



**TOWN OF PITTSFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OFFICE, 85 MAIN STREET  
PITTSFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03263**

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**MEETING MINUTES OF Tuesday, November 28, 2023**

Carl Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and asked everyone to please join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Carl Anderson, Chair  
Gerard LeDuc, Vice Chair  
Carole Richardson  
J.C. Allard  
Jim Adams

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Cara Marston, Town Administrator  
Noel Gourley, Superintendent of Public Works  
Police Chief Joe Collins  
Fire Chief Peter Pszonowsky  
Deputy Fire Chief Rob Freese  
Louie Houle, Community Development Committee Member  
Bruce Berk

**PUBLIC INPUT – agenda items only**

Bruce Berk

You are going to talk about community power tonight?

Carl

Yes. We've got a hearing which will be after the 6:05 hearing. We've got four minutes and we're going to do a quick one on unanticipated revenue and then we'll move right on to community power.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Gerard – BCEP update  
Carole – budget meeting tomorrow night  
JC – CDC update  
Jim - no

Carl

Thank you. We can knock off some of these fund transfers, I think. The hearing is scheduled at 6:05.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**3. Funds transfer - town meeting voted amounts to Capital Reserve Funds - \$349,000**

Carl

Let's jump to number three on action items funds transfer town meeting voted amounts to the capital reserve funds amounting to a total of three hundred and forty nine thousand dollars.

JC

So moved.

Gerard

Second.

Carl

Any further discussion? Hearing none all those in favor say aye. Aye. Aye. Opposed? None.

Motion carries five zero.

#### **4. Funds transfer - annual transfer to the Ambulance Fund - \$70,000**

Carl

Funds transfer, the annual transfer to the ambulance fund of seventy thousand dollars.

Gerard

So moved.

Second Jim Allard.

Carl

Any discussion? Those in favor of approving the transfer to the ambulance fund of \$70,000 say aye. Aye. Opposed, zero.

That's passed five-zero.

#### **5. Funds transfer - general fund checking to general fund pdip account - \$15,000**

Carl

Funds transfer, general fund checking to general fund - what's a PDIP account?

Cara

Public deposit investment pool.

JC

I'm glad you asked that, I didn't want to seem stupid.

Carl

No, I don't mind, it doesn't bother me.

Carole

So moved.

Jim

Second.

Carl

So moved, Carole. Second, Adams. All those in favor of transferring from the general fund checking to the general fund PDIP account, \$15,000, say aye. Aye. Opposed, zero.

Motion passes.

#### **6. Funds transfer - land use change taxes collected to conservation fund - \$5,100**

Carl

Funds transfer land use change taxes collected to the conservation fund fifty one hundred dollars.

JC

So moved. Jim Allard.

Gerard

Second.

Carl

Further discussion? All those in favor of approving the land use change tax collected the conservation fund, \$5,100, say aye. Aye. Opposed, zero.

Motion passes.

All right, 6:05, let's get to the public hearing.

## **PUBLIC HEARING – 6:05 p.m. consideration of acceptance of unanticipated revenue**

Carl

Consideration of acceptance of unanticipated revenue in excess of \$10,000.

Notice hereby given in accordance with the New Hampshire RSA 3195B that the Board of Selectmen will conduct a hearing to receive public comment concerning the acceptance of unanticipated revenue in excess of \$10,000. The Board of Selectmen has received a special one-time payment in accordance with the House Bill 2 effective in June 2023 and is required by statute of public hearing regarding the acceptance of this unanticipated revenue of \$32,559.59 as an additional municipal highway block grant payment for the maintenance, construction and reconstruction of Class 4 and 5 highways. Public hearing will be held at 6:05pm on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at the town office eighty five Main Street Pittsfield, New Hampshire.

Carl

Here we are. Anybody got any input. Anybody got any questions.

Close public hearing at six oh six.

No comments.

### **1. Consideration of acceptance of unanticipated revenue – 2023 House Bill 2 highway block grant funds**

Jim

Do we want to move to accept it now?

Carl

Well, we might have to do something later. We might just as well now. There's no reason not to now.

Jim

So moved, Jim Adams.

Gerard

Second.

Carl

All those in favor of approving the unanticipated funds from the state for the highway block grant of \$32,559.59 say aye. Aye. Opposed? Zero. Motion carries 5-0.

## **PUBLIC HEARING – implementing a Community Power Program**

Carl

We'll move right along with the public hearing the second public hearing for implementing a community power. (speaking to Bruce Berk) I don't know you apparently are the only one here that is not that we haven't seen before regarding community power. Do you have any specific questions or concerns?

