



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

MEETING MINUTES OF Tuesday, January 9, 2024

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
Melissa Babcock, Library Director
Sandra Adams, Library Trustee
Noel Gourley, Superintendent of Public Works
Fire Chief Peter Pszonowsky
Deputy Fire Chief Rob Freese
Chief of Police Joe Collins
Police Sergeant Devon Rego
Louie Houle, Community Development Committee
A.J. Dalbec, per diem Fire Department member/equipment operator applicant

PUBLIC INPUT – agenda items only

Louie

Are we voting on community power today?

Cara

They don't have the draft proposal that your committee went through for consideration and the edits that you guys made, so they haven't seen that yet.

Louie

Okay. I don't have that.

AGENDA REVIEW

Carole – couple of items to add

PUBLIC HEARING

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

Carl

We're going to open the public hearing for consideration of acceptance of unanticipated revenue on excess of \$10,000 and that is for bridge aid from the state of \$26,573.16.

Any public input?

There was no public input.

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

1. Consideration of acceptance of unanticipated bridge aid - \$26,573.16

Carl

We will go ahead and consider the acceptance of the unanticipated bridge aid and if we have to change that in the next two minutes, so be it.

Jim

So moved.

JC

Second.

Carl

All those in favor of accepting the unanticipated bridge aid of \$26,573.16 say aye. Aye. Opposed, none. Any discussion? None. Motion passes five zero.

2. JC Library elevator & Jenkins Room floor

Carl

So what's the story?

Melissa Babcock, Library Director

Well maybe we'll start with the elevator first because I don't think I've been in front of the board regarding the elevator before. It came up I think the last time I was here just in passing because we were fined last year because I didn't have it inspected, which is definitely on me. The reason I didn't have it inspected is because it hasn't worked since last December. And I was trying to save the town money because why would I pay for someone to come and inspect it and tell me it didn't work? I already knew that. However, I had to have them come and inspect it and put these very expensive \$100 stickers on it to tell me that it doesn't work. I've also gone through the paperwork to refund us the fine from last year and I should know about that in the next month or so. They said it might be backed up because of the holidays. Okay, going forward with that, our elevator still isn't working. It was last December that it stopped working kind of randomly right around the same time. I think it was just coincidental of when the water in the basement because it didn't get wet. It just happened to be that same weekend that everything went kaput. We had the elevator company come out that put the elevator in. It replaced batteries that did not work. They worked for less than 24 hours. I called them to come back out. He came back out and didn't have the parts, said he would come back and never came back. We have since paid him I think \$400 or something to fix it, but it has not worked more than 24 hours in all of 2023. We actually went to CIP this fall, I guess, trying to get that pushed up on the agenda, and they wanted us to look into other avenues instead. They didn't think that we needed to work with an elevator company. They recommended a hydraulics company out of Concord or Bow, whom I did call, but they only work on things that you bring there. But they recommended that I call Mike Huggins out of Barnstead, and I did, and he came and he looked at it, he got it running for a day as well, and then it went dead again. But in the meantime is when I had the State come out and do their inspection, and when they kind of heard, and I didn't know this so I feel bad that I said anything, but once they heard that we had someone working on it that wasn't a certified elevator technician, I kind of got my wrist slapped there. So I'm stuck now, you know. He was great and he was willing to continue to troubleshoot for us, but now I'm not sure where to go. I've called many elevator companies, many of them don't call back. I have a four-page list of New Hampshire companies. Some of them are in California, which is a little weird. The one that did call back said that they will charge \$225 just to arrive and then \$175 an hour just to look at it. And then another company that said it wasn't worth fixing. And I guess the problem is the lift company that we currently have, that the lift is made from, is out of

business, which is why it's hard to find parts for it. So that's why everybody is saying it's not worth looking into, it's not worth fixing, we can't find the parts we need for it. So I also have a quote here for a new elevator, because I'm not, I just don't know which direction to go. So I have both the pricing of what it costs if somebody comes and looks at it and the pricing of a new elevator in hopes that I have some guidance on which direction to go tonight because it has been a year that we have not had an elevator in there. So we're out of compliance, in other words, so anybody have any thoughts?

Carl

I have thoughts, but I'm not sure you want to hear them. Personally, and this is it, don't take this personally, because you guys do a great job, you try to your damndest down there, but I have had it with that cellar. A complete waste of money from here on and throwing good money after bad as far as I'm concerned. It's one thing after another and I just think we're throwing good money into a money pit. That's all it is. Unfortunately we have legal requirements. Stop using the cellar. No, it's not for the cellar. That's the handicapped access to the whole building. So we put in a ramp to get them to the cellar. To get to the elevator. The ramp screwed up the cellar and flooded that. And now we've got an elevator that doesn't work to get them to the upper floor. You can't make it up.

Melissa

We feel that way every single day.

