

# 2018 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Town Moderator Frederick Okrent called the 2018 Town Meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. on Saturday, March 17, 2018 in the Pittsfield Elementary School Gymnasium. The Pittsfield Girl Scout Troop 10540 led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Moderator Okrent welcomed the Body to the 236<sup>th</sup> and final traditional town meeting. He explained the rules of procedure and explained Article 11 must be determined by paper ballot. He thanked everyone for coming out Tuesday to vote in yet another snow storm.

People sitting on the stage included Select Board Chairman James Allard, Selectman Gerard LeDuc, Selectman Carl Anderson, Selectwoman Carole Richardson, Selectman Jim Adams, Superintendent of Public Works George Bachelder, Police Chief Jeffrey Cain, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Erica Anthony and Town Administrator Cara Marston.

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 at the Town Hall Meeting Room at 85 Main Street in said Pittsfield on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at 7:00 a.m. to act on Articles 1 through 9 below. The voting on Articles 1 through 9 will be by official ballot, and the polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and will remain open until 7:00 p.m. to receive your ballots.

You are hereby notified to meet at the Pittsfield Elementary School Gymnasium at 34 Bow Street in said Pittsfield on Saturday, March 17, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. to act on the remaining Articles below.

## TO BE TAKEN UP TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018

### 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
- two Planning Board members for a three (3) year term
- two Selectmen for a three (3) year term
- one Supervisor of the Checklist for a six (6) year term
- one Town Clerk/Tax Collector for a three (3) year term
- one Town Moderator for a two (2) 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
- one Zoning Board of Adjustment member for a two (2) year term

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Moderator Okrent read the results of the March 13, 2018 Town Elections:

**One Cemetery Trustee** for a three (3) year term –  
**Cara M. Marston elected** – 444 votes

**One Library Trustee** for a three (3) year term –  
**Theresa Endler (write-in) elected** – 31 votes

**Two Planning Board Members** for a three (3) year term –  
**Clayton Wood elected** – 296 votes  
**Daren S. Nielsen elected** – 265 votes  
Nick Penney – 203 votes

**Two Selectmen** for a three (3) year term –  
**Jim Adams elected** – 392 votes  
**James C. Allard elected** – 302 votes

**One Supervisor of the Checklist** for a six (6) year term –  
**Roberta J. Maxfield elected** – 446 votes

**One Town Clerk/Tax Collector** for a three (3) year term –  
**Erica A. Anthony elected** – 459 votes

**One Town Moderator** for a two (2) year term –  
**Cedric Dustin, III elected** – 337 votes  
Frederick M. Okrent – 125 votes

**One Trustee of Trust Funds** for a three (3) year term –  
**Casey Jo Bolton elected** – 385 votes

**Two Zoning Board of Adjustment Members** for a three (3) year term –  
**John “Pat” Heffernan elected** – 378 votes  
**Brigham Bosen (write-in) elected** – 54 votes  
(Moderator Okrent stated that Mr. Bosen had since formerly resigned from the position)

**One Zoning Board of Adjustment Member** for a two (2) year term –  
**Scot R. Palmer elected** – 375 votes

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## Article 2:

Are you in favor of repealing, as proposed by the planning board, all of the building code provisions that the town meeting voted to adopt under article 2 of the March 10 and 14, 1998, town meeting warrant?

The purpose of repealing these building code provisions is to avoid conflicts with the state building code and the state fire code.

(Recommended by the Planning Board 5-0-0)

**Article 2 passed** – Yes (392) – No (100)

## Article 3:

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: amend article 2, definition of “agriculture,” to add the words indicated following by underlining and to delete the words indicated following by strikethrough:

**AGRICULTURE:** “AGRICULTURE” means agriculture as defined in RSA 21:34-a, II, effective ~~August 10, 2014~~ June 16, 2016.

The purpose of Amendment No. 1 is to adopt the State of New Hampshire’s most recent definition of “agriculture” and thereby remain in conformance to the state’s right-to-farm law, RSA 674:32-a through RSA 674:32-d.

