

2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

TOWN OF PITTSFIELD

February 4, 2023

Town Moderator Carole Dodge was unable to attend the First Session of the 2023 Town Meeting. The Supervisors of the Checklist appointed Town Administrator Cara Marston to serve as Interim Moderator for the meeting. Ms. Marston explained she currently serves as a Trustee of Trust Funds and asked the Legislative Body if they would prefer that the Supervisors appoint another person to serve as Moderator. The Legislative Body was comfortable with her serving in this capacity. The First Session of the 2023 Town meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. on Saturday, February 4, 2023 in the Pittsfield Middle High School Gymnasium. Interim Moderator Marston welcomed those in attendance and led the *Pledge of Allegiance*. Interim Moderator Marston explained she would read each warrant article and then would open the floor for discussion and the option to amend. She asked the Body if it was acceptable if she just read the article number and title or would they prefer she read aloud the articles in their entirety. The Body agreed she could just read the number and title. She stated that no final votes would be taken today, but would happen by ballot on Election Day Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

Interim Moderator Marston read the introduction to warrant:

To the inhabitants of the Town of Pittsfield in the County of Merrimack, in said State, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet for the first session of the annual meeting, to be held in the Pittsfield Middle High School Gymnasium at 23 Oneida Street in said Pittsfield on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. This first (deliberative) session, for the transaction of all business other than voting by official ballot, shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each warrant article as allowed by law. In the event of inclement weather, the snow date for the first session will be Monday, February 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the same location.

You are also notified to meet for the second session of the annual meeting, to be held in the Pittsfield Middle High School Gymnasium at 23 Oneida Street in said Pittsfield on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, to vote on the 2023 annual town meeting warrant articles by official ballot. The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.

Article 1:

To choose by ballot the following officers:

- one Cemetery Trustee for a three (3) year term
- one Library Trustee for a three (3) year term
- one Planning Board member for a three (3) year term
- one Board of Selectmen member for a three (3) year term
- one Town Treasurer for a three (3) year term
- one Trustee of the Trust Funds for a three (3) year term
- two Zoning Board of Adjustment members for a three (3) year term

2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

Article 2 – Municipal Operating Budget

Shall the town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including the appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **\$5,190,496?**

Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **\$4,995,952** which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Estimated tax impact is \$8.481 per thousand dollars of assessed value.
(majority vote required)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

Article 02 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 2 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Adams.

Dan Schroth made a motion to increase the operating budget by \$10,000. Rick Anthony seconded the motion to amend Article 2.

Mr. Schroth asked that the \$10,000.00 be used toward climate change mitigation. He stated he went to school here in Pittsfield and had a teacher, Michael Pszonowsky, who taught him to think globally and act locally. He stated that he has been doing a lot of research and attended the Town's Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation meetings this past summer. He cautioned that the weather is going to become increasingly more extreme, which will lead to more problems and more challenges. He handed out a climate fact sheet and shared statistics. He stated we all need to do our part. He would like a committee created comprised of students, school board members and selectmen to look toward solutions and sources of cleaner energy. We need to work toward eliminating fossil fuel emissions. He stressed that we are at a tipping point.

There being no further discussion, Interim Moderator Marston called for a vote to amend Article 2. The proposed amendment was defeated by majority hand vote.

There being no further discussion, Article 2 shall appear on the ballot as originally written.

2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

Article 3 - Municipal Sidewalks improvement

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000** for the purpose of improvements to our municipal sidewalks and to authorize the withdrawal of **\$25,000** to come from the Municipal Sidewalks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance collected in 2022 was \$28,785.00, which will be transferred to the Municipal Sidewalks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund in fiscal year 2023. The balance of the Municipal Sidewalks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund was \$23,377.03 on December 31, 2022.

There is no estimated tax impact.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Article 03 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 3 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 3 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 4 – public works truck replacement

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$210,000** for the purchase of a truck for the public works department, to authorize the withdrawal of **\$153,000** to come from the Public Works Small Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose, with the balance of **\$57,000** to be funded by taxation.

The balance of the Public Works Small Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund was \$153,177.37 on December 31, 2022.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.16 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Article 04 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 4 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

Mark Riel asked which truck would be replaced first. Superintendent of Public Works Noel Gourley responded he would like to replace the 2011 International. Mike Cabral asked when the town would get the truck. Superintendent Gourley stated hopefully March 2024.