Carl

I know you do. It's all stuff that we've inherited. You're trying to work with what you've got. As far as I'm concerned what you've got is a bunch of junk. My head is going to explode. So I'm just going to do what I should have done in the beginning shut up and let the rest of you ponder this because I haven't got anything worthwhile to put into it. Yeah, I just said we could just go out and set a bucket of money on fire out front, I suppose, and just stand there and throw tax receipts, you know, money people paid, pay the taxes into it. And I'm not criticizing either of your jobs. Please understand that. You've been handed an impossible situation, as far as I'm concerned. You have to have a rowboat and a cellar and a crane to get people in?

Melissa

It might be cheaper to get a crane out front.

Carl

Well, anybody got any real ideas other than just ranting and raving like I'm doing?

Jim

Well, in some of our older post offices, we had trouble with our platforms because the platforms were built in a time when the trucks were this big. And we had what was called load levelers. And it looks just like the thing they've got there. And you would put it up and it had backs and a side on it and you would drive in the rolling stock, bring it down, put the other side up and get it out. Now I'm just wondering if the company who builds that type of stuff might be able to do something a little bit better than \$45,000. I mean, think about it. All it is, is a load lever. What is it going up? Five feet? Not that much. How many days has our elevator there actually worked in 2023? Any idea?

Melissa

In 2023? None.

Carl

And how many people were deprived access to the library in 2023? Any idea?

Melissa

There's probably been a couple dozen. Because if they need to go upstairs for anything, they can't get in the building. And if they need to use the computer or the photocopying, they can't get in the building easily either. I mean, I have been bringing them in the back access to get them in, to the

downstairs one. But it's people that are uneasy on their feet when you're coming down, that's where it's a pretty steep hill to that last door, if you know what I mean because there's a sign handicap door and then in the back of the building there's the back door and I have been bringing people in that back door. There haven't been a lot of wheelchair people with wheelchairs that have come in. It's been people mostly with canes or crutches and things of that magnitude. And then we also have large families that try to come in with strollers and things and were used to using the elevator prior and they're having a hard time getting everyone in that way too.

Jim

How about one of those stair chairs they keep advertising for the elderly that you ride up the stairs?

Carl

You know what, I actually looked into those. I mean I've seen them all the time on TV.

Jim

I don't know what the thing in the Mason's Hall is is exactly what you're talking about.

Carl

You said the chair and it's a heavy duty. My aunt refused to put one in so my uncle could come home from the nursing home because she said it was going to be too much money. I mean, it's an option to look at anyway, but that's my suggestion I have.

JC

I don't think it would make us compliant.

Melissa

Right, and I think it's different too. Because it doesn't move enough people.

JC

If it has one set of stairs, I think it's different too. Like, the way that it is there, there's actually two floors that you go down so you would have to have a small chair lift as you're saying and then you have to help that person up and out of that and then into another separate chair lift to go down to the second floor. How does it go?

Jim

Does it go like this and around? Because they've got... in Alton they've got one with a rail on it. And they get in the chair once. Okay. And it goes up and right back around.

JC

But we have a landing that breaks the stairs up.

Jim

I think they do. Somehow that pipe they've got, or that rail, takes a right.

Melissa

Is it an open library? Because I will take a peek at it.

Carl

Rob, you got a suggestion?

Rob

We have to have access into our cafeteria area. It may be semantics, but if you look up wheelchair platforms instead of elevators, it may get you into the products that are more conducive to what you're looking for. And they run less than \$5,000. Probably more than that installed. That's what we used to use on a platform. Life Away Mobility, I think that's what we ended up with at Globe.

Carl

Well, that's a beginning. That's a place to look.

Louie

There might be a facility down in Epsom that has a lift similar to what you're describing with the glass doors and glass all the way up to get up to their elevated viewing area. The new Elite place. And they put one in so I mean, they would probably be able to tell you, and it would probably be the same size.

Melissa

I'm here for ideas on what to do next because I kind of exhausted what I need to do. And I was getting frustrated calling all the numbers on that list that. Well then the last time he said, just stop calling me, I'll reimburse you for the battery that's junk. Because that's what Mike originally said, is the battery's junk. It was like reverse charged or something. So he had to, I don't know a lot about it, but he had to fix it. And he came, we got it running, and it was working. But I think what it is, is there's a magnetic closure on the elevator doors, and that's what locks it when it's running so that somebody can't just open it and jump down the elevator shaft. I think that magnetic closure is wonky, and that's what's draining the battery. That's what it seems like to me, because sometimes that's not working. Like, it's sticking, and it doesn't open automatically like it used to, so if it's sticking closed, I think it's running back.

Carl

Is there any way you can leave it open for a few days and see if it drains the battery?

Melissa

Maybe, yeah, I can probably recharge it.

Carl

Recharge the battery, open the door so it's not closed, and see if the battery stays up. Try it after five days or whatever it is. If the battery stays up and it's something that simple.