(Recommended by the Planning Board 5-0-0)

**Article 3 passed** – Yes (396) – No (89)

## Article 4:

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: Amend article 3, section 3, (b), (6), Table of Uses and Districts, as follows:

- (1) Change the permitting of home occupations to permitted by right in the Suburban District and in the Rural District, where home occupations are now permitted as special exceptions.
- (2) Change the permitting of bed-and-breakfasts to permitted by right in the Urban District and in the Suburban District, where bed-and-breakfasts are now permitted as special exceptions.

The purposes of amendment no. 2 are (1) to remove the zoning board of adjustment’s review of home occupations in the Suburban and Rural zoning districts and (2) to remove the zoning board of adjustment’s review of bed-and-breakfasts, which are a type of home occupation, in the Urban and Suburban zoning districts.

(Recommended by the Planning Board 5-0-0)

**Article 4 passed** – Yes (333) – No (149)

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## **Article 5:**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: Amend article 3, section 3, (b), (6), Table of Uses and Districts, as follows:

- (1) Change how the table shows the permitting of home occupations from permitted by right in the Commercial District to prohibited in the Commercial District.
- (2) Change how the table shows the permitting of bed-and-breakfasts from permitted as special exceptions in the Commercial District and in the Light Industrial/Commercial District to prohibited in the Commercial District and in the Light Industrial/Commercial District.

The purpose of amendment no. 3 is to comply with the state law of nonconforming uses because (1) home occupations and bed-and-breakfasts are by definition accessory uses of single-family dwellings, (2) existing single-family dwellings in the Commercial and Light Industrial/Commercial zoning districts are nonconforming uses because the zoning ordinance prohibits single-family dwellings in these two districts, and (3) the state law of nonconforming uses prohibits expanding a nonconforming use to the extent to which adding an accessory use to a principal use may expand the principal use.

(Recommended by the Planning Board 4-1-0)

**Article 5 passed** – Yes (294) – No (182)

## **Article 6:**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: amend article 4, Nonconforming Uses and Lots, to add quotations from New Hampshire Supreme Court case law on nonconforming uses and lots and to codify the New Hampshire state law of nonconforming uses into the zoning ordinance.

The purposes of amendment no. 4 are (1) to increase the use-it-or-lose-it time of abandonment of nonconforming uses from the current one year to two years to agree with the state law of abandonment of variances and special exceptions, (2) to provide guidelines for allowed expansion or change of nonconforming uses, (3) to provide guidelines for unlawful expansion or change of nonconforming uses, and (4) to add a process to correct unlawful expansion or change of nonconforming uses.

(Recommended by the Planning Board 5-0-0)

**Article 6 passed** – Yes (327) – No (148)

## **Article 7:**

Shall we allow the operation of keno games within the town of Pittsfield pursuant to the provisions of RSA 284:41 through 284:51?(majority vote required)

**Article 7 passed** – Yes (265) – No (228)

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## **Article 8:**

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2) to allow the official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Pittsfield on the second Tuesday of March?

(inserted by voters' petition)

(3/5 majority vote required)

**Article 8 passed** – Yes (299) – No (190)

## **Article 9:**

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14-b to delegate the determination of the default budget to the municipal budget committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14?

(inserted by voters' petition)

(3/5 majority vote required)

**Article 9 failed** – Yes (220) – No (254)

## **TO BE TAKEN UP SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2018**

### **Article 10 – voters' petition to remove position of building inspector**

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Are you in favor to advise and beg the Selectmen to remove the position of building inspector, instead form a committee to come up with something that does not discourage the investment in Pittsfield, and tries to help people. God save the people.

(inserted by voters' petition)

Dan Schroth made a motion accept Article 10 as read. Fred Hast seconded the motion. Dan Schroth presented a petition to vote by secret ballot signed by five registered voters: William Elkins, Keith Donovan, Kenneth N. Osborne, Jr., Merrill Vaughan and Diane Vaughan.

