

[Town Manager's Report for 07/17/2018]

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 07/17/2018:

1. Commercial Insurance Program Renewal: The 2018-2019 policies came in at an increase of 4.7%. The Aviation Airport policy increased for the first year for many years coming in at an increase of \$86 or 5.5% at \$1,646. The Fine Arts Policy increased \$10 or .5%. The total increase was \$2,728 for all policies including Property, Crime, Inland Marine, Auto, General Liability, Public Officials and Management Liability, Airport and Fine Arts.

2. Water Valve Project: Valves were replaced at the corner of Hartland/George and Elm/George on July 10. The project went well with the valve at Hartland taking about 1 hour to complete. The valve at Elm/George had a lot of saturation around it so this took a lot longer. Finish work remains.

3. Water Conservation Efforts Appreciated: Town Councilors had been advised that recently the tank was not filling up as it should due to the high usage of water from the very dry summer. When the Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent contacted three large water users to request voluntary compliance with conservation efforts, all three complied. Within a couple of days, the tank was up to the usual level. All businesses that utilize a lot of water have been very helpful when asked to reduce usage. This is a rare situation; however, the summer is one of the driest in memory. The Pittsfield Water Works Terms & Conditions allow the Town to have the water usage reduced and for conservation. We would always work with the businesses so that they can also perform their work. This situation will be monitored as we are entering another dry period in August.

4. Sebasticook Road Culvert Project: Speaking of dry periods, the best time to perform work in the water such as the culvert lining and stabilization project is to conduct the work when the water levels are low. The contractor Knowles Industrial Services is working with Plymouth Engineering to try to reduce costs by reducing the amount of coffer dams used. If the water level is reduced along the Sebasticook into Mill Pond, this could assist with the overall cost of the project because the coffer dams can be less. At this point, we do not know if there would be enough reduction, if any, as we need the details worked out with the dam owners upstream of the Town and contact made with those directly downstream and then determine the cost savings. This is a brand-new development and we will keep you apprised. If all goes according to the schedule provided by the contractor, the Sebasticook Road Culvert Project will take place in early August 2018.

5. Snakeroot Bridge: MDOT has announced that the Snakeroot Bridge will be closed effective June 19th for up to 56 days to rebuild the deck. When we had called businesses in that area, we found that most of the businesses were aware of this project. We are 29 days into the project so around 27 days left or ½ of the time for the project.

6. Ladies Auxiliary Meeting: The Police Chief and I had a delightful time at the Sebasticook Valley Hospital Ladies Auxiliary on Thursday, June 21 with a presentation on several town services and an update on the Police Department including the Chief's projects and ideas for the future. The presentation was at the beginning of the meeting. I stayed for the entire meeting and was so impressed with the work and the members that I am now a member of the auxiliary. They are such a nice group and so dedicated to the hospital. I will enjoy meeting with all of the ladies.

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7. Pittsfield Summer Recreation Program: Our Recreation programs continue in their 8-week period for Soccer, Tennis, Arts & Crafts, Cheering, Basketball and Field Hockey.

Session 2 of Swimming Lessons will start July 23 for 4 weeks.

MINI Camp Week!

4 Dates · Jul 30 - Aug 2

Pittsfield Rec is happy to announce we are having a FREE Mini Camp Week--Craft Camp, Lacrosse, Tennis, Field Hockey and Soccer!! The 3 or 4 Day Camps are from July 30-August 2nd.

These camps are all free and suited for ages 8-13 years old. A registration form with parent signature and insurance info is required for participation. The forms are available at the Paul E. Bertrand Pool, the Pittsfield Town Office or from the coach on the first day of camp.

We are offering a great variety of options....check out our selections--pick one or go to all!!

Craft Camp- work on an exciting 3 day project with Teachers Lexi Caldwell and Anna Peterson Monday -Wednesday from 9:00-10:00 at Manson Park School!

Tennis Camp- Coach Johnny Buys is running a fun camp at the Manson Park Courts Tuesday-Thursday from 10:00-11:00. Rackets can be provided.

Lacrosse Camp- Mid Maine Lacrosse Coaches are providing equipment and are ready to instruct campers of all abilities at Manson Park Monday-Thursday from 11:00am-1:00pm!!

