

# MINUTES

for a regular meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council, held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT: COUNCILORS: Mayor Michael Cianchette, Deputy Mayor Robert Stackhouse, Councilor Matthew Bolster, Councilor Howard Margolskee, Councilor Timothy P. Nichols, Councilor Heather Donahue and Councilor Caleb Curtis

ABSENT:

Also present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth, Assistant to the Town Manager Michael Feole

AUDIENCE: Peter Logiodice, Steven Vance, Donna Dunphy, Ron Watson, Michael LeBlanc, Michael Cray, Peter Bickmore, Jan Laux and Don Chute

1. Mayor Cianchette 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 December 4, 2018.

Moved by Councilor Nichols and seconded by Councilor Curtis that the minutes of the meeting held on December 4, 2018 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

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

Community and Economic Development Activities and Events:

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting was on Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 6:00 PM in Hathorn Park. Christmas songs at the Gazebo, Tree Lighting, Sleigh Rides and Refreshments were enjoyed. This was the opening event for the 200<sup>th</sup> Bicentennial! The time capsule was excavated and was on display at the park.

Free Christmas Movie hosted by Warsaw Middle School Jobs for Maine's Graduates Grant (JMG) scheduled on Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 2:00 Pm at the Theatre. There was a free Child's popcorn, hot chocolate and admission. This is a great community development event and always well attended!

New Business Activity & Opportunities in Pittsfield.  
Maine Central Motors  
Great Human Photography

Update on Main Street Sidewalk Project- Per Chip Haskell, CES Inc.

Much of our design work will need to be completed hand in hand with the design from the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) which begins with their completion of survey work. Per our kickoff meeting in August, the MDOT had planned to complete this survey work in November; however, as of our discussion with Randy Barrows at the end of November, it had not begun. Further, given the weather, it is not likely to be completed until next Spring with their design to follow.

While we could survey it ourselves and begin to design the sidewalk, we need to have a firm understanding of where the MDOT intends to design the roadway, both vertically and horizontally. Our design needs to begin from this foundation otherwise we would be guessing where to locate the sidewalk. It is almost certain that changes would have to be made once the MDOT design is underway. Unfortunately, each time we have to go back to the drawing board it would result in additional costs to the Town. Additionally, with survey work initially planned to be completed by the MDOT, the Town would incur the cost of CES, Inc. completing this work early.

We understand your concern with the schedule, however, we think the Town is best served by allowing the sidewalk design to follow the MDOT design. There are many variables that the MDOT needs to work through that will drive the eventual location of the sidewalk (elevation of the proposed curb, relocation of utilities, open ditch locations, ROW, etc.). Designing the sidewalk first really puts the cart before the horse in my opinion. With the information from MDOT and some level of certainty with their design, we can still have the sidewalk design completed well ahead of the final MDOT design.

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

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing

**Ordinance 18-4:** The Town of Pittsfield hereby Ordains the 2019 Capital Budget be approved as follows:

<del>Town Offices/Telephone System</del>	<del>\$ 10,000</del>
Town Offices/Tiling Floors & Move	10,389
Municipal Building/Generator Replacement	35,000
Municipal Building/Wash & Seal, Repoint	26,840
Police/Cruiser Video System	7,000
Fire Station/Masonry Replacement	15,838
Airport/Grant Match Reserve	45,000
<del>Library/Capital Reserve Fund</del>	<del>5,000</del>

Total Projects/Reserves: \$ 140,067

Total Projects/Reserves: \$3,273,231

Funding Breakdown:

Taxation	-\$ 140,067
Funding by Loan	-\$ 706,000
Funding by Lease/Purchase	-\$ 125,000
Funding by Reserves	-\$ 33,000
Funding by Special Revenues	-\$ 15,755
Funding by Theatre Loans/Special Revenues	-\$ 90,939
Funding by Grants	-\$1,800,000
Funding by Other Resources	<u>-\$ 362,470</u>

Total to be raised by taxation \$ 140,067

Comments: Peter Logiodice asked if this was the Ordinance to comment about the Theatre. (18-5 is the one to comment on the theatre).

For: None

Against: None

Councilor Curtis read in the amendments proposed.

