



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

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## **MEETING MINUTES OF Tuesday, January 19, 2021**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Call to order at 6:00 PM by Robert Schiferle, Chair

### **MEMBERS PRESENT (12)**

Robert Schiferle, Chair (IP)  
Katie Bachelder, Vice Chair (IP)  
Jeremy Everson, Secretary (IP)  
Carol Richardson, Select Board Rep. (IP)  
Ted Mitchell, School Board Rep. (R)  
John Christakos (IP)  
Fred Hast (IP)  
Larry Konopka (IP)  
Mary Paradise (R)  
Ralph O'Dell (IP)  
Ammy Ramsey (IP)  
Randy Severance (IP)

*(IP) member attended in person  
(R) member attended remotely*

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

Helen Schiff

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

Dr. John Graziano, Interim Superintendent  
Derek Hamilton, Principal  
Sally Blanchette, Administrator  
Danielle Harvey, Principal  
Adam Gauthier, School Board Member

### **DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED:**

- *Budget Revenues Sheets for 20-21 (Proposed Budget and Default Budget)*

## Agenda Item 1: Public Hearing Feedback & Schools Budget

### Documents Referenced:

- *Budget Revenues Sheets for 20-21 (Proposed Budget and Default Budget)*

### Discussion: Input and feedback from the hearing

- Was not surprised by the responses.
- People can't afford that type of a tax increase.
- There was very little input in favor of a tax increase.

There has been much conversation about the funds from the state that we received last year that was to be used as a one-time expenditure. Sally gave information to help understand this.

- The funds we received last year did not go toward an increase in the budget. That is to say the budget was proposed and set before the state funds came in and the budget did not change after the funds were received.
- \$372,000 was returned to the town from the schools to put into the general budget and the select board used those funds to offset the taxes and keep the tax rate from increasing.
- The one-time payment from the state shows up in the Adequacy Grant line on the Revenue Budget sheets.
- Last year we anticipated an increase of \$298,000 in the school budget before the additional revenues from the state came in. The additional revenues saved us last year but now we face an additional increase to compensate for the funds that were not intended to be counted on for future years.
- The schools budget reflects an increase of 1.3% over last year's budget, most of which is made up of contractual obligations (pensions, healthcare and salary increases)
- There is the possibility of additional aid from the state in several different ways (school lunch grant monies, additional funding from the legislature)
- There was some discussion about cutting some of the school budget and recommending that the school board use money from savings
- **A motion was made** to reduce the school budget by \$487,000 from \$11,016,306 to \$10,529,306. This motion would set the recommended school budget total at \$10, 529, 306. This number will appear in the Warrant for the Schools, Article #3.
  - Motion to Approve: L. Konopka
  - Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: A. Ramsey
    - Amended by L. Konopka (to clarify the actual numbers being proposed)
    - Seconded by R. Severance
  - 7 (yes) – 5 (no) – 0 (abstentions)
  - Motion approved

### **School Warrant Articles:**

- Article 1 Food Service Program – as written
  - Motion to recommend: L. Konopka
  - Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Bachelder
  - 12 (yes) – 0 (no) – 0 (abstentions)
  - Motion approved
- Article 2 Receive and Expend Grant Funds – as written
  - Motion to recommend: F. Hast
  - Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: A. Ramsey
  - 12 (yes) – 0 (no) – 0 (abstentions)
  - Motion approved
- Article 3 Operating Budget – as amended by this committee
  - Motion to recommend: R. Severance
  - Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Bachelder
  - 8 (yes) – 4 (no) – 0 (abstentions)
  - Motion approved
- Article 4 Special Education Capital Reserve Fund – as written
  - Motion to recommend: J. Everson
  - Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Bachelder
  - 11 (yes) – 1 (no) – 0 (abstentions)
  - Motion approved
- Article 5 Dumpster Capital Reserve Fund – as written
  - Motion to recommend: F. Hast
  - Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Bachelder
  - 11 (yes) – 1 (no) – 0 (abstentions)
  - Motion approved

### **Agenda Item 2: Town Budget**

Documents Referenced: Pittsfield Town Budget by Department 2021

Discussion: The town budget proposal is for the General Fund Operating Budget at \$4,280,310. We will also need to move and vote on the Capital Outlay

Motion to approve the General Fund Operating Budget and all departments as recommended by the select board totaling \$4,280,310.

- Motion to recommend: R. Severance
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Bachelder
- 12 (yes) – 0 (no) – 0 (abstentions)
- Motion approved

Motion to approve the Town Operations Capital Outlay at \$9,937.

- Motion to recommend: F. Hast
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Bachelder
- 12 (yes) – 0 (no) – (abstentions)

- Motion approved

Motion to approve the Waste Water Treatment Plant at \$492,578

- Motion to recommend: R. Severance
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: F. Hast
- 12 (yes) – 0 (no) – (abstentions)
- Motion approved

### **Town Warrant Articles**

Warrant Article 6: Municipal Operating Budget, as written, with the operating budget set forth at \$4,782,825, and the default budget set forth at \$4,692,819.

- Motion to Recommend: F. Hast
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: L. Konopka
- 12 (yes) – 0 (no) – 0 (abstentions)
- Motion approved

Warrant Article 7: cost items for AFT-NH Local #6214 as written.

- Motion to Recommend: K. Bachelder
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: R. Severance
- 11 (yes) – 1 (no) – 0 (abstentions)
- Motion approved

Warrant Article 9: Municipal Sidewalks Improvement as written (\$20,000)

- Motion to Recommend: L. Konopka
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Bachelder
- 12 (yes) – 0 (no) – 0 (abstentions)
- Motion approved

Warrant Article 10: Raising matching funds for a Fire Department Grant as written (\$40,196)

- Motion to Recommend: L. Konopka
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Bachelder
- 12 (yes) – 0 (no) – 0 (abstentions)
- Motion approved

Warrant Article 11: Cruiser Replacement as written.

- Motion to Recommend: L. Konopka
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: A. Ramsey
- 12 (yes) – 0 (no) – 0 (abstentions)
- Motion approved

Warrant Article 12: Backhoe Replacement as written.

- Motion to Recommend: L. Konopka
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Bachelder
- 11 (yes) – 1 (no) – 0 (abstentions)
- Motion approved

Warrant Articles 13 - 23: add to the Capital Reserve Funds, each article as written.

- Motion to Recommend: F. Hast
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: T. Mitchell
- 12 (yes) – 0 (no) – 0 (abstentions)
- Motion approved

Warrant Article 24: Floral Park Cemetery Trust Fund as written.

- Motion to Recommend: F. Hast
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: L. Konopka
- 12 (yes) – 0 (no) – 0 (abstentions)
- Motion approved

### Item 3: Approval of Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes (with minor corrections and clarifications)

- Motion to Approve: R. Severance
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Bachelder
- 11 (yes) – 0 (no) – 1 (abstentions)

Motion Passed

When the paperwork is all in place, each committee member will need to come to the Town Hall to sign the budget sheets.

Deliberative Session for the Town Meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2021.

If the budget numbers are changed at the Deliberative Sessions we will need to meet again to reconsider our recommendations. Stay tuned by email.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by: Jeremy Everson, Secretary

Approved:

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Robert Schiferle, Chair

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Date