Bruce Berk

I just happened to see the survey the other day and I'm not an expert on community power, but I have followed this for two or three years. And I don't have concerns as much as, I don't want to be redundant, I just think it's a positive move forward for the town. There are templates out there by Community Power Coalition in New Hampshire that can help us go along this path. I also know that in Massachusetts, they've got a lot of towns that have already gone down this road. So my point is we're not recreating the wheel, and I just think we're going to save some money.

Carl

That's always a good thing in this room. Anybody else got anything they want to say about community power?

JC

Just kind of padding the record a little bit for those that did not see this morning's Concord Monitor, the city of Concord is moving forward to go with a community power scheme similar to ours. And I think once the cities start going and then I've forgotten whether it's Sullivan or Cheshire County as a whole are moving forward on it.

Jim

So it's definitely a spreading concept in our state.

Carl

Well, CDC and your committee has pretty well run their horse around Robin Hood's barn as many times as necessary and have concluded that it makes sense to move forward with it and get it on the agenda, correct?

Jim

Yes, most definitely.

Carl

So, what stage are we at as far as needing a vote to get it on the warrant? Is that what we need right now?

Cara

After the public hearing.

Carl

Which I'm closing now. Public hearing closed at 6:10.

Cara

Yeah, I don't believe you have to wait. I think you can vote at this point. I don't remember seeing in the time frame that they had to wait.

Carl

Let's do it. Let's vote and if we have to take another vote further on we will, but in the interest of getting it on the warrant and getting it worded, let's do it.

Cara

The next step would then be finalizing the draft plan, which Standard Power is doing for us. Hopefully they will have it for your next meeting on the 12th. That way we'll have that document for the public to see and then I can report on it. But yeah, voting to put it on the warrant tonight would be the best thing we could do.

Carl

All right, so let's have a motion for putting a community powered program onto the voting warrant for next year.

JC

Motion to approve placing the concept of community power as drafted for us by standard power as our agent as a warrant article for the upcoming town meeting season.

Gerard

Second.

Carl

Any further discussion? With that, let's take a vote. All in favor of putting, implementing community power program on to the warrant for the next town meeting, say aye. Aye. Opposed, zero.

Motion passes five zero. We're moving forward with it. Now the next step is to get the town to agree to it.

Carl

You can see public hearings don't seem to generate a whole lot of public interest, but it's nice to know that occasionally we do get somebody in.

## **2. Consideration of amendment to the Section 125 Flexible Benefits Plan**

Cara

This is for the consideration of an amendment to the new IRS allowance of employee withholding which is \$3,200. That's the only change in this program. The employer portion of it does not.

Jim

So moved.

JC

Second.

Carl

Jim Adams' motion, Jim Allard seconded accepting the amendment to the section 125 flexible benefits plan. All those in favor say aye. Aye. Opposed, zero.

Motion passes five zero.

Committee and department reports. Oh wait a minute, I'm sorry.

Page two, Cara's surprise page.

### **ADDED ITEM - Consideration of acceptance of a donation for heating assistance for the elderly**

Cara

This was an anonymous donation, however I did receive it and I do know who the individual was, so if for some reason you do not want to accept this, we are able to return it. The individual wanted to be anonymous but it has this specific directive of being heating assistance for the specific.

Carl

Should we accept donations from anonymous donors? I just think we should know before we go to accept the donation, who made the donation. I think it's a mistake for We Five not to know.

Jim

I don't think we should be accepting a completely anonymous donation, we don't have to announce it, we don't have to publish it, but before we vote to accept it we should know in closed session.

Carl

I think it just sends the wrong message. And we don't need to know the other end where it's going.

Carole

You know what I'm saying? We don't need to know who is getting it. We don't need to know that part of that.

Carl

Well, no. We must assume that our welfare director is taking care of that. We don't have any dealings with that end of it, but accepting it. So let's table that for now.

JC

And to touch on that at the end of the meeting. So we can go into a public session.

### **ADDED ITEM – performance evaluation Equipment Operator Scott Jackson**

Carl

Employee performance evaluation equipment operator Scott Jackson. Has everybody had a chance to see Scott's review? Sounds like you probably want to keep him around.

Superintendent Noel

He's doing good.

Jim

Steps seven to eight?

Noel

Yes

Jim

So moved, Jim Adams, so moved to accept the performance evaluation of employee Scott Jackson.

JC

Second, Jim Allard.