Dan Schroth listed negative experiences he had with the current building inspector. He believed the current building inspector has a conflict of interest, as he is a building contractor and has purchased a number of properties in town.

Roland Carter made a motion to table Article 10. He stated the Article did not provide a solution. Clayton Wood seconded the motion.

Dan Schroth asked for an answer from the Selectmen, who act as agents of the town, if anything would be done about the issues with the building inspector. He asked for a decision whether it went in favor of the building inspector or not.

Clayton Wood stated his support for tabling the Article. He believed this was a personal issue, with no suggested solutions.

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Jim Pritchard stated his support for tabling the Article. He stated the Selectmen do not have authority to abolish the building inspector position; it could only be done by authority of the Town Meeting which created the position.

Eric Nilsson stated his support for tabling the Article and believed it was a personal issue.

Fred Hast stated it was not a personal issue. He shared a personal experience and believed the Article should be addressed.

There being no further discussion on the motion to table Article 10, Moderator Okrent asked for a card vote.

Louis Houle called for a point of order and stated the count appeared to be close and requested that the card vote be counted by the Supervisors of the Checklist.

**Card vote to table Article 10: yes 49 – no 64**

Moderator Okrent opened the floor for discussion on Article 10 as originally presented.

Eric Nilsson stated he was the deputy building inspector at the time of Dan Schroth's experience, and shared more information regarding the interaction.

Clayton Wood didn't believe the Select Board had the authority to remove the building inspector position. He didn't believe the Article was worded correctly and no solution was offered.

Jim Pritchard stated this was a smear campaign against the current building inspector, and reiterated that the Board of Selectmen have no authority to eliminate the building inspector position. He stated if the position was eliminated people would have to get permits from the State Fire Marshall's office and that agency has been found to be very strict and unsympathetic. He encouraged the voters to vote no on this Article.

Chris Hill asked how many total permits are issued, and asked if we did not have an inspector who would issue the permits.

Moderator Okrent responded that he believed the responsibility would fall to the Selectmen and the Fire Chief.

Building Inspector Jesse Pacheco stated he took on the position to help people not to hurt people. He stated it is his responsibility to uphold the laws and ordinances even though it is not always what people want to hear. He stated Dan Schroth has personally attacked himself and his family. He stated the building inspector position is needed.

Pat Heffernan agreed the building inspector has to uphold the regulations regardless of their popularity. He stated if people have complaints, they need to present them in writing to the

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Select Board, and as far as he could tell, that had not happened. He expressed his concern of people doing their own unlicensed electric work, etc. and how dangerous that could be. He believed the town needs the oversight of a building inspector.

Roland Carter stated the Selectmen need to review the building inspector's job description to give him better direction.

Scott Jackson stated he did not think this was the correct way to address any issues with the building inspector.

Dan Greene asked to move the question. Ed Trzcinski seconded the motion.

Moderator Okrent reminded the body that this would be voted upon by secret ballot. He then opened the polls.

**Yes – 50 No 78 Article 10 failed.**

## **Article 11 - establish a municipal transportation improvement fund for sidewalks**

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To see if the town will adopt the provisions of RSA 261:153, VI, authorizing the collection of an additional motor vehicle registration fee in the amount of \$5.00 to be deposited in a capital reserve fund established by this vote, to be known as the Municipal Sidewalks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1, to be used for the purpose of supporting the maintenance and repair of the town's sidewalk transportation system. In addition to being used for engineering, right-of-way acquisition, construction, and other costs related to improving the town's sidewalks, these funds also may be pledged and expended as a local match to secure state or federal funds allocated for local sidewalk transportation system improvements, and further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund.

The additional fee shall be collected from all vehicles, both passenger and commercial, with the exception of all-terrain vehicles as defined in RSA 215-A:1, I-b and antique motor vehicles or antique motorcycles as defined in RSA 259:4.

This fee shall be collected starting on June 1, 2018.

The estimated annual deposit based on 2017 registrations would be \$26,000.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-3-0)

Moderator Okrent read Article 11. He stated that per statute, the vote would be decided by written yes/no ballot.

