

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 08/07/2007:

1. The FYI Folder: The FYI Book contains the following items this week: Read List

2. New E-911 Address: In order to update your new E-911 address in the Verizon Telephone Directory, you can call 1-800-585-4466 and press "O" for an operator. We have been told that there is no charge for this service. This information has been added to the Town's website.

3. Important Information Regarding Telephone Scam: There is a scam that is being seen more and more in the State. People are receiving phone calls from individuals identifying themselves as an AT&T Service Technician conducting a test on telephone lines. The caller states to complete the test to touch 9, 0, the pound sign # and then hang up. The Telephone company has confirmed that by pushing 90# you are providing the requesting individual full access to your telephone line which enables them to place long distance calls billed to your phone number. Do not press 90#.

4. 2007 Tax Bills: The 2007 tax bills have been sent out in the mail. Taxes are due on Friday, October 19, 2007 and cover the period of January – December, 2007. The mil rate is \$21.80 which is a decrease of .70 of a mil or 3.1%.

The Town lost \$8,007,520 in personal property tax value
We gained \$5,344,952 in real estate from new buildings and additions
Net loss in valuation of \$2,662,568.

We were very fortunate that the School received additional funding through the property tax law LD #1 and passed this along to the communities through a lowered assessment. In addition, we were fortunate that the Town received \$110,892 more in State Revenue Sharing and appropriated this toward the 2007 Commitment.

The State Law provides Homstead Exemptions for individuals who reside in their homes. As our community's values are at 72.6% of market value, the Homstead exemption is at \$9,438.

Therefore, the property tax on residences which have Homstead Exemptions in most cases will have increased a few dollars because the certified ratio dropped quite a bit.

The property tax on residences where people did not have a homstead exemption, businesses, apartment buildings, second homes, parcels that are just land, parcels with buildings that are not residences, camps that are second homes, new homebuyers, people who have not applied for their exemption despite notifications, etc. which do not have a Homstead Exemption are a straight multiplication of the rate times the value. As the mil rate went down, these tax bills will go down a little bit unless work was done to the property.

Which considering losing \$8 million in personal property and having a 31.4% increase in the County Tax, this is good.

As an interesting fact, because our valuations are now at 72.6% of full market value, this means that our mil rate which is \$21.80/\$1,000 would actually be \$15.83/\$1,000 if it was at 100% and values were at 100%.

5. Downtown Municipal Parking Lot Work: Beginning the week of 08/13/2007, weather

permitting, the Pittsfield Highway Department will be making repairs to the Downtown Municipal Parking Lot. As the crew will be cutting and repairing the pavement, small sections of the parking lot will be closed at a time. This work is being done to preserve the parking lot.

Today, the Highway Department cut and repaired the pavement on Central Street by where the Farmers Market is located. Tomorrow, weather permitting, they plan to work on the pavement on the other side of Hathorn Park by the housing project.

6. Pittsfield Public Library Programming: The Final Summer Program will be on Tuesday, 08/14/2007 at 6:00 pm. The Milkweed Puppet Theater will present “The Elves and the Shoemaker”. To celebrate all the reading the children have accomplished, there will be ice cream cones. Also on this night there will be the drawing for the winner of Ike, the mascot dog that visited six businesses in town while the children had to follow clues to find him. All “Get a Clue” participants will receive a free book that can be picked up at the library.

7. Board Vacancies: We have three vacancies on town boards as follows: 2 on the Board of Appeals (resignation from Stanley Short and Jasper’s passing) and 1 on the Recycling Committee (Scott Millett resigned from the church and moved out of town). We will start advertising these committee positions shortly.

8. School District Reorganization Planning Committee Meeting: The meeting on 08/01/2007 was very interesting and well attended. The next meeting will be 08/15/2007. Items on the agenda will include follow-up and to make recommendations on the Notice of Intent that must be filed by 08/31/2007 with the Department of Education for the school units SAD #53 is interested in working with for reorganization. In addition, we have the opportunity to appoint a representative from the Town government to serve on the Local Reorganization Planning Committee. This committee is going to be responsible for shaping the new district we will belong to so this is a very important project. We could have the Mayor appoint the representative.

