



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

MEETING MINUTES OF Wednesday, October 28, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Call to order at 6:05 PM by Robert Schiferle, Chair

MEMBERS PRESENT (10)

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

MEMBERS ABSENT (4)

Michael Cabral
John Christakos
Fred Hast
Ralph O'Dell

GUESTS PRESENT

Police Chief Joe Collins

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED:

- No new documents distributed

Agenda Item 1: Meeting Etiquette

Discussion: Chairman B. Schiferle reminded the committee of some etiquette to aid our discussions with some members attending remotely and others in person.

- It can be difficult to coordinate discussions and member input with the slight delay for those attending remotely
- We can expect delays and should keep that in mind as we converse
- Those attending remotely should mute their connection until they want to offer input and then maybe raise their hand or gesture to get the attention of those attending in person

Agenda Item 2: Police Budget

Documents Referenced: *Town of Pittsfield 2021 Budget Workbook*

Discussion: Chief Collins gave an overview of why he is asking to fund a full-time position this year rather than several part-time positions.

- The hope is to maintain a level budget by making the switch funding the full-time position and moving the budgeted funds from part-timers and overtime.
- Many part-timers are retirees but new regulations will only let them work 26 hours a week
- Union contracts limit part-timers to \$21 per hour
- The unrest among the public, in general, has contributed to it being difficult to find part-timers who want to work
- The costs associated with training part-timers have also gone up and Chief Collins would like to invest in a full-time officer who can fill the position for the long term.
- The position already exists in the budget workbook, this is not an additional position (line 218)
- The increase in the police budget is mostly accounted for by increases in health insurance, workers compensation and retirement.
- This year will be the first year for Chief Collins to have a full staff so at the end of the year he will have a better idea of how much overtime we need to budget for, hopefully less than this year
- There will be a new cruiser purchased this year and the oldest vehicle, which has been used as the detail vehicle, will be retired and sold at auction
- We also looked at the Animal Control budget (lines 480 – 492), no unexpected changes

Agenda Item 3: Budget Workbook Overview

Documents Referenced: *Town of Pittsfield 2021 Budget Workbook*

Discussion: “Let’s begin at the beginning.” We looked through the Workbook to prepare questions for the Town Administrator and Department Heads

- Revenues (lines 1 – 112)
- Executive (lines 1 – 31)
 - Increases in health insurance and retirement
- Elections, Registrations & Vital Statistics (lines 32 – 58)
 - The year 2021 will only have one election
- Financial Administration (lines 59 – 107)
- Revaluation of Property, Legal Expenses, Personnel Administration (lines 108 – 113)
- Planning & Zoning (lines 114 – 154)
- General Government Buildings (lines 155 – 179)
- Cemeteries & Regional Associations (lines 180 – 194)
- Police (lines 195 – 265)
- Fire Department (lines 266 – 342)

- The FD received a grant to replace the breathing units but will ask to spend a little more of the appropriated funds for an extra piece of equipment

Next week we'll continue with...

- Code Compliance (lines 343 – 369)
- Emergency Management & Forest Fire Suppression (lines 370 – 385)
- Highway Administration (lines 386 – 412)
 - The Select Board is still in the process of working to hire the new Superintendent of Public Works and iron out the details of that contract

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 4, 2020, starting at 6:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Submitted by: Jeremy Everson, Secretary

Approved:

Robert Schiferle, Chair

Date