Melissa

But then what do I do? Do I still pay an elevator company to come out? Because that's it. I didn't want to keep throwing money at something.

Carl

Right. So back to this guy taking four hundred bucks and not doing it. What was the what did he charge us for?

Melissa

He charges for the call to come in and put the two new batteries in it to begin with. And like I said, it worked when they left. But 24 hours later, it didn't. Right. And I called them. He came back out about a month or so later, took it apart, needed a part, and then never came back to fix it. And I called him numerous times, numerous times. I'm behind, I'm behind he said. I understand. So we have a bill for \$400? Oh no, that got paid. That's the other thing. It came here to the town hall and they paid it, which of course they should, but if I had gotten it at the library, I wouldn't have asked them to not pay it until it was running because it was never fixed.

Gerard

But easy for them to ignore the call now, now that they have the money.

Melissa

But if the parts are no longer available anyway?

Carl

Well, yeah, I mean, there's lots of old stuff that will still run even though companies are out of business. You get somebody that can fabricate, I've got old junk coming out in my ears.

Melissa

Well that's the thing though, fabricators and people who can work on things will figure it out. But legally, those kinds of people we can't have...

Jim

Who is there saying you can't do it?

Melissa

The state.

Jim

Well, we need to get our representatives in the middle of this thing. I mean, really. Think about it.

Carl

What else you got on your list?

Melissa

The other thing was just the next step on what to do to make the basement usable even though it sounds like you don't want it anymore. I mean we either have to make it usable or we need to have, we need something like the library is growing, it's busy, we have people in there and I don't want to have to resort to bringing the children's programs back here to the town hall every Tuesday.

So when I was working with Larry, I had started working with Larry a while back on flooring, it was mentioned to ask Jim Donini because whatever flooring he puts in could possibly work down in the basement, but I called him and he said that definitely wouldn't work and he didn't have any ideas for me. So the quotes that are in here are epoxy quotes because every epoxy place that I spoke to guaranteed that they would have a moisture barrier and they weren't concerned about the water down there. So it seemed like that was the way to go instead of carpet or any other items at this point. I also included the original estimate from Brian Locke. I mean, a lot of these estimates are old at this point. That one's back from April of 22 from Brian. But right now the basement is empty. So if we were going to seal it, which is what we had talked about way back in 22, now would be the time to do that. But that was that was a pretty big expense as well. So I just I don't know what to do.

We have two bids. One is fifty five hundred and one is ninety six hundred. These are just floors.

Carl

The lakes region epoxy. Are they claiming that what they do will stop the water?

Melissa

They are not. Nobody is guaranteed that they'll never get water again. Except us.

Carl

At the end of the day, all we really want to do is keep the water out. How that gets accomplished, I couldn't care less if it gets accomplished. One quote saying 9,600 and one saying 24,500 to keep the water out. Am I missing something?

Melissa

No, the only one to keep the water out from the outside is Brian. These other guys are just to have the floor epoxied. It's coming in from that far corner and it's coming in like four feet over. Because I go down in the morning when it's raining, there won't be any. I go down an hour later and I can see where it's coming in. Just getting saturated. And I mean it's way better. Ever since the drain was fixed last year, and they blew it out or whatever, we haven't had much water in there. The last storm we had, we had some, and I wanted to find out where the drainage was so I could make sure that it wasn't clogged and try to prevent it from coming in. We didn't have it that bad. So it's gotten, it has improved, but it is still not 100%. I suppose this flooring is water resistant, waterproof, whatever. So they're saying, you know, you'd be on the safe side if you use the epoxy. And if you get a little water, I guess they're trying to figure it out. I was very up front with everyone who's been in there about the problems that we have.

Carl

Well, so what do you want to do as far as the water coming into the cellar? So you're not using the downstairs at all?

Melissa

Well, we are using the downstairs. Yeah, it's just down to concrete that's cracked and things. So it's just a matter of finishing it once we're confident that things are good.

Carl

Is the amount of water that you're getting in there now, would you describe it as not much of a problem or a serious problem or somewhere in between?

Melissa

It's not much of a problem. It's not coming in nearly as often. Before I felt like it would come in when the neighbors flushed their toilet for a while. It was coming in all the time. Now, I mean, it's only come in twice since last December. In a whole year it's come in twice. It came in last July when it was flooding everywhere and then it came in, what was it, two weeks ago or something? And that was a very small amount.

Carl

And it's done the same thing both times where it appeared like four feet out from the wall or it came up through the floor out in the middle?

Melissa

No, no. (motions) So this is the basement and I come in over here from the door. It's this far corner where it starts, and then just a little ways over - is where it comes in a little bit more. And right here, there's an actual crack in the basement floor, but it's not coming in over here. It was puddling over here.

Carl

Are the walls wet at all or damp?

Melissa

I know when Larry came in with his mechanism he could say that it was off the charts is what he kept saying because it would beep everywhere he would put it. Even on the wall.

