

# MINUTES

For a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

**PRESENT:** COUNCILORS: Mayor Tim Nichols, Deputy Mayor Gary Jordan, Jr., Caleb Curtis, Wayne Fotter, Donna Chale, Christopher Carr and Louise Baker **ABSENT:** None Also present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth and Town Clerk Nicole Nickolan. Audience members included: Sharon Mack, Mike Lange, Donnie Hallenbeck, Scott Noble, Kevin Duhon, Evolo representatives Kate Burgess Rush and John Rush 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 on April 21, 2009.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that the minutes of the regular meeting on April 21, 2009 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

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

#### **Public Meeting to review the Brownfields Clean-up Grant for the Eelwier Site**

The Town Council and the public have received many reports on this EPA Brownfield grant to clean up the Eelwier Site at 10 Eelwier Road now known as 8 Mount Road. Copies of the Community Relations Plan and the Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives are available this evening.

This evening, we are scheduled to review the Brownfields Clean-up Grant, to discuss the process, the Analysis of the Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA), timeframe for completion and discussion on the renovation.

Reports on the project under consideration, applying to the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments for Assessment funding, applying for the grant, receiving the grant, the Kick-Off Meeting, Workplan, Community Relations Plan and now the Analysis of Alternatives have resulted in reports and discussions at 27 meetings so this is a well-known project.

The public comment on the Analysis of the Alternatives for cleanup began on 04/30/2009 with the publication of the ad, comments can be received tonight and comments can be received up to 05/30/2009. The Town will provide written responses to any concerns, which then will become part of the public record.

The Eelwier Road site is a small site of approximately .87 acre with a very large building of over 10,000 square feet that is in the process of collapsing. The Town acquired the property through an automatic foreclosure of a tax lien as the company that was there at the time shut

down. There have been a variety of businesses at the site – it was retail furniture showroom, tanning bed manufacturer and retailer and finally a printing company.

The Town has received 2 grants from the EPA for a Brownfields Cleanup.

A Brownfield is a site that is contaminated that can be cleaned up and re-used whether for green space, another business or other use. The grant funding was applied for to clean up the site as it was contaminated and we were concerned about the safety of the neighborhood. The Town's intent is to have this property re-developed and used for a productive project. The contamination was centralized on the site and we needed to get the site cleaned up before the contamination spread. In addition, the property was unsightly and the Town had tried a variety of means to get it cleaned up. This project is estimated at \$132,000 with \$110,000 coming from the federal EPA Brownfields program and \$22,000 coming from the Town as its 20% match. The Town's match is mostly in-kind through assistance of staff, use of equipment and other items.

On site through assessments the following contaminants were determined:

Asbestos-containing materials

Petroleum contaminated soil

Drums of unknown materials

Universal wastes - light bulbs and ballasts (Town is a regional site for the collection and storage of universal wastes)

Additional characterization of groundwater due to the metals found; and

Additional characterization of soil by the floor drain, which is under the building.

The Town Manager then referred to the Study to review the Alternatives; purpose of the analysis; mitigation & exposure pathways; pros/cons of the alternatives and the recommended alternative.

The recommended alternative is full removal of all contaminants. We also would intend to remove the building. The proposed schedule is this summer with the work to be completed prior to winter.

If any unexpected problems arise such as a new contaminate is located, The Town through the PW Department and Recycling/Transfer Station employees will finish hauling away the demolition material if we have to utilize more funding on removal of contaminants. This is not expected.

The Mayor asked the audience for comments or questions on the project. There were no comments or questions by the audience.

If there are any comments on the Analysis and preferred method to address the Brownfields Cleanup, please place those comments in writing to Kathryn Ruth, Town of Pittsfield, 112 Somerset Avenue, Pittsfield, ME 04967, to be received prior to or on 05/30/2009.

