



**TOWN OF PITTSFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN HALL, 85 MAIN STREET  
PITTSFIELD, NH 03263**

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**MEETING MINUTES OF Tuesday, October 31, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Call to order at 6:00 p.m. by James C. Allard, Chairman

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

J.C. Allard, Chairman  
Gerard LeDuc, Vice-Chairman  
Carole Richardson  
Carl Anderson  
James Adams

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Cara Marston, Town Administrator  
Ammy Ramsey, Recording Secretary

**PUBLIC INPUT** – regarding agenda items only

None

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Gerard: Phone call from selectman Adams.  
Jim: None.  
Carole: None.  
J.C.: None.  
Carl: None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**1. 2018 Property Tax Rate**

J.C. inquired with Cara that if the board decided to do nothing that the tax rate would be \$2.61.

Cara stated that doing nothing meant the board would put in \$30,000.00 for overlay which is the amount of the abatements that have been done so far this year, the town portion would be \$11.41. So the question would be if the board would like to put some of the fund balance towards that.

Gerard asked how much of the fund balance would need to be taken if we brought it down to the \$10.65 that we had last year. Cara stated last year was \$10.95 and we would have to use \$119,815.00, and that would come from last year's ending fund balance.

Gerard asked if we can see anything coming that would be a shock, Cara stated no, as far as any abatements.

Carl asked what the ramifications would be if we use more of the fund balance. Cara stated that they have to remember that this is not all liquid money that is available. Some of it is cash, uncollected taxes, and the difference between receivables and payables and it changes daily.

Carole confirmed with Cara that the town's general rule of thumb is to keep a million dollars in the fund balance. Carole remembers a previous selectboard member wanting to take more of the fund balance and apply it so that the tax rate would go down.

Cara stated yes, but it is not all money that is available in the bank.

Carl confirmed that the fund balance is at 1.5 million, and discussed taking \$200,000.00 and leaving the \$300,000.00 above the rule of thumb. Cara confirmed that, and mentioned the DRA's rule of thumb is that the fund balance is at least 3 months of operating expenditures, and the 1 million is above that.

Carole inquired about using the \$524,962.00, and Cara said they could do that.

Carl inquired with Cara about a way this board could help with the increase of the school tax rate, would be to use some of the town's fund balance. Carl commented concerning issues of having the town on a shoe string budget and the board cutting where they can to bring down the town's budget to offset the school's increase.

Carole mentioned her concern of the contracts coming up. Cara mentioned there is a concern with the dam at White's Pond, as well. J.C. stated that the dam is an example of a reason we should leave some in the fund balance.

Carl asked what the ramifications would be for a home assessed at \$150,000.00 if they leave the school's portion reflected as an increase. Cara stated with the county, school, and state and stabilize the town portion from last year at \$10.95 the anticipated tax rate would be \$34.52 and last year's rate was \$32.25. Which is an increase of \$2.27 and for a home assessed at \$180,000.00 the increase would be \$408.00. Cara stated a home assessed at \$150,000.00 would be \$340.00. Carl stated he would like to see the municipal go down a little and as far as he can see everyone is doing ok with a little less. Cara stated using \$200,000.00 of the fund balance would bring the rate from \$10.95 to \$10.65 the rate increase would be \$1.97. So for the \$180,000.00 home the increase would be \$350.00 per year.

Carole asked what the numbers would be if we used \$300,000.00, Cara stated the municipal rate would be \$10.27 and tax rate would increase \$1.59, so on an \$180,000.00 home the increase would be \$285.00. Carl stated he is leaning towards that number. Cara stated if you would like to have the rate increase at \$1.25 you would use \$305,000.00 of the fund balance.

Jim asked how everyone feels about using the \$500,000.00. Cara stated that if a large expense would come about for instance the dam or if something happened with the sewer it could have an impact.

Carole asked about \$400,000.00, Cara stated it would be for the municipal portion and the tax rate increase would be \$1.21 and tax rate would be \$33.46 so for an \$180,000.00 home the increase would be \$217.00. Carl and Carole agreed that is a good number. Cara mentioned that this would be an estimated number until it is approved by the DRA.