2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

There being no further discussion, Article 4 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 5 – raising matching funds for a Fire Department grant – 1994 fire tanker replacement

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$450,000** for the purchase of a tanker truck for the fire department, with a **grant revenue offset of \$400,000** to come from an Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, leaving \$50,000 required as matching funds and to authorize the withdrawal of **\$50,000** from the Fire Department Tanker Capital Reserve Fund. The matching funds amount will be spent only if the grant is received. This article is required to be written to show the entire appropriation and offsetting grant revenue, not just the net obligation, per the gross budgeting concept for transparency. The balance of the Fire Department Tanker Capital Reserve Fund was \$123,579.37 on December 31, 2022.

There is no estimated tax impact.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Article 05 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 5 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 5 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 6 – ambulance replacement

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$385,000** for the purchase of an ambulance and the ambulance equipment necessary to be licensed by the State of New Hampshire, and to authorize the withdrawal of **\$385,000** to come from the Ambulance Replacement and Equipment Fund created for this purpose.

This article is being presented for a consideration a year ahead of the replacement schedule as the factory build times are two full years once an order is placed. The ambulance replacement schedule is not changing. To maintain the current 10-year replacement schedule, the 2014 ambulance has to be ordered in 2023, to be received in 2024.

There is no estimated tax impact.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

Article 06 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 6 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 6 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 7 – increase annual deposit into the Ambulance Replacement & Equipment Fund

To see if the town will vote, in accordance with RSA 31:95-d, V, to change the fractional portion of revenues to deposit into the existing Ambulance Replacement and Equipment Fund, an RSA 31:95-c special revenue fund created in 1998 and last amended in 2020, the change being to restrict **\$70,000** in revenues from the annual amount of ambulance billings recorded in the General Fund to be deposited annually into the existing Ambulance Replacement and Equipment Fund for the continued purpose of funding the replacements of the town's ambulances along with the ambulance equipment necessary to be licensed by the State of New Hampshire.

The revenues and expenditures accounted for in the Ambulance Replacement and Equipment Fund are separate from the General Fund. Any surplus in the Ambulance Replacement and Equipment Fund is not deemed to be a part of the General Fund accumulated surplus and shall be expended only after a vote by the legislative body to appropriate an amount from the Ambulance Replacement and Equipment Fund for a specific purpose related to the purpose of the fund and source of revenue.

(2/3 vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Article 07 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 7 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 7 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 8 – add to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000** to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund was \$30,070.27 on December 31, 2022.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.084 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)
(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Article 08 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 8 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

Mark Riel asked when the next vehicle would be purchased. Police Chief Joe Collins responded the plan is for next year.

There being no further discussion, Article 8 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 9 – add to the Fire Department Fire & Rescue Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000** to be added to the Fire Department Fire & Rescue Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Fire Department Fire & Rescue Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund was \$207.17 on December 31, 2022. Estimated tax impact is \$0.028 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)
(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Article 09 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 9 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 9 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 10 – add to the Fire Department Small Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,000** to be added to the Fire Department Small Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Fire Department Small Equipment Capital Reserve Fund was \$3,050.84 on December 31, 2022. Estimated tax impact is \$0.003 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)
(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

Article 10 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 10 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 10 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 11 – add to the Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$98,000** to be added to the Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund was \$137,437.37 on December 31, 2022.

Estimated tax impact is approximately \$0.276 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Article 11 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 11 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

Mark Riel asked how old the current pumper was and when they hoped to replace it. Fire Chief Peter Pszonowsky responded it is a 2002. Normally they would look to replace it at 30 years, but with the significant increase in costs and time it is taking to get equipment, they would like to start the process sooner.

There being no further discussion, Article 11 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 12 – add to the Fire Department Tanker Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,000** to be added to the Fire Department Tanker Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Fire Department Tanker Capital Reserve Fund was \$123,579.37 on December 31, 2022.

Estimated tax impact is approximately \$0.042 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Article 12 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 12 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

Mark Riel asked how old the current tanker is and when they hoped to replace it. Fire Chief Pszonowsky stated they had applied for a FEMA grant, and if awarded, they would receive the funds in the fall. They will not purchase the tanker at this time if the town does not receive the grant. He stated the current tanker is a 1994.

There being no further discussion, Article 12 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 13 – add to the Fire Department Forestry Truck Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$8,000** to be added to the Fire Department Forestry Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Fire Department Forestry Truck Capital Reserve Fund was \$29,097.82 on December 31, 2022. Estimated tax impact is approximately \$0.023 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Article 13 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 13 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 13 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 14 – add to the Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$80,000** to be added to the Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The proposed addition to this Capital Reserve Fund is to support the replacement of **three dump trucks, in different staggered years**. The balance of the Public Works Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund was \$288,540.91 on December 31, 2022. Estimated tax impact is \$0.225 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Article 14 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 14 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

Mark Riel asked if this fund is for different trucks than the previous truck fund. Superintendent Gourley confirmed it was. Mr. Riel asked when the next truck is scheduled to be replaced. Superintendent Gourley stated hopefully next year. The truck they are considering would be a lot more efficient – they would be able to haul out our own snow, it would have much better gas mileage and would stay out on the road longer. Currently the crew is spending a lot of time fixing the older trucks and other equipment, keeping them from doing other road maintenance projects. Tracy Huyck stated the town would save money if we bought a truck that could haul out snow instead of contracting out. She thanked Superintendent Gourley and his crew for their hard work.