Motion made by Selectman LeDuc to accept Article 11 as written and seconded by Select Board Chairman Allard.

Moderator Okrent opened the floor for discussion.

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Fred Hast stated \$5.00 may be too little or too much to ask. He asked if a time limit could be put on the fund, maybe five or ten years.

Moderator Okrent stated the fund would exist until such time that it was repealed by the voters.

Scot Palmer asked if this Article passed, could the funds be used for anything else. Moderator Okrent confirmed they could not.

Louis Houle questioned whether matching funds would be necessary based on the wording of the Article. Moderator Okrent responded matching funds would not be necessary, and further shared that according to the NHMA Moderator handbook, technical wording discrepancies should not negate the intent and the will of the voters.

No further discussion.

Moderator Okrent opened the polls.

**Yes – 86 No – 40 Article 11 passed.**

## **Article 12 - establish a revolving fund for Old Home Day**

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To see if the town will vote to establish a recreation revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of funding Pittsfield's Old Home Day celebration. All revenues received for the Old Home Day activities will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered a part of the town's general fund unassigned fund balance. The treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created and no expenditure shall be made in such a way as to require the expenditure of other funds that have not been appropriated for that purpose.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0-1)

Moderator Okrent read Article 12.

Motion made by Select Board Chairman Allard to accept Article 12 as written and seconded by Selectman LeDuc.

Moderator Okrent opened the floor for discussion.

No discussion.

**Article 12 passed by card vote.**



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## **Article 13 – raising matching funds for a Fire Department grant**

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To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$263,280 for the purchase of replacement of radios and self-contained breathing apparatus, with a grant revenue offset of \$250,116 to come from an Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, leaving **\$13,164** required as matching funds and to authorize the withdrawal of \$5,000 from the Fire Department Small Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to put towards the matching funds amount. The balance of \$8,164 is to come from general taxation. 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 Small Equipment Capital Reserve Fund was \$5,005.48 on December 31, 2017.

(majority vote required)

Estimated tax impact is \$0.03 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0-0)

Moderator Okrent read Article 13.

Motion made by Selectman LeDuc to accept Article 13 as written and seconded by Select Board Chairman Allard.

Moderator Okrent opened the floor for discussion.

No discussion.

**Article 13 passed by card vote.**

## **Article 14 – purchase of a sidewalk tractor**

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To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$120,500** for the purchase of a sidewalk tractor for the highway department and to authorize the withdrawal of \$103,000 to come from the Public Works Sidewalk Tractor Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of \$17,500 is to come from general taxation. The balance of the Public Works Sidewalk Tractor Capital Reserve Fund was \$103,354.65 on December 31, 2017.

Estimated tax impact is approximately \$0.07 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-1)

Moderator Okrent read Article 14.

Motion made by Selectman LeDuc to accept Article 14 as written and seconded by Select Board Chairman Allard.

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Moderator Okrent opened the floor for discussion.

No discussion.

**Article 14 passed by card vote.**

## **Article 15 – cost items for patrolmen & admin. assistants in the Teamsters bargaining unit**

To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local Union #633, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2018	\$17,968
2019	\$ 7,254
2020	\$ 7,401

and further, to raise and appropriate **\$17,968** for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

Estimated tax impact is approximately \$0.07 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-1)

(Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 3-9-0)

Moderator Okrent read Article 15.

Motion to accept Article 15 as written made by Select Board Chairman Allard seconded by Selectman LeDuc.

Clayton Wood presented a secret ballot request signed by five registered voters – Clayton Wood, Sharon Matras, Anthony Matras, Leonard Smith, Patricia Smith, and Kenneth Osborne, Jr.

Budget Committee Chairman Bob Schiferle stated the consensus of the Committee to not recommend Article 15 and Article 17 was based on the concern for the increase in health insurance costs and that some members of the Budget Committee stated they themselves weren't given a raise this year and therefore could not recommend one.