Carole

I just had a question. You were talking on the evaluation that you wanted even more time on equipment training or something? And on all of the equipment, or did you have something in mind?

Supt Noel

The backhoe. It's good to have the guys below Keith learn that equipment, too.

Carl

All those in favor of accepting the employee performance evaluation for Scott Jackson and increasing him from step seven to step eight say aye. Aye. Aye. Opposed, zero.

Motion passes five zero.

### **ADDED ITEM – Consideration of the point of contract for the Fire Chief**

Carl

What do we got here?

Jim

We recently ended our negotiation with the chief. He is willing to sign, after we all do this evening, to sign the new contract for three years with a salary increase to go to \$76,500 on effective 12-24-23, \$80,500 effective 12-24-24, and \$84,000 on effective 12-24-25.

Carl

Pete you get any questions concerns anything you want to say.

Chief Pszonowsky

No, just thank you for your support if you vote for it.

Carl

Anybody on the board get any questions or considerations?

Carole

No, we appreciate your service.

Carl

All those in favor of approving the proposed contract for Chief Pszonowsky say aye.

Jim

I didn't really make a motion.

Carl

Make it.

Jim

Okay. So moved.

Gerard

Second.

Carl

Try this again. All those in favor of approving the proposed employment contract for Chief Pszonowsky say aye. Aye. Opposed, zero.

Motion passes five, zero. So what do you say? We get John Hancock on it?

Chief Pszonowsky

Yep.

Carl

Pete, the only, just one thing I'd like to say on the record, is one of the biggest things that I find you're so accommodating at whatever we throw at you and ask you to do, we don't get a stack of

papers why you can't do it, or why you shouldn't do it, or shouldn't have to do it, or anything else. You say, yeah, I'll go do it and take care of it. And it's that kind of attitude that makes us feel like, just like all the rest of the departments, you take the bull by the horns and get the job done, and you don't say, well, what right have you guys got to ask me to do that, or what right have you got to do, you know, we used to put up with that crap. We didn't have any choice. But you don't do that to us. So we appreciate that. Glad to have you.

Chief Pszonowsky

Thank you.

**ADDED ITEM – Consideration of letter of support for regional mutual aid fire contact communication project**

Carl

Rob or Pete, you got something you want to tell us about that?

Chief Pszonowsky

I do. And Rob. So as the Capital Area Mutual Aid, we're trying to upgrade our old system for all the radio, because it needs to be upgraded as long apart as we know. And interoperability is a problem when we talk to the radio. We've, as a Capital Area, we've assigned a committee, a communication committee to try to raise some funds and we're going to go down as a group to Washington and talk to the senators and try to go after some money because there's grants unavailable and we don't want to put it on the taxpayers, as well. So this is just a letter of support from you guys saying that you'll support us in this. There's no cost to us. But in the future, the money is going to get the timing is critical coming up. As you can tell, things are going so well, just trying to be ready with all the information we have. Southwest, which is a major company down that covers a southwest portion of New Hampshire, Vermont, and some of Mass. And that would, if they go in with us, that would be... Is it 51% or 49% of the state? If all three were in, 51%. Which would be all interoperability throughout that, most of the portion of the state so that is huge. And then the state police are going after money as well but we want to go down there and try to get there first.

Carl

Or get there together let them carry the guns.

Chief Pszonowsky

As you saw, I don't know if you read it, it's 5.6 million just for what we need to do for just the capital area. So it is quite important.

Carl

Go find it out and get it every cent you can get. Alright, so this is also an action item, so let's have a motion.

Gerard

I make a motion we sign that letter in support of the mutual aid compact communication project.

JC

Second, Jim Allard.

Carl

Any further discussion? All those in favor of approving the letter of support for the regional mutual aid compact communication project, say aye. Aye. Aye. Opposed, zero. Motion passes 5-0.

Chief Pszonowsky

Thank you.

Carl

You're welcome.

## COMMITTEE & DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Carl

Gerard, what's going on with BCEP?

Gerard

Budget public December 7<sup>th</sup> and the snow day is on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Jim

Are they going to have it over there?

Gerard

Yes. Over there.

Carl

Well, it's an earth-shattering NO increase. So you can expect that's going to be short.

Carl

Carole, you said the budget committee is?

Carole

Budget committee is meeting with department heads on the 6<sup>th</sup> and tomorrow we're passing out the notebooks, they're getting the same books that we have and basically just introduce everybody. It's just sort of, it's the second organizational meeting. Hopefully it will be more organized this year with a lot of new members. I think that's going to be good. It will be good to have all the department heads there, too.

