

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

MEETING MINUTES OF Tuesday, February 27, 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
J.C. Allard
Jim Adams
Carole Richardson

OTHERS PRESENT

Cara Marston, Town Administrator
Noel Gourley, Superintendent of Public Works
Fire Chief Peter Pszonowsky
Deputy Fire Chief Rob Freese
Police Sergeant Devon Rego
Dan Schroth

PUBLIC INPUT – agenda items only

None

AGENDA REVIEW

Gerard – BCEP update in committee reports
Carole – discuss the Citizen of the Year plaque

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

1. Consideration of acceptance of donation for the Easter Egg hunt – Clothes Closet

Carl

Consideration of acceptance and donation for the Parks and Recreation Easter Egg hunt from the Clothes Closet.

Jim

So moved.

JC

Second.

Carl

All those in favor of accepting the \$300 donation, say aye. Aye. Opposed, none.

Motion passes 5-0.

2. Review of the Draft Community Power Plan

Carl

Review of the draft community power plan. Jim, can you explain?

JC

I guess that I can. You have the plans in front of you. Has everybody had an opportunity to read the plan or is this the first time you're getting it?

Carl

Are there any highlights in here that we haven't heard in the presentation?

JC

I do not believe so.

Carl

I think that the presentations have covered everything pretty thoroughly.

JC

And the only thing that I would say here, I mean, it doesn't matter which model you're going by, but for members of the community that are curious, they're going to have to digest something of this volume no matter what we do. So and that and that's a bit of a concern because we all know that people aren't really excited about reading in detail. Other than Bill Miskoe, I bet a lot of people think there are some members of the community who will know this better than we wrote it but a lot of folks you know when it comes to going in to the voting booth and that's if you saw the Post piece that I wrote that's what it's all about - this is an opportunity to save money. If you want to save money, jump on board. If you don't or you're happy with what you have, opt out. No harm, no foul, either way.

Jim

Now this is the Article 30 on our warrant?

JC

Yes. With the plan compared to the Coalition's, Pittsfield's difference is our administrator is Standard Power versus the Community Power that so many have already gone with and in fact Merrimack County is going with, but we opted to go with Standard Power because it makes us more of a larger fish in a small pond than Community power does. We would just be a very small fish in an ever-increasing pond. And so we thought that our services that we would get are more intimate, more focused on us with Standard Power than the other.

Cara

The Coalition, right?

JC

The Coalition, yes.

Carole

Does it matter how many people, though? I mean, I'm talking about houses or businesses or whatever. Do you get a better price if you have more people or more signed up?

JC

No, because the price is set like every other, the price is set by the PUC.

Carole

Okay. So, are their prices similar? I mean, I'm thinking there are two different companies.

JC

Yes, oh, yeah, the price will be the price.

Carole

So you don't get a better price if there are not two different companies?

JC

Well, except with Standard Power, they're negotiating with everybody. And in a kind of a free market, so...

Carl

Why is the Coalition not?

JC

I don't know. To be honest, I don't know why they, and my one concern that has developed in all this, the closer we get, is that right now, it appears that sticking with Eversource is lower than is

being proposed for us. But that's because of the six-month window, every six months it gets reviewed and in this case, I don't mean to sound cynical, but Eversource jumped in and bought down the rate. And so it's artificially low right at this moment, which Eversource could decide at any point in time, or anybody who was in that circumstance, they could decide at any time to go back up again, to make money on their investment of keeping it artificially low. So that's my only concern. It's a shell game right now.

Carl

However, you can opt in or out.

JC

Anytime.

Carl

And you can opt in or out of Eversource anytime.

JC

Anytime. So, if you're watching it, and there again, I mean, I'm not sure everybody, they see their electric bill, but I'm not sure how many people drill the bill down. And what I've been trying to talk to folks about as I encounter them is that the real, if there's an advantage to doing this, are going to vary any kind of energy. We all know that with our oil bills and our propane bills. They vary seasonally, and they vary with availability. Or the politics in the Middle East change. So the savings to be had is savings looking forward over time, not any given six months. I mean, we all get excited and say, well, I'm paying lower electric rates right now than I was back at Christmas. Well, that's because of the calendar.

Carl

It's different between being a day trader and buying blue chip stocks or investing in mutual funds, you know, once you're going for the long haul.