Carl

But the last time it came in was because the drain was blocked, right?

Melissa

Two weeks ago. I don't know if that's why but it could have been.

Carl

So the drain was blocked again?

Melissa

It was under a leaf pile and we took that out.

Carl

Okay, so if the fire department went out twice a year and blew it out... Right, so I guess where I'm going with this is, could we theoretically at least pretty much cure the problem if that drain was blown out a couple times a year? And these two epoxy issues, I mean, these two companies will take care of that issue. They're not going to fix that little piece, but they can put their stuff around in a way that they can... let's say that 99% of your cellar will not have any water on it. And that will then cure the crack issues, so you're not going to have a floor with cracks and deteriorating concrete. Because the cracks are in the floor, not the wall.

JC

Because the wall is all covered in wood. This is just addressing the floor, this is not addressing the walls. And the water is coming down the walls?

Melissa

But not as frequently as it once was.

Carl

Well, it was coming down the walls when the drain was plugged up. Correct?

Melissa

So if we keep that drain blown out or cleaned out, then that may allow that water to be carried away. Because prior to the gutters being put in and the fire department coming last year and blowing that out. Prior to that, every little storm, we were getting water down there. Every single storm we were pulling the carpet back because when you have water coming in it was better to pull it back than to deal with wet carpet. But now it's very, I mean twice in a year is a lot, but not compared to when it was happening sometimes multiple times a week. I mean we had a very wet

summer and considering it only came in once, I feel like there have been major improvements in what we have done so far. But it's new territory for me, so that's why I'm asking for guidance because I don't know the perfect answer.

Carl

Well, let's not look perfect getting away good. So, what do you want to advise?

The silence is deafening.

Jim

A thunderous. Silence is a thunderous. We don't really have anything to work with here.

Carl

Well, we do. It's far better than it was.

Melissa

The only thing that I am vehemently opposed to is carpet in there again.

Carole

I don't want to deal with carpet ever again. Well, we asked our community expert in flooring to help us and from what I gather, it was Larry who thought these epoxy guys were the best of all the evils that have been presented.

Melissa

Yeah I mean he asked me to ask Jim Donini and I did but Jim's like I do outside stuff near a pool that's it. I'm like well sometimes the basement seems like a pool. But yeah that was the only other suggestion that he had, too.

Carole

If we say \$5,000 an epoxy job sounds reasonable, if we have \$5,000 to spend on it, because all the stuff cost money, I think we have to do something. You can't continue using it with all the cracks in the floor, I think we should go with the \$5,000 and try the epoxy. Do we have the money?

Cara

Yes, expendable trust fund.

Carl

You make the motion on it.

Carole

We certainly don't have the \$45,000 to put an elevator in, but let's get the floor at least cleaned up. Even if we spend the \$5,000 and a little water still comes up, we haven't spent a huge amount.

Melissa

Looking back at the prices, the gentleman with the five, I'm just trying to remember them now, he was actually the most thorough coming in. So that is an interesting fact. I didn't notice that before, but I remember speaking to him before, because he was the one that if we were going to do it would offer a little bit of a discount if we did it before his busy season because he's busy during the summer when schools are closed and things because that's when they're looking to get their stuff done.

Carl

Well the expensive people aren't necessarily the best.

Melissa

The other thing that I'll do before I call him back is I'll ask Larry to look at the other two quotes because if there's something that's glaring, that is obvious that the other two quotes have that this one doesn't, I'll just ask this gentleman about it and make sure. Because he was really good about that before, when we had the asbestos removed. He was really good about finding things and making it rewarded in the contract to cover everything. Yeah, I'll ask Larry, just because I've never done flooring and want to make sure that there's not something that one of these more expensive people are offering that we might need to make sure of.

Carole

I know Larry's suggestion was not to do anything until we get the water situation under control so I think when she tells Larry the two little minuscule puddles in a year, it's a lot better than it was.

Carl

Even if the new epoxy floor ends up with two puddles once a year, we can squeegee that out. You don't have carpets stinking up the joint. Somebody, well, what do you want to do right now? Do you want to approve them going with this guy here? Or do you want to hear what Larry has to say?

Carole

I've already heard what Larry has to say. I just repeated it. But I think we have to do something. It may not be the perfect situation, but I'm not in favor of spending huge amounts of money on something if we don't know it's going to work.

JC

So this estimate is expired. It expired on the 23rd of September.

Carl

Get back to him, see if he's willing to do it. See if you can convince them to stay with that quote. And if they can't, we'd like to know about it.

Melissa

Sure.

Carl

Put this in the form of a motion, somebody to approve this in one form or another.

Carole

I move we spend, what is it, \$5,500? \$5,550.

Gerard

So Carole has made a motion, I second it.