Jim

And just to add a dovetail there, I think it will be incumbent upon us, all the board members, and our department heads to explain whenever they can if someone asks you why the big jump in the contracts and just simply say why did the state go from 0 to 10.5% because the times required it. This is really, from what I read, I read a wonderful piece in the Wall Street Journal that said this is the catch up after the COVID setbacks.

Carl

Okay, Jim, do you have anything on your CDC committee that you want us to know about?

JC

We meet normally tomorrow, but we may or may not. Our major effort is on the community power, and that major effort has been shifted to standard power. We're drafting the agreement for the state on our behalf. So other than that, there's not much going on. Correct me if I'm wrong, Louie.

Louie Houle

Yeah, that's fine. One other thing that Davis Hill Development, one of the folks that came in with solar proposals for us, came back with a new one for the BCEP and would like to do the school and the wastewater plant as well, but this time there are some different funds out there for them that are available through grants. So they are offering BCEP to put power the building and if they do that they will then give the power to the BCEP. They will not pay anything for electricity other than maybe delivery charges from the public service. They are also looking to put a type of a panel on the field over there, the old waste facility and put in solar panels that are on skids so that they could be moved in the event that the state makes us clean that out or move it. That's one of the proposals that's going on, I believe, right? Oh, okay. There is a... the state has been pushing to haul all of that waste over to Rochester. Well, Rochester may not be even able to accept it. I don't know why they haven't thought about just moving it on the same property and mining it and getting it covered that way, and maybe acquiring some of the land next door. But anyways, what they would do then is they would pay us rent each year of around \$14,000 with a 1% or 2% increase each year for using that land. So instead of BCEP paying for power, they'll get power for free of about \$6,000 a year and they'll also get some rent money for the solar unit sitting there. So that's something



that's a proposal that they have. John didn't want to present it to the board until they got their budget done.

Gerard

And the budget is going to be finalized on December 7th.

Louie

Right. So right after that, you'll probably hear about that proposal.

Gerard

I'm not against it. We can save that place some money.

Louie

Well, the same would be for a similar proposal for the wastewater treatment plant. And I don't know, I'll let him tell us. I mean, he knows that we will be digging it up and changing it all around here shortly. But they still want to give us a proposal, and they want to do the same for the school. So, I mean, there's a possibility we could get out for free.

Carl

We don't have any information items, so there was nothing we needed to know. Old business.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. Perambulation of town lines (8/14/2018)**
- 2. Zoning & RSA 155-B violations (8/27/2019)**
- 3. Proposed Health Ordinance (8/11/2020)**
- 4. Surveying of town owned property (4/27/2021)**
- 5. Review of solar project proposal – CDC project (6/14/2022)**

Update in the above Committee reports.

- 6. Discussion on Dustin Park War Memorial engraving requests (9/20/2022)**
- 7. Consideration of renaming of roads with separate, unpassable sections (5/23/2023)**
- 8. Discussion on Traffic Control Ordinance (6/27/2023)**
- 9. Review of the Street Numbering System Ordinance (8/8/2023)**
- 10. Review of the Pittsfield NH Nonstandard addressing report (8/8/2023)**
- 11. Boston Post Cane (10/24/2023)**

Carl

Boston Post cane. I was able through Rob to get a working phone number for Epsom Manor. So I went down and Tommy is ready to accept his Boston Post cane at old home day. That's where we're at with that. So if he wants to get it at old home day, if the board's good with that, we'll just table it until we get closer to the time. So anyway. But you know the good news is we did make contact. And he's quite upbeat. His usual self.

## **ACCOUNTING REGISTERS**

### **1. Accounts Payable**

Gerard made a motion to accept accounts payable.

JC seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion carried. 5-0-0

### **2. Payroll**

Gerard made a motion to accept payroll.

JC seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion carried. 5-0-0

## **MINUTES**

### **1. November 14, 2023 – Public Session Minutes**

Gerard made a motion to accept the November 14, 2023, public session minutes.

JC seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion carried. 5-0-0

### **2. November 14, 2023 – Nonpublic Session Minutes**

Gerard made a motion to accept the November 14, 2023, nonpublic session minutes.

Carole seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion carried. 5-0-0

### **3. November 21, 2023 – Public Session Minutes**

Gerard made a motion to TABLE the November 21, 2023, public session minutes.