## **Update on sludge removal options meeting of the Department of Environmental Protection, Acheron and the Town of Pittsfield**

Scott Noble, the Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent is here this evening to discuss the results of the discussion between the Town, DEP, and Acheron. This meeting was held on April 27, 2009 and the Town Councilors received a write-up in their package on the meeting.

As you know, the recommendation from Acheron was solar drying, however, upon intensive discussion, we learned at the meeting that solar drying is conducted in the South. Acheron did not know of any solar drying in New England. The weather is vastly different. We need to deal with this problem and have a solution that DEP will support as we more than likely will need approval to change or suspend some of the testing parameters. When material is hauled out of the ponds, it is going to cause some turbulence. When we discussed solar drying, it was not supported by anyone in the room. The recommendation of the meeting was to now concentrate and research the use of drying beds and geo tubes or some combination of – probably over a long-term. Part of this project will require a bid to determine the cost for disposal of the material. We need to determine the cost of the preferred method for several years and we need a time schedule.

The Town would borrow funds for a certain period of time. We can't borrow for a project each year and we would not borrow a larger amount for 10 years because we would be paying interest on money that was not being used. Once we have real estimates of the preferred method, I will then have a figure, we can determine what we can borrow, interest rates, and payment schedule because this will mean a substantial rate increase for sewer users.

Scott Noble noted that the solar drying option is just too risky with the weather in Maine. We are going to spend too much time on solar drying for an experiment that is too risky. Mr. Noble feels the Geo Tubes would be a possible solution and his suggestion as Water/Sewer Assistant Supervisor. The town of Newport, New Hampshire used this system after 15 years accumulation of sludge. The Geo Tubes allowed them to close a sludge plant and move to the Geo Tube system.

Deputy Mayor Jordan asked where the tubes would be located. Mr. Noble stated they can be kept right on site. Deputy Mayor Jordan questioned how many tubes would be needed. Mr. Noble advised that part of the project would need to be engineered out. The tubes hold 30 yards each tube.

Councilor Chale questioned why Acheron changed their mind regarding solar drying. As stated in Acherons report the tubes were noted to be an unusable solution. Councilor Chale questioned if we are using the right company with Acheron. They seemed to have made some questionable choices. The report by Acheron states the tubes would not be able to achieve adequate dryness, but now they are being considered a feasible option.

The Town Manager noted that the staff will gather some additional information. The lagoons are a long-term issue and will require a long-term solution so that this issue doesn't happen again in 10 or 20 years. The final solution to remove the sludge must include a method to keep the lagoons up to date.

## Community and Economic Development Activities and Events

### Report on Meetings & Events:

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Trade Show and Community Fair for the Seabasticook Valley Chamber of Commerce was held on Saturday, 05/02/2009. We had 50 vendors. The Warsaw School Gym was full. The Cafeteria space was well utilized with crafters, the Theatre Fundraising Group and lunch. Evolo held 2 free training sessions on wind and solar alternatives for the home and business. The UMO Cooperative Extension provided two individuals who were earning their Smart Gardener certification. Mark Sheriff provided trainings on growing and pruning fruit trees and Betsy Doane provided materials on all aspects of gardening.

I have been advised that admissions were higher than 2008 and 2007. There were a lot of families with children who stayed for most of the day and we received a lot of thank yous for holding the event.

### Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting on Thursday, 05/07/2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the Seabasticook Valley Chamber Building in Palmyra to set up committees to work on the 4 projects identified at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Leadership Forum.

Regional Job Fair for Somerset County, sponsored by the Somerset County Transition Team and the Town of Pittsfield on Wednesday, 05/27/2009 from 3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Warsaw School Gym and Cafeteria. We have wonderful news – a media sponsorship by the Employment Times to help get the word out worth over \$2,600.

The Paul E. Bertrand Community Pool Complex Grand Opening is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 10:00 am at the Complex. We are working on the program for the event – speeches, certificates for the in-kind donations from the contractors, unveiling of the memorial plaques, tour of the facility and the Big Splash.