JC

I don't know, that's kind of long-winded, Mr. Chairman, in terms of, but is that what you're looking for in our discussion? I think you're right, we've had two very good presentations and the key is this whole thing is I believe it's the ability to opt in or out. Once you close that door, you're not stuck. Well, the hope is that the greatest number of people will opt in and stay in.

Carl

So, does anybody want to so move to accept this draft?

Carole

So moved.

JC

Second.

Carl

All those in favor, excuse me, all those in favor of approving the draft community power plan, say aye. Aye. All those opposed, none. Motion carried. And thank you to the committee for doing the work on this.

JC

I think one of the most important things about it is, you know, who administers the plan, it's that all the communities in our state are dealing with this now one way or the other and are jumping on a bandwagon.

Carl

What surprises me is how on board Eversource appears to be with alternatives. For instance, I just did a solar install on my house. And they told me, the installers said, you know, it may be a while, you know, public service, but it takes a certain amount of time. They couldn't have had it done faster. Approvals, bang, bang. As soon as they submitted them, bang, boom. Well you can't really produce any power till PSNH swaps is needed. Because they have to run backwards too. Next day, 8 o'clock in the morning, you have to swap it to the small to the big board.

JC

That's good.

Carl

And things like that, they're good for all of us.

ADDED ITEM – annual performance evaluation – AEMT Kristen Ahearn

Carl

Employee performance evaluation for Kristen Ahearn. Anybody have a chance to see it?

Jim

So moved.

Carole

Second.

Carl

All those in favor of accepting Kristen Ahearn's employee performance evaluation say aye. Aye.

Opposed, none. Motion passes 5-0.

ADDED ITEM – Citizen of the Year plaque

Carl

Carole, Citizen of the Year plaques.

Carole

Yes, apparently Louie Houle was in charge of getting all of that stuff together, because Phyllis approached me. She's got the \$500 for the plaque and she wants to get it done. Remember we talked about putting it up here? Louis told her he doesn't have time to take care of any of this. I said I would bring it up tonight.

Cara

So the last time I saw Phyllis, I don't remember which time it was that she dropped off one of these checks. I think it was the Easter Egg one. She said the same thing to me. And I said I could get a hold of Louie or Andi, and Louie said that he would take care of it, that he would talk to Phyllis.

Carole

Okay. And that's recent?

Cara

Yes.

Carole

Because she talked to me today.

Cara

It was today?

Carole

Yeah.

Cara

Did she say when Louie told her he didn't have time?

Carole

No, she just said he told her he does not have time to handle this now. I assume maybe he's busy. It's probably taxes. Still, you know, she's got the money and she wants to move forward. We've talked about this a long time ago.

JC

Oh yeah, yeah. And this is a plaque with a little gold thing of all of the Citizens.

Carole

There are two or three plaques that need to get all together and then buy a new one, that's my understanding, that looks similar to so we can add to it every year.

JC

Where are those?

Carole

Historical society maybe? Phyllis is really frustrated because she's got the \$500 for the plaque.

Carl

Alright, well, she's got \$500 to burn in her pocket?

Carole

But you just said Louie is going to take care of it?

Cara

Right, that's not through anything that we organize or pay for. This is separate.

JC

If we don't have a role in it, why are we talking about it?

Carole

The reason she's talking to us is we're going to display them here, because no one else will.

Cara

I think some of them were at the library?

Jim

They were all over. They need to be at one spot, and the historical society was the perfect place for it.

Cara

I can ask Louie again, explain it was brought up at the meeting, and see where he's at.

Carole

And tell him we need to move on it. He can't do it reasonably else, can he? Let's move this forward, because she was really upset that it hasn't been done.

COMMITTEE & DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Carl

Okay. Committee reports.

Gerard

I'll start with BCEP.

Carl

Alright.

Gerard

We had a special meeting last Thursday, it seems our administrator decided to put in a letter of resignation effective March the 6th.

Carl

What's his name?

Gerard

Keane

Carl

He's from what town?

Gerard

Epsom

Carl

So what do you guys going to do?

Gerard

Well, they suggested putting one person in there. He's applied twice. The board committee voiced concerns because they asked him to get educated on the computer. He has not tried to even do it the last two times. So we're going to have another, we're going to have a regular meeting this Thursday and make a decision if they're going to put the guy in there interim or not. My vote is no.