Field Hockey Camp- Meet Coach Terri Jean Wilkinson at the MCI FH Field Monday-Thursday from 1:00-3:00pm and get ready for FH season!

Soccer Camp- Boy and Girls can train for soccer season with Coaches Stacy Erving and Deedra Braley at the Manson Park Fields from 4:00-6:00pm Monday-Thursday!

Contact Pittsfield Rec for more info or to get an emailed reg form at pittsfieldrec@gmail.com.

8. 2018 Summer Concert Series: This will be published in the Town Manager's Report: This series started 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.

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

July 15-19 INCREDIBLES 2

Matinee Sunday, July 15 at 2 PM and Wednesday, July 18 at 10 AM and 7:30 PM

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July 20-26 INCREDIBLES 2

Matinee Sunday, July 22 at 2 PM and Wednesday, July 25 at 10 AM and 7:30 PM

July 27-Aug. 2 JURASSIC WORLD FALLEN KINGDOM

Matinee Sunday, July 29 at 2 PM

Aug. 3-9 ANT-MAN AND THE WASP

Matinee Sunday, Aug. 5 at 2 PM

Aug. 10-16 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIAN: SUMMER VACATION

Matinee Sunday, Aug. 12 at 2 PM

Aug. 17-23 SKYSCRAPER

Matinee Sunday, Aug 19 at 2 PM

Aug. 24-30 MAMMA MIA

Matinee Sunday, Aug. 26 at 2 PM

Aug. 31-Sept. 6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE FALLOUT

Matinee Sunday, Sept. 2 at 2 PM

10. Maine State Housing Authority New Program: Maine Housing is promoting its Mobile Home Replacement Initiative which provides an opportunity for the owner/occupant of a Pre-1976 Mobile Home to remove and replace it with a new Energy Star certified manufactured home located on the same site. This would be the combination of a MaineHousing First Home Loan and a \$30,000 MaineHousing (deferred, forgivable 0% second mortgage) grant to cover the costs of removing and dismantling the existing home and then purchasing and installed a new home. Successful applicants will need to qualify for a MaineHousing First Home Loan and to purchase the new home through a licensed Maine manufactured home dealer. More information is available at the Town Office and on the State of Maine website.

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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 lead 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.

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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.

1. Thank you to Town Council: I greatly appreciate the assistance from the Town Council for allowing me to reduce my work schedule to 40 hours per week and I really appreciate your support of this change. Obviously decreasing my time from 80-90 hours a week to 40 hours a week resulted in over a 50% decrease in time and workflow. As we discussed during the last three years, there was considerable concern in having one person attempting to cover the Town Manager's Job, Assistant Town Manager, Economic Development, Grants Administration, writing grants, all of these projects, financial reconciliations and so forth. It was quite an overload but it is hard to add positions here. I did keep up with it and we made millions of dollars. This is the first time that I have worked a regular schedule in many years. Also, I thank the Mayor for acknowledging how dedicated I am to the Town and assisting in having this change made.

2. New Position: I also thank the Town Council for the new position that was funded. I always thought getting the position approved would be the hard part but with the low unemployment, it is getting the right person that is the hard part. We heard this over and over again during the Job Fair last week. The following steps were taken during the three advertising periods: the traditional media ad, free websites postings, our website posting, postings at universities, distribution to economic development entities for posting, posting on the State of Maine JobLink Program, Skowhegan Career Center Program staff distributed it to everyone in their system, economic development people I work with sent it out to all their contacts, postings at the Job Fairs in the State, Maine Municipal Association Jobs Listing and more. After all this, we are now conducting interviews. As reported previously, the first two rounds did not have any qualified candidates and absolutely no one to interview. This last round resulted in 7 applications, we scheduled 5 interviews, 2 cancelled and 3 interviews were completed. The applications were due on May 4, 2018; the interviews were scheduled that day and took place on May 11, 2018. Interviews are also being held this week as soon as people confirm. Councilors are assisting with the interviews. In addition, I also spoke with the staffing agencies and

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asked them to report any candidates that they would have for the position and there is a process in which you hire the agency and transfer the person over to the Town, paying a finder's fee. I received no candidates from that process. I spoke with the major recruiters at the Job Fair and advised of the position and to send anyone who might be promising. No leads were provided.