4. **PUBLIC HEARINGS/OLD BUSINESS:**
5. **REPORTS: TOWN MANAGER, FINANCE, ORDINANCE & RECYCLING COMMITTEES:**

### **Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 05/05/2009:**

1. **The FYI Folder:** The FYI Book contains the following items this week: SEE LIST
2. **Paul E. Bertrand Community Pool Fundraiser:** We are on the home stretch. The 04/25/2009 Spaghetti Dinner was a hit. We raised over \$800 and the Student Center was packed.
3. **Theatre Restoration/Renovations Fundraiser:** Notice Read
4. **Pittsfield Public Library Fundraiser:** Notice Read
5. **Pittsfield Fireman's Supper:** Notice Read

**6. Driftbusters Snowmobile Club Dinner to Thank Everyone:** Notice Read

**7. Sweeping Schedule:** The sweeper is back in commission and making its way around.

**8. Census 2010:** Notice Read

**9. Town Revenues and Expenditures:** Town Revenues continue coming in very slowly and are below expected limits, even though we lowered revenue estimates significantly. Excise Tax is now running \$13,360.53 behind last year's statistics and State Revenue Sharing is running at \$33,873.40 behind last year's statistics. We are on an unofficial budget freeze. We have no extras so this really is not affecting spending. So we need to start thinking of other cost savings methods or items beyond everything that we have done the last few years. We already have one of the lowest municipal budgets in the State of Maine for our population size. At this point, I have not brought in the paving RFP as this would be a large chunk of the budget that could be utilized to offset the low revenue receipts (\$52,640 from taxes)

**10. H1N1 Virus commonly called the swine flu:** The Town prepared materials from the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention Site last week for distribution to the employees. We also provided for the public The Flu Planning Checklist for Individuals and Families as well as the Business Checklist. We are monitoring the State Site and receiving information from the County, under which we would operate for a Plan of Action as well as our Emergency Plan.

**11. Property and Casualty Insurance for 2009-2010:** Lehr Insurance has requested to quote for the Town's insurance program, which is coming up – specifically the property and casualty insurance program. Currently, we are in MMA. More information will be available later in May 2009 as the Policy comes up for renewal for July 1, 2009.

**12. Notice of Public Sale:** A local contractor, Merlon LaSalle, was the successful bidder for the property at 214 Somerset Avenue. Mr. LaSalle plans to renovate the building into a home. It is a purchase and sales agreement so he is performing his due diligence now.

**13. Pittsfield Water and Sewer Users Very Important Survey:** As a utility user in the Town of Pittsfield, you will receive a very important survey in the mail. Olver Associates, an engineering firm, will be tabulating the results. The Town is planning improvements to our older infrastructure. Many grant programs or low interest loan programs require that the Town conduct an income survey of utility users. We ask that anyone who has not yet returned the survey to do so by mail or in person. The survey and its results are very important to the future of the Town and our ability to upgrade the water and/or sewer system. Any questions, please contact the Pittsfield Town Office (487-3136). Thank you so much for completing this survey. We are starting to go out door to door now to collect the surveys so sending the survey back will save the Town money and time and save you time.

**14. Farmshare Program:** Seniors who qualify can receive up to \$50 in free local produce during the summer growing season. This is a partnership between the Maine Department of Agriculture and farmers throughout Maine. The State is now accepting applications. We will put a link to the program on our website and obtain some written information.

**15. Pittsfield Farmers' Market:** The Farmers Market at Hathorn Park opened this week and is available Mondays and Thursday from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm until October 29, 2009.

**16. Additions and Alterations to the Pittsfield Public Library:** Bids are due on Friday, 05/08/2009 at 3:00 p.m. for this project. The Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference was held on Wednesday, April 22, 2009. 24 groups attended which included subs. From review, it appears that 8 general contractors attended the session so this was very good interest.

