

TOWN OF PITTSFIELD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT FOR 01/18/2022:

New Items and Important Reminders:

1. Maine On-line Burn Permits Became Free of Charge: On-line Burn Permits are now free of charge. Burn permits are available at maineburnpermit.com

2. Important Reminder: 2022 Transfer Station Stickers: In order to reduce costs at the Transfer Station by making sure that only those who should be dumping garbage are doing so, new stickers are being issued each year. Stickers have been sale since December 01, 2021. Residential stickers are \$20.00 each and Commercial are \$40.00 each.

3. Important Reminder: 2022 Dog Licenses: All dogs over 6 months old must be registered prior to January 31, 2022. The State law requires a late fee be assessed after that date. The Town has been registering dogs since October 15th. We want to make sure that you license your dog/s prior to the deadline so that you do not have any extra fees. The Doggie Jewelry is here!

4. Important Reminder: Online Services: For re-registration of vehicles, boats and other services go to www.pittsfield.org and click on the Citizens' Tab, choosing on-line services at the top of the page.

Please remember that Motor Vehicle has advised the Town that there is an aluminum shortage and we will receive a reduced inventory of new plates so if you do not need a new plate and can use your current plate, please do so. We are also going to receive reduced inventories of stickers.

5. On-line Council Materials: We would also like to make sure that people know where to go to get the Town Council packages. Go to www.pittsfield.org to the right hand side of the home page and click on Government Services, then click on Town Council Packages and then on 2022 Council Packages. Then you can review the pack. If you print it out, make sure that you look at it first to see how many pages it is as you may only want a section of the page along with the agenda.

6. Cleaning out Your Home / Downsizing – Think of the Re-Use Center:

Please consider donating your left-over items to the Trash to Treasure Re-Use Center. Citizens who are cleaning out their homes for sale or just downsizing may contact the Pittsfield Town Office at 487-3136 or finance3@pittsfield.org to schedule an appointment to drop off items to

the Re-Use Center. As the Center is now closed due to COVID restrictions, an appointment is needed. Please do not drop off items in the yard as they will get wet and not be of any use to anyone. We are currently re-stocking the building so we need new materials. Please remember, no bedding or clothing. All clothing should be donated to Pennywise. Bedding can be dropped off in our Textile container as you enter the Transfer Station. The building is still accessible this winter so we are still taking items. If at any point, we have to stop taking items, we will advise of this.

Current and Upcoming Activities:

7. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory sessions:

Although more snow is coming down shortly, we will be planning out the Main Street Sidewalk and learning more about the Main Street Road Rehabilitation Project. Once we have more members for the Committee to oversee the CDBG project, we will start meeting in earnest. Some of the partners have not been available for meetings as of yet, however, we need to start up shortly in order to have plenty of time to make sure that the project is planned out correctly. There are many grants, requirements, deadlines and it is complex so all the help that we can get would be appreciated. Once we are organized as we are still looking for members, then it would be great to have a little zoom meeting that people could watch or some slides that explains the progress on the project.

8. Airport Hangar, Apron and Taxiway Project updates:

This also will be a major project at the Airport and really put the Pittsfield Municipal Airport on the map as there will be actual new spaces to rent for people to bring or locate their airplanes at the airport. Currently, over 30 planes are housed at the airport, however, some are outside and others are closely fitted in rental spots. Anyone interested in a new T-Hangar spot, please contact Caleb Curtis, Fixed Base Operator and Airport Manager at 487-5213. Once this project starts moving forward, it would be interesting to have some photographs or overhead pictures to place on the Town's website.

Updated and/or Continuing Items:

9. 2019 Tax Liens foreclose on Friday, January 21, 2022:

For those who have not yet paid their 2019 taxes, the liens on the property will automatically foreclose at the end of business on January 21, 2022. This is for taxes that were due in October 2019. There are now 24 properties on the foreclosure list. We urge those owners to pay their taxes in full by Friday. Notices of impending automatic foreclosure went out in December. If the taxes are not paid in full on Friday, the Town will own these properties. The Town does not want to own any tax acquired properties. In order to buy the property back, all taxes, interest and costs for 2019, 2020 and 2021 will need to be paid in full in order to receive a Quit Claim deed from the Town after a public hearing. This would be very expensive so we would encourage you to pay off the 2019 tax lien in full.

