



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

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## **MEETING MINUTES OF Wednesday, October 21, 2020**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Call to order at 6:04 PM by Robert Schiferle, Chair

### **MEMBERS PRESENT (13)**

Robert Schiferle, Chair (IP)  
Katie Bachelder, Vice Chair (IP)  
Jeremy Everson, Secretary (IP)  
Gerard LeDuc, Select Board Rep. Alternate (IP)  
Ted Mitchell, School Board Rep. (R)  
Michael Cabral (IP)  
John Christakos (R)  
Fred Hast (IP)  
Larry Konopka (R)  
Mary Paradise (R)  
Ammy Ramsey (R)  
Helen Schiff (R)  
Randy Severance (IP)

### **MEMBERS ABSENT (1)**

Ralph O'Dell

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

Dr. John Graziano, Interim Superintendent of Schools, SAU #51

### **DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED:**

- *2020 Tax Rate Breakdown Pittsfield*
- *Town of Pittsfield 2021 Budget Recap by Department*

## **Agenda Item 1: SAU Superintendent Introduction**

Dr. John Graziano has 39 years of experience in education and administration. He is excited to be here in Pittsfield and ready to work with the Budget Committee to tackle the programs and issues of the schools in this coming budget season. John will be serving as Interim Superintendent of Schools.

## Agenda Item 2: Tax Rate Review

Documents Referenced: *2020 Tax Rate Breakdown Pittsfield*

Discussion:

- The tax rate has decreased from approx. \$32 per thousand to \$24.72 per thousand.
- The revaluation of properties in town increased to \$8,516,529.
- The largest group of properties that saw an increase was double-wide trailers.
- The tax rate was established by the Select Board by appropriating \$450,000 from the fund balance.

## Item 3: Approval of Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes

- Motion to Approve: F. Hast
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Cabral
- 11 (yes) –(no) – 2 (abstentions)

Motion Passed

## Agenda Item 4: CIP Update

Discussion:

- The CIP is being worked on and nearing finalization. We should have the final document during this budget season.
- One of the trucks at the Highway Department was repaired last winter with the hopes of getting us through another couple winters. The repairs were not sufficient and the truck will need to be replaced ahead of schedule.
- The Fire Department needs a new tanker truck, and the price tag went from approximately \$100,000 to \$400,000.

## Agenda Item 5: Budget Review Outlook

Documents Referenced: *Town of Pittsfield 2021 Budget Recap by Department*

Discussion:

- Contract negotiations are ongoing for the town employees' contracts. We do know that health insurance is increasing in cost by 5.8% but there will be some offset passed to the employees.

- The calendar year 2021 will have 26 pay periods rather than the 27 pay periods we say in 2020. This affects the default budget numbers as well.
- Police Department Budget:
  - There are quite a few changes in this budget. Chief Collins said, “The dream was to use part-timers, but it’s just not realistic.”
  - The Police Chief would like to add a full-time position to the department, decrease overtime budgeting and increase the overall budget for the police department.
  - The Police Chief has also streamlined the budget to combine lines that make sense to be together or would be given to a full-time officer instead of a part-time officer or overtime (i.e. Part-time officers Balloon Rally and OT Balloon Rally).
- Animal Control:
  - Line 489 shows an increase in the actual gasoline usage for this year and the proposed budget reflects the needed increase. The understanding is that one of the gas cards was switched to a different patrol car and these numbers don’t reflect actual Animal Control usage.
- Highway Department:
  - There is a proposed increase in the salary of the Superintendent of Public Works (from the department). The Select Board is not in agreement with this line item, but the Selectmen’s Request is not finalized yet.
  - There was a bit of discussion about whether or not the Budget Committee should be discussing the salary proposal from the potential next Road Agent.
  - There is a new line item - #435 – to add specific funds for repairing, upgrading and improving the radio system.

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, starting at 6:00 PM.

- Potential agenda: Town Budget Recap, start at the top
- If Chief Collins can make it we may hear an update from the Police Department

Motion to adjourn

- Motion: R. Severance
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: T. Mitchell

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Submitted by: Jeremy Everson, Secretary

Approved:

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Robert Schiferle, Chair

Date