

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 07/12/2011:

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

2. Sludge Removal Project: The sludge hauling continues at the Treatment Plant. 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. 2010 Sewer Rates in the State of Maine: The results of the Maine Rural Water Association's Sewer Rate survey was released this week. There were 125 Towns or Districts that funded their sewer systems with utility billings that responded including Pittsfield. There were a few towns that fund their sewer systems with taxation so I excluded them. Of the 125 Towns or Districts that issue sewer bills, 106 or 84.8% were higher than Pittsfield, then there was Pittsfield and 18 or 14.4% were lower than Pittsfield. The rates were converted to 8,000 cubic feet. Pittsfield's bill for this would have been \$284.24 per year. The Average State-wide rate is \$450.60 per year. So through 06/30/2011, we remain in the lowest 20% of sewer rates in the State of Maine.

4. 2010 Water Rates in the State of Maine: In March, I reported the results of the 2010 Maine Public Utilities Commission Water Rate Publication. There are 155 Water Districts/Departments including the Pittsfield Water Works. 23 Districts/Departments have water rates less than Pittsfield or 15%, then there is Pittsfield, then there are 131 Districts/Departments that have water rates higher than Pittsfield or 85%. This was after the Town's water rate increase was implemented after not having one for 10 years. While we were updating our rate, many other Districts/Departments went in also for rate increases. Therefore, we are still in the lowest percentage of water rates in the State of Maine.

So basically, for both water and sewer rates, 85% of the Districts/Towns in the State of Maine had rates higher than Pittsfield's water and sewer rates in 2010.

5. 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 which is this evening's meeting and then August 16, 2011.

6. Countdown to the 2011 Egg Festival: Copies of the schedules as well as the 2011 Egg Festival Books are available at the Town Office and other locations in Town while supplies last. The Town has made a PDF of the Egg Festival Schedule as well as the book that can be downloaded from the Town's website www.pittsfield.org under the Egg Festival category.

7. Pittsfield Theatre Campaign Upcoming Fundraisers: The Pittsfield Theatre Fundraising group will be participating in the Egg Festival with a Jail House for a Jail and Bail Fundraiser. You can support the theatre by locking up your friends and family at the Egg Festival.

On Friday August 19, 2011, the Pittsfield Theatre Fundraising Group will host a Community Band night in downtown with four bands playing. Bracelets will be on sale shortly as well as details about the bands. Food will be available through the local restaurants and stores. This will be a great community evening in the downtown.

8. Library Summer Programming:

The Pittsfield Public Library's Summer Reading Challenge is underway! Children, teens, and adults are challenged to read a book from the weekly genre, and are entered into a drawing for each week of participation. Winners for the first week, traditional literature, are Sam Eldridge and Emmalee Swift. Winners are awarded gift certificates for free ice-cream, donated by Big Bill's.

The Boston Museum of Science Traveling Program is visiting the Pittsfield Public Library on Thursday, July 14 with the program "Rockets: There and Back Again." Children will create an air rocket that launches across the room and engineer a way for a payload to return safely to earth. This hands-on workshop explores the science behind rockets and space exploration. Use your imagination to plan, build and test your own design. Sessions start at 2:00 and 3:00. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Contact the library at 487-5880 for more information.

9. 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.

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

11. AARP Driver Safety Program: The AARP will hold a Drivers Course for Seniors at the Pittsfield Town Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 23, 2011 from 12:30 – 4:30 pm. For more details, please contact the Town Office.

12. 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.