We are in hopes that the interviews this week will be fruitful.

3. CIP Process for Paving Program & Major Road Repairs:

The Road program that was purchased by Public Works does not seem to be effective. It contains goggle maps and 3 categories to input for surface, drainage and signs. We will continue to look it over, but I do not see that this will add much enhancement to the CIP that we currently have. We will continue to look this program over.

4. Town Budget Process: Due to misinformation circulating about the budget process, I thought I would list the steps for everyone's knowledge. Over the years, Councilors have asked for projects to be included, Councilors have asked for items to be excluded, Councilors call to provide their thoughts on the budget goals and Additional as well as discuss their items at meetings. After everyone has their opportunity for input, the Town Council approve the entire process including budget goals. If the Town Council would like any changes let me know early on as this appears that it is going to be one interesting budget process this year.

Steps in our approved Budget Process are:

1. Discuss upcoming budget, give ideas and budget goals to Town Manager.
2. Town Manager compiles information for budget goals from Town Councilors and staff.
3. Town Council approves Budget Calendar and Goals for the Budget Development.
4. Budget forms and instructions to Department Heads, applicable staff and other entities.
5. Draft Revenue Budget compiled by Town Manager
6. Budget requests due to Town Manager's Office, including back-up
7. Town Manager/Department Head Conferences if needed
8. Revenue Budget Finalized.
9. Finance Committee reviews the Additional Requests
10. Expenditure Budget Compiled.
11. Overall finances reviewed.
12. Completed Budgets to Town Councilors, including back-up budget listing
13. Workshops begin on all of the department budgets.
14. Set public hearing on the annual budget and capital budget
15. Public Hearing held on annual budget and capital budget as part of Regular Council Meeting.
16. After review and/or amendment, budget is approved.
17. Compile and print Final Municipal Budget.
18. Final Municipal Budget Available.

7. Mosher Bridge and Sebasticook Street Culverts Project:

The projects are the repair of the Sebasticook Street Large Culverts and the repair of the abutments on the Mosher Bridge on Crawford Road. The bid specs were recently released with a deadline of Friday, June 08, 2018 at 10:00 am for bids to be received. There will be a pre-bid conference on Friday, May 18, 2018 at 10:00 am at the Pittsfield

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Town Office to review the details of the project. Contractors are encouraged to review the sites prior to the pre-bid conference.

8. George Street Water Main/Valve Project:

The Water/Sewer Department was unable to replace the George Street gate valves on the scheduled date of Thursday May 3, 2018. A key valve in the Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent’s plan would not shut down completely. The staff then tried to turn another valve off that resulted in shutting down the water to an additional area that was not notified, including a large employer. This project was shut down as the entire area had lower water pressure. Scott studied the system maps and recommends that rather than spending a lot of money on installing valves, that it would be better to shut the water off at Waverly Street. This would allow the Department to shut water off for all of Hartland Ave. including Bates, Union, Ruth and Sebacook Streets.

9. State of Maine Bridge Projects:

MDOT has advised that more bridge projects are coming our way. In addition to the three bridge projects on I-95 and the Recreational Trail Span, the Snakeroot Road bridge and the work on Mount Road decking, MDOT will also be working on the I-95 North bound bridge over Madawaska Bridge. As with the Main Street project, I advised of the activities in June for the Bicentennial and the Egg Festival in July. More information will be coming.

Other Items:

Reminder of our Great Pittsfield Community Theatre’s new Mission and Vision Statement:

MISSION STATEMENT

APRIL 2018

Pittsfield Community Theatre is a municipally owned and operated community center providing affordable quality entertainment to the Greater Pittsfield Area.

VISION STATEMENT

APRIL 2018

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The Theatre's vision is that through enhancements and upgrades that every child and their family will discover their potential to make a difference in the world.