Moved by Councilor Curtis and seconded by Councilor Donahue that Ordinance 18-4 be adopted as amended.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**Ordinance 18-5:** The Town of Pittsfield hereby ordains that the 2019 Operating Budget in the amount of \$3,312,339 ( **\$3,681,801** ) be approved, and the total sum of \$8,073,210 ( **\$6,955,032** ) be appropriated (Operating plus Capital Budgets);

AND FURTHER, that \$1,579,593 ( **\$1,776,636** ) be raised through taxation; that \$1,303,507, ( **\$1,415,146** ) be raised from estimated revenues; that \$229,796 ( ) be appropriated from State Revenue Sharing; that \$125,000 ( ) be appropriated from Lease/Purchase; that \$2,133,640 ( **\$706,000** ) be appropriated from Loans/Bonds; that \$33,000 ( ) be taken from reserve funds; that \$15,755 be appropriated from Special Revenues; that \$90,939 be appropriated from Theatre Loans/Special Revenues; that \$1,800,000 ( ) be appropriated from grants; that \$362,470 ( ) be appropriated from other Revenue Resources; and that an additional sum of \$399,510 ( ) be taken from undesignated fund balance.

Comments: None

For: None

Against; Peter Logiodice asked if the Town Theatre was profitable or being supported by the taxpayers. (it is supported by the taxpayers for \$90,000 this year.) He asked why we would be keeping a business that is losing money. The Mayor responded that it is a public good much like the Town Library and Town Pool. They don't pay for themselves either.

Councilor Curtis moved to amend the Police Department budget from \$254,471 to \$124,471 and add a line for paving in the amount of \$130,000. The items to be removed from the Police Department budget were; 1 Full Time Patrolman position, 1 Administrative Assistant position and reducing the Police Chief's raise by \$10,000. The amendment was seconded by Councilor Donahue.

**VOTE: 4-AYE, 3-NAY**  
**AYE- Bolster, Nichols, Curtis,**  
**Stackhouse**  
**NAY-Chianchette, Donahue,**  
**Margolskee**

Moved by Councilor Curtis and seconded by Councilor Donahue that Ordinance 18-5 be adopted as amended.

**VOTE: 4-Aye, 3-Nay**  
**AYE- Bolster, Nichols, Curtis,**  
**Stackhouse**  
**NAY-Chianchette, Donahue,**  
**Margolskee**

**Ordinance 18-6:** The Town of Pittsfield hereby ordains that the 2019 Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund budgets in the respective amounts of \$430,732 ( ) and \$501,350 ( ) be appropriated from the respective estimated departmental revenues.

Comments: None  
For: None  
Against: None

Moved by Councilor Nichols and seconded by Councilor Bolster that Ordinance 18-6 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**Ordinance 18-7:** The Town of Pittsfield hereby ordains that the 2019 Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund Capital Budget in the amount of \$646,500 ( ) be approved;

AND FURTHER, that that \$9,500 ( ) be appropriated from Water/Sewer Budgets; that \$301,000 ( ) be appropriated from Water/Sewer Enterprise Additional Revenues; that \$46,000 ( ) be appropriated from Water/Sewer Enterprise Loan; that \$290,000 ( \$ ) be appropriated from Water/Sewer Standpipe Reserve.

Comments: None  
For: None  
Against: None

Moved by Councilor Stackhouse and seconded by Councilor Curtis that Ordinance 18-7 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**ORDINANCE 18-8:** An Ordinance to authorize the transfer of unencumbered appropriation balances to various departments.

FROM:	01-45 Economic & Community Dev.	\$29,000
	10-10 Buildings & Grounds	\$ 6,000
	15-05 Transfer Station	\$27,000
	25-05 Recreation	\$ 8,000
To:	05-10 Police	\$16,000
	05-20 Street Lights	\$ 2,000
	10-05 Public Works	\$45,000
	10-15 Cemetery	\$ 4,000
	20-05 Airport	\$ 3,000

Comments: None  
For: None  
Against: None

Councilor read in the amendments as proposed and noted above.

Moved by Councilor Nichols and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse that Ordinance 18-8 be adopted

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

The Public Hearing was closed.

5. **REPORTS:**

**A. COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

FINANCE- No Report

ORDINANCE- No Report

RECYCLING- No Report

**B. BOARD AND COMMITTEE UPDATES BY TOWN COUNCILORS AND MANAGER**

Communications-There will be a meeting in early January and the proposed topic will be the Town Website.

Bicentennial- The committee met last week. The next meeting in on January 9, 2019 in the MCI cafeteria at 6:00 PM. The plans are complete for the boat launch and will be scheduled for the next council meeting for approval.

