

and the new Appendices A, B, and C be adopted to reflect the revised maximums for the period of October 1, 2009 to October 1, 2010.

No one wished to speak in favor or against Ordinance 09-19. Public Hearing closed.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Councilor Fotter** that Ordinance 09-19 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted each year the Maine Municipal Association reviews the General Assistance charts which provide maximums for support of qualifying applicants who require assistance. If costs for services have gone up around the State or in particular areas of the State, increases will be required for assistance maximums.

For the period of October 1, 2009 – October 1, 2010 there are increases proposed for:
Maximum GA limits allowed, Food, Monthly Rent

There were no increases proposed for: Electricity, Electric Heat, Heating Fuel, Personal Care & Household Supplies, Supplement for Households with Children under 5

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

5. **REPORTS: TOWN MANAGER, FINANCE, ORDINANCE & RECYCLING COMMITTEES:**

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 10/20/2009:

1. Tax Bills for 2009 due on Friday, 10/16/2009: Tax bills were issued last month after Somerset County was able to issue their assessment to the Town. The mil rate is \$16.30 and the Town is at 95% of valuation. The Town was below 70% of market value and was required to increase values, which then lowers the mil rate. The factoring itself does not change taxes, it increases and decreases in budgets and valuation. The Town lost over \$8.4 million dollars in personal property assessment when several of the Town's largest personal property taxpayers reduced the amount of equipment they maintain in Town and the Maine legislature exempted most new business personal property from taxation.

2. New Hours of Operation for the Pittsfield Recycling & Transfer Station: Effective the week of October 11, 2009 the scheduled hours for the facility were Tuesday – Saturday from 8:00 am – 6:00 pm. The facility will be closed on Sunday and Monday. The new schedule goes into effect to reduce operating expenses as the facility has been in operation for seven days a week.

3. Board/Committee Terms expiring this year: Are you interested in one of these following areas? Airport, appeals; assessment Review; Ethics; Health; Cemetery; Economic Development Team; Housing Rehabilitation Loan Fund; Library; Parks & Recreation; Personnel Appeals; Pinnacle Park; Planning Board; Pool; Recycling; and Theatre. Please contact Nicole, Town Clerk at the Town Office 487-3136 if you are interested in one of these positions on or by November 20, 2009.

4. Census 2010: Remember that Census workers are out collecting information in the community. The individuals should have signs on their vehicle and proper Census identification.

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

6. Pinnacle Upcoming Events: Read Schedule of Events.

7. Make A Difference Day: The Town of Pittsfield encourages all citizens to join with the Nation in volunteering on Make A Difference Day which is Saturday, October 24, 2009. Help your neighbor, help a senior citizen, volunteer at recreational facilities and parks or volunteer at home to do a project. This is also one of our two annual Trash to Treasure Days in the community to be held from dawn to dusk

Finance Committee: Met earlier tonight. The cemetery fund was reviewed. This fund has gone up. The current status of the Town collection of excise tax was also discussed.

Ordinance Committee: No Report.

Recycling Committee: Met on 10/07/2009. Discussed a couple different matters to do with reuse items. Discussed the possibility of having a reuse center.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **ORDER 09-16:** Ordered that the Town Council hereby approves the creation of a Sludge Removal Reserve and be it further Ordered that the sewer rate fee be increased from \$3.25 per 1,000 gallons to \$4.75 per 1,000 gallons effective November 1, 2009 to begin to fund the expenses for Sludge Removal.

Moved by **Councilor Curtis** and seconded by **Councilor Chale** that Order 09-16 be adopted.

Town Manager noted for a long time, the Town of Pittsfield had the lowest sewer rate in the State of Maine. Until January 01, 2009, we had been advised that Monson had the lowest rate, however, it was involved in a rate increase at that time.

The sewer rate was increased to \$3.25 per 1,000 gallons effective January 1, 2009 to fund the 2009 budget. Sewer revenues are down significantly regardless of the rate increase as businesses and individuals have been using less water due to the economy.

If the Town could put off the borrowing of up to \$1.9 million dollars estimated to be needed to clean out Lagoon #1, that would be good due to the economy. However, the Town has 30 years of sludge built up in just one Lagoon and needs to push forward to protect the system and to ensure the quality of the system so that it will work for future decades. The quality of the system is less due to the build up and will continue to deteriorate. Part of this project will be to set in motion a plan to clean out the Lagoon every 5 years or on some regular basis.

The Town Attorney recommends that the Town establish a Sludge Removal Reserve in the 2010 budget. The Town Auditor had recommended that the Town establish a Sewer Restoration Reserve, however, the rate has been too low to raise additional funding to start fixing the older sewer lines.

If the Town borrows up to \$1.9 million for the sludge removal, the first year's worth of principal and interest payment at the last issuance by the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (MMBB) would be