Carl

So whoever it is, got to be able to run the computer. Right?

Gerard

Right

JC

Have they posted for the job?

Dan Schroth

They have the job description and posted it, as of this Thursday.

JC

CDC meets tomorrow.

INFORMATION ITEMS

None on the agenda

OLD BUSINESS

1. Perambulation of town lines (8/14/2018)

2. Proposed Health Ordinance (8/11/2020)

Carole

This is great, it works. Yeah. I like it. Is this gonna be easy to enforce Pete?

Chief Pszonowsky

It's going to be easier than what we have to do now. I've been dealing with a continuing complaint starting in the beginning of December. It was a management company that doesn't get back to you or says they're going to get back to you. Several emails saying they're going to get back to you. And then several more complaints from the neighbor. It was disgusting. Sent the management pictures. They told me a date they were going to do it. I just got notified that they didn't again. So, we had to send, last week sent out a registered letter stating that we could be able to find \$275 a day but then it just goes on for months. So with this it can give us a little more teeth to move faster. There's been extremes like the Miller's and then there's little stuff that I do on a daily basis. And most people, when I talk to them, say, hey, you've got to clean this up. But I do several letters that go out to mostly the management companies.

Carole

Is this something that will go to all the landlords?

Cara

We could.

Chief Pszonowsky

Yeah, I mean, yeah, I would give them a reminder.

Carole

How many of these are actually landowners?

Chief Pszonowsky

I don't know. The ones with the management companies, it's a few times I contact that things are stored on their land that they're not enforcing. But this current one, the neighbor's washing their dishes and sees this big pile of trash out there next to the dumpster day after day. That's how it started. And then there were rats and stuff like that.

Carole

Well, on Elm Street there, that mess that was out on the sidewalk, and that mess is still out there. I know it's not on the sidewalk, but...

Jim

Now, we have to go through another public hearing for this, correct? Because we're changing existing?

Cara

No, we're making new. It's advised that it's a good practice when you're making a new ordinance, you have a public hearing, but technically as the health officer, the health officer can just institute this.

JC

I think we would be wise to have a hearing.

Cara

We can do that next meeting.

3. Surveying of town owned property (4/27/2021)

4. Review of solar project proposal – CDC project (6/14/2022)

5. Consideration of renaming of roads with separate, unpassable sections (5/23/2023)

6. Discussion on Traffic Control Ordinance (6/27/2023)

7. Review of the Street Numbering System Ordinance (8/8/2023)

8. Review of the Pittsfield NH Nonstandard addressing report (8/8/2023)

9. Town Clock winder (2/13/2024)

Carl

Updates on the bell clock winder?

JC

I've talked to a bunch of people associated with the Congregational Church relative to clock winding. And it seems everybody I chose to talk to had either been the clock winder at some time in the past, or is sufficiently gray-haired enough to look at the ladders and say, no, I don't wish to be the clock winder. So I've struck out.

Carole

Can we ask some younger people maybe? Is there an insurance thing or is there an age? Even though it's in the Congregational Church's building.

JC

It's the church's building, but it's the town's clock.

Carl

Don't the high schoolers have to have their community service?

Carole

We must have some responsible young men in town. Anybody know any?

Jim

Or ladies.

Carole

Or ladies, yes.

Carole

Maybe we should enlist the school, maybe a senior. It's just a suggestion we can ask. I just think some kid might really get a charge of doing something like that.

JC

So, maybe we should put a write-up on Facebook or something saying, hey, we're looking for a clock winder.

Carole

And an assistant.

JC

And an assistant. I think you're right on that.

Jim

Now that's a once a week wind, right?

JC

Once a week. And as Chris said, I guess for several years, Chris has fixed for his own purposes, on Thursday was the winding day. But it's up to the winder. It could be in that once a week. You could do it any time you want.

Carole

You could check with the principal of the high school or the outlet director. There's got to be some responsible men and women in town.

Cara

I can check with the school. I can also put it on the website and then have Erica share it on her Facebook page, which is no comments, it's just info.

10. Town Hall shoveling & maintenance (2/13/2024)

Carl

So while we're on these subjects of who's going to do things for the town, we don't have any shovelers yet, right? And the maintenance situation. The way the water comes off the roof up front here, splashes down, destroying the concrete. The concrete's angle runs it back into the cellar. And Cara's talked to some people about working on it down below, and none of them want to have any part of it the drainage fixed up top and it was raining the day I was here. And there's a gutter up there, but it just spilled right out over the top of the gutter.