**Finance Committee:** No Report

**Ordinance Committee:** No Report

**Recycling Committee:** No Report

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **RESOLUTION 09-59:** Resolved that the Town Council ratify the Town Manager's signature on the cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the Brownfields Cleanup Grant for the Mount Road Property (formerly known as Eelwier Road property) to amend the cooperative agreement federal share from \$40,000 by \$70,000 to \$110,000, increasing the total project to \$132,000.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** that Resolution 09-59 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this issue was discussed at the last Council Meeting as the grant application had been received the day before and needed to be sent back in a very short period of time. By consensus, it was agreed that we would ratify the Town Manager's signature at the next meeting.

The original grant to clean out all the contaminants was for \$40,000. The Town's match on top of that was \$8,000 for a total project of \$48,000. The Town was going to advertise the property, which then would have no contaminants for sale.

EPA, DEP, the Consultant and the Town discussed the project at the Kick-Off Meeting. It was recommended that with the large building there, a pipe that was discovered under the building which we do not know where it goes and the economic conditions, that the Town should seek assistance for funding to take down the building. Rather than deal with this over the next 1-2 years, do the whole project at once. We wrote the paperwork and were awarded another grant.

Rather than have paperwork for 2 grants, the EPA is combining this all under 1 amended grant.

We are adding \$70,000 in federal funding for a total of \$110,000 in federal funding. We are adding \$14,000 in local match for a total of \$22,000 in local match, most of which is PW force account labor and equipment use. The entire project is for \$132,000.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- b. **RESOLUTION 09-60:** Resolved that the Town Council waive the bid policy (Chapter 2, Administrative Code, Section 106) to accept the proposal dated 11/06/2008 from Evolo Energy Solutions/Evolo Home Center, LLC for a Bergey 10KW wind turbine with grid tie inverter and lattice tower, to include all shipping, assembly and ground work for a fully functioning wind turbine at the Recycling Center/Transfer Station for a cost to not exceed \$60,165.00.

Moved by **Councilor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 09-60 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this item is on the agenda so that we can go forward with the implementation of the grant that the Town received from the State of Maine for a 10 KW Bergey wind turbine in the amount of \$50,000. The remainder of the project costs or \$12,551 is the Town's match. In addition, several Town Councilors asked when we would be able to hire Evolo to finish the project that they started for us.

The Town has received confirmation from the State of Maine that we are to utilize our own purchasing procedures. The Town Attorney has reviewed all of the materials including the grant agreement and town regulations and feels comfortable with waiving the bid process for the reasons stated.

Last year, Town Councilors and the Recycling Committee expressed interest in a wind turbine for the Town and exploring wind power as an alternative energy resource to build upon our focus of recycling, re-use and reduce, and energy conservation. The Town's budget is very conservative and tight, the Town does not have any additional funding available so that meant a grant. There were no grants available each time that we checked. We started collecting information on wind power and talking to other towns and agencies to find that this was the new frontier. Last year, we learned about a grant opportunity through the Voluntary Renewable Resources Fund a few days prior to the grant's due date.

We started collecting information very quickly, the staff started calling companies. Most companies were not interested upon hearing what we were doing. We did not have any money. Evolo was interested and provided the assistance to the Town that we needed to apply for the grant so that we had firm figures and a location for a successful project. We looked at the Pinnacle and the Recycling Center/Transfer Station. The Recycling Station was ideal for so many reasons.

It is clear for this project to be successful that we need to form a long-term relationship with a company in the local area that can provide us with the support that we need and will be available for tours of their own facility, who can come over if we have a large tour set up (bus loads of students coming). At this time, this is the community demonstration model for Central Maine, the Sebec Valley area and a greater area for the State of Maine.

Kate Burgess Rush and John Rush of Evolo are here this evening to discuss the Bergey wind turbine, the warranty, maintenance schedule and other questions that you may have.

