

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 05/17/2011:

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. Hooked on Fishing Event at Manson Park on May 14, 2011: Well over 100 children and parents attended the first Annual Hooked on Fishing event hosted by the Pittsfield Police Department at Manson Park. Small children to adults enjoyed fishing on Saturday, May 14, 2011. The Pittsfield Police Department would like to thank everyone from the State Police, Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Parks and Recreation Committee, town staff and citizens who volunteered their time and expertise to assist the young children with fishing tips. The Town's website www.pittsfield.org under Photo Gallery has a page dedicated to photographs from that day.

5. Vandalism at the Pittsfield Village Cemetery: The Pittsfield Village Cemetery was vandalized sometime during the day on Sunday, May 15, 2011 in the upper part of the cemetery. Twenty-five headstones were tipped over and broken. The average cost to repair each stone is between \$150 - \$250. The Cemetery Sexton discovered the damage Monday Morning, May 16, 2011 and reported it to the police department. This senseless vandalism has damaged the final resting place of these individuals. In addition, this is going to be very expensive to repair. Anyone with any information whatsoever who saw people who looked out of place at the cemetery or saw anything should contact the Police Department immediately. We would greatly appreciate any information that people have on this

6. Senator Susan Collins' Office Hours: Staff Assistant Michelle Michaud will hold office hours in Pittsfield at the Pittsfield Town Office on Thursday, May 19, 2011 from 1-3 pm. Mrs. Michaud will be available to provide assistance with federal issues and agencies, such as Social Security, Veterans Affairs and citizenship and immigration. No appointment is necessary.

7. Greater Pittsfield Area Kiwanis Club Bike Rodeo: READ Notice.

8. 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.

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

10. 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. The Grand Opening Ceremony held on Saturday, May 06, 2011 was great. A page has been set up in the Photo Gallery at www.pittsfield.org. The Re-Use Center is in the former Veterans of Foreign Wars Building opposite the Transfer Station and Recycling Center. The facility is on Saturdays from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Those who have completed their yard sales and have items left over that they do not want to take back to their homes might consider donating the clothing to Pennywise and the other items to the Re-Use Center. The Town has a comprehensive list of items that can be donated at the facility available at the Town Office.

11. 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 has now reviewed the additional information and scheduled it to a public hearing at their 06/13/2011 regular meeting. After the request is reviewed and acted upon by the Planning Board, it will go to the Ordinance Committee & Town Council for review and/or consideration.

12. New Restaurant in Town: Last but certainly not least, if anyone has not yet sampled the food at Vittles on Main Street, they definitely should. The Pittsfield Arts Club had their Annual Dinner at the restaurant last week and Vittles opened up just for the Club and served a wonderful dinner. The Town Office ladies had breakfast from Vittles last Friday with everybody getting something different and all was very yummy!

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.

