

## **Community and Economic Development Activities and Events**

### *Report on Meetings & Events:*

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Trade Show and Community Fair for the Seabasticook Valley Chamber of Commerce was held on Saturday, 05/02/2009. We had 50 vendors. The Warsaw School Gym was full. The Cafeteria space was well utilized with crafters, the Theatre Fundraising Group and lunch. Evolo held 2 free training sessions on wind and solar alternatives for the home and business. The UMO Cooperative Extension provided two individuals who were earning their Smart Gardener certification. Mark Sheriff provided trainings on growing and pruning fruit trees and Betsy Doane provided materials on all aspects of gardening.

I have been advised that admissions were higher than 2008 and 2007. There were a lot of families with children who stayed for most of the day and we received a lot of thank yous for holding the event.

### *Upcoming Meetings & Events:*

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting on Thursday, 05/07/2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the Seabasticook Valley Chamber Building in Palmyra to set up committees to work on the 4 projects identified at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Leadership Forum.

Regional Job Fair for Somerset County, sponsored by the Somerset County Transition Team and the Town of Pittsfield on Wednesday, 05/27/2009 from 3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Warsaw School Gym and Cafeteria. We have wonderful news – a media sponsorship by the Employment Times to help get the word out worth over \$2,600.

The Paul E. Bertrand Community Pool Complex Grand Opening is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 10:00 am at the Complex. We are working on the program for the event – speeches, certificates for the in-kind donations from the contractors, unveiling of the memorial plaques, tour of the facility and the Big Splash.

4. **PUBLIC HEARINGS/OLD BUSINESS:**
5. **REPORTS: TOWN MANAGER, FINANCE, ORDINANCE & RECYCLING COMMITTEES:**

### **Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 05/05/2009:**

1. **The FYI Folder:** The FYI Book contains the following items this week: SEE LIST
2. **Paul E. Bertrand Community Pool Fundraiser:** We are on the home stretch. The 04/25/2009 Spaghetti Dinner was a hit. We raised over \$800 and the Student Center was packed.
3. **Theatre Restoration/Renovations Fundraiser:** Notice Read
4. **Pittsfield Public Library Fundraiser:** Notice Read
5. **Pittsfield Fireman's Supper:** Notice Read

**6. Driftbusters Snowmobile Club Dinner to Thank Everyone:** Notice Read

**7. Sweeping Schedule:** The sweeper is back in commission and making its way around.

**8. Census 2010:** Notice Read

**9. Town Revenues and Expenditures:** Town Revenues continue coming in very slowly and are below expected limits, even though we lowered revenue estimates significantly. Excise Tax is now running \$13,360.53 behind last year's statistics and State Revenue Sharing is running at \$33,873.40 behind last year's statistics. We are on an unofficial budget freeze. We have no extras so this really is not affecting spending. So we need to start thinking of other cost savings methods or items beyond everything that we have done the last few years. We already have one of the lowest municipal budgets in the State of Maine for our population size. At this point, I have not brought in the paving RFP as this would be a large chunk of the budget that could be utilized to offset the low revenue receipts (\$52,640 from taxes)

**10. H1N1 Virus commonly called the swine flu:** The Town prepared materials from the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention Site last week for distribution to the employees. We also provided for the public The Flu Planning Checklist for Individuals and Families as well as the Business Checklist. We are monitoring the State Site and receiving information from the County, under which we would operate for a Plan of Action as well as our Emergency Plan.

**11. Property and Casualty Insurance for 2009-2010:** Lehr Insurance has requested to quote for the Town's insurance program, which is coming up – specifically the property and casualty insurance program. Currently, we are in MMA. More information will be available later in May 2009 as the Policy comes up for renewal for July 1, 2009.

**12. Notice of Public Sale:** A local contractor, Merlon LaSalle, was the successful bidder for the property at 214 Somerset Avenue. Mr. LaSalle plans to renovate the building into a home. It is a purchase and sales agreement so he is performing his due diligence now.

**13. Pittsfield Water and Sewer Users Very Important Survey:** As a utility user in the Town of Pittsfield, you will receive a very important survey in the mail. Olver Associates, an engineering firm, will be tabulating the results. The Town is planning improvements to our older infrastructure. Many grant programs or low interest loan programs require that the Town conduct an income survey of utility users. We ask that anyone who has not yet returned the survey to do so by mail or in person. The survey and its results are very important to the future of the Town and our ability to upgrade the water and/or sewer system. Any questions, please contact the Pittsfield Town Office (487-3136). Thank you so much for completing this survey. We are starting to go out door to door now to collect the surveys so sending the survey back will save the Town money and time and save you time.

**14. Farmshare Program:** Seniors who qualify can receive up to \$50 in free local produce during the summer growing season. This is a partnership between the Maine Department of Agriculture and farmers throughout Maine. The State is now accepting applications. We will put a link to the program on our website and obtain some written information.

**15. Pittsfield Farmers' Market:** The Farmers Market at Hathorn Park opened this week and is available Mondays and Thursday from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm until October 29, 2009.

**16. Additions and Alterations to the Pittsfield Public Library:** Bids are due on Friday, 05/08/2009 at 3:00 p.m. for this project. The Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference was held on Wednesday, April 22, 2009. 24 groups attended which included subs. From review, it appears that 8 general contractors attended the session so this was very good interest.

**Finance Committee:** No Report

**Ordinance Committee:** No Report

**Recycling Committee:** No Report

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. ***RESOLUTION 09-59:*** Resolved that the Town Council ratify the Town Manager's signature on the cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the Brownfields Cleanup Grant for the Mount Road Property (formerly known as Eelwier Road property) to amend the cooperative agreement federal share from \$40,000 by \$70,000 to \$110,000, increasing the total project to \$132,000.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** that Resolution 09-59 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted this issue was discussed at the last Council Meeting as the grant application had been received the day before and needed to be sent back in a very short period of time. By consensus, it was agreed that we would ratify the Town Manager's signature at the next meeting.

The original grant to clean out all the contaminants was for \$40,000. The Town's match on top of that was \$8,000 for a total project of \$48,000. The Town was going to advertise the property, which then would have no contaminants for sale.

EPA, DEP, the Consultant and the Town discussed the project at the Kick-Off Meeting. It was recommended that with the large building there, a pipe that was discovered under the building which we do not know where it goes and the economic conditions, that the Town should seek assistance for funding to take down the building. Rather than deal with this over the next 1-2 years, do the whole project at once. We wrote the paperwork and were awarded another grant.

Rather than have paperwork for 2 grants, the EPA is combining this all under 1 amended grant.

We are adding \$70,000 in federal funding for a total of \$110,000 in federal funding. We are adding \$14,000 in local match for a total of \$22,000 in local match, most of which is PW force account labor and equipment use. The entire project is for \$132,000.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**