Carl

All right, any further discussion? A motion to accept the expired estimate of \$5,550.12 to Lakes Region Epoxy quoted on August 30th, 2023, the cellar floor of the library. All those in favor, none against. Motion carried.

And for the elevator, let's look at Rob's suggestion and Louie's suggestion and I'll find that lift ad that I have looked into and see if something viable that I have looked into and see if something viable can be arrived at for, I mean, 45,000, we ought to be able to get an elevator to the top of the Empire State Building.

JC

I think that's a little more than 45.

Carl

Maybe, right.

Sandra

Thank you very much.

Carl

All right. Let's move along here.

3. Consideration of volunteer appointment to the Community Development Committee

Carl

Consideration of volunteer appointment to the CDC. Mr. Bill Miskoe.

JC

I would make the motion that we approve Mr. Miskoe's application for joining the CDC.

Jim

I second

Carl

Jim Adams seconds. All those in favor of accepting Bill Miskoe onto the CDC say aye. Aye.

Opposed, none. Congratulations Bill 5-0.

ADDED ITEM – public works equipment operator applicant

Carl

Yeah, Noel, let's move you up.

Noel

I've got a storm on the horizon. Thanks guys.

Carl

Step right up and entertain us for a few minutes.

Noel

So as I'm sure you all know, Keith is retiring and he's shooting for the 12th. He's going to help me this weekend if anything happens because I have a snowstorm Friday. So that's good. I know he's officially done, but he'll be pretty much done for this weekend. AJ who's a volunteer at fire department has an application in. He comes with years of truck driving but he can talk about that. I'd like to take him on to replace Keith. I think the timing is pretty good for us.

Jim

And I believe because of his proximity and his time of just coming on the fire, he's already been through car wash. So we don't have to wait for this and that to come back.

Cara

Yes, he's all set.

Noel

He did a CDL drug test for us. He's all set. Yeah. So I mean, pretty much good to go. I think it's supposed to snow Monday, so he may be starting at midnight on Monday morning.

Carl

Why don't you start him at 7 o'clock tonight?

Noel

Well, that's another thing. I was thinking about having him to do a ride-along tonight to see that route, because it's not a big route, but it's downtown, and there's certain ways to map it that it's sufficient, you know, being downtown. So if he wants, just to get a feel for it, you know.

Carl

Sounds good to me.

Noel

So for the wage, step 10. I feel he should get that step as well, which is where Keith is, too.

Jim

You said Step 10?

Cara

I think it's \$26.06.

Jim

I think you are right.

Carl

So you'd be coming on full time then?

AJ

Yes, Sir.

Carl

That's what we need.

JC

I didn't think we'd find someone that fast.

Jim

I don't think other people did either.

Carole

It's really good.

AJ

I live six minutes up the road. I've been in town seven, eight years now. I have 30 years experience trucking, construction. You can name it, I've done it. It just happened to be on a fire call when Chief mentioned it to me that morning. I'm like, yeah, I'm working full time at this place now and I'm not really enjoying it.

Carl

Everything that has happened to us in our ten years, to do with department heads and people that have come on at the right time, you just kind of fell out of the sky right at the right time. But no, I mean, it's not like we planned or primed or anything else. You know, we were lucky in that the people we've needed and are doing the best for us have come along just at the right time. And it's good. You are not going to ever find anybody any better than Noel to work for. Well, is it time for a motion?

Rob

I just want to make sure that you understand he's still a member of the fire department. That's going to require time and a half if he's already got his time in with Noel. Just want to make sure how you guys feel about that.

Carl

It's a very important bridge over some pretty troubled waters. I think we can deal with that.

Jim

I absolutely agree. I move that we offer the position of public works to AJ Dalbec at step 10, which is 26.06. And he starts tonight.

Gerard

Second.

Carl

Further discussion. All those in favor. None opposed. Carried.

Noel

Thank you all.

Carl

Once again, you've all been doing a hell of a good job.

Carole

We appreciate it.

4. Consideration of amendment to PD highway safety grant agreement (\$4,868.33 increase)

Carl

Consideration of the amendment to PD highway safety grant agreement forty eight hundred and sixty eight dollars thirty three cents.

Chief Collins

So it's basically just adding to our highway enforcement grant agreements. This is for going to printers in the cruisers. The state's upgrading the accident reports. They haven't upgraded that for over 30 years. So what they're going to eventually require is that everybody does the accident report and submits it directly. So now what we do is we print them out and mail them to the state. They're going to be automatically submitted electronically. So this is great for us. It's one of those, it's a mandate, but they're going to at least fund it. They're giving us 100% of the cost. So we can have printers in the cruisers that will print out tickets and also everything that we need so we can do the accident reports and submit them.

Carl

Print out tickets so you guys don't have to fiddle around driving around.

