



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

MEETING MINUTES OF Wednesday, January 13, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Call to order at 6:02 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)
Larry Konopka (IP)
Mary Paradise (R)
Ralph O'Dell (IP)
Ammy Ramsey (R)
Helen Schiff (IP)
Randy Severance (IP)

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

MEMBERS ABSENT (1)

Fred Hast

GUESTS PRESENT

None

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED:

- *Town of Pittsfield 2021 Budget Recap by Department (updated 1/13/2021)*
- *2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant*
- *2021 MS-DTB Default Budget of the Municipality*
- *2021 MS-DSB Default Budget of the School District*
- *2021 Warrant for Pittsfield Local School*

Agenda Item 1: Purpose and Clarification of Our Work

Discussion: B. Schiferle gave information and led the discussion on the business to be handled by the committee over the next several weeks.

- The Budget Committee Public Hearing will be Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 7:00pm in the High School Gymnasium
- The purpose of the Budget Committee is to “assist the voters in making a prudent appropriation of funds.”
- The purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear from the voters their concerns regarding the budget items in question. We will also need to be prepared to educate and inform the voters about the issues that are already causing much concern.
- The Deliberative Session now takes the place of the Town Meeting and is the opportunity for the voters to decide what will be on the ballot on voting day. The voters may change the numbers in these budgets as passed along by this Budget Committee. We expect an increase in voter participation in all of these meetings this year.

Agenda Item 2: Town Budget Documents

Documents Referenced:

- *Town of Pittsfield 2021 Budget Recap by Department (updated 1/13/2021)*
- *2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant*
- *2021 MS-DTB Default Budget of the Municipality*

Discussion:

- The Town Budget proposed by the Selectmen anticipates a tax rate impact increase of \$0.51 per thousand. (see *page 3 of the Budget Recap by Department*) This includes all items requested by the Selectmen (warrant articles, budget items, capital reserve funding)
- Warrant Articles:
 - Article 6 – Municipal Operating Budget: this is the number that we will approve for the Deliberative Session.
 - Article 7 – AFT-NH Local #6214 Bargaining Unit: the select board is working with the union and employees to raise the employee portion of health insurance to 10% over the coming contracts. Insurance rates went up by 5.8% this year. Retirement costs also increased.
 - Article 9 – Municipal Sidewalks Improvement: this article asks to use \$20,000 that is already in the reserve fund for sidewalk improvement. There is no tax impact because this is not a request for new funds.
 - Article 10 – Fire Department Grant: no tax impact because this request is for the permission to spend money from a grant for the purpose of Fire Department radios.
 - Article 11 – Cruiser Replacement: no tax impact because this request is

for the permission to spend money from the reserve fund for a new cruiser.

- Article 12 – Backhoe Replacement: no tax impact because this request is for the permission to spend money from the reserve fund for a new backhoe.
- Article 13 – Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund: this article seeks to add funding to the reserve fund for this purpose. This article is unchanged from last year.
- Article 14 – Fire Department Small Equipment Reserve Fund: this article seeks to add funding to the reserve fund for this purpose. This article is unchanged from last year.
- Article 15 – Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund: this article seeks to add funding to the reserve fund for this purpose. This article is unchanged from last year.
- Article 16 – Fire Department Tanker Capital Reserve Fund: this article seeks to add funding to the reserve fund for this purpose. This article is unchanged from last year.
- Article 17 – Fire Department Forestry Truck Capital Reserve Fund: this article seeks to add funding to the reserve fund for this purpose. This article is unchanged from last year.
- Article 18 – Small Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund: this article seeks to add funding to the reserve fund for this purpose. This article is unchanged from last year.
- Article 19 – Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund: this article seeks to add funding to the reserve fund for this purpose. This article is unchanged from last year.
- Article 20 – Loader Capital Reserve Fund: this article seeks to add funding to the reserve fund for this purpose. This article is unchanged from last year.
- Article 21 – Grader Capital Reserve Fund: this article seeks to add funding to the reserve fund for this purpose. This article is unchanged from last year.
- Article 22 – Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund: this article seeks to add funding to the reserve fund for this purpose. This article is unchanged from last year.
- Article 23 – Sidewalk Tractor Capital Reserve Fund: this article seeks to add funding to the reserve fund for this purpose. This article is unchanged from last year.
- The *MS-DTB Default Budget* document is recommended to be distributed to the public.

Agenda Item 3: School Budget Documents

Documents Referenced:

- 2021 MS-DSB Default Budget of the School District
- 2021 Warrant for Pittsfield Local School

Discussion:

- 2021 MS-DSB document is recommended by the DRA for distribution to the public
- Warrant Articles:
 - Article 01: Food Service Program: These funds are offset by State and Federal sources. This article seeks permission to spend funds available for the School Lunch Program.
 - Article 02: Receive and Expend Grant Funds: This article seeks permission to expend funds from federal and private grants.
 - Article 03: Operating Budget: This article will have the budget number approved by the Budget Committee for the Deliberative Session.
 - Article 04: Special Education Capital Reserve Fund: This article is unchanged from last year.
 - Article 05: Dumpster Capital Reserve Fund: this article is unchanged from last year.

Agenda Item 4: The School Revenues Issue

Documents Referenced: *Proposed 2021-2022 School District Budget, Revenues pages*

Discussion: K. Bachelder introduced some information about the decrease in state funding for the schools.

- The adequacy grant we received last year included over \$827,000 in one-time funding for projects and building expenses. This money was disclosed and not to be included in the operating budget of the schools. With this taken into consideration the decrease in adequacy grant funds is closer to \$200,000 from the non-one time funding received last year.
- There was much discussion about the adequacy grant funding and the accounting of the extra funding from state for the 2020-2021 budget.

Agenda Item 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

- Motion to Approve: R. Severance
- Motion 2nd: M. Paradise
- 12 (yes) – 0 (no) – 0 (abstentions)

Motion Passed

January 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes
– Motion to Approve: C. Richardson
– Motion 2nd: A. Ramsey
– 10 (yes) – 0 (no) – 2 (abstentions)
Motion Passed

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be a Public Hearing on Thursday, January 14, 2021, starting at 7:00 PM, at the high school gymnasium.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Submitted by: Jeremy Everson, Secretary

Approved:

Robert Schiferle, Chair

Date