Budget Committee member Fred Hast stated he voted against this contract. He stated the initial school contract didn't pass because of health insurance cost concerns. He stated he believed the teachers are paying 12% toward their insurance and believed the town employees are not contributing toward their health insurance costs. He urged people to vote against this Article. Budget Committee member Mary Paradise stated she supported both of these contracts. She asked one of the Selectmen who participated in the union negotiations to share what they negotiated for insurance. She stated because we do not offer competitive wages, employees and

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potential employees will go elsewhere unless we offer an incentive to work here. She stated she would be hesitant to work in a community where she did not feel supported. She feels it will have a negative domino effect. She encouraged the voters to support both Article 15 and 17 as recommended by the Select Board.

Budget Committee member Katie Bachelder agreed with Mary Paradise. She did not think we were in a position to discourage people from working here, particularly with our police department so short staffed. She stated we do not have 24/7 coverage and are paying for police coverage from other towns. She believed we need to do something to encourage people to come work here. She encouraged voters to support Article 15 and 17.

Ed Trzcinski asked Police Chief Cain what other towns are paying officers and how do we stand in comparison.

Police Chief Cain responded he did not have the salary staffing report to give accurate figures, but stated staffing is not only a local problem, but a statewide and nationwide issue. He stated there are other NH agencies who pay substantially more and are still short-staffed, and we are competing with them.

Ed Trzcinski expressed his concern that we would potentially end up paying to train new employees who would later find a better opportunity and move on.

Stan Bailey expressed his support of the contracts, but stated we need to watch our wallets. He said if Articles 13 - 27 passed, it would be an increase of \$0.72 per thousand on taxes, which would equate to \$144.00 on a \$200,000 home. If all the Articles passed, it would be a \$176.00 increase on a \$200,000 home. He stated he and his wife are supporting the employees, but felt we need to hold off on the capital reserve funds this year. He expressed his appreciation for Moderator Okrent, the town employees, and volunteers.

Select Board Chairman Allard stated he represented the Select Board during the union negotiations. He stated the Teamsters pay 22% of their health plan. The employees covered by the other contract in Article 17 opted to receive a significantly reduced insurance plan in lieu of contributing to the cost.

Fred Hast asked why the insurance buyout is so high.

Select Board Chairman Allard stated they negotiated the insurance buyout in 2012 at 35%, which was before his tenure. The decision was made to maintain the current agreement regarding insurance contributions.

Fred Hast stated he hasn't received a raise in 4 years and many others haven't as well. No further discussion.

Moderator Okrent opened the polls.

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**Yes vote – 63 No – 59 Article 15 passed.**

## **Article 16 – ability to call special meeting for cost items**

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Shall the town of Pittsfield, if article 15 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article 15's cost items only?  
(majority vote required)

Moderator Okrent read Article 16.

**Since Article 15 passed, the Body did not need to address Article 16.**

## **Article 17 – cost items for Pittsfield town employees in the AFT-NH bargaining unit**

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To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the Pittsfield Town Employees AFT-NH Local #6214, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2018	\$23,177
2019	\$25,781
2020	\$26,517

and further, to raise and appropriate **\$23,177** for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

Estimated tax impact is approximately \$0.09 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-1)

(Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 3-8-0)

Moderator Okrent read Article 17.

Motion to accept Article 17 as written made by Select Board Chairman Allard seconded by Selectman LeDuc.

Clayton Wood presented a secret ballot request signed by five registered voters – Clayton Wood, Sharon Matras, Anthony Matras, Leonard Smith, Patricia Smith, and Kenneth Osborne, Jr.

Scott Jackson stated he works for the town and is against the contract, that everyone on the highway department doesn't want anything to do with this contract, and they all would like to be out of the union. They feel the contract is costing the town money, and overtime is one example. He stated no one on the highway department had any part in the negotiations.