Sergeant Rego

So it's called e-crash, e-citation. So like the accident reports are going to get submitted online, the tickets are all going to get submitted online now too, so we won't actually have our copy tickets. So the printer is for the actual tickets people to get in their car instead of us ripping off a card and a copy and giving it to them. So we just submit it right from our computers in our car and off it goes into wherever it goes to the DMV and that's it.

Carl

Out of your hands. Alright, well let's get that motion. Sounds like a good idea.

Carole

So moved.

Gerard

Second.

Carl

All those in favor of approving the amendment to the PD Highway Safety Grant Agreement for \$4,868.33, say aye. Aye. Opposed, none. Motion passes 5-0. But that also increased our contribution?

Cara

I don't think we contribute to this match requirement in the amount of \$1,217.08.

Sergeant Rego

I spoke to the state briefly about this, and grants are not my thing, so bear with me while I try to explain this. So what the state told me is that our match from the previous grant will suffice for this one as well. That's what they told me.

Rob

They call it an in-kind match.

Sergeant Rego

Okay, so there's no further money that the town's got to give. The state told me that directly.

Chief Collins

No further money is required on this.

Cara

So, in signing – you're sub recipient one and Gerard is two because that's how you signed on the original forms and you also have to do your initials there. And then Gerard does the second one. So, you would do that and then Gerard does that on the grant forms.

Grant forms were signed and notarized.

Carl

By the way Joe you're little escapade the other day up by the bank, I don't know who got involved and who wasn't, but certainly was glad to hear that we weren't covering that case and you turned it over to the state police as readily as you did, or whoever.

Chief Collins

Yeah, it just expanded out once the guy went to Gilmanton, then he went to Barnstead, we ended up with people in Concord. It got too big, we just didn't have the people.

Carl

Yeah, I get that, but you know, I'm relieved that there isn't this mindset that you have to be the boss of every investigation and how it goes, that you're not afraid to just say to the state police, have at it, fellas, and we'll do what we can.

Chief Collins

Yeah, I mean, you've got to know your limitations, and I mean, what we want is a proper investigation and the best prosecution and the best outcome that we can get and we all put our heads together, I put my head together with major crimes and it was just, that made the most sense. And one of the victims at first was pretty serious and it was still a chance that could have turned into a homicide. So, with all those factors it was a pretty easy decision.

Carl

Good, glad you made it.

Carl

An outstanding job by the Pittsfield Police Department and our fire department.

Chief Collins

Everybody involved did a really good job.

5. Consideration of adding fraud mitigation services to bank accounts

Carl

Consideration of adding fraud mitigation services to bank accounts. What's the charge for that?

Cara

So there's a one time set up. I believe it is \$8 per account to set it up. Our government account rep, quoted for the amount of checks that we have was going to be about \$100 a month. And what it means is for all of our checks, we have to submit a file to them, and they do this positive pay match to make sure that the checks being drawn on our account match what we say. The fraud is just occurring across the board with paper checks, because it's so easy to get a hold of the numbers.

Carl

But we haven't had any trouble yet?

Cara

Not yet, but it is just a matter of time. And I'm not sure if Valerie can attest to any of that?

Carl

Every night, I listen to at least two hours of how she spent an eight or ten hour day dealing with fraud and of every kind, including checks. Did the same thing tonight. I hung up the phone as I was coming in here. It's just off the charts.

Carl

So for what, God forbid, \$100 bill is little, but it is in the grand scheme of things because they can't always get everything back depending on what happens. You don't always get it back.

Cara

And amount of time. And then with Primex, they will help only so much with your insurance. But if you don't have the proper protocols, then that may not be any recovery. So as far as the town goes, we have five accounts. And then the library has an account. And then I have four trust fund accounts. For the most part, all of these accounts except for one have a debit block. We have things

blocked, so when people are attempting to try and do something, they can't. We've done as much as we can up to now, but right where we're at is when we're doing the ACH payments and regular check payments. That's where we need to have another layer of security and there is a cost to that. For the trust fund checks we don't have a line for in the budget for costs like this but we do have maybe 30 checks a year for the trustees of trust funds for their grants and their scholarships and that's a liability, too, and would have to be covered by the other part of the finance budget.

JC

So if we get defrauded for any amount of money who do you suppose will be hung out to dry?

Carl

We'll be hung out to dry.

Carl

So can we agree that we would be foolish not to?

Jim

Yes.

Gerard

I've watched two bank accounts in American Legion because of fraud. And one was forty three thousand one was one hundred and twenty because someone got a hold of the debit card. Then he just went and said to the bank, I lost it. So they gave him a new one. And he kept on attacking them. And the counter, they counted up to 43,000 before they caught him.

Carl

There's all kinds of fraud and all. I mean, why anybody goes out and commits a crime, a break, a theft is beyond me, because most of them sit on the sofa in their pajamas with a bag of Cheetos and a computer and just spend the day figuring out how to outsmart everybody. And some of them are geniuses. They lick a little orange off their fingers and go back to typing.

Carole

Motion to approve the mitigation for the accounts.