**C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 18-118:** Resolved that the Town Council increase the percentage of funds in the Cemetery General Fund from 2% to 6.7% to be transferred to the 2019 Budget as a Revenue Source for the Cemetery, thereby increasing the amount of revenues to the amount equal to the proposed 2019 Cemetery Budget.

Moved by Councilor Nichols and seconded by Councilor Margolskee that Resolution 18-118 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-119:** Resolved that the Town Council Authorize a total of \$21,000 for Carry Forwards from the 2018 Budget and Encumber the funds for 2019 as a designated revenue source for the 2019 Budget in Reallocation – Fund 4, Account R#01-10-40.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse and seconded by Councilor Nichols that Resolution 18-119 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-120:** Resolved that the Town Council hereby determines pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A. Sec. 3028 that the portion of the Taylor Road, also known as the Call Road and the Jacobs Road, lying beyond the residence of Elmer Belanger was discontinued by action of the Town Meeting in March of 1966 and that a public easement was retained in the discontinued road pursuant to State law. The Town Council further determines that the width of the public easement is 1 ½ rods on each side of the center of the traveled portion of the discontinued road.

Moved by Councilor Bolster and seconded by Councilor Curtis that Resolution 18-120 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-121:** Resolved that the Town Council confirm the Town Manager's Appointment of Robert J. Duplisea, Jr. as Assessor and authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract with RJD Appraisal of Pittsfield in the amount of \$27,495 at \$585/day for 2019; \$600/day for 2020; and \$615/day for 2021, for a total of \$27,495 for 2019, the number of days to be determined for 2020 at \$600/day and the number of days to be determined for 2021 at \$615/day for the three-year period.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse and seconded by Councilor Donahue that Resolution 18-121 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-122:** Resolved that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager or Assistant to the Town Manager to initiate the PayPort service, starting January 1, 2019, with the Government of Maine and to purchase 5 card readers for \$85 each to be used in the Town Office and the Theatre.

Mayor Chianchette moved to amend to remove " or Assistant to the Town Manger", seconded by Councilor Margolskee.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

Moved by Councilor Nichols and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse that Resolution 18-122 be adopted as amended.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-123:** Resolved that the Town Council accept all cash donations for the Library Donations (G#1-634-00) for 2018 and authorize the expenditure of the funds in accordance with Town Rules and Regulations.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse and seconded by Councilor Nichols that Resolution 18-123 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-124:** Resolved that the Town Council accept all cash donations for the Community Swimming Pool Donations (G#1-643-00) for 2018 and authorize the expenditure of the funds in accordance with Town Rules and Regulations.

Moved by Councilor Nichols and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse that Resolutions 18-124 through 18-130 be voted in one step.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

Moved by Councilor Nichols and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse that Resolution 18-124 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-125:** Resolved that the Town Council accept all cash donations for the Underage Drinking Program (R-85-65-10) for 2018 and authorize the expenditure of the funds in accordance with Town Rules and Regulations.

Moved by Councilor Nichols and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse that Resolution 18-125 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-126:** Resolved that the Town Council accept all cash donations for the Theatre Fundraising Campaign (R-86-09-01) for 2018 and authorize the expenditure of the funds in accordance with Town Rules and Regulations.

Moved by Councilor Nichols and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse that Resolution 18-126 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-127:** Resolved that the Town Council accept all cash donations for the Pittsfield Keep Neighbors Warm Program (referred to by staff and citizens as Pittsfield Keep Me Warm) (R-86-10-01) for 2018 and authorize the expenditure of the funds in accordance with Town Rules and Regulations.

Moved by Councilor Nichols and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse that Resolution 18-127 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-128:** Resolved that the Town Council accept all cash donations for the Re-Use Building (R-86-11-01) for 2018 and authorize the expenditure of the funds in accordance with Town Rules and Regulations.

Moved by Councilor Nichols and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse that Resolution 18-128 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-129:** Resolved that the Town Council accept all cash donations for the Historical Depot (R-86-20-01) for 2018 and authorize the expenditure of the funds in accordance with Town rules and regulations.

Moved by Councilor Nichols and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse that Resolution 18-129 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-130:** Resolved that the Town Council accept all cash donations for the Bicentennial (R-86-71-05) for 2018 and authorize the expenditure of the funds in accordance with Town rules and regulations.