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Superintendent of Public Works Bachelder confirmed the highway department would like to leave the union. He stated that as a department head it is not good for the town to have a union looking over his shoulder. He would just assume get out of it, and as a taxpayer he would like to get out of it. He stated he wasn't telling the voters how to vote on the Article because there are other employees that will not get a raise if the Article is voted down, but some way, somehow he wants to get the highway department out of the union.

Stan Bailey stated he spoke with Superintendent of Public Works Bachelder and had changed his mind and will vote for the capital reserve funds and not the contract.

Ted Mitchell asked how many employees are affected by this contract.

Selectman Adams stated this contract includes a total of 17 employees, five of which work for the Highway Department. The rest of the employees that belong to this union are the fire fighters, the Police Chief, the two Police Sergeants and the town office employees.

Fred Hast asked if the Select Board had a say in the negotiation in insurance. He re-iterated he wants a reduction on the insurance buyout. He urged voters to vote against this Article.

Dave Simpson stated he is a full time firefighter. He felt it is very unfortunate the highway department wants to leave the union, but there are measures that can be taken to leave. He stated the insurance is one of the reasons he and many others stay here. He left briefly and was paid \$4.50 more an hour, but he came back because he loves this community and prefers to work here. He asked the voters to support the contract.

Eric Nilsson stated he is a volunteer firefighter. He stated the raise is approximately \$26.00 a week, and didn't feel it was an unreasonable amount. He believed we should keep the people we have here.

Superintendent of Public Works Bachelder stated the reason the union is here is because of the threat of losing the health insurance. He said the town employees could make a lot more money working somewhere else, including himself, but stay because of the insurance. If the insurance wasn't such a big issue, the union wouldn't be here to begin with. He feels the employees deserve the insurance. They are not making what they could make in the private sector. He believes we have some excellent employees in town, and to keep them we need to keep the insurance because they will leave. He expressed his support to keep the insurance. He re-iterated that the reason we have the union in the first place is the threat of losing the insurance.

Fred Hast stated he supports the insurance, but does not support the insurance buyout.

Stan Bailey clarified that he still intends to vote for this contract and for the capital reserves and apologized for miss-speaking earlier.

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Rick Anthony stated he didn't understand how someone can vote to approve the insurance buyout in 2012 and now state how excessive it is. He also stated that social security had a 2% increase this year.

Budget Committee member Mary Paradise asked for clarification regarding the phasing out of the insurance buyout.

Select Board Chairman Allard confirmed the two currently grandfathered insurance buyouts are going away. The rest of the buyouts were negotiated to be 35% going forward.

No further discussion.

Moderator Okrent opened the polls.

**Yes – 59 No – 61 Article 17 failed.**

## **Article 18 – ability to call special meeting for cost items**

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Shall the town of Pittsfield, if article 17 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article 17's cost items only?  
(majority vote required)

Moderator Okrent read Article 18.

Motion to accept Article 18 as written made by Select Board Chairman Allard seconded by Selectman LeDuc.

Clayton Wood presented a secret ballot request signed by five registered voters – Clayton Wood, Sharon Matras, Anthony Matras, Leonard Smith, Patricia Smith, and Kenneth Osborne, Jr.

Gail Nickerson asked why something like this comes up for a vote. She didn't understand why there should be another opportunity to vote on the issue.

Select Board Chairman Allard stated we would not be discussing this Article if the previous Article had passed. Given that Article 17 failed, the employees no longer have a contract, and it is necessary to go back and renegotiate in order to gain a contract, and part of that process will be to have a special meeting to hear from the public on the issue. This is a reality if there is no contract, and there needs to be a route to get one.

Adam Gauthier asked what happens if this Article fails.

Selectman Adams stated they would need to re-negotiate regardless of whether or not this Article passes, just as the School Board did. Once there is another tentative agreement the Select

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Board will need input from the people of the Town of Pittsfield. He believed it was still incumbent on the Select Board to renegotiate and meet somewhere where everyone can come together.

Select Board Chairman Allard stated if this Article does not pass, the employees would need to work the rest of this year without a contract until it is on the warrant next year.

Philip Gordon stated the employees would work under the conditions of the contract that currently exists.

