

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 06/07/2011:

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. Sludge Removal Project: The sludge hauling has begun as the facility is dried out. This means that the Town will be closing on the final loan this summer 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 that have been issued 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.

3. School Budget Vote: The balloting on the SAD #53 Budget for the period of July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 is scheduled for next Tuesday, June 14, 2011 from 12:00 noon to 8:00 pm.

4. Town Council Summer Meeting Schedule: The Town Council Regular Meeting schedule for the Summer is scheduled as one meeting in both July & August as July 12, 2011 and August 16, 2011.

As we have a large number of grant projects underway this summer which require regular payments, I contacted the Town Attorney who has advised as follows how the approval of the expense warrants can take place:

Under Section 125.1 (3) of the Code, the finance committee reviews each warrant for payment and refers to the Town Council for a majority to approve. This takes place before and during the Regular Council Meetings at this time. The Charter does not require this to be a part of the Council Meeting - it just works out best to have it done that way. For the summer months when we have one meeting, the Town Attorney recommends simply making the warrants available at the Town Office, have the Finance Committee approve first, posting their review for the other Councilors to review and then sign. This will allow for a timely approval of the warrants during the summer months. So basically, when the warrants are ready and require signing to make payment schedules, the Town will contact the Finance Committee members first and once they sign, contact the other Councilors.

5. Sibley Pond Bridge Closure Notification: The Town was notified today of the following closure: READ letter.

6. 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.

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

8. AARP Driver Safety Program: READ Announcement.

9. 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.

10. 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.

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.

