

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 01/03/2012:

1 The FYI Folder: FYI Folder which contains items that come in between the Town Council Meetings has the following this evening: None for this meeting.

2. 2012 State Valuation: The Town's proposed State Valuation has been released coming in at \$234,350,000 million. In total, the Town's valuation has decreased \$12,600,000 during the last two year's valuation determinations. Much of this is due to the change in personal property tax in which the State Legislature voted a number of years ago to basically phase out personal property tax on many types of equipment. This will affect State Revenue Sharing, School Aid and assessments made by other agencies to the Town in a positive manner, however, affect the Town's valuation which is used as the basis of property taxation in a negative fashion.

3. Stress on Taxpayers: Due to the economy and so many people out of work now due to job losses across the State of Maine and the nation and in many cases, unemployment eligibility running out, we understand that many more people than usual were not able to pay their 2011 property taxes. Many more people need water and sewer payment plans to pay bills and we have a lot of payment plans now. The Town will work with everyone on payment plans. As explained to a number of people who have never had any issues paying their taxes before, this is not the taxpayer's fault, it is not anyone's fault, it is a sign of the times, we recommend that people make payments when they can to try to keep the interest down. It takes 3 years from the date of commitment for a property to become automatically foreclosed under the State law for uncollected taxes. We recommend that people meet with the staff and set up a tax payment plan. Please make sure that if you have lived in your property for a year that you have met with the Assessor and applied for a Homestead Exemption. If you are 62 years old and a veteran, please make sure that you meet with the Assessor to file a Veteran's Exemption. Property owners can also apply for a Property Tax and Rent Refund Circuit breaker for refunds of property tax assessed during 2010 that have been paid. If you are eligible, you can use your refund to pay for 2011 taxes. The booklets and applications may be downloaded from www.maine.gov/revenue (click on Tax Relief) or call 207-626-8475.

4. Town of Pittsfield 2012 Board/Committee Openings: Positions expire every year on the Town's many boards and committees. The Town has over 20 boards and committees. Positions remaining available are the following: 3 Openings on the Board of Appeals; 2 openings on the Board of Assessment Review; 1 Opening on the Board of Ethics; 1 Opening on the Cemetery Trustees; 1 Opening on the Economic Development Team; 2 Openings on the Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Committee; 1 Opening on the Planning Board; and 1 Opening on the Pool Committee.

5. Trash To Treasure Re-Use Center: The Trash to Treasure Re-Use Center is open on the first Saturday of each month during the Winter from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. The dates that the Re-Use Center will be open are: Saturday, January 07, 2012; February 04, 2012; and March 03, 2012. The Re-Use Center is in the former Veterans of Foreign Wars Building opposite the Transfer Station and Recycling Center. Everyone needs to remember that they need to have their items that they have chosen weighed at the counter as we need to keep track of the tons of re-used items that have found new homes.