Louie Houle asked if the Moderator would identify the five people who requested the secret ballot and if they could be asked if they would consider rescinding their secret ballot request so people are not kept here until evening. He didn't think it was necessary to have a secret ballot for every article.

Moderator Okrent asked each of the five people to stand - Sharon Matras, Anthony Matras, Leonard Smith, Pat Smith and Kenneth Osborne Jr, and Clayton Wood.

Sharon Matras stated this was why she supported SB2. She did not feel it was right to embarrass people and ask them to stand.

Jim Pritchard stated he was absolutely appalled that an obviously improper motion was allowed.

No further discussion.

Moderator Okrent opened the polls.

**Yes – 66 No – 44 Article 18 passed.**

## **Article 19 – add to the Fire Department Small Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**

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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 \$5,005.48 on December 31, 2017. Estimated tax impact is \$0.004 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Moderator Okrent read Article 19.

Motion made by Selectman LeDuc to accept Article 19 as written and was seconded by Select Board Chairman Allard.

Moderator Okrent opened the floor for discussion.

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Budget Committee Chairman Schiferle stated the Budget Committee strongly supported these capital reserve articles and encouraged the Body to vote in favor of all of them. The Budget Committee felt that by supporting these funds it would maintain a more stable tax impact when equipment needed to be replaced.

No further discussion.

**Article 19 passed by card vote.**

## **Article 20 – add to the Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund**

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To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000** to be added to the Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund was \$50,044.81 on December 31, 2017.

Estimated tax impact is approximately \$0.19 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0-1)

Moderator Okrent read Article 20.

Motion made by Selectman LeDuc to accept Article 20 as written and was seconded by Select Board Chairman Allard.

Moderator Okrent opened the floor for discussion.

No discussion.

**Article 20 passed by card vote.**

## **Article 21 – add to the Fire Department Tanker Capital Reserve Fund**

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To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$20,000** to be added to the Fire Department Tanker Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Fire Department Tanker Capital Reserve Fund was \$20,017.92 on December 31, 2017.

Estimated tax impact is approximately \$0.08 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Moderator Okrent read Article 21.

Motion made by Selectman LeDuc to accept Article 21 as written and was seconded by Select Board Chairman Allard.



# 2018 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Moderator Okrent opened the floor for discussion.

No discussion.

**Article 21 passed by card vote.**

## **Article 22 – add to the Fire Department Forestry Truck Capital Reserve Fund**

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To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000** 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 \$1,000.89 on December 31, 2017.

Estimated tax impact is approximately \$0.02 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Moderator Okrent read Article 22.

Motion made by Selectman LeDuc to accept Article 22 as written and was seconded by Select Board Chairman Allard.

Moderator Okrent opened the floor for discussion.

No discussion.

**Article 22 passed by card vote.**

## **Article 23 – add to the Small Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund**

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To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,000** to be added to the Small Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Public Works Small Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund was \$50,371.15 on December 31, 2017.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.06 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Moderator Okrent read Article 23.

Motion made by Selectman LeDuc to accept Article 23 as written and was seconded by Select Board Chairman Allard.

Moderator Okrent opened the floor for discussion.

# 2018 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

No discussion.

**Article 23 passed by card vote.**

## **Article 24 – add to the Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund**

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To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000** to be added to the Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Public Works Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund was \$62,231.24 on December 31, 2017.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.11 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0-1)

Moderator Okrent read Article 24.

Motion made by Selectman LeDuc to accept Article 24 as written and was seconded by Select Board Chairman Allard.

Moderator Okrent opened the floor for discussion.

No discussion.

**Article 24 passed by card vote.**

## **Article 25 – add to the Loader Capital Reserve Fund**

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To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000** to be added to the Loader Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Public Works Loader Capital Reserve Fund was \$22,984.08 on December 31, 2017.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.04 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Moderator Okrent read Article 25.

Motion made by Selectman LeDuc to accept Article 25 as written and was seconded by Select Board Chairman Allard.

Moderator Okrent opened the floor for discussion.

