

Moved by **Councilor Fotter** and seconded by **Councilor Baker** that Ordinance 09-23 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Town traditionally transfers funds at the end of the year so that a few department budgets are not overexpended. Over the years, we have had less transfers even though budgets have become tighter and tighter.

This year, the transfer process is being used to balance the budget at the end of the year. The budget shortfall is in the revenue collections. There are no expense budgets overdrafted.

The Town continues to run behind schedule on revenue collections, which have not followed any usual trends during the last 10 months. The Town has attempted to save over \$90,000 from the budget by cutting back on projects, cutting out projects, no equipment purchases, people donating travel, less postage and notices, not paying subscriptions or memberships and many more items on the two page listing that the Town Council received. In addition, all other regular accounts are frozen, however, these are maintenance accounts, which cannot be guaranteed as emergencies, breakdowns and unexpected costs need to be addressed.

Back in September, we decided to freeze all capital balances in the budget and review them in December 2009. Normally, these funds would be forwarded to the capital reserves at the end of the year to save them toward future projects. As the economy has not jumped back, it is prudent for the Town to place these funds against the actual town budget. The Town is very revenue dependent as we have many revenue accounts in addition to taxes, we have been dealing with slow revenue collections for nearly all revenue accounts.

To summarize, all cuts were already made to the budget in an attempt to net as much as \$90,000. Any further cuts to the budget will result in service problems. We have one of the lowest budgets in the State of Maine for a community of our size and one of the lowest number of staff members. Departments are running at any all time low in terms of personnel and work is backed up. We are also trying to do much more than the town has done 10 or 15 years ago from review of the Town Council records. We are a very good example of a community doing a lot more on a lot less.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

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

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 12/01/2009:

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

2. The Welcome Table: The Welcome Table is open from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm every Friday at the First Universalist Church in the Community Hall at 6 Easy Street. This is a local program staffed and funded by volunteers whose mission is to provide a warm place to gather, socialize

and share a hot meal. Games, puzzles and cards are always available. The meals for December will be provided by the following volunteers:

December 4th – Kleinschmidt Associates

December 11th – Blue Women

December 18th – GE Security

December 25th – to be determined if opening that day

January 1st – The Welcome Table Volunteers

All are invited to attend. For further information, please call Trudy Ferland at 487-6523.

3. Holiday Concert: There will be a holiday concert held on Sunday, December 6th at 2:00 pm at the First Universalist Church on Easy Street. The Easy Street Singers and the Quintessential Winds will be performing. There is no admission charge, however, donations will be gratefully accepted. Refreshments will be served after the performance.

4. Sebasticook Valley Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast:

The SVCC networking event is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8th from 7:00 am to 8:30 am at the Masonic Lodge at 138 Hamilton Terrace right off Route #152 by the JW Parks Golf Course. The speaker will be Peter Vigue, Chairman, President and CEO of The Cianbro Companies speaking on the economic conditions of Maine. The menu includes coffee, juice, scrambled eggs, muffins, sausage and bacon. The cost per individual is \$7.00. The Eastern Star will be catering and they are really good cooks. RSVP to the Chamber at 368-4698 as soon as possible.

5. 2009-2010 Winter Season at The Pinnacle: The Club's Purpose is to:

- a. To Promote skiing for children and adults;
- b. To Encourage greater interest in skiing in the surrounding communities;
- c. To Conduct a ski school, equipment sales and social events;
- d. To promote other snow sports and other outdoor sports and events as the Club may deem advisable; and
- e. To Support Ski-related activities.

Sign up for your Winter membership at the Pinnacle: Family rates are \$75.00; couples \$50.00 and individuals are \$30.00. Family memberships are for a family of 5 and family membership is for immediate family members only. As part of your membership, you are expected to sign in and work 10 hours of service. Checks should be made payable to the Pinnacle Ski Club. Forms are available at the Town Office.

6. Pittsfield Community Theatre Christmas Movie: Letter Read.

Finance Committee: No Report.

Ordinance Committee: No Report.

Recycling Committee: No Report.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. ***RESOLUTION 09-157:*** Resolved that the Town Council Authorize the Town Manager to Execute Change Order #1 in the amount to not exceed \$10,213.00 for the Alterations and Addition to the Pittsfield Public Library Project and Amend the Contract with Nichols Construction, LLC dated June 05, 2009 from \$916,716.00 to \$926,929.00.