JC

Is that because we need a clean?

Carl

I don't know, I didn't climb up there. But the water just poured right out the top, so we need to start addressing this or we're just going to have a colossal disaster out front.

Carole

Did you check with Scott? Did his sons do something?

Cara

Yeah, they just repaired the fascia that's on there.

Carole

Well he might know somebody who knows what we need to do.

Carl

Well, we do need to get somebody to look at it and figure out what's the matter with it and what to do with it because that water coming out over the top is just going, it'll potentially leave some breaks there.

Jim

Leaf gutter a place to start? Leaf gutter companies. Now I know they might say they do mostly residential but somebody's got to do the industrial. Maybe they could set you in the right direction. Because leaf gutters, what is it? Leaf gutters? Leaf filters, they're advertising every night I'm telling you. And they've got jobbers all over the place. And you'd take free estimates. So I don't know.

Carl

Well, we need to put on our little thinking caps and figure out who we're going to get to put a ladder up there and see what think of the situation. You can't tell much from the ground. Only that there's water pouring out over the top, so let's do something.

JC

Unless we know somebody's got one of those handy dandy drones with a camera on it so they can put it right up there and look around.

Carl

You got a drone, Rob, you want to look at it?

JC

You don't have one yet?

Carl

No, but if I did, it'd probably crash it into the building.

Rob Freese

I'll give it a look.

Carl

Would you? Yeah. Alright, appreciate it. If you can find time to give it a look, our next meeting is not until after town meeting.

Cara

The 26th.

Carl

Any chance that you get weather that will allow you to do that and you have time, you can let us know by our next meeting what it looks like up there. That'd be a step.

Rob

All right, a few pictures.

Jim

Who knows when they put the new roof on this thing?

Carl

Was it like 20 years ago?

JC

No idea.

Jim

You must have been here, Cara?

Cara

It was like 2008 or 10, maybe?

Carl

Wow, so that means nobody peeked into that since then. No, it's been a while. God only knows what that is. Well, at least we have a place to start. We'll get some pictures of it and we'll roll from there.

11.SUO amendment – sump pump fee (2/13/2024)

Cara

What about the sewer pump fee amendment? Amending the sewer use ordinance? Or did you want to do it after town meeting when we know the budget? Because we might have to have a public hearing to increase the rates, too.

Carole

It probably does make more sense to wait until we find out the rates needed.

JC

We can do that at the meeting on the 26th.

Cara

Then the public hearing at a meeting after the discussion on the 26th.

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. February 13, 2024 – Public Session Minutes

Gerard made a motion to accept the public session minutes.
Jim seconded the motion.
Discussion: None
Motion carried. 3-0-2, Gerard and Carole were absent from that meeting

2. February 13, 2024 – Nonpublic Session Minutes

Gerard made a motion to accept the nonpublic session minutes.
Jim seconded the motion.
Discussion: None
Motion carried. 3-0-2, Gerard and Carole were absent from that meeting

PUBLIC INPUT

Dan Schroth

The first thing I want to do is, Carl, I think you're a great chairman. If I get out of line, just hit me again and I'll say, Carl, I'm sorry, I have a lot of respect for you. I just want you to know that. If I get out of line, just let me know.

Carl

No problem.

Dan

Okay. This is a climate change path forward, but before we get into that, we were in executive session for BCEP, I don't want to say too much, but we were talking about the guy taking the job. He was missing Excel computer skills, and he was missing some management skills, with the idea of he would be trained. It's not a mess out there. We have four towns running that place. There's a lot of different ideas. But believe me, it's not a mess, okay? We've got a firm handle on that.

Carl

Okay.

Dan

That doesn't count, by the way. That was just a report. Oh, Cara, I'd like the minutes, February 13th. I think you did a good job on the minutes. I'm just looking for the public input. I want a record of the material that I handed out. You know, I want my own record. February 13th, just the end, you know, the public input. And I'll be happy to pay for them. Just to let you know. And I'm going to want that this meeting also and every following meeting. I want a record of this transaction. And, okay, did everybody read my material? I'm not going to label it again. I've already done that at the last meeting. Did everybody read my material? Gerard, did you get a copy? Did you read it?