Jim

Second.

Carl

All those in favor of doing the fraud thing. Opposed zero. Motion passes five zero. Keep us safe.

6. Review of deed for sale of 36 Main Street

Carl

Review of deed for sale of thirty six Main. Has anybody had a chance to read that? I read it and I don't find any problem with it. Pretty simple right?

JC

Well pretty simple yeah.

Carl

It gives us I guess the most protection that we can expect still in a position of not actually owning the land anymore. Gives us back what we spent and then some. And we're going to put that right back in the kitty that it came from, right? The original.

Cara

Yeah, if the warrant passes, yep.

Carl

Yeah, right, if the warrant passes. So the only ones that can change where the parking and dumpsters go would be the Pittsfield Planning Board.

Carole

That's a good thing.

Carl

So, all those in favor, oh, you got a motion?

Gerard

I make a motion we have the chairman sign the quitclaim deed.

Jim

Second.

Carl

All those in favor of signing the quick claim deed and selling 36 Main Street to Lusso Realty LLC, say aye. None opposed. Motion passes five zero.

7. Review of draft 2024 Town Meeting Warrant (tabled from 12/12/2023)

Cara

There's a little discussion needed regarding Article 3. It's on page 2. So to be in accordance with statute, we show the tax impact at gross basis. So you should be able to add up all of the warrant estimates and get to an estimated tax, not just an increase, because you don't necessarily know what it was before. There is a thought from budget committee discussion in Article 3, we could put last year's estimated tax impact. So in looking at it, you would be able to see the difference from last year to this year.

Carole

So they were concerned and were thinking that 9.04 was what taxes were going up.

Jim

But they weren't reading it correctly. And the voters are going to see that and they're going to say, oh my god, \$9.04?

Carl

How about if we say something like this? Can we do this and would it make any sense? Estimated tax impact is \$9.04 per thousand of dollars of assessed value, comma, which is the full amount of the municipal cost to taxpayers. Which they can understand that any better....

Cara

So my thought was, as you put a sentence right below this one, state that the 2023 operating budget estimated tax impact was 8.48. And then someone can look at the math if they want to do it. You would have this year's and then last year's. And that's it. We're adding something for clarification.

Jim

We're just adding one more sentence.

Cara

And I have it ready to go.

Carole

Good. Tomorrow night is the public hearing on the budget.

Carl

So, somebody make a motion to accept the warrant articles.

Carole

Motion to accept the warrant articles with the added line in article 3.

JC

Second.

Carl

All those in favor of approving the town warrant and recommending all board of selectmen articles say aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Cara

So I'll have that draft for tomorrow night. And the revenues and recap/summary.

8. Supplemental Property Tax Warrant – Map R20 Lot 10-3 - \$1,301

9. Supplemental Property Tax Warrant – Map R20 Lot 12-10 - \$674

10. Supplemental Property Tax Warrant – Map R34 Lot 30-1 - \$474

Carl

Let's take all three of these at once. We have warrants for 2,449.

JC

So moved.

Gerard

Second.

Carl

All those in favor of approving the supplemental property tax warrants for twenty four hundred and forty nine dollars say aye. Aye. Opposed none.

11. Funds transfer – Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund - \$5,000

Carl

Alright, so did we ever get to the transfer of the cemetery maintenance? No. All right, funds transfer. Cemetery maintenance expendable trust fund \$5,000.

Gerard

I move the motion to transfer the funds.

Jim

Second.

Carl

All those in favor of transferring \$5,000 to the cemetery maintenance expendable trust say aye. Aye. Opposed none. Motion carried.

ADDED ITEM - Funds transfer – Sidewalk Improvements Capital Reserve - \$29,895

Carl

Funds transfer, 2023 sidewalk improvement fees totaling \$29,895, that's the money from registrations?

Cara

Yes.

Jim

So moved.

JC

Second.

Carl

All those in favor of transferring the sidewalk improvement fees, \$29,895, say aye. Aye. Opposed, none. Five, zero.

ADDED ITEM - Funds transfer – from Old Home Day Fund - \$268.20

Carl

Funds transferred from Old Home Day for 2022 and 2023 net activity \$268.20.

Jim

So moved.

JC

Second.

Carl

Transferring the old home day funds, \$268.20. Say aye. Aye. Opposed, none. Motion passes 5-0.

Carole

Is this all they have in their fund?

Cara

This is the net of the last two years. What they will have in total is about \$4,700.

ADDED ITEM – annual town report printing

Carl

2023 annual town report. How much is that?

Cara

So, four people responded, and there's the list right there.

Jim

Didn't the prisoners used to do this for us?

Cara

They don't do it any longer because of staffing. We do ask every year because they do our other printing. Anything that we can get printed, whether it's signs or paper, we have them do because they're awesome.