Councilor Chale questioned when the wind turbine would be constructed. The Town Manager noted it depends on when the supplies come in, but it could very well be up this summer.

Councilor Fotter noted he feels that we should continue with Evolo. They have been great to work with and have devoted much of their time to this project.

Deputy Mayor Jordan questioned if the wind turbine would be accessed by road from the Transfer Station. The Town Manager noted yes, this is important for safety reasons.

Councilor Baker noted she was tickled pink about this project, Evolo was very helpful not only with the project but also in teaching Councilor Baker about wind turbines. Councilor Baker thanked the Town Manager for her work. This is a very exciting project and it's good to see it all coming together.

Mayor Nichols expressed his gratitude to Evolo for helping us along the way, providing information, attending energy forums and was pleased with the Council's support of the company's proposal. This arrangement makes sense for so many reasons.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- c. **RESOLUTION 09-61:** Resolved that the Town Council approve the bid specifications for the finish water pump installation for Pittsfield Water Works and authorize the Town Manager and Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent to seek bids for the same once approved by the Maine Drinking Water Program to proceed forward with bidding.

Moved by **Councilor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 09-61 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is the project that the Town was invited to prepare for federal stimulus funding. We have just received approval from the PUC to issue securities. We have just been approved by the Maine Bond Bank to proceed forward. There are a lot of stipulations and more paperwork to file which we need to review. The requirements just arrived. We just received approval of the engineering documents by the Maine Drinking Water Program so the project can go out to bid.

It was a \$103,000 loan request resulting in a loan of \$72,100 for 20 years and \$30,900 of principal forgiveness. There is supposed to be no interest. The paperwork does not spell that out, however, it refers to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). There is also discussion of the Maine Bond Bank's fees and it appears that they are waived. This information will be verified.

Basically we are getting an "informal" grant of \$30,900 and a loan for \$72,100 at 0% interest. This is a really good arrangement. All contracts have to be signed by February 1, 2010 or we have to repay the money. The project is going out to bid shortly with a due date of June 12, 2009 so we should be all set.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- d. **RESOLUTION 09-62:** Resolved that the Town Council approve the bid specifications for engineering for the Pittsfield Industrial Park Expansion and

authorize the Town Manager and Public Works Foreman to seek bids for the same.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Resolution 09-62 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Town received approval to file the grant application and it was forwarded to the Federal Government Representative for the expansion of the Pittsfield Industrial Park.

The final grant application was for \$880,000 in federal funding. The match has been reduced to 20%, which was \$220,000. The total project is \$1,100,000.

This ability of this project to go forward is based upon so many requirements and levels of government to go through, but we felt we should try. There is no better time. It would be a major construction project for the area, put people to work, create jobs while it was creating lots for the Town to market.

In any case, we should get an engineer on board in case the project is funded so that we can proceed forward. The town has a high percentage of the plans for this project, however, can not locate any further planning documents. We have re-filed all maps of the Town of Pittsfield, which is a very large project. The engineering firm that worked on the project has not yet located them.

The bids for the engineering work would be good for 6 months. The Town has two engineers that we work with a lot, however, this is federal funding so we need to formally bid.

If this project was funded, if a business had a guaranteed customer base, this would be the best time to expand – there is not a lot of competition for business grants, loans are at a lower interest rate than usual, for certain fields, personal property or equipment can be picked up inexpensively and so forth.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- e.* **RESOLUTION 09-63:** Resolved that the Town Council sign the Application for Catered Function by Qualified Catering Organization for a auction to be held 06/19/2009 at MCI student center by qualified caterer Jeff's Catering & Banquet Center.