Theatre Movie Line-Up:

May 11-17 Sherlock Gnomes **PG**

Matinee Sunday, May 13 at 2 PM no evening movie matinee Wednesday, May 16 at 10 AM also plays at 7:30 PM

May 18-24 Ready Player One **PG-13**

Matinee Sunday, May 20 at 2 PM no evening movie

May 25-31 Rampage **PG-13**

Matinee Sunday, May 27 at 2 PM no evening movie

June 1-7 Avengers: Infinity Wars **PG-13**

Matinee Sunday, June 3 at 2 PM no evening movie

Theatre Golden Ticket Sale:

Although Christmas is over with, we still have the Theatre Golden Tickets that can be a gift or even for yourself: Purchase a book of 10 Gift Certificates at \$55.00. Come and enjoy the Pittsfield Community Theatre!

Date Night at the Theatre:

WED: DATE NITE: 2 ADMISSIONS+ 2 MED FOUNTAIN DRINKS+ 1 LARGE POPCORN FOR \$18 + SENIORS \$14.

Tax Acquired Property Sale: The second TAP sale is underway for the three tax acquired properties that the prior owners did not have any interest in establishing a tax payment plan for and which need to be in the private sector in order to re-develop them. The Town is soliciting bids for the sale of the municipality's interest in tax-acquired properties. Each bid must be in writing and in a sealed envelope marked "Proposal - Tax Acquired Property" and "Parcel #___" on the exterior and addressed to the Town of Pittsfield. Each bid is to be for one property only; individuals wishing to bid on two or more of the parcels must submit a separate bid for each one in a separate envelope. Please mark the envelope with the parcel #. All bids must be received at the Pittsfield Town Office, Attention Deputy Tax Collector, 112 Somerset Avenue, Pittsfield, ME 04967-1432 by April 23, 2014 at 11:00 a.m., at which time they will be publicly opened. Late bids will not be opened or considered.

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A certified check, bank money order, or postal money order in an amount not less than twenty percent (20%) of the quotation price, shall be included as a deposit on the quoted price. Also included, the proposer's name, mailing address and daytime phone number; a narrative statement as to what the proposer intends to do with the property and within what time frame. Failure to submit the narrative statement or the deposit shall cause the quotation to be automatically rejected.

The properties for sale are described on the Town's tax maps and minimum bids are required:

<u>Parcel</u>	<u>Parcel Description</u>	<u>Minimum Bid</u>	<u>Partial Description</u>
1	Map 23, Lot 56	\$6,000.00	Land only, +/- 0.38 acres
2	Map 25, Lot 68	\$8,500.00	Building & Land, +/- 0.20 acres
3	Map 29, Lot 25	\$8,000.00	Building & Land, +/- 0.47 acres

The tax maps and other public information concerning the properties may be viewed at the Town Office during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Monday through Friday or by calling (207) 487-3136. Please visit Pittsfield's website for more details: www.pittsfield.org.

This is the second bid and the amounts requested cover the town's costs (taxes, interest, costs, legal, transfer tax and recording fees, etc.)

Somerset County Budget Committee: A few minutes ago, Somerset County advised the Town of a Budget Meeting being held on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the Hartland Town Hall to caucus and fill a vacant position on the Budget Committee for District 3. This is the seat previously held by Donald Harriman from the Town of Palmyra, who was not returned to office. Pittsfield is in District 3 along with Canaan, Detroit, Hartland and Palmyra.

Central Maine Egg Festival: The Central Maine Egg Festival is seeking members for their Board of Directors. The Officers were chosen in 2013 and now the group needs to vote in members for several director positions as well as fill vacancies for committee chairs. Our February meeting was re-scheduling several times due to storms and conflicts. The regular March meeting took place with the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2014. All of the volunteer organizations will be invited to the meeting in order to participate and share ideas.

The Central Maine Egg Festival will be held Monday, July 14, 2014 – Saturday, July 19, 2014.

