

## **Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 05/03/2011:**

**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. Pothole Patrol:** The Public Works Department is on a daily pothole patching detail due to the hard winter and spring weather. If anyone does come across a pothole on the town roads, please feel free to report it to the PW Department at 487-6942. People have been coming in about the State roads and the Town has been filing all the reports from citizens as well as those areas that we have seen. MDOT has been in Town several times now patching the potholes uncovering. Basically, a road can be patched and then generally 3 or more days after that, there is a new pothole down from where the road is patched.

**3. Sludge Removal Project:** The sludge hauling will start as soon as the facility is dried out. As we are drawing very close to hauling out the sludge - it means that the Town will be closing on the final loan in the near future and that means that a sewer rate increase will go into effect on July 1, 2011. Over the last 30 years, the Town made the choice to not put away funds for this project that is needed so that the Lagoon System can continue to function appropriately and not be clogged up. Therefore, the Town did not have a pay as you go philosophy so the only way to pay for the project is with our future bills. The bills will have a notice on them so that people will have several months to prepare for the rate increase. Citizens are able to make payments during the quarter and not wait for the bill if this is an easier way for people to pay. Effective July 1, 2011, the sewer rate will be \$7.25/1,000 gallons. Many people are aware of this due to the extensive newspaper coverage of the sludge removal project planning.

**4. Sewer Rehabilitation Project:** The Bids for the RFP for the Sewer Rehabilitation Projects will be accepted until May 6, 2011 at 2:00 pm. For more information, contact Olver Associates in Winterport, Maine. The exact areas that will be going out to bid are those areas, which showed large infiltration problems. The areas are as follows:

Livingston – Approximately 1250 LF which is about the entire length of the road from Detroit Street to North Main Street.

Cianchette Street – Approximately 900 LF from the intersection of Cianchette Street and Franklin Street to Chester Street.

Chester Street – Approximately 350 LF from the intersection of Chester Street and Cianchette Street to the corner of Chester Street that heads to Peltoma Avenue.

Nichols Street – Approximately 1600 LF from the cross country manhole in Manson Park to Main Street.

The Town was fortunate to receive a grant for \$1.5 million dollars of sewer rehabilitation work which was put together in a package for the Town when we received the \$1.9 million dollar loan for the required sludge removal work at the Treatment Plant.

**5. Town of Pittsfield 2011 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: 1 Opening on the Board of Appeals; 2 openings of the Board of Assessment Review; 1 Opening on the Board of Ethics; 1 Opening on the Economic Development Team; 1 Opening on the Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Committee; and 1 Opening for an Alternate member of the Planning Board.

**6. National Take Back Initiative:** The Town worked with Healthy SV and the Drug Enforcement Agency on a National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Healthy SV purchased the metal locked container for the prescription drugs to be dropped into from their funding for the Town. The event went really well. A large amount of unneeded prescriptions were dropped off. 92.9 WEZQ broadcast live for two hours which brought in people. Sgt. Roussin and Patrol Officer Cote were present at the event for the entire time. The Drop off Container is available in the lobby of the Town Office for citizens to drop off unwanted prescriptions during regular business hours of 8 am – 5 pm excluding holidays.

**7. Pittsfield Earth Day 2011 Backyard Compost Bin Sale: Read Announcement. We are still accepting orders.**

**8. Trash To Treasure Re-Use Center:** The new Trash to Treasure Re-Use Center is open on Saturdays from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. A Grand Opening Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 06, 2011 at 10:00 am. The Re-Use Center is in the former Veterans of Foreign Wars Building opposite the Transfer Station and Recycling Center. The facility will be open on Saturdays from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm effective April 16, 2011. The following materials will be accepted: Read NOTICE.

**9. Jill McGowan Designer Clothing Sale to benefit Library: READ Notice.**

**10. Annual Pittsfield Garden Club Plant Sale: READ Notice.**

**11. Hooked on Fishing Outside Recreational Opportunity for Youth: READ Notice.**

**12. Zoning Ordinance Amendment Requested:** A group of citizens has requested that the Zoning Ordinance be amended to include the ability to raise female chickens in the residential areas of Town. The request was on the Planning Board's agenda for their 04/11/2011 meeting. The Planning Board tabled that request and asked for several additional pieces of information. The Planning Board will review the request again at their May 09, 2011 meeting. After the request is reviewed by the Planning Board, it will go to the Ordinance Committee & Town Council for review and/or consideration.

**13. Central Maine Power Company Installing New Meters:** CMP has sent a letter to advise that the company will be beginning work in our area shortly for the installation of new meters. CMP has contracted with VSI Meter Services to install the "Smart Meters". CMP along with Bernstein Shur Government Solutions has offered to be placed on a public meeting agenda to discuss the Smart Meter Project. If the Town Council would like this meeting arranged, please let me know.

**14. LD 79 – Proposal to cut Municipal Excise Tax:** The newest proposal to cut municipal revenues is LD 79, to cut 5% of the Town's excise tax. This bill would reduce municipal revenues by \$10 million dollars statewide, being added to the \$42

million loss in Revenue Sharing for next year proposed by the Governor and Legislature. This is the latest in a line of bills looking to cut municipal revenues passes. If it passes, the Town would lose approximately \$25,905. Please note that this would be in addition to the State Revenue Sharing that the Town will lose in the next fiscal year. In 2010, the Town lost \$40,419 in SRS from 2009. In 2009 the Town lost \$167,230 in SRS from the prior year.