J.C. asked Gerard if he had any thoughts and Gerard stated he does not like \$400,000.00 or even \$300,000.00 but at the same time we don't want to overburden the people in town. Jim believes that over 40% of our residents are social security recipients and they live on a

tight budget and some believe the municipal employees make too much. So it is hard to balance that line because we have a safe town to live in but the townspeople do not want the taxes going up. Cara stated that in order for that to happen you would need to use around \$600,000.00.

Carl stated as much as he would like to see that he does not feel it is their responsibility to make up the entire difference on the school side. Carl also feels that they are faced with making the decision of how much of the savings and penny pinching they use to help the tax rate to offset the school increase, so it does not affect the tax payers as much. Carl asked what kind of expense would happen to need more than the million in the fund balance, Cara stated she is not aware of any. J.C. mentioned the only thing he can think of is White's Pond Dam, and there was some discussion concerning the dam.

Carole asked about the \$78,000.00 that we got back from the school and what fund that goes into, Cara explained that is reflected in the net school's appropriation.

Jim confirmed the numbers if they used \$400,000.00, with Cara and she also mentioned as long as the numbers are approved by the DRA. Carl asked what we used last year and it was stated that figure was \$120,000.00. Carl inquired as to what was the fund balance after using that \$120,000.00, Cara stated that the fund balance was at 1.5 million. Carl does not feel it is irresponsible to use \$400,000.00. Carole confirmed with Cara that taxes are coming in good. Jim stated he feels that the tax payers want to see us doing something and feels that we are and the tax payers do see that. Carl stated that they have been cutting and saving everywhere they can and if we keep an extra \$500,000.00 in the fund balance that it does not show appreciation to the employees for the good work they have done with the cuts and savings.

Jim: I make a motion to utilize \$400,000.00 of the fund balance to offset the tax rate.

Carl: Second.

Discussion: None.

Motion carries 4-1 Gerard opposes

## **2. Gerard's phone call**

Gerard stated he is concerned about a phone call he received from Selectman Adams pertaining to his appointment of selectboard representative on the Budget Committee. Gerard stated that Bob Schiferle and he have been working hard to train the 4 new members on the committee, and feels selecting a new person to take that position would not be a wise move. Jim stated that he only asked Gerard if he was familiar with all the ramifications of SB2. Gerard agreed with Jim and stated that he is familiar with SB2 and stated that he has been serving this town for 20 years and has never shirked any of his multiple duties with all of his other responsibilities. Jim stated he never implied that he would ever shirk a duty, but is concerned that the SB2 and the understanding of the default budget, Gerard stated that is not a concern of this board because the school sets the default budget. Jim stated he understood that and his concern is with Gerard being consumed with all that SB2 entails and never implied that he could not handle it or would shirk anything. Jim also stated that he thought he explained that and was only suggesting for Gerard to think about it. Gerard stated Jim did ask him to think about it and his answer is no.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Raymond Ramsey stated he understands what Carl stated about the school and offsetting for their budget and feels that it is quite responsible of this board has done something because you are able, and as tax payer he is appreciative and feels that other tax payers are going to look at it and feel that you are responsible and not the school.

Bob Schiferle agrees with Ray and feels the town has done very well with their responsibility of the budget and also stated that the tax payers were aware of the school's tax rate when they voted. Bob also inquired about Cara's comment referring to the fund balance changing daily and this is a snap shot of that balance at that time and asked if it is a high figure. Cara stated the last time it was at 1.5 million was in 2014 and it is generally over that at the end of the year. Cara stated it may be a little high, in 2013 it was 1.3 million but generally it falls a little over 1 million. Bob inquired about the impact of using the \$400,000.00, and Cara explained the process of using that amount.

Gerard: I make a motion to adjourn.

Carole: Second.

Discussion: None.

Motion carries 5-0

Approved:

James C. Allard      28 Nov 2017  
James C. Allard, Chairman      Date



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

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**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017**

6:00 p.m. – call to order

**PUBLIC INPUT** – regarding agenda items only

**AGENDA REVIEW**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. 2018 Property Tax Rate

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Public Input standards: 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

*Please note: The meetings of the Board of Selectmen are recorded, audio and video.*



**MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGE**

TOWN OF PITTSFIELD

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN OFFICE, 85 MAIN STREET

PITTSFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03263

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The Pittsfield Board of Selectmen will be meeting  
at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31, 2017  
at the Pittsfield Town Hall, 85 Main Street, Pittsfield NH 03263

this is a change in the regular meeting time