

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 11/15/2011:

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

2. 2012 State Valuation: The Town's proposed State Valuation has been released coming in at \$234,350,000 million. In total, the Town's valuation has decreased \$12,600,000 during the last two year's valuation determinations. Much of this is due to the change in personal property tax in which the State Legislature voted a number of years ago to basically phase out personal property tax on many types of equipment. This will affect State Revenue Sharing, School Aid and assessments made by other agencies to the Town in a positive manner, however, affect the Town's valuation which is used as the basis of property taxation in a negative fashion.

3. Stress on Taxpayers: Due to the economy and so many people out of work now due to job losses across the State of Maine and the nation and in many cases, unemployment eligibility running out, we understand that many more people than usual were not able to pay their 2011 property taxes. Many more people need water and sewer payment plans to pay bills and we have a lot of payment plans now. The Town will work with everyone on payment plans. As explained to a number of people who have never had any issues paying their taxes before, this is not the taxpayer's fault, it is not anyone's fault, it is a sign of the times, we recommend that people make payments when they can to try to keep the interest down. It takes 3 years from the date of commitment for a property to become automatically foreclosed under the State law for uncollected taxes. We recommend that people meet with the staff and set up a tax payment plan. Unfortunately, we have foreclosures coming up for unpaid 2009 property taxes. If people can not pay the entire amount, we will work with them to establish a tax payment plan within the constraints of the law. It is the Town's policy to not have people leave their property at foreclosure as long as an effort is made to make payments and to pay off the taxes over a reasonable period of time. Please make sure that if you have lived in your property for a year that you have met with the Assessor and applied for a Homestead Exemption. If you are 62 years old and a veteran, please make sure that you meet with the Assessor to file a Veteran's Exemption. Apply for a Property Tax and Rent Refund Circuit breaker for refunds of property tax assessed during 2010 that have been paid. If you are eligible, you can use your refund to pay for 2011 taxes. The booklets and applications may be downloaded from www.maine.gov/revenue (click on Tax Relief) or call 207-626-8475.

4. Buy Pittsfield Buy Local on Small Business Saturday:

The Town of Pittsfield and the Pittsfield Community Theatre are proud to support small businesses on Small Business Saturday, November 26, 2011

In celebration of our many small businesses, the Theatre will provide a free large combo from the concessions to citizens and visitors who shop or obtain services in Pittsfield on Saturday, November 26, 2011, spending \$50.00 or more at one of our many small businesses.

To participate and obtain a free large combo, bring in your dated sales slip from a Pittsfield business totaling \$50.00 or more from Small Business Saturday to the theatre concessions during a movie night or matinee on or by December 10, 2011.

There are many benefits to this promotion:

Recognizes the efforts and importance of small businesses, which are the backbone of America
Encourages shopping and obtaining services at our many businesses
Celebrates Small Business Saturday, which is a national movement to mark a day that supports the local businesses that create jobs, preserve neighborhoods and small towns.
Buying local is important as it boosts the local economy and preserves communities' culture.
Great time to purchase Christmas presents and gifts while supporting the local economy

This is the second year of the nation's celebration of "Small Business Saturday" and the Town of Pittsfield's second Buy Local Campaign.

The Town held its first Buy Local Campaign on March 26, 2011, raising \$4,190.00 for the Theatre Fundraising Campaign to restore and upgrade the Theatre. This is our second Buy Local Campaign and we would like to encourage the public to frequent local businesses. The Town and Theatre would like to give back to the community for supporting our many small businesses in Pittsfield and supporting our community.

5. Energy Efficiency Workshop: In December, Yankee Solutions and the Town of Pittsfield will be holding an Energy Efficiency Workshop focusing on weatherization tips from the work completed at the Town Office through the Maine Efficiency grant and how to construct window inserts that will greatly help with air sealing your home or business. Watch for more details on the date and time.

6. Pittsfield Historical Society Heating Oil Raffle: 100 Gallons of oil was donated by Webber Energy Fuels. Tickets are 1 for \$1 or 3 for \$2. The drawing will be held 12/15/2011 at 6:00 pm at the Historical Society monthly meeting at the Pittsfield Library. Meetings are open to the public and people are invited to come to the drawing. All proceeds will go toward the building renovations. Tickets can be purchased from Bud's on 10/14 and 10/15/2011 and 11/04/2011 and 11/05/2011; the Town Office and the Historical Depot when open.

7. Free Christmas Movie at the Pittsfield Community Theatre: As part of our community Christmas events, the Theatre will hold a free movie on Saturday, 12/03/2011 – Zoo Keeper. The doors will open at 12:45 pm with the movie starting at 1:30 pm. Come join in the fun with a free kid's combo and a drawing for gifts after the movie. There will also be a live Christmas concert on Saturday, 12/03/2011 at 5:00 pm at the Theatre. Admission for this event is a non-perishable food item that will benefit the Christmas Project or the Pittsfield Food Cupboard.

