

## **Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 04/06/2010:**

**1. The FYI Folder:** FYI Folder which contains items that come in between the Town Council Meetings has the following this evening: Read List.

**2. Earth Day 2010 Backyard Compost Bin Sale:** The Town forwarded its order for compost bins, compost wing diggers and rain barrels to the Maine Resource Recovery Association. We had to order in lots and there are still a few spots available for each item, first come, first served. The Town expects to receive the units during April 12 – 23, 2010. Participants will receive a call to pick up their purchases at the Pittsfield Recycling Station.

**3. Pittsfield Public Library Announcement:** Read Announcement.

**4. Recreation Basketball Tournament:** The Pittsfield Youth Athletics Tournament on March 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> for Grades 3+4 Boys and 5+6 Boys was a large hit. I have not received a formal write-up, but have heard that admissions was approximately \$1,000 and along with the concessions for the tournament and during the season, the volunteers turned in \$2329.98 today. These funds will go toward Pee Wee Basketball equipment and needs in the future. Each sports activity has its own account now on the Town's books except the Summer Program which the Town runs through the regular budget allocation. Thank you to everyone for supporting your teams as well as your local community.

**5. Insurance Company Reimbursement:** The Town received a rebate from MMA for the 2009 Workers Compensation Program and has received \$1,432 which is excellent.

**6. Foreclosures in Maine have risen:** The State's Bureau of Financial Institutions has just released information that the number of foreclosures in Maine is up. According to data from 32 state-chartered banks and credit unions, the number of houses in the process of foreclosure in the last quarter of 2009 was 305, compared with 271 in the third quarter. Foreclosures had continued to increase from year to year as well with 175 completed foreclosures in 2009 compared with 159 completed foreclosures in 2008. This does not include federally chartered banks, credit unions or mortgage companies. The Bureau noted that the increase was probably due to the economic times and not the result of predatory lending by Maine banks.

The reason this is mentioned is that often people get behind on their taxes, the bank then comes in and pays off the taxes and then adds the amount to the monthly payment. Then the payments are higher and people have trouble making them. For those people who do not have their taxes escrowed, we would encourage you to join the Pittsfield Tax Club. READ Tax Club Requirements. If you do not want to join the tax club, have back taxes due, do not have the same amount of money coming in each week, get paid by jobs or some other reason, that is fine. The Town encourages people to just put down \$10, \$25, \$50 or whatever amount you can when you can. This will reduce the amount of taxes that you have left. We have town employees who have payroll deductions of their own request, to pay down on their taxes. It does not have to be the tax club payment. This way, people can work on paying their taxes when they can.

**7. Theatre Birthday Parties:** The Pittsfield Community Theatre is now accepting dates for Birthday Parties. READ Notice. Contact the Theatre Manager at 487-5461..

**8. Department Head Meeting:** Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 2010 to include the following topics: Safety Grants; Annual BLS required training; Town Employee Safety Fair; Work Zone Traffic and Signage; NIMS training; Surprise Safety Audits; training programs; and other topics of interest. The training that our Safety Coordinator will be providing that day is Fire Extinguishers and Emergency Evacuation Plan Refreshers.

**9. The Welcome Table:** The Welcome Table is open from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm every Friday at the First Universalist Church in the Community Hall at 6 Easy Street. This is a local program staffed and funded by volunteers whose mission is to provide a warm place to gather, socialize and share a hot meal. Games, puzzles and cards are always available. All are invited to attend. For further information, please call Trudy Ferland at 487-6523.

**10. Census Jobs:** The U.S. Census Bureau has closed the recruitment of census takers for the Town of Pittsfield. Mr. Hiram Weymouth did such a good job.

**11. Efficiency Maine Appliance Rebate Program:** Read Notice.