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Airport 2014-2018 Capital Improvement Plan: MDOT has released the joint Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Bureau of Planning (BP) Airport Capital Plan (ACIP). The following projects are listed:

2014	Airport Master Plan Update (including Wildlife Hazard Site Plan)	\$150,000
2021	No project	
2022	Environmental Assessment & Permitting for T-Hanger	\$100,000
2023	8-Bay Nested T-Hangar	\$420,000
2024	Perimeter Fencing	\$166,000

These are the planned projects to meet state and federal requirements as well as to provide for the hangar requested by the Town. The Town is required to update its airport master plan which should be done as it is over 10 years old and may be required to have perimeter fencing. The hangar is needed as individuals/companies have been interested in hangar space and the Airport hangars are all full. Having a hangar that is owned by the Town would allow airplane owners to operate from the Pittsfield Municipal Airport and/or store their planes inside. It would increase the economic impact and opportunities at the Airport. Currently, to develop hangar space, a lease is required with the Town, DEP permitting is required, Planning Board Site Plan Review takes place and regular building, plumbing, and utility permits, if water and sewer are available, need to be issued. Having the hangar already built and permitted already done would be a great asset for development of the airport. Funding from the FAA and MDOT are not guaranteed and projects may be moved back based upon the number of grant applications received and funding available.

Upcoming Agenda Items: SAD #53 is interested in scheduling its annual meeting with the Town Council. Several dates have not worked as of yet due to scheduling, however, the Town Council's Regularly Scheduled Meeting on April 01, 2014 looks like a good date for the School.

Pittsfield Library Program:

The next Pittsfield Public Library program is "Do-It-Yourself Funerals" and book discussion in Pittsfield – 5:00 Thursday, March 13 was re-scheduled to Thursday, March 20 at the First Universalist Church of Pittsfield. The second of the four-part "The Last Word: An End of Life Book Discussion Series" series will begin with a discussion of "Without", a book of poems by Donald Hall followed a talk about alternative funerals. Natural-burial and home-funeral advocate Chuck Lakin is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis who later earned a master's degree in library science and served as the Colby College reference librarian for 22 years. He got started building wooden coffins when his woodworking interests merged with his belief in natural burials and his work as a Hospice volunteer.

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This program is sponsored by the Pittsfield Public Library and the Mid-Maine Community Forum with a grant from the Maine Humanities Council. For more information, please call the library at 487-5880.

Town Farm Lot Forest Management Plan: This project was going to begin this month to plan out a project for this year. The Trail Map data is not yet plotted for the communities for the HealthySV/Chamber of Commerce Project. When that lot is plotted with the GPS coordinates that were obtained by volunteers, we can provide this information to the Forester Mr. Gettle, who noted he would lay that map on his map of cutting areas free of charge so we could see what we have. Then once we have everything laid out, the Town would hold some public sessions and also meet with all the various town boards/committees to update them. Therefore, this project will start when we have the trail map. HealthSV is talking with the mapper to see if he will map out this lot ahead of the others so we can start this project.

Effect of the State Budget and Revenue revisions for all Municipalities:

To date, we have learned that the Town of Pittsfield is one of the top 50 towns in the State to lose the largest percentage of revenue sharing. The average loss for 2013-2014 is 33%. The Town of Pittsfield is now projected to lose 39.69% or rounded to 40.0% of its State Revenue Sharing. Fortunately, the Town is in the middle of the budget period and has had good collections to date. However, it is going to be difficult to address this. The expected loss for 2013-2014 is now \$147,782. There has been very little spending taking place – just necessities, maintenance and addressing emergencies. The budget is conservative anyway and we have one of, if not the lowest municipal budget for a town in our size category in the State of Maine as it is. The next budget period will be very difficult as we would be unable to find \$147,782 in the Town budget to cut. We will continue to monitor the situation and see how July proceeds.

Boston Post Cane Presentation: Persis Smith will be receiving the Boston Post Cane for being the oldest living resident in the Town of Pittsfield. Persis resides at the Pittsfield Rehab and Nursing Facility where she will be receiving this honor on Friday, July 19, 2013 at 3:00 pm in the main dining room. The Historical Society has had a cane made for the Town to replace the one lost many years ago and will be presenting it to Persis. The cane will then be displayed at the Town Office with Persis receiving a certificate or plaque to remember the event by.

The LC Bates Museum presents "Fascinating Fossils" on Thursday, July 11 at 1:30 in the Warren Community Room. Participants will learn how fossils form and have an opportunity to examine the museum's fossil collection, including Maine State fossils and dinosaur fossils. This family program is for all ages, but pre-registration is required. Contact the library at 487-5880 to register for programs or for more information.

