

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 06/19/2018:

1. UU Meeting House Presentation & Invitation to Participate: Holly Zadra will be attending the Town Council Meeting on July 17 to provide an update on the results of the discussion on June 15 and June 16 at the Meeting House on The Nordic Culture House Model and Design Lab.

2. I-95 North and Southbound in Pittsfield: After months of bridge work on I-95, both lanes are open. There will be periodical closures as work is finished on the three bridge projects. With the work being finished, the new Recreational Trail or Rail Trail span is open. It also looks quite large.

3. Snakeroot Bridge: MDOT has announced that the Snakeroot Bridge will be closed effective this morning for up to 56 days to rebuild the deck.

4. Primary Election: The Primaries and Referendums usually do not draw out many people. For example, the Primary on June 10, 2014 brought out 296 people. The Referendum on June 13, 2017 brought out 126. The count for June 12, 2018 was 618 voters so we were more than double the last Primary. It was good to see so many people. It was steady so that was good.

We had handouts out in the back area which is a really good way to get information to people. Of the 9 handouts everything was picked up with the new Recycling Brochures flying off the table.

5. Pittsfield Summer Recreation Program: Our Recreation programs will begin on June 25th or June 26th:

Monday, June 25 will be: Soccer, Tennis, Arts & Crafts, Cheering and Swimming Lessons for Session 1 (4 weeks). Session 2 of Swimming Lessons will start July 23 for 4 weeks.

Tuesday, June 26 will be Basketball and Field Hockey.
Golf will start on Tuesday, July 3 at JW Parks Golf Course.

We would like to thank Warsaw teacher Jenn Saucier and her class for holding a fundraiser for scholarships for students to attend Pittsfield Recreation. The students raised \$650.00 to help send students to our summer programs.

Some day camps will be announced shortly which will be very popular with the children.

6. 2018 Summer Concert Series: This will be published in the Town Manager's Report: This series starts on July 12 in Manson Park during Egg Festival week with Yellow Brick Road, an Elton John Tribute Band. The schedule includes Phat Burger Deluxe, Meghan Clark, Cold Engines, Pete Kilpatrick, Riff Johnson, Denny Breau and Studio Two, all sponsored by local businesses.

7. 2018 Egg Festival Concert Series: This will be published in the Town Manager's Report. This week includes Riff Johnson, Open Mic hosted by Riff Johnson, The Wildwoods Band, Harold J. Crosby Community Band, Sus4, Steve Dunphy, Sebasticook Valley Community Band, Paul Page, Sidney Morton and friends, Steve Dunphy and The Resistance.

8. Pittsfield Community Theatre Movie Line-up: This will be published in the Town Manager's Report.

June 15-21 BOOK CLUB PG-13: Matinee Sunday June 17 at 2 PM no evening movie

June 16 THE COKEVILLE MIRACLE PG-13: PLAYING AT 2 PM, FREE TO THE PUBLIC

June 22-28 SHOW DOGS PG; Matinee Sunday June 24 at 2 PM no evening movie;

Matinee Wednesday June 27 at 10 AM also plays at 7:30 PM

June 29-July 9 SOLO: A STAR WARS STORY PG-13; Matinee Sunday July 1& 8 at 2 PM no evening movie

9. Crosswalk Painting: Painting continues focusing on Somerset Avenue, School Street and Main Street. The new stripping machine is wonderful. That was a recommendation to the Public Works Foreman back when he arrived in Town in 2015. He wanted to review all of the equipment needs first and I am so glad that this machine was purchased this year. It seems to be using less paint, staff like it and it will be interesting to see if the paint job lasts longer.

10. Mil Rate Comparison of Pittsfield vs. Communities in the State of Maine: I reported on this at the last meeting, however, two Councilors were absent and this is a very important item. Councilors had asked for information regarding how the Town of Pittsfield's tax rate matches up with other towns. While we always talk about how high our taxes are vs. other towns in the region and similar sized communities, we had not looked over the data for a few years. Many of us hear from the citizens about how our taxes are higher than other communities in the area, which is true, and how they do not want the taxes to increase. This has led to the Town having a lean budget and everything that goes along with that including having part-time department heads, relying on part-timers and community members work on items, lots of volunteers and committees and perhaps an overreliance on grants and special revenues.

The latest available data from the State of Maine is 2016. For 2016, there were 493 towns and plantations in the Bureau of Taxation's study. I did not extract plantations as some were higher or lower than the towns and I did not want to revise the official study. All tax rates were equalized so that all towns and plantations were at 100% full value so it is apples to apples. The Town of Pittsfield has the 58th highest tax rate in the State of Maine. Therefore, our tax rate is higher than 435 towns and plantations or higher than 88.2% of the plantations and towns. This is why we have been told to hold the line over the years and have not added staff, built new buildings or had lots of capital expenditures beyond grants and special revenue. Our auditors have noted that we are highly diversified on funding sources and have one of the most complex funding setups because we do not rely solely on tax dollars for everything. That is because we cannot. Over the last 15 years we have been fortunate to have had nearly \$20 million of federal and state grants as well as special revenues and discounted loans or low-interest loans. Our yearly budget is \$1.8 million dollars. Right now, we are working on several federally funded projects and likely will be adding the complex airport hangar project.

A copy of the study is available for your review this evening or after the meeting. When the 2017 study comes out, I will report to you on it.