Carl

We have 200 copies, color cover, New Hampshire print and mail is 54 cents over the lowest bidder. We've had New Hampshire Print and Mail for the past three years, their proposal is \$1,047.54, RC Brayshaw is \$1,047. Odd they've come that close, isn't it? Can we ask Print and Mail to take the \$1,047?

Cara

So what it was is they held their last year's price forward to this year.

Carl

Loyalty counts for 54 cents with us.

Cara

They're great to deal with.

Carole

Motion for NH Print and Mail.

Gerard

Second.

Carl

All those in favor of having the town report done by New Hampshire Print and Mail say aye. Opposed, zero. Carries five zero.

ADDED ITEM – sewer user fee warrant 2023 quarter 4

Carl

Sewer user fee warrant 2023, quarter four.

Gerard

So moved.

Jim

Second.

Carl

All those in favor of approving the sewer user fee warrant, say aye. Aye. Aye. Opposed, none. Motion passes 5-0.

COMMITTEE & DEPARTMENT REPORTS

BCEP - Gerard

Quiet now since they've finally voted on that budget. And they haven't discussed the solar proposal yet. That'll probably be the next meeting.

BUDGET – Carole

We have a budget hearing tomorrow night.

CDC - JC

We have CDC tomorrow afternoon to work more on the electric proposal. The draft plan.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. December Wastewater Treatment Facility report

Carl

OK. December Treatment facility report.

Cara

So we're having a lot of issues with the total suspended solids. We're in violation every single testing. It's just all the stuff that's in the sludge is not settling out the way it should. We do have DES coming in next week, so we're hoping that as long as they know that we're being super proactive, the engineers are on it, we're trying to figure out if we can add a different type of chemical to mitigate the phosphorus that isn't going to make us exceed on the suspended solids. As long as we're being as proactive as possible, DES and EPA will know that even though we're in violation. I wouldn't be surprised if we end up in administrative order again, but that could work out in our favor because we are looking at millions of dollars for the upgrade and mitigation and it seems the worse the situation is, we'll get hopefully better principal forgiveness on it. And in the end, it's still going to be a lot of money.

2. Old Home Day Committee member retirements

Carl

Old Home Day Committee retirements.

Cara

So when Andi was contacting me about wrapping up the end of the year, she did provide this write up that was in your packet. Explained a little bit more on the ones retiring, something that was read at the previous Old Home Day to let you know.

Carl

So what's left on the committee?

Cara

Seven members it looks like from an email list.

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)**
- 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)**

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.

Jim seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion carried. 5-0-0

MINUTES

1. December 12, 2023 – Public Session Minutes

Gerard made a motion to accept the public session minutes.

JC seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion carried. 4-0-1, Gerard abstained.

2. December 12, 2023 – Nonpublic Session Minutes

Gerard made a motion to accept the nonpublic session minutes.

Jim seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion carried. 4-0-1, Gerard abstained.

3. December 19, 2023 – Public Session Minutes

Gerard made a motion to accept the public session minutes.

Jim seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion carried. 5-0-0

4. December 19, 2023 – Nonpublic Session Minutes

Gerard made a motion to accept the nonpublic session minutes.

JC seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion carried. 5-0-0

PUBLIC INPUT

Chief Pszonowsky

Wanted to let the Board know that Captain Girard was presented with a 20 year plaque and EMT Ahearn with a 23 year service pin.

Non-Public Session

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

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.

Jim seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

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

ADDED ITEM – hiring of a part time patrol officer

Motion by Gerard to hire Deney Morgenthal as a part time patrol officer at step 15.

Seconded by JC.

Discussion: None

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Approved:



Carl Anderson

2/13/27
Date



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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024

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

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

1. Consideration of acceptance of unanticipated bridge aid - \$26,573.16
2. JC Library elevator & Jenkins Room floor
3. Consideration of volunteer appointment to the Community Development Committee
4. Consideration of amendment to PD highway safety grant agreement (\$4,868.33 increase)
5. Consideration of adding fraud mitigation services to bank accounts
6. Review of deed for sale of 36 Main Street
7. Review of draft 2024 Town Meeting Warrant (tabled from 12/12/2023)
8. Supplemental Property Tax Warrant – Map R20 Lot 10-3 - \$1,301
9. Supplemental Property Tax Warrant – Map R20 Lot 12-10 - \$674
10. Supplemental Property Tax Warrant – Map R34 Lot 30-1 - \$474
11. Funds transfer – Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund - \$5,000

COMMITTEE & DEPARTMENT REPORTS

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. December Wastewater Treatment Facility report
2. Old Home Day Committee retirements

OLD BUSINESS

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ACCOUNTING REGISTERS

1. Accounts Payable
2. Payroll

MINUTES

1. December 12, 2023 – Public Session Minutes
2. December 12, 2023 – Nonpublic Session Minutes
3. December 19, 2023 – Public Session Minutes
4. December 19, 2023 – Nonpublic 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