Moved by **Councilor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 09-63 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the State law requires the town to review and approve catered events. MCI will be having another event – this time the Auction.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- f. **RESOLUTION 09-64:** Resolved that the Town Council approve the issuance of a parade permit to the American Legion - Post 32 for a Memorial Day Parade on May 25, 2009 from 9:00 am – 10:30 am and waive the permit fees.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Fotter** that Resolution 09-64 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- g. **RESOLUTION 09-65:** Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager and Assistant Treasurer to negotiate the pricing for the Town's #2 fuel and kerosene for the Town's buildings and general assistance for the period of July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 which includes joining a cooperative fuel oil and or kerosene purchase if pricing is competitive.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 09-65 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this is a yearly housekeeping item.

We had submitted an application for the Maine Fuel Cooperative – very good prices, however, we had to guarantee that we would utilize the same amount of fuel and if we did not, we have to pay for the fuel that we do not use. With the economic conditions and the revenue stream, we do not know if we will be making changes in the delivery of services, hours that we are open and so forth so we did not sign up for the cooperative. We were provided with a few hours notice and with all of the unknowns, it was far too risky. In the past, we have gotten good pricing from going out to bid.

This is our standard bid form. Right now we are paying \$2.09/gallon for #2 and \$2.21/gallon for Kerosene. We also have downside protection.

In 2007-2008, we were paying \$2.219/gallon for #2 and \$2.499/gallon for Kerosene.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- h. **RESOLUTION 09-66:** Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager and Assistant Treasurer to negotiate the pricing of the Town's propane for the Town's Office and Pumping station for the period of July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Resolution 09-66 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

- i. **RESOLUTION 09-67:** Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Theatre Manager to advertise the ice cream freezer and piano free for the taking, if hauled away by the interested party, on a first come-first serve basis.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Carr** that Resolution 09-67 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted these were offered for bid with no takers except people who want to have them for free if they haul them off.

The Theatre Manager notes that she contacted a lot of different individuals and businesses in Town. Evidently, she has someone who will take each item.

The Town Manager asked Donna to contact MSAD #53, Maine Central Institute, the Recreation Director and the Pittsfield Youth Activities Group/Paul Bertrand. Donna is in the process of doing this.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

## 7. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Update on Water Projects: Federal Stimulus Funding for Back-up Water Pump; Water Meter Replacement and Automated Meter Reading (AMR System)
2. Update on Sewer Projects: Sewer System Projects
3. Water/Sewer Project Possibilities: Income Survey for State and Federal Funding Opportunities

These items are underway as best as they can be at this point. Water & Sewer has been busy collecting information for sludge removal options and fixing yards that had work done during the winter months now that spring has arrived.

### **Grants Update:**

New Grants:

**Airport Grants: Design Engineering for Apron Reconstruction:** The Design work was completed earlier this year. After I get all the bills, we will file for reimbursement. This project was rushed in order to apply for the early grant round in February. The bills have still not arrived from the Engineering Consultant.

**Airport Grants: Apron Reconstruction Grant Application:** The grant application was filed for \$1.2 million dollars by the deadline and we received the grant. Special Council Meeting was held on March 02, 2009 to accept the funds. The grant paperwork was filed on time. Waiting for the signed agreement so we can decide on a contractor and move forward. I have filed for approval to hire the engineer and am waiting for a response from MDOT and the FAA. So we are on hold until we receive the signed grant application and approval to hire the engineer to proceed forward. MDOT has requested that the Engineer be paid differently. The project is on hold.

**Brownfields Grant: Clean-up Grant for Eelwier (now know as 8 Mount Road):** The Special Review form was completed. EPA will arrive next week to look at the project.

**CDBG Grant/Public Facilities/Historic Preservation/Library:** We received all of the remaining paperwork from Nickerson & Oday with the last drawdown completed. Now, the grant can be closed off.

**FEMA Reimbursements: 04/28 – 05/14/2008:** Still waiting for paperwork and final State match.

**L&W Conservation Fund: Swimming Pool Essential Components:** The low bidder for the 2 recycled plastic picnic tables was Bard. The tables are expected in a month. We will then expend the funds and close out the grant. I would plan to submit 1 reimbursement. Needs to be done and closed by April-June in order to apply for another grant

The next grant would be to focus on Hathorn Park Basketball/Baseball Field. Have contacted the Recreation Director and the Bureau of Conservation to discuss this opportunity.