10. Code Enforcement Actions:

Our Alternate Code Enforcement Officer Al Tempesta is working in Town now for a few weeks. We have provided the files on the code enforcement actions that the Council approved for his review and to see if any more information needs to be collected. Mr. Tempesta will be the Code Enforcement Officer who will be bringing the cases to court so he needs to be involved. For the Somerset Avenue property, the elderly owner was repairing the facility himself and fell off the roof. He has a long recovery period in order to be able to get around. The gentleman did work on the property. We will send the file to the Town Attorney, however, ask how to address this. Basically, the owner is recovering from a dreadful fall and will be unable to go to court. The Washington Street property file has more enforcement action in it against the former owners of the property vs. the current owner. I wrote a letter for the former Code Officer just before he retired after I went out and saw the property last year. Bob Geaghan, the new Code Officer has written letters requesting compliance. We are asking the attorney for advice on how to proceed. The Leonard Street property seems to have more junk now than it had before so that file is going to the Town Attorney. The Manson Street property is neat and orderly in the yard, however, the building needs considerable work. The owner wrote to the Town that he has been ill and explained out what has been taking place. We will ask for advice on all of these. Since Al will be taking the cases to court, we needed him to be involved which he now has been. Copies of the files are being forwarded to the Town Attorney on Wednesday, 01/19/2021.

The Code Enforcement Officer was dispatched to a property at the corner of Harriet and Madawaska Avenue which is a very dilapidated building. The owner was to be instructed to tear it down due to its condition.

The Code Enforcement Officer was persistent with the owners of the property at the corner of Lancey Street and Peltoma Avenue. After multiple calls and letters, the owners did schedule a major tree cutting day at the property. The owners have also pulled a building permit to fix up the property. The CEO has been instructed to keep in contact with the owners to monitor their progress.

Today, the Alternate Code Enforcement Officer was working on a letter to the property owners on Webb Road. The facilities at this property have expanded without proper permits.

11. Board and Committee Positions:

The Town is looking for volunteers for its boards and committees. This is a yearly process. We know that there are issues over having enough time as life does seem busier now and about COVID concerns. We have set up the Meeting Room with nice air filtering devices. The Fire Chief/EMA Director selected them and in talking with contractors who come to the building as well as people who have had COVID, we have been told that these are really good units. A list of boards/committees with expiring terms was published in The Rolling Thunder and is available at the Town Office. The Town has many committees and boards and perhaps there is an area that you might be interested in. Since COVID, we have had trouble filling spots and that is understandable, however, we do need to proceed forward with meetings.

12. The Planning Board is very important:

While we have a list of committees looking for volunteers, I would like to bring your attention to the Planning Board. This is a very important board for the Town. Activity in terms of commercial growth is coming to Town and you can be a part of it by being on the Planning Board. This board generally meets once per month to review applications and may be meeting to review ordinances at various times during the year. The membership is down and as people are already planning for projects for this summer – 3 applications are coming in – we need volunteers. You would receive a package of materials, review the materials and then attend a meeting to make sure that the project meets the ordinance requirements. There is staff assistance including a planner from the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments who reviews materials. If you like helping businesses or you like making sure that business projects are good for the Town, the Planning Board is for you. Although terms are 5 years in length, there are a few unexpired terms available for 3-year terms.

13. Recreation Director:

The Town is seeking positive and proactive candidates for Recreation Director. This part-time year-round position implements a dynamic and active program involving volunteers, committees and groups. If you would like to work for the benefit of children and enhancing program opportunities for not only children but also seniors and other citizens, this would be a great opportunity to make a difference. Application package materials are available at www.pittsfield.org. Applications will be accepted at the Pittsfield Town Office, 112 Somerset Avenue, Pittsfield, ME 04967 (487-3136) until the position is filled. EOE.

14. Celebration:

We are working on the plaque and gift for our former Town Councilor Timothy P. Nichols who served the Town as a Town Councilor from the age of 39 to the age of 63. He was the Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor for several years as well as served on many boards/committees over his terms. We hope to finalize the celebration details shortly.

15. Next Town Council Meeting:

At the next meeting on 02/01/2022, (if scheduled) we will have a public hearing on the Loan/Bond for Capital Improvements as well as authorizing the application form to be filed with the Maine Municipal Bond Bank for the Capital Improvements Loan/bond and a variety of contracts and projects.

THANKS so much. Have a Happy and Safe New Year All Year Long!

Kathryn Ruth

Town Manager