



TOWN OF PITTSFIELD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL, 85 MAIN STREET
PITTSFIELD, NH 03263

MEETING MINUTES OF Wednesday, January 11, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Call to order at 6:04 PM by Katie Bocash, Chair

MEMBERS PRESENT (9)

Katie Bocash, Chair
Jeremy Everson, Secretary
Carol Richardson, Select Board Rep.
Sandra Adams, School Board Rep.
John Christakos
Dan Greene
Fred Hast
Larry Konopka
Helen Schiff

MEMBERS ABSENT (4)

Ammy Ramsey, Vice Chair
Tracy Huyck
David Stasiak
Brooke Weldon

GUESTS PRESENT

Brian Lane, Superintendent of Schools

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED:

- *Pittsfield School District Proposed Budget Summary (1/9/23)*
- *Pittsfield School District 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant*
- *Town of Pittsfield 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant*
- *Town of Pittsfield 2023 Budget Sheets: Revenues, Recap by Department, Library*

Agenda Item 1: Town Budget Documents

Documents Referenced:

- *Town of Pittsfield 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant*
- *Town of Pittsfield 2023 Budget Sheets: Revenues, Recap by Department, Library*

Discussion: K. Bocash led the overview and discussion of the Town Meeting Warrant Articles. According to the updated Budget Recap by Department the proposed town budget total will be \$6,609,996, and the Default budget will be \$4,995,952.

- The Default Budget total is significantly lower than the Proposed Budget
- Proposed Revenues are down from 2022, so even though the Proposed Budget reflects a decrease from the Approved Budget from 2022 there is an increase in the tax rate.
- Article 2: Municipal Operating Budget – see totals above
- Article 3: Municipal Sidewalks Improvement – no tax impact. The funds proposed for the sidewalks project will be withdrawn from the Capital Reserve Fund.
- Article 4 Public Works Truck Replacement – This is for an advance purchase of a truck that will not be available until the following year.
- Article 5 Fire Department Grant, Tanker Replacement – we did not receive this grant last year.
- Article 6 Ambulance Replacement – the funds for the new ambulance will come from the Capital Reserve Fund for that purpose.
- Article 7 Increase Annual Deposit to the Ambulance Replacement & Equipment Fund – the ambulance billing revenues need to be increased to deposit sufficient funds to the Capital Reserve Fund in order to be able to purchase and replace the ambulances as needed.
- Articles 8-19 appropriate funds to the Capital Reserve Funds to replace vehicles and equipment for the departments included in the town budget.
 - Article 8 Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund
 - Article 9 Fire & Rescue Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund
 - Article 10 Fire Department Small Equipment Capital Reserve Fund
 - Article 11 Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund
 - Article 12 Fire Department Tanker Capital Reserve Fund
 - Article 13 Fire Department Forestry Truck Capital Reserve Fund
 - Article 14 Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund
 - Article 15 Loader Capital Reserve Fund
 - Article 16 Grader Capital Reserve Fund
 - Article 17 Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund
 - Article 18 Sidewalk Tractor Capital Reserve Fund
 - Article 19 Light Equipment Capital Reserve Fund
- Article 20 Floral Park Cemetery Fence Expendable Trust Fund
- Article 21 Creation of a Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

Agenda Item 2: School Budget Documents

Documents Referenced:

- *Pittsfield School District Proposed Budget Summary (1/9/23)*
- *Pittsfield School District 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant*

Discussion: K. Bocash and B. Lane led the discussion and overview of the Warrant Articles (including the proposed budget, Article 1).

- Warrant Article 1: Operating Budget – the Proposed Budget total is \$10,379,918 and the Default Budget is \$10,219,158.70. The estimated tax impact is \$0.39 and is recommended by the School Board (5-0). A YES vote would appropriate the Proposed Budget total and a NO vote would appropriate the Default Budget total.
- Warrant Article 2: Food Service Program – this article allows the schools to receive Federal and State funds as revenues to support the School Lunch Program. There is no tax impact. A YES vote would allow \$330,000 to be received as revenues for this purpose and a NO vote would cause the schools to lose that revenue.
- Warrant Article 3: Recover and Expend Grant Funds – this article allows the schools to receive Federal and Private Grant funds as revenues to support the School Educational Program. There is no tax impact. A YES vote would allow \$850,000 to be received as revenues for this purpose and a NO vote would cause the schools to lose that revenue.
- Preparation for the Public Hearing: Thursday, January 12 – the meeting will begin with the School District Budget Proposal. The meeting will be held at the High School Auditorium and will be available in hybrid form with a GoToMeeting option.
 - From B. Wheldon, regarding the meeting:
 - *I've got everything finalized with Derek to make the public hearing tomorrow night be successful.*
 - *1. Those joining online will be able to ask questions; the audience and Budget Committee members will be able to hear through the microphone.*
 - *2. Derek created a [Google Meets link](#) to the school Google Calendar posting for the meeting. He will share it out on their website, social media, etc. and can send it to Erica at the Town Office to post as well.*
 - *@Katie - can you share on FB also? You might want to suggest to folks they should DL Google Meet app on their phone/tablet/computer for the best connection. They will be able to join via browser as well, and recommend using Google Chrome. You may also say we hope for success in people joining and engaging online however, for the best participation and experience please try to attend in-person.*
 - *3. Derek will be using two computers and a microphone to manage the Google Meets. It has worked well for their recent School Board meetings. They are planning to set it up tomorrow morning in the lecture hall. I will be at the school for the MS boys basketball game at 4 PM and will go down to do some testing at half-time.*
 - *4. Derek offered to manage the Google Meets and/or work with a Budget Committee to do that. I will bring my laptop to assist Derek in managing on behalf of our Committee.*

Agenda Item 3: Approval of Meeting Minutes

December 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- Motion to Approve: D. Greene
- Motion 2nd: F. Hast
- 7(yes) – 0 (no) – 2 (abstentions)

Motion Passed

Next Meeting

There will be a Public Hearing on Thursday, January 12, 2023, starting at 7:00 pm, at the High School Auditorium.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 18, 2022, starting at 6:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Submitted by: Jeremy Everson, Secretary

Approved:

Katie Bocash, Chair

Date