A citizen asked for night lighting at the Hathorn Basketball court. We received estimates for that and found the cost to be prohibitive. This is one of the items to look at for the grant opportunity. There are concerns being expressed with the lighting. The actual project to fix up the items there is being looked at very favorably.

The next L&W Conservation Fund Grant application is due at the end of August 2009.

**Renewable Energy Grant:** The Town just received the signed and encumbered grant application back. The State has noted that it does not have a bid procedure for the Town to follow and that we would follow our own procedures.

**Riverfront Community Development Grant:** The Building Inspector worked on this continuously for a long time. I am now working on it. I have received all of the responses I will from the state and federal agencies. The Federal Floodplain Approval process with the two advertisements in the newspaper for the area of .03 of 1 acre (at the most of the 1.3 acres of the entire Pinnacle Site that fall in the floodplain). No comments were received. The Town had received Site Plan Review, DEP Permit by Rule approval and other reviews. The Environmental Review Combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and of Intent to Request a Release of Funds was published on May 02, 2009. All comments are to be received by the Town on or by May 19, 2009 for consideration. We will forward all paperwork, which is a very large package to the State around May 20, 2009 – May 21, 2009. Upon State receipt, there is a 15-day comment period. Everything has to be completed by June 08, 2009.

**Safe Routes to School, Phase II:** This project began during the week of School Break. Additional items are under review and when that review is completed will determine when the project is finished. However, the sidewalk and curb are installed.

8. **REPORTS:** Audience, Council

**Audience:**

**Donnie Hallenbeck:** Wanted to note that there is some information available at the Historical Society regarding the Pinnacle. It may be useful for background on the grant. Also noted the J.W. Parks used to use the Pinnacle as a hunting camp.

**Kevin Duhon:** I am a new member of the community. I have concerns for the community. Our existence lies on your shoulders as a Council. Our children and families are suffering. We need to unite as a community. What are you as a Council doing as community members to help? Wanted to note that he is putting a fundraiser together for Memorial Day weekend that will help provide benefits to families that have seen job losses. Mayor Nichols assured Mr. Duhon that any needs the Council has brought to them are acted upon.

**Council:**

**Councilor Baker:** Glad to see the wind power project is moving forward. Wanted to also be sure to thank Carolyn for all the work she put into the project.

**Councilor Carr:** No Report.

**Councilor Chale:** Echo Louise's comments on how pleased she was with the wind turbine project going forward. Wanted to note the work done on the school. It is nice to have the sidewalks. The Trade Show went very well. Appreciate Mr. Duhon speaking out. Noted that we do have many places in Town that help our needy residents. The Welcome Table offers a free lunch to folks every Friday. Pennywise offers clothes and other items to people at extremely reasonable prices.

**Deputy Mayor Jordan:** No Report.

**Councilor Curtis:** Applaud Mr. Duhon for speaking tonight. It takes a lot of courage to do that.

**Councilor Fotter:** Noted Hartland is having a water discharge – will this effect us? The Town Manager noted that we will research this matter further to double check. Councilor Fotter stated he attended the trade show – it was very productive.

**Mayor Nichols:** Congrats on the wind turbine. Wanted to thank everyone for coming in tonight. Thanked the Town Manager and all of the Town Employees for their hard work. Thank you to Mr. Duhon for coming in to speak tonight. Mayor Nichols stated the Council will do everything they can to help our residents. Noted to Mr. Duhon that we do have many resources for our citizens and that our community is very fortunate to have so many people who are willing to help.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by **Councilor Fotter** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** that the meeting be adjourned at 8:38 p.m. All in agreement.

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Nicole Nickolan, Town Clerk