9. Water Meter Replacement and AMR System Presentation: We had a presentation from the two lowest cost options for this project in July. Each presentation takes about 1 hour. Would the Town Councilors be interested in a presentation one evening next week or during the day next week from the two lowest bidders or receive a recommendation from the Water/Sewer Assistant Superintendent for the purchase?

10. Moses Martin Re-dedication of the First Homstead: The re-dedication ceremony was held on Saturday, 08/04/2007 by the Pittsfield Historical Society and the Maine State Organization Daughters of the American Revolution. This was a very nice event and well attended. We received a beautiful bronze plaque to place at the Homstead. The homstead site has been cleaned up and there is a path to it now as part of the preservation efforts. The Town is fortunate to own the Peltoma property where the Town Farm and the first Homstead are located. This property also houses the Police Shooting range on the opposite side of the property. For everyone’s protection, the site will remain gated. The Historical Society will coordinate with the Town and Police Department to schedule tours of the first Homstead, most likely during the Spring and late Summer/early Fall prior to Hunting Season.

Saved for future Town Manager Reports:

1. Town Maps: The new In-Town and Rural Routes E-911 Road maps are now on the Town's website on the front page under News. They can be downloaded and will print on 8 ½ X 11 paper so they can be printed out at peoples' homes or businesses now.

2. Historical Society Project: The Pittsfield Historical Society is looking for volunteers and donations to assist them with rebuilding the cupola at the caboose and painting the caboose. The caboose needs to be re-painted after the vandalism. In order to paint the caboose, the wooden cupola needs to be rebuilt. Anyone who has carpentry skill would be welcome at the Pittsfield Historical Society to assist them with this very important project which will then allow the painting to take place. They have one volunteer at this time. More are welcome. Anyone who would like to donate or would like more information, please contact Tom Brown at 487-4926 or Clem Spencer at 487-2408.

3. Pittsfield Farmers' Market: Rain or shine all Summer and Fall, the Pittsfield Farmers' Market will be in Hathorn Park until November 1 every Monday & Thursday from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm. We have new brochures at the Town Office for anyone who is interested.

4. E-911 Implementation: E-911 matches a physical address with a telephone number and this information is displayed on a computer screen to dispatchers. With each letter, the Town opted to purchase and enclose numbers to be placed on everyone's houses and businesses. All numbers are supposed to be up on 05/01/2007, on homes or mailboxes if your house is away from the road. We need your new numbers up so that Public Safety can find you as well as to help the post office, delivery companies and visitors. Remember, the Post Office will deliver your mail up to 1 year from the date of your notification, so you have time to use up your checks, letterhead, etc. With your next order, just order the items with your new address. Copies of the new two-sided map with an urban in-town map and a country roads map is available at the Town Office and Library. More and more people have their numbers up. If your numbers are not up, please put them up. If you have lost your numbers, we have extras available at the Town Office until they run out.

5. Reminder for police issues: If there is an emergency, call 911. If you are calling in a police complaint, please call the regular police number of 487-3101 and relay the issue. The Police voice mails should not be used for filing police complaints. With a rotating schedule and days off, it may be 2 or more days for a police officer to check their voice mail. Complaints need to be answered right off so they can not be left on the officers' voice mail.

6. Water/Sewer Services: With over 60 miles of water and sewer pipes and approximately 700 gate boxes, 1400 service boxes, 500 manholes and 10 sewer cleanouts, the Water and Sewer Department can be kept quite busy. If anyone notices a manhole or box sunken or heaved in the roadway, please call Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent Scott Noble at the Water/Sewer Garage at 487-5203 listing the road and approximate location. With literally hundreds of these items in the roadway and the difficult winters we are having now, a few of them are going to shift out of place.

7. Recycling & Environmental Dates:

Dates	Make A Difference Day	4th Saturday in October Set Nationally each year
Saturday, 10/27/2007*	Trash to Treasure Day	Established locally to Match Make A Difference Day Activities
Wednesday, 11/08/2007 - 11/15/2007	National Recycling "Maine Recycles	Set each year

*Trash to Treasure Days: In case of inclement weather on the scheduled date, the day long event will be held the following Saturday (11/03/2007 for the Fall date).