

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 12/06/2011:

1. The FYI Folder: FYI Folder which contains items that come in between the Town Council Meetings has the following this evening: READ

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. 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. Property owners can also 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. Energy Efficiency Workshop: Weatherization Tips for Winter at the Pittsfield Town Office Council Chambers, 112 Somerset Avenue, Pittsfield on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. All are welcome to come and learn more about energy efficiency and winterization of your home or business. Ask questions to local experts. There will be a tour of the Municipal Building Energy Efficiency Retrofit under the Maine Efficiency Block Grant. We will also have a hands on demonstration of how to build window inserts to assist with air sealing and insulating your home or business. Contractors and Businesses that will be at the workshop are Yankee Solutions (Solar); Triple D Construction (Weatherization), C&C Sprayfoam (Insulation); Trafton Plumbing and Heating (Boiler replacement/control upgrades) ; and Osher Environmental (Energy Auditor).

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 at the Town Office and the Historical Depot when open.

