



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

MEETING MINUTES OF Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Chairman 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
Carole Richardson
J.C. Allard
Jim Adams

OTHERS PRESENT

Cara Marston, Town Administrator
Fire Chief Peter Pszonowsky
Deputy Fire Chief Rob Freese

PUBLIC INPUT – agenda items only

none

AGENDA REVIEW

no changes or additions

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

1. 2024 Municipal Budget

Carl

OK. Action items 2024 municipal budget. What are we still going to know about this?

Cara

So the individual budgets that you haven't discussed yet are capital outlay, capital reserve, because we were waiting for the CIP, which you have in front of you, the color document, and then revenues and default budget.

Carl

All right.

Capital Improvements Plan review of 2023 update

CIP – Fire Department

Carl

So if we start with the capital items on CIP for the fire department, Pete, what you got on this list here?

Cara

So we're starting with what's to put away in capital reserve.

Jim

Looks like the whole first page.

Cara

So ultimately, yeah, the first page of this is the fire department. Pete doesn't have it in front of him. But the cost went up for most of the equipment.

Chief Pszonowsky

There's nothing new equipment that we're asking for. Just saying.

Carl

I'm just saying if anybody's got any big bones to pick, we might want to do it now. I noticed the first one is the, I see the ambulance.

Deputy Chief Freese

That comes out of that fund.

Chief Pszonowsky

Yeah.

Chief Pszonowsky

The engine and the ambulance should be delivered next year. 2024.

Carole

Oh yeah, I'm just wondering what we're going to get because that will be a question.

Chief Pszonowsky

The engine was supposed to be 568 build days, which put it a little before April and I just was asking how it was going and he said don't expect it until December. Once it's on the line, it's three months, but I'd like to have the people see the new engines that they've been waiting for and paid for a reasonable amount of time.

Carole

But I think everybody's in the same boat, right? Don't you think? All the towns are kind of waiting, waiting. I know that's not a good excuse, but...

Chief Pszonowsky

No.

Cara

We're going to have to increase the amount that goes into the ambulance fund too, from 70 to 80, in order to make the next purchase, which is scheduled to be in 2029 for the cardiac monitors. And then the year after that, another ambulance. So that will be a warrant article. It reduces the revenue that offsets the general fund. The biggest change for what's going into capital reserve to meet the next replacement would be the pumper. We have to increase it from \$98,000 to \$115,000 so that there can be a 2030 purchase.

Jim

How much does the new piece of apparatus carry? 700 gallons?

Chief Pszonowsky

The tanker or the new one? No, our new one is a thousand.

JC

A thousand?

Deputy Chief Freese

Same as the one that's going away.

Carole

And have you had a lot of fires this year? That's always a question.

Chief Pszonowsky

No.

Carole

Okay, good.

Carl

Generally speaking I think is as long as people can see and are well satisfied with what each

department is doing. They'll swallow hard and reach for the wallet and they won't like it. But they'll say well you know.

Carole

And they know within their own budgets going out and buying a car or a truck or whatever.

Chief Pszonowsky

I definitely try to keep it as low as we can.

Carl

Well, all right, guys. Just in an effort to hope that things go well with the budget committee and also with the town meeting, the deliberative session, would it make sense to make a few notes on how you bargained shot and what you've gotten down and some of the bigger cost items that you can, you know, so you don't have to fumble for numbers. You know, that you can just say, you know, this piece of equipment was, you know, we were anticipating X number of dollars. We did this, this, and this, and we were able to get it down to this. And the more people can see that you're wringing, you know, four cents out of every nickel, the better chance we've got of you know if they get if they get it in their head that you just say well that's what it is you know so just a thought it's not the more you can show them that you're bargaining shopping and getting quality for what we do spend yeah you can't get too much more than that I don't think. Have those numbers ready as your fingers tip. Good luck.

Gerard

Are we going to do the ambulance warrant change at 2024?

Cara

We can do it either in 2024 or 2025. I was just putting it out to 2025 so we got an extra 10,000 next year.

Gerard

Okay. We keep them as is where they are right now. As long as we can explain it, why the prices are where they are. I don't think we'll have a problem.

Carl

We won't have a problem explaining that. Selling it can't be a completely different thing. But we do the best we can to convince people. It's all stuff that we've been planning on, we've been needing. It depends on who, and it depends on who shows up to vote. Because a lot of them won't even bother with a deliberative session. They just come with a mindset - no, my pen only goes on that no box.

Jim

Look, Pittsfield 12 years ago was a fire department they used to say these guys save the foundations. They don't say that anymore. They're still stunned. Boy, look what they did that. It's because you bought the equipment. You've got good people in charge. Those are all the things that make this work.