Moved by Councilor Nichols and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse that Resolution 18-130 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-131:** Resolved that the Town Council appoint Stephen Seekins as Code Enforcement Officer for the period of 01/01/2019 – 12/31/2019.

Moved by Councilor Bolster and seconded by Councilor Nichols that Resolution 18-131 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-132:** Resolved that the Town Council appoint Stephen Seekins as Licensed Plumbing Inspector for the period of 01/01/2019 – 12/31/2019.

Moved by Councilor Nichols and seconded by Councilor Bolster that Resolution 18-132 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-133:** Resolved that the Town Council appoint Brian Croft as Code Enforcement Officer Alternate for the following areas: Zoning & Land Use Ordinances, Third Party Licensed Inspector for the period of 01/01/2019 – 12/31/2019.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse and seconded by Councilor Nichols that Resolution 18-133 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-134:** Resolved that the Town Council appoint Brian Croft as Licensed Plumbing Inspector Alternate for the period of 01/01/2019 – 12/31/2019.

Moved by Councilor Nichols and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse that Resolution 18-134 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-135:** Resolved that the Town Council appoint Albert Tempesta as Code Enforcement Officer Alternate for the following areas: Zoning & Land Use Ordinances, Shoreland Zoning Ordinances for the period of 01/01/2019 – 12/31/2019.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse and seconded by Councilor Nichols that Resolution 18-135 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**RESOLUTION 18-136:** Resolved that Town Council appoint Albert Tempesta as Licensed Plumbing Inspector alternate for the period of 01/01/2019 – 12/31/2019.

Moved by Councilor Nichols and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse that Resolution 18-136 be adopted.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

**7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Financial

- A. Financial Reports as of 11/30/2018
  - Budget Expenditure Report
  - Revenue Collections Report
  - Tax Acquired Property Report
  - Economic Development Revolving Loan Update
  - Housing Revolving Loan Update
  - Transfer Station/Recycling Monthly Report
  - Theatre Monthly Report
  - Excise Tax Collections Comparison Report
  - State Revenue Sharing Comparison Report
  - Personal Property Tax Collection Report
  - Real estate Property Tax Collection Report
- B. Other Reports as of 11/30/2018
  - Building and Plumbing Permit Reports
  - Library Report- Librarian's and Library Trustees Minutes
  - Police Report

**8. REPORTS:** Audience, Council

**Audience:**

Michael Cray- I came to clear up a misconception. I was told my position was a temporary position and I would be brought in on a permanent basis after January 1<sup>st</sup>. I had a discussion with the Town Manager and was told that I would have to interview for the School Resource Officer position once it was permanent. I want to know what the Town Council thinks about it.

(Town Manager-Because this is included in a Union Grievance it cannot be discussed in public. The Town Attorney will contact the Union Attorney to discuss the situation.

Mike's benefits will continue until a decision is made.)

Peter Logiodice- Is there no revenue for the pool? (Town Manager- there are charges for the swimming lessons and the arts and crafts.)

Is it the same for the library/ (Town Manager-There is a non-resident fee for taking out books.)

I am disappointed on what was cut to pay for the paving. I think it should have been the theatre that was cut.

**Council:**

**Councilor Bolster:** Thanks to Mike for being Mayor and to the Council for all that I have learned. This was one of the hardest meetings of this year. The decisions made were not easy and were not made to attack anybody.

I would like to see the area of town between the Depot and the old Woolen mill be used as an ATV/snowmobile parking area. If we had ATV access on our roads, the more people that would come in so they can use the town resources. It could be another draw to the town that wouldn't cost a lot.

Happy Holidays to everybody.

**Councilor Donahue:** The tree lighting was heavily attended and everyone showed community spirit, especially the police that were on the street corner. Santa's ride in the fire truck was cool.

Happy Holidays!

Can we have an update on the librarian? (Town Manager- We have a number of applicants which Mike and I are interviewing. I am not planning on including the library committee.)

To Mike Cray-I think that you are doing a great job in this position. It was my understanding that it was a permanent, full time, position and that you wouldn't have to reapply for the job. I think that this is a contract glitch. Hopefully it will all work out and give you piece of mind moving forward.

I support the police and Chief Bickmore, it was great to see them out and were giving out candy canes and helping people to their cars at the tree lighting the other night. I feel that Pete has made a big impact on the town since he arrived. Thank you and I hope that you continue to stay without the pay increase that you were expecting.