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Pittsfield Public Library is pleased to announce that the Darling's Ice Cream for a Cause ice cream truck will be at the library. The event will be held Thursday, July 18 from 4:00 – 6:00 prior to the Central Maine Egg Festival Kiddie Parade. The truck gives out ice cream for free, in exchange for voluntary donations to benefit Pittsfield Friends of the Library. The Friends of the Pittsfield Public Library support the library through fund raising and volunteering at the library. They help by improving services, increasing resources, providing special programs special programs, and aiding in the maintenance of the library building and grounds. They welcome new members to help promote the library's role in the community. Darling's Ice Cream for a Cause was designed as a fun way to give back to local communities and causes. The truck attends local events to give out ice cream for free, in exchange for voluntary donations to benefit the cause or charity. In 2012, the truck raised over \$20,000 for over 100 causes.

Judging the Quiche, Cheesecake and Pie Contest: The Town Councilors will be judging the Quiche and Cheesecake Contest on Friday, July 19, 2013 at the Seabasticook Valley Elks Lodge beginning at 11:00 am. The Councilors that can attend that day should arrive at 11:00 am. The Town Manager will remind the Councilors next week about the event.

Bin Sale:

PITTSFIELD EARTH DAY AND RE-USE CELEBRATION: BACKYARD COMPOST BIN SALE

To celebrate re-use in the community and Earth Day, the Town of Pittsfield is part of a statewide backyard composting bin sale. A home compost bin and how-to-guide with a combined retail value over \$100 can be purchased for only \$45.00 (tax included). The bin is black, has a 10-year warranty, and is made of 100% recycled plastic. It's approximately 35" high and 33" wide, or large enough for a family of five. **The Town has 20 composters available for sale, each at \$45.00.**

The Town also has

34 Wingdiggers: The **wing digger compost turner is available for a discounted price of \$17.00 each;**

8 Reotemp Backyard Compost Thermometer: has a 20" stem for \$18.50 each;

8 Rain Barrels: This is the SYSTERN Rain Barrel with a 55-gallon capacity for the discounted price of \$56.50

It is estimated that 25% of the average household's waste consists of kitchen scraps and yard trimmings which can be easily composted. Pittsfield residents can save \$54.12 for every ton of waste they compost rather than placing the material in with their garbage that is shipped out of town for disposal.

Pittsfield's recycling rate for 2011 was 62%. The 2012 rates have not yet been announced by the State. Let's keep working at our recycling rate and boost it even more while helping our gardens grow!

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Walking Maps & Promotion: HealthySV, the regional HealthyMaine partnership and the Seabasticook Valley Chamber of Commerce joined with the Town to work on walking maps for the area. This project will be utilized for physical exercise, tourism and to promote walks such as the 4/20 walk. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, 04/23/2013 from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm to discuss the trail map project and the Chamber's RRR promotional project and how all the towns can help. Councilor Chale attended. We had representatives from 5 towns and have picked up 2 more towns from separate individual meetings. There will be a GPS training on 05/23/2013 in the afternoon for those individuals who will be providing the details on the trails here in Town. If you know of a recreational enthusiastic who you believe would like to help the Town map these trails, please contact Kathryn Ruth, Town Manager at 487-3136.

2012 Consumer Confidence Reports: The Town's 2012 Annual Water Quality Report was distributed this year through the Rolling Thunder as an insert. Copies of the report are also available at the Town Office.

Upcoming Town Council Meetings: The next Town Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 09, 2013 and then on August 6, 2013 at 6:30 pm.