CIP - Public Works

Cara

The most notable change in public works would be moving the dump truck reserve, instead of having that be for three trucks, it would actually be for four trucks and getting rid of the small highway capital reserve because we technically don't have a small highway truck or keeping it for the pickup's replacement. We used that capital reserve money for what was approved this year, a medium duty truck.

Carole

So there's going to be four trucks in there?

Cara

Yes.

JC

So we will have on the warrant a new 10 wheeler. For 24.

Cara

Yes with the rationale with this was having to be a little bit bigger they can stay out on the road longer. Instead of having to come back in town for more sand loading.

Carl

As long as it gets presented in that there are almost no roads in town that they can't effectively plow with this ten wheeler. Noel was adamant that there's very, very few roads that can't be taken care of along with the main plow route, and they can stay out longer. He convinced me.

Carl

I was pretty skeptical, to be honest with you. Anybody got any questions or concerns about the rest of the highway department budget or capital reserve? All right, let's go along.

CIP - Police

Cara

The cruiser replacement costs have gone up quite a bit, up to 62, I guess 63,000.

JC

You mean almost 20,000?

Cara

Yeah.

Carl

Jeez.

JC

Because I thought we were getting those explorers for 40, fully, you know, equipped.

Cara

They were at one point, yep.

Capital Outlay

Cara

Back up to capital outlay spending the money. Should be one tab prior. So these would be the proposed purchases for next year. Police cruiser, so the amount changed within a week from 62 to 63. So I had sent off 62 to CIP and then Collins came back again with a revised estimate of 63.

JC

Is that with or without equipment?

Cara

That's the entire thing with the equipment.

JC

Got it. That's better.

Carl

I mean when people are paying 60,000 for a car that's just the car.

Cara

I want to say that just the car might be like 48, but it's going to take a lot of electrical.

JC

The lights and radios.

Jim

The little cage to keep the miscreants at bay.

Cara

It doesn't all transfer like it used to.

JC

You used to be able to yank it out of one car and throw it in another car.

Cara

There's not too much you can do with that anymore, even continually buying the same type.

Cara

The next two amounts were the grants that were going to be written, FEMA grants, one for the tanker, again, try again, and then another for a compressor. Part of the compressor system that fills up the breathing air.

Cara

And then Noel has slated a purchase of a dump truck coming in at 250.

JC

Is there going to be another Freightliner?

Cara

I believe so.

JC

That's a quarter of a million dollars for the dump truck.

Cara

And then also a chipper. The majority of that will come out of the light equipment fund.

JC

Fifty thousand dollars for a chipper.

JC

Does it make any sense for us to lease those?

Carl

The trouble is, we get so much tree work now that we end up doing saves time to have a chipper right at our fingertips. It's much more much more effectively handle these dead ashes. Yeah because if we have to go down to use Fraser we have to go down there every other day to go get his chipper and bring it up here. That's a man's time back and down. And then the cost of the chip.

JC

It's better to have one sitting in the back.

Cara

Especially if there's a storm that they can respond to.

Cara

The next item would be the sidewalk warrant article, that second amount that we have to add on for the projects in addition to what's in the highway budget. This amount is amount that comes out of the fund, so there should be a net no tax impact.

Carole

25,000?

Cara

Yes. And then to balance the bottom line of the budget workbook to the dollar amounts for the two collective bargaining articles are in here. This is just so, again, the bottom line of the book equals the warrant, if you wanted to take the time to do the math. That's how I cross-check to make sure that I didn't miss something. I'm not aware of any other money articles coming in, but we do have until January for solicitors to petition.

Revenue

Cara

That's two tabs away. Should say revenue on it.

Carl

All right. What else we got here of interest? I don't see any huge windfalls.

Cara

The amounts are just about the same. The biggest difference in the bottom line, it would be on the third page in of the revenues, this year's total budget for the general fund was \$2.6 million. What's

proposed for next year will be \$2.4. The difference on that is just how much we would be proposing to come out of capital reserve to offset the capital outlay expenditures. The operating amounts are pretty much the same. It's better than operations revenue going down. The most notable decrease on that though would be we're seeing a continual loss on our end of what we get in interest on outstanding property taxes when the state reduced that amount. Thankfully more people are paying their taxes on time, which is good for cash, but we've lost a lot of revenue. A couple of bigger property tax owners, there's been a change in the business, so they're paying their taxes on time, as opposed to every three years. We used to get the 18% on that, plus all the fees, and now we don't get that.

2024 Budget Consideration

Cara

And then the default budget I can explain off of the recap page, but I thought the recap page might be where you want to vote from. Unless if you'd like to vote every single budget.

Carl

Anybody have any appetite for that?

JC

Didn't we do that once?

Carl

It haunts me to this day.

Cara

So closer to the start of the budget book there should be a recap, I believe, a recap tab. I think I put it at the start for most of you.