I don't usually get like this. I am searching for words. I am livid, angry and disappointed about the council's vote tonight. I think that it was short-sighted. I think that it is disgraceful that new are not supporting our departments in ways that they need, in their budget for people in order to get the job done, in ways that we are asking them to do more and more. We ask department heads to do more than one job. Don Chute holds at least three positions. The Police Chief holds many and Steve Vance as well. I think that rebuilding the town doesn't just mean throwing some pavement on the ground. It means having the people to make things happen. I am really disappointed that Caleb waited until the twelfth hour to bring this up. I think that after the last meeting you had a little sticker shock. I think that you missed the boat as far as discussing this in a meaning full way, which we have been discussing for the last two or three months. When we came back from our committee meetings you agreed that these positions were needed.

I am tired of serving on committees and giving extra time to serve on these committees, to bring recommendations to the Town Council and have it thrown out the window. We didn't just sit there and willy-nilly decide these things. We spent 4 ½ hours making this plan and went round and round trying to decide what was the best plan moving forward for the town and a lot of the things in here were very thought out and we put a plan forward for growing the Police department in a meaningful way, for a long term service. That has just been cut off at the knees. I don't think that we are showing support to our staff people if we are going to be doing that.

**Councilor Margolskee:** Thank you to Heather for expressing some of my emotion. I have a real issue regarding how committees are done. This is the first organization that I have been a part of where every meeting we come in and "No report, No report, No report". The finance committee needs to meet more than once a year. The ordinance committee hasn't had a meeting this year, maybe nothing has changed. Have they reviewed anything? I don't know.

After what we went through tonight I think there needs to be changes in the budget process, how the budget is done, when it is done, how the planning is carried out. I am going into my third year on the council and I think that the vision of the town and the council's vision needs to be one. We need to have a meeting of the minds for where the town needs to be for the next five years. None of us will be on the council as long as Tim has. I respect you for all of the years that you have given to the town. We shouldn't be a rubber stamp of any Town Manager, what they may or may not want to do. It is nice for the Town Council to want taxes to be flat but we need to pay a decent wage. There needs to be a certain number of people around to do the work that is required. For years we have gotten away with doing a lot with a little. As I said before, we are paying the price now. Vision needs to change. We need to be more forward thinking. Just because the council says we want the taxes to remain flat, if the Town manager thinks that we need to make certain repairs, he or she needs to bring that as a priority to the council, and say there is some way that we need to figure it out.

As far as what we did to the Police Department tonight, I am disgusted as well. I hope that the \$130, 000 that we put towards paving will be used completely. I want to know where the money for paving that

was originally set to be used from the Pittsfield Future money to be used as equity went? I didn't see it here tonight. I am a little disappointed with that.

Usually in the last meeting of the year in the past we have had an Executive Session to review the performance of the Town manager. We are not doing that this year. I think that it is inappropriate that it isn't being done.

Thanks to Mike for doing an excellent job this year. Your presence pushed the envelope to a better place. Your presence will be missed. I really mean that.

I want to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, happy Kwanza, Happy Chanukah, whatever else. I look forward to 2019 being as good, or better than this year.

**Councilor Nichols:** This was a tough meeting. There was no good decisions made, no matter how you slice it. Unfortunately one of the facts that gets left out is that what happened eight years ago affects what happens now. Eight years ago we were in the middle of a recession. People were losing houses for back taxes. We went to court on a couple of them. The council's direction, given to the Town Manager was that the towns people couldn't afford a tax increase, so now we are paying for it unfortunately. That gets left out of the equation sometimes. You can point fingers at everybody all day long but the bottom line is that it is what it is. I know that I have said this a hundred thousand times and it drives my constituents, but if you don't have the money then you can't give the money. It is that simple. Does that mean that we let the town fall apart, no. Going forward I am hoping that we get out of this thing once and for all and move forward.

As far as Howard goes, thank you for those kind words about putting all of the years in. I appreciate it very much. There are times Howard, when I wonder why I do it myself. To be honest with you, I am sick tonight and I could be home watching Basketball or sleeping. I feel that the town that I grew up in was good to me. I was a fence kid. A lot of people looked out for me when I was a kid. I feel that I owe it back to the town and I have said it before and I will say it again, If you serve, you should. Progress can be slow but if nobody steps up then nothing is going to get done. I look at it like I am giving back to the community because the community gave to me. I don't have my own business, I have my constituents, they are my boss, they put me here. I am not a complicated guy. That is how I operate, that's it. They tell me the direction that they want me to go in. Those decisions are based on that right there, nothing else. Believe you me, I don't have anything against the Police Department or any department head. The bottom line is that you can't take something from here and give it there and that is the reality and it really stinks. When we get through next year, maybe it will be banner year and we can fix some of this stuff.