There being no further discussion, Article 14 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 15 – add to the Loader Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,000** to be added to the Loader Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Public Works Loader Capital Reserve Fund was \$80,899.33 on December 31, 2022.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.042 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Article 15 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 15 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 15 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 16 – add to the Grader Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$42,000** to be added to the Grader Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Public Works Grader Capital Reserve Fund was \$194,248.77 on December 31, 2022.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.118 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)
(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Article 16 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 16 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 16 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 17 – add to the Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$9,000** to be added to the Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Public Works Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund was \$43,973.93 on December 31, 2022.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.025 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)
(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Article 17 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 17 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 17 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 18 – add to the Sidewalk Tractor Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$21,000** to be added to the Sidewalk Tractor Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Public Works Sidewalk Tractor Capital Reserve Fund was \$56,724.65 on December 31, 2022.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.059 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)
(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Article 18 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 18 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 18 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 19 – add to the Light Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$20,000** to be added to the Light Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Public Works Light Equipment Capital Reserve Fund was \$20,003.40 on December 31, 2022.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.056 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Article 19 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 19 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

Mark Riel asked what constituted light equipment. Superintendent Gourley responded it includes equipment like lawn mowers, chipper, and gravel road widener. Fred Hast asked how much the equipment costs. Superintendent Gourley responded that a chipper currently costs approximately \$60,000, which is the first priority. He reiterated that the crew is spending a lot of time fixing the current equipment.

There being no further discussion, Article 19 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 20 – add to the Floral Park Cemetery Fence Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$500** to be added to the Floral Park Cemetery Fence Expendable Trust Fund previously established.

This sum is the amount of a \$500 Select Board Member stipend that was designated to be donated to this Trust Fund which is in the general fund's unassigned fund balance as an unspent appropriation and no amount is to be raised by taxation. The balance of the Floral Park Cemetery Fence Expendable Trust Fund was \$4,139.36 on December 31, 2022.

There is no estimated tax impact for this warrant article.

(majority vote required)

2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Article 20 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 20 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 20 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 21 – creation of a Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the town will vote to establish a Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund pursuant to RSA 31:19-a and RSA 289:2-a, allowing all future proceeds received from the sale of cemetery lots in Pittsfield cemeteries and any interest gained thereon, for the maintenance of cemeteries; and to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to put in the fund, with this amount to come from the general fund's unassigned fund balance as an unspent appropriation with no amount to be raised by taxation; further to name the Cemetery Trustees as agents to expend from said fund.

There is no estimated tax impact for this warrant article.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Article 21 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 21 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 21 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 22 – readoption of Optional Veterans' Tax Credit

Shall the Town of Pittsfield readopt the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$300?

(majority vote required)

Article 22 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 22 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

Mark Riel asked what the tax impact would be. Interim Moderator Marston responded there was a recent change in statute requiring municipalities to readopt the optional veterans' tax credit. If this article does not pass, the credit would default to the State minimum of \$50. This article leaves the credit as it currently stands. She stated there are currently 118 credits in Pittsfield totaling \$35,400.00. If this article fails, the total would be \$5,900. Selectmen James Adams, who serves as Chairman of the State Veterans Counsel, stated each municipality votes to set their own credit amount.

There being no further discussion, Article 22 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 23 – readoption of All Veterans' Credit

Shall the Town of Pittsfield readopt the All Veterans' Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall equal the amount of the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town of Pittsfield under RSA 72:28?
(majority vote required)

Article 23 was read by Interim Moderator Marston.

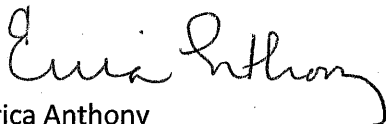
Selectman Gerard LeDuc made the motion to accept Article 23 as read. Seconded by Selectman James Allard.

Interim Moderator Marston stated the town currently has 16 credits totaling \$4,800.00. If this article does not pass, it would reduce to \$800. This credit works in conjunction with the optional veterans' credit.

There being no further discussion, Article 23 shall appear on the ballot as written.

There being no further business, Moderator Marston adjourned the meeting at 10:38 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erica Anthony
Town Clerk