No discussion.

# 2018 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

**Article 25 passed by card vote.**

## **Article 26 – add to the Grader Capital Reserve Fund**

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To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,000** to be added to the Grader Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Public Works Grader Capital Reserve Fund was \$68,217.86 on December 31, 2017.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.06 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Moderator Okrent read Article 26.

Motion made by Selectman LeDuc to accept Article 26 as written and was seconded by Select Board Chairman Allard.

Moderator Okrent opened the floor for discussion.

No discussion.

**Article 26 passed by card vote.**

## **Article 27 – add to the Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund**

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To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000** to be added to the Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Public Works Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund was \$86,427.73 on December 31, 2017.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.02 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Moderator Okrent read Article 27.

Motion made by Selectman LeDuc to accept Article 27 as written and was seconded by Select Board Chairman Allard.

Moderator Okrent opened the floor for discussion.

No discussion.

**Article 27 passed by card vote.**

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# 2018 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

## **Article 28 – add to the Floral Park Cemetery Fence Expendable Trust Fund**

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To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,650** to be added to the Floral Park Cemetery Fence Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the general fund unassigned fund balance and no amount is to be raised by taxation. The balance of the Floral Park Cemetery Fence Expendable Trust Fund was \$676.95 on December 31, 2017.

There is no estimated tax impact for this warrant article.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-0-0)

Moderator Okrent read Article 28.

Motion made by Selectman LeDuc to accept Article 28 as written and was seconded by Select Board Chairman Allard.

Moderator Okrent opened the floor for discussion.

Adam Gauthier asked if the \$1650.00 was raised through donations.

Moderator Okrent confirmed it was.

Louis Houle stated how nice the fence looks and thanked Selectwoman Richardson for all her work on the project.

No further discussion.

**Article 28 passed by card vote.**

## **Article 29 – Municipal Budget**

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To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,470,251** to fund the general municipal operations as Recommended by the Budget Committee. This sum does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately in this warrant.

Estimated tax impact is \$10.17 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-1-0)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0)

Moderator Okrent read Article 29.

Motion made by Selectman LeDuc to accept Article 29 as written and was seconded by Select Board Chairman Allard.

Moderator Okrent opened the floor for discussion.

# 2018 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Clayton Wood presented a secret ballot request signed by five registered voters – Clayton Wood, Sharon Matras, Anthony Matras, Leonard Smith, Patricia Smith, and Kenneth Osborne, Jr.

There was a very heated exchange regarding the number of secret ballot requests.

Louis Houle called for a point of order. He stated people have a right to request a secret ballot, but he also had a right to ask the people to identify themselves so that they could be asked if they would reconsider asking for a secret ballot for every article. He agreed that a vote on an article that has a major impact, like the municipal budget, was the time to ask for a secret ballot but it may not be necessary for every article. He again acknowledged their right to request a secret ballot, but that he also had a right.

Budget Committee Chairman Schiferle stated the Budget Committee supported the budget as presented and thanked the Select Board for presenting such a lean budget.

Dan Mullen asked what would happen if this Article fails.

Moderator Okrent responded that the voters would have to agree on an amount today.

Dave Simpson asked how many police officers were accounted for in the proposed budget.

It was confirmed that the proposed budget included seven full time police officers.

No further discussion.

Moderator Okrent opened the polls.

**Yes – 79 No – 28 Article 29 passed.**

## **Article 30 – other business**

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To transact any other business that may be legally brought before said meeting.

Louie Houle thanked everyone who worked and volunteered for the town this year.

Selectman Anderson thanked the Budget Committee for their work.

Liz Hast congratulated and asked for a round of applause for the PMHS Boys Basketball Team.

Moderator Okrent asked all those who were elected to come to the front to be sworn in, and thanked all who helped and supported him in his role of Town Moderator the last two years. He apologized for the tension during the meeting.

## **2018 TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

Motion to adjourn made by Scot Palmer and seconded by Philip Gordon.

1:30pm meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erica Anthony  
Town Clerk