Gerard

Huh? Nope.

Dan

Would you like a copy?

Gerard

Nope.

Dan

Carole, did you get a copy? This was at the last meeting. This was the material you gave me back. Did you have a chance to read it?

Carole

Yes.

Dan

And Carl, I think you looked it over. Jim, you've looked it over. Jim?

Jim

I skimmed it.

Dan

You skimmed it. Okay.

Jim

I'm very busy. I'm very busy now.

Dan

Everybody good? Everybody's had a coffee?

Carl

Move along, Dan.

Dan

I'm getting there.

Carl

You have three minutes.

Dan

These issues are real, they must be addressed. I want you to bring our state reps in here and try to convince them because they're probably going to be state reps from now until then. We have to work with what we got.

Carl

I hope not. Let me interrupt you just a minute.

Dan

Go ahead, Carl.

Carl

I don't believe there's anybody on this board, me certainly, that has any interest in bringing our reps in here to answer to us or to you. So, unless somebody else on the board disagrees, we might as well take it off the table. You spend three minutes in there telling us that we need to do it, but I'm telling you that it's not going to happen.

Dan

Well, at the end of every meeting, you can expect this, Carl, because these things are real and they must be addressed.

Carl

Then you get three minutes and the clock is done.

Dan

You tell me when I'm done. These things are real. They must be addressed. I want a record of this because we're going to see as a town if we can even discuss it, if we can bring our reps in. We're going to see if we can even do it. And so we'll talk about it and we'll get a record and we'll see if we can move along as the year progresses. We have obligations, Carl. Just letting you know. Thank you for listening.

Jim

One quick thing. At the end of the day, what do you hope to accomplish with this?

Dan

Well, if you look on page one, you have to have huge policy shifts in order to do anything.

Carl

What on earth is the town of Pittsfield, Board of Selectmen, going to do with any of that? We have not, we could not make a dent in any of that.

JC

That is a much higher level than the Pittsfield Board of Selectmen.

Dan Schroth

No, you choose to ignore it. If not us, then who, Jim?

Dan

One more thing. We have three high hazard dams in a row. We are extra special. And we're going to get that rain someday. And we're going to be sorry we couldn't even discuss it. All I'm asking is to bring our reps in here and try to convince them that, look into the future, we've got to do more than they're doing. They're balking at everything. The 10-year highway plan, for instance, is that they have hardly any electric included. They're balking. We need to convince them that they need to take action. Thank you for listening, you guys. You guys do a good job around the town. I don't want to interfere with that. I just want you to do more. Okay. And like I said, if I could get those minutes, sometime, I'll be happy to pay for them.

Carl

Thank you.

Carl

Okay, Noel, do you need us for something?

Supt Noel Gourley

I just have one thing. We're posting the roads on Friday. Yeah. It's going to rain next week. Yeah, 50 degrees. They're in pretty good shape right now. We'll see later this week. That's all I have. I'll keep you guys in the loop.

Carl

Rego, you all set?

Sgt Rego

I'm just here for the entertainment.

Carl

Okay.

Carl

Thank you.

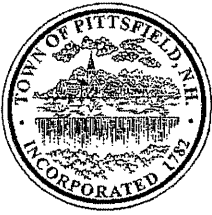
The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Approved:



Carl Anderson

3/26/24
Date



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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024

REGULAR SESSION - 6:00 p.m. - call to order
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC INPUT - regarding agenda items only
AGENDA REVIEW

NEW BUSINESS
ACTION ITEMS

1. Consideration of acceptance of donation for Parks & Rec Easter Egg hunt - Clothes Closet
2. Review of the Draft Community Power Plan

COMMITTEE & DEPARTMENT REPORTS
INFORMATION ITEMS

OLD BUSINESS

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2. Proposed Health Ordinance (8/11/2020)
3. Surveying of town owned property (4/27/2021)
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8. Review of the Pittsfield NH Nonstandard addressing report (8/8/2023)
9. Town Clock winder (2/13/2024)
10. Town Hall shoveling & maintenance (2/13/2024)
11. SUO amendment - sump pump fee (2/13/2024)

ACCOUNTING REGISTERS

1. Accounts Payable
2. Payroll

MINUTES

1. February 13, 2024 - Public Session Minutes
2. February 13, 2024 - 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