council's legal rights and responsibilities regarding Cable contracts/agreements. The Town Council went into executive session at 7:20 pm to talk with Town Attorney Burns who was on the phone.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

Motion by **Mayor Cianchette** and seconded by **Councilor Nichols** to return to regular session. The Town Council exited executive session at 8:50 pm.

Motion by **Councilor Curtis** and seconded by **Councilor Nichols** to send a letter to SVTV indicating that in order for any further discussion or relationship to be considered with SVTV, that SVTV will need to become incorporated.

**Councilor Curtis** exited at 8:51 pm as the baby is coming!

**Title 1, Section 405, 6. C., Economic Development and Acquisition of Property**

Motion by **Councilor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Bolster** to enter into executive session at 8:52 pm for Title 1, Section 405, 6.C., Economic Development and Acquisition of Property.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

Motion by **Councilor Nichols** and seconded **Councilor Donahue** to return to regular session at 9:25 pm. No action was taken.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**Title 1, Section 405, 6. A., Personnel regarding the Town Manager's duties (workload)**

Motion by **Councilor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Donahue** to enter into executive session at 9:26 pm for Title 1, Section 405, 6.A., Personnel regarding the Town Manager's duties (workload).

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

Motion by **Councilor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Margolskee** to return to regular session at 9:50 pm. No action was taken.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by **Councilor Nichols** and seconded by **Councilor Margolskee** to adjourn at 9:51 pm.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

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Kathryn Ruth, Deputy Town Clerk  
Nicole Nickolan, Town Clerk