Mention other items

Egg Festival News: The 40th Anniversary Egg Festival - Art Show at the Pittsfield Public Library: Call for Entries: Open Invitational Juried Art Exhibit at the Pittsfield Public Library during the Central Maine Egg Festival. The Pittsfield Public Library is holding its third annual art show and would like to invite local artists to participate by submitting original to be shared with the community. Open to all artistic media -- painting, drawing, printmaking, fiber, sculpture, photography; with 16 x 20 being the largest framed piece we can exhibit. We will be accepting digital photos of all submissions, either emailed to the library (bat@pittsfield.lib.me.us) or you can send a cd with your photo(s) to the Pittsfield Public Library, 110 Library St., Pittsfield, ME, 04967. The deadline is July 2nd. Artists will be notified by July 9th if their submission will be exhibited. Set up for the art show will be Monday, July 23 from 2:00 – 4:00. An artist's reception will be held Tuesday, July 24 from 3:00 – 5:00. For more information, please call the library at 487-5880.

Egg Festival News: The 40th Anniversary Egg Festival – Cheesecake, Quiche and Pie Contest: Calling all cooks – self- taught or taking classes? The annual Cheesecake, Quiche and Pie Contest will be held July 20th at the Pittsfield Elks Lodge, 140 Middle Street Pittsfield. The fee is \$1.00 per entry and the entry must be submitted by 10:30 that morning. If you need to drop off your entry early in the morning, please bring it to the Town Office after 8:00 a.m. Registration forms are available at the Pittsfield Town Office and on line at www.pittsfield.org. The rules are simple: Each recipe must include 3 eggs and must be made from “scratch”. All entrants must be Maine residents and be 16 years or older. Please see the registration form for more details. Judging will be on appearance, taste, over all impression and creativity. Prizes will be awarded in each category and have been donated by our wonderful sponsors: Anglers Seafood

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Restaurant, C Jones Floral, Jazz Hair Salon, Oz Hair Salon, and Pizza Hut. For more information, please contact the Town Office at 487-3136.

Safety Committee Meeting – last one before the Summer Break will be held on Thursday, June 21, 2012 at which we will discuss a number of items including emergency vehicle driver certification, accident-reporting procedures for all department heads, storage and labeling of chemicals under our hazard communication plan and an upcoming dam and flood drill for compliance with the NIMS guidelines.

MDOT restrictions on Bridge – MDOT will be coming into Town on 07/02/2012 to start the work on the Peltoma Bridge past the Transfer Station. The lane will be reduced to 10' wide for the crew to be able to work on the bridge. MDOT is going to try to keep the unofficial boat launch area open if someone wants to use it. We have contact information for the Plymouth Office which the crew is from.

Natural Gas – Summit Utilities has filed to purchase the small KV Gas company that has been acquiring Tax Increment Financing arrangements with Towns along the Kennebec River. We had previously talked to Kennebec Valley Gas and due to our location up here away from the line that was proposed along the Kennebec River, we were not remotely close to the proposed project. We are still in the same location, however, I have requested the contact information on the Summit Utilities personnel who will be working with the Kennebec River towns to determine if there is a chance that the company would consider looking this far north. The company has resources and has operated natural gas utilities before in two states out north so they have the experience and the financial background.

2011 Consumer Confidence Report for Water: The 2011 report was issued and distributed to customers and others through the Rolling Thunder as an insert. This is a very inexpensive method to get the information to people. When we used to mail them as a tri fold, which was expensive, they were thrown away with the junk mail. We then used an ad in the weekly. Now, we are trying this form of distribution as well as having copies around town.

New Recreation Programming: New programs has been set up as follows:

USA Track and Field Program

5th & 6th Grade Summer 7 on 7 Opportunity (in addition to Fall Football signups)

Summer 2012 Softball Free Clinics

Summer Reading Fun at the Pittsfield Public Library: READ

New Reserve Officers: The Police Department has advertised for new reserve officers as a few officers resigned or can not work very much as this is their second or third job.

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The Town need coverage of shifts and we need to have more people on prior to the Egg Festival and Fly-in. The two new officers are Alex Burns of Norridgewock who has the reerve academy certficiation and Henry Ouellette from Newport, who was sponsored by the PD to attend the reserve academy a few months ago.

Thank You Card from the Pittsfield Seniors Club: READ thank you card received 06/19/2012.

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.

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

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 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.

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. As the sewer rate has increased as of 07/01/2011 due to the required sludge removal project to \$7.25/1,000 valuation, we will watch the next survey to determine how the Town's sewer rate matches up to the average State-wide rate.

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

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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.

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