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mike-It's been very nice working with you on the council and we have known each other for decades. I wish you my friend nothing but luck. I know that we kid each other but I wish you the best of luck with that and I think that you would be a really nice fit for that and you know what I'm talking about.

I hope everybody drives safely and has a good Christmas.

Mike Cray, don't worry my friend, you will be fine.

**Councilor Curtis:** I typically don't leave a Town Council meeting feeling like I ruined everybody's day. I know that there are a few people who are disappointed in me that aren't normally disappointed in me. I know that what I am going to say isn't going to change how you feel about me. I will say that this was not something that I have been thinking about for a long time. I do agree with Howard that I think that we should change how the budget process goes so that we don't have what happened at the last meeting where we finally get to see the big picture at the last meeting or the meeting before the last meeting so that we get to see the big picture and we get to react to it. This was difficult for me. It was a difficult thing to do and I feel like it's a problem. It's difficult to build something and stand up and start hacking at it, but it sounded like a better idea when I was putting it together in my head. It put the Police

Department growing in line with the way that the other budgets grew. Instead of 50% growth, it was more like a 25% growth. So when I was putting it together, I didn't think I was going to get quite a negative reaction as I got. My thought was to have money for paving in this budget. I was having a hard time getting on board with the ten percent increase anyways. That is where my idea came from and it is not a hack at anybody. I know how you feel from how you talked towards me and I am sorry. It is times like those that make me not really like this. It is the process that I don't like.

**Deputy Mayor Stackhouse:** We sit on the council and we have to make tough decisions. I was on the finance committee that went over most of that tonight. I had an issue with a meeting that I missed that gave that big percentage increase to that department. I think that if I had been here I wouldn't have voted for it that night. So like Tim said, we have to do many things that we don't like. I would like to give every department a 50% raise. They all deserve it. Steve is out there many hours sanding. Donny is doing a great job. The chief is doing I don't know how many jobs, I think that he said ten a minute ago. I'd like to give them all a raise, but we just can't do it. Mike, thank you for stepping up and taking over as mayor for this year. You did a great job. We had no issues. I look forward to seeing you in the future. Good luck with whatever you do. Merry Christmas to everybody and Happy New Year.

**Mayor Cianchette:** I have a few words that I'd like to read. I am not going to make comments or editorialize, it isn't my place anymore.

First I wish to thank the members of the public who have shown up tonight but many prior meetings. As councilors we like to see the audience fill but that rarely happens. Democracy only happens when people show up, speak up and take part.

Second, I want to commend all of the employees of Pittsfield. As I have said many times before, they exemplify solid work ethic and perform above and beyond the call of duty many times. They are Pittsfield's true jewel in the crown.

Third, I want to thank councilor's both past and present with whom I have served. We have not always agreed on all topics and I hope that you have considered me respectful and worthy of serving the people of Pittsfield. While she was battling with a cancer, and the passing of my sweet wife Jane last year, I was unable to attend all of the meetings required. I was touched by your concern, caring and support which allowed me to return and serve as best as I was able. It was a trying time for me and my family. The small gestures that you showed me meant a great deal to me.

I have enjoyed every minute of serving and it is bitter sweet that I end my tenure both as councilor and especially as Mayor. I hope that I have been able to represent the interests of the citizens of Pittsfield professionally and respectfully and I have complete faith that the town is in good hands with Mat Bolster, Heather Donahue, Doc Margolskee, Tim Nichols, Caleb Curtis, Bob Stackhouse and incoming councilor Deb Billings.

With that I will issue a challenge to all of you. Have the courage to make the tough decisions. Have the will to do what it takes. Have the foresight to think beyond business as usual and consider more what-ifs. Finally, have the compassion to remember those you serve and why you are here.

My life has followed a less than straight and narrow path and decisions have been forced upon me and my family. I do not know exactly where I am going or where I will end up, but wherever that may be, I will always call Pittsfield home and you my extended family.

With that I say thank you all. I will see you again and a very Merry Christmas to everyone. Thank you.

## 9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stackhouse and seconded by Councilor Donahue to adjourn at 9:15PM.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

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Michael Feole, Deputy Town Clerk