JC seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion carried. 5-0-0

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

Louie Houle

We were trying to decorate Dustin's park today with tree lighting this weekend. And I have to tell you, the park is pretty deplorable as far as the dog stuff. We all were involved in walking through it at some point. You can't see it. It's covered with leaves. My recommendation would be there's buckets out front on both sides. They're full. It doesn't look good. I would say close the park to dogs because it's being used as a public, as a dog's restroom. It's a puppy house. A dog park. This weekend there will be many people at the tree lightings that will be very, very upset.

Carl

Unfortunately, it's not going to cure the problem of dogs crapping up the town. It's going to move them somewhere else. Some of them probably come from those residences adjacent to the park.

Louie

While we were out there, they just walk out and you know.

Carl

No, I understand that. I just, you know, you can, theoretically, you can ban dogs from the park. So they just go across the street, lump crap on the library.

Jim

Do we need to give the people who have the dogs a warning and a little post? Simply say we are beginning to enforce the dog doo doo law.

Louie

Put up some cameras. I mean, all you have to do is walk over to their door, knock on the door, and say, look, this is you. Well that assumes that the camera is pointed towards the doors of the offenders.

Chief Collins

Sure I mean you can give them a civil forfeiture and then if they don't pay it you can you can summon them to court.

Louie

You only have to do two or three and word will get around...

Chief Collins

Yeah, I mean, hopefully that'll work because, I mean, the judges really don't get too thrilled when we start bringing dog crap.

Jim

Good luck with that. I think all we need to do is enforce, especially anybody with more than a quarter ounce of grain matter, got to figure, this is Dustin's Park, let's see, we got a war memorial here, this is special.

Carl

Any more input?

Chief Collins

I have a couple quick things.

So, Car 5, the car that's getting rotated out this year, went down to the auction. So just wanted to make you guys aware in case somebody asked you about it. It's going to be on an online auction like we did with the last car. So we usually do pretty good putting it through the auction. That money comes back to the general fund.

Also, we have an application for part-time, so I just wanted to make you guys aware. The guy's already certified, so I'd like to just offer him a conditional offer and then we'll do the background. If he works out great. He wants to do about four shifts a month. Which would help keep the overtime down.

### **Non-Public Session**

Gerard made a motion to go into Nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3; II (c).

Jim seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion carried. 5-0-0

When the Board returned to public session, Gerard made a motion to seal the nonpublic minutes as the divulgence of the information from the nonpublic session would likely affect adversely the reputations of those discussed, other than a member of the Board.

JC seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion carried 5-0-0, roll call was done and all approved.

### **ADDED ITEM (tabled from above) – consideration of acceptance of a donation**

JC made a motion to accept the donated funds for heating assistance for the elderly.

Carole seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion carried. 5-0-0

No additional business was conducted.

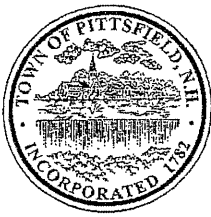
The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Approved:



Carl Anderson

12/12/23  
Date



**MEETING AGENDA**  
**TOWN OF PITTSFIELD**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**TOWN OFFICE, 85 MAIN STREET**  
**PITTSFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03263**

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**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023**

**REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m. – call to order**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC INPUT – regarding agenda items only**

**AGENDA REVIEW**

**PUBLIC HEARING – 6:05 p.m.** consideration of acceptance of unanticipated revenue in excess of \$10,000

**PUBLIC HEARING – implementing a Community Power Program**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Consideration of acceptance of unanticipated revenue – 2023 House Bill 2 highway block grant funds
2. Consideration of amendment to the Section 125 Flexible Benefits Plan
3. Funds transfer - town meeting voted amounts to Capital Reserve Funds - \$349,000
4. Funds transfer - annual transfer to the Ambulance Fund - \$70,000
5. Funds transfer - general fund checking to general fund pdip account - \$15,000
6. Funds transfer - land use change taxes collected to conservation fund - \$5,100

**COMMITTEE & DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**OLD BUSINESS**

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2. Zoning & RSA 155-B violations (8/27/2019)
3. Proposed Health Ordinance (8/11/2020)
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11. Boston Post Cane (10/24/2023)

**ACCOUNTING REGISTERS**

1. Accounts Payable
2. Payroll

**MINUTES**

1. November 14, 2023 – Public Session Minutes
2. November 14, 2023 – Nonpublic Session Minutes
3. November 21, 2023 – Public Session Minutes

**PUBLIC INPUT** - The Board of Selectmen may accept the public's input that is addressed directly to the Chair in a courteous and respectful manner in a time frame of three minutes or less.

**NONPUBLIC SESSION** - The Board of Selectmen may enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3