JC

I would propose that we accept the municipal budget as one budget and in the amount of \$4,906,604 and no cents. That's a motion.

Gerard

I would second that motion.

Carl

All those in favor of approving the proposed 2024 budget, \$4,906,604 say aye, aye. Opposed, none. Budget is approved by the select board.

Cara

So that's the operating budget. The next page, I've got to keep going, sorry. I've got two sections on this page, Capital Outlay and Capital Reserve. On the second page, you have four pages to the recap. And the next one is Wastewater and the other funds that we don't budget for. And then the last one is some tax rate estimates. Not sure if you want to really look at those or not. It's just math.

Carl

Famous last words.

Cara

Well, I like to have it in case if people ask.

Carl

Somebody step up and call for an approval on the rest of these categories.

Carole

I move we approve the total capital outlay and other money articles for 1,012,347.

Gerard

Second.

Carl

Those in favor of approving the total capital outlay and other money articles, \$1,012,347, say aye. Aye. Aye. Opposed, zero. Passed.

Carole

And a motion to approve the capital reserve for \$418,500.

Gerard

Second.

Carl

All those in favor of approving the total operating transfers out for \$418,500 dollars, say aye.

Aye. Aye. Aye. Opposed, zero. That's five zero.

Cara

Next page is wastewater. The proposed budget is \$833,464.

Carole

So moved.

Gerard

Second.

Carl

All in favor of approving the total sewer budget fund for \$833,464 dollars. Say aye. Aye. Opposed zero. That's a five zero.

Cara

The default budget, bottom line, is \$5,174,784.

JC

So moved.

Gerard

Second.

Carl

All those in favor of approving the default budget of \$5,174,784, say aye. Aye. Opposed, zero.

Carl

All budgets accepted.

Cara

The adjustment that we had to make for the default was just to reflect the decrease in New Hampshire retirement. So it actually went down. That is a good thing because retirement went down, but we did have to account for that in the default.

Cara

And last to vote would be revenue.

Proposed revenue is \$3,308,233.

Carole

I'll move that.

Gerard

Second.

Carl

All in favor of approving the total revenue of \$3,308,233 say aye. Aye. Opposed, zero. That's 5-0. That's the end of it, right?

Cara

That is the end of it, yes.

Carl

We spent an awful lot of money, guys.

COMMITTEE & DEPARTMENT REPORTS INFORMATION ITEMS

OLD BUSINESS

1. Perambulation of town lines (8/14/2018)
2. Zoning & RSA 155-B violations (8/27/2019)
3. Proposed Health Ordinance (8/11/2020)
4. Surveying of town owned property (4/27/2021)
5. Review of solar project proposal – CDC project (6/14/2022)
6. Discussion on Dustin Park War Memorial engraving requests (9/20/2022)
7. Consideration of renaming of roads with separate, unpassable sections (5/23/2023)
8. Discussion on Traffic Control Ordinance (6/27/2023)
9. Review of the Street Numbering System Ordinance (8/8/2023)
10. Review of the Pittsfield NH Nonstandard addressing report (8/8/2023)
11. Boston Post Cane (10/24/2023)

ACCOUNTING REGISTERS

1. Accounts Payable

Gerard made a motion to accept accounts payable.

Carole seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion carried. 5-0-0

PUBLIC INPUT

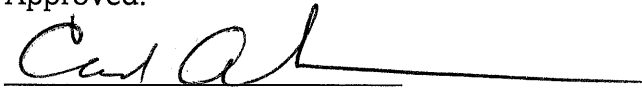
none

The Board will meet once in December, on the 12th, unless other matters come up to address.

No additional business was conducted.

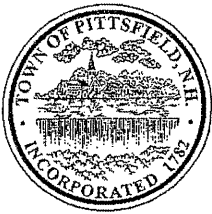
The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Approved:



Carl Anderson

12/12/23
Date



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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023

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. 2024 municipal budget

COMMITTEE & DEPARTMENT REPORTS

INFORMATION ITEMS

OLD BUSINESS

1. Perambulation of town lines (8/14/2018)
2. Zoning & RSA 155-B violations (8/27/2019)
3. Proposed Health Ordinance (8/11/2020)
4. Surveying of town owned property (4/27/2021)
5. Review of solar project proposal - CDC project (6/14/2022)
6. Discussion on Dustin Park War Memorial engraving requests (9/20/2022)
7. Consideration of renaming of roads with separate, unpassable sections (5/23/2023)
8. Discussion on Traffic Control Ordinance (6/27/2023)
9. Review of the Street Numbering System Ordinance (8/8/2023)
10. Review of the Pittsfield NH Nonstandard addressing report (8/8/2023)
11. Boston Post Cane (10/24/2023)

ACCOUNTING REGISTERS

1. Accounts Payable

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