



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

MEETING MINUTES OF Wednesday, January 13, 2022 PUBLIC HEARING

CALL TO ORDER

Call to order at 7:02 PM by Katie Bocash, Chair

MEMBERS PRESENT (9)

Katie Bocash, Chair
Jeremy Everson, Secretary
Carol Richardson, Select Board Rep.
John Christakos
Dan Greene
Fred Hast
Ammy Ramsey
Helen Schiff
Randy Severance

MEMBERS ABSENT (3)

Justin Clough, School Board Rep.
Robert Schiferle, Vice Chair
Larry Konopka

GUESTS PRESENT

Bryan Lane, Schools Superintendent
Cara Marston, Town Administrator

Approximately 20 members of the community attended this meeting, including Select Board members, School Board members, Police Department personnel, Highway Department personnel and Fire Department personnel.

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED:

- *Pittsfield School District Proposed Warrant Articles 2022*
- *Pittsfield School District Proposed Budget Summary 2022-2023 School Year*
- *Pittsfield School District Estimated Revenue Sheet*
- *Pittsfield School District Current Balances in Capital Reserve Funds*
- *Pittsfield School District Estimated Summary of School District Warrant Costs*
- *NH Department of Revenue Administration Tax Rate Breakdown – Pittsfield*
- *Town of Pittsfield Draft 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant*
- *Town of Pittsfield 2022 Budget Recap by Department*

Agenda Item 1: School Budget and Warrant Articles

Documents Referenced:

- *Pittsfield School District Proposed Warrant Articles 2022*
- *Pittsfield School District Proposed Budget Summary 2022-2023 School Year*
- *Pittsfield School District Estimated Revenue Sheet*
- *Pittsfield School District Current Balances in Capital Reserve Funds*
- *Pittsfield School District Estimated Summary of School District Warrant Costs*
- *NH Department of Revenue Administration Tax Rate Breakdown – Pittsfield*

Discussion: B. Lane introduced the Warrant Articles pertaining to the School Budget.

- Warrant Article 1 – Operating Budget: The major reason for the decrease in the proposed budget is the lower cost of teacher and staff salaries, due to the turnover of staff and the lower pay levels of those newly hired.
 - B. Lane summarized other changes to the budget proposal that have impacted the department numbers. The overall goal of this budget is to begin to stabilize the school budget so that the taxpayers can make reasonable decisions and have confidence in the long-term goals of the school budget.
 - The default budget is a higher amount than the proposed budget.
- Warrant Article 2 – 3-year Agreement with the Teachers Union
 - The goal of this contract is to move the district into a more competitive position with the other school districts in our area and with the school districts that we often lose teachers to.
- Warrant Article 3 – Allows the School Board to reconsider the contract with the Teachers Union in the event that Warrant Article 2 fails.
- Warrant Article 4 – Establishment of a School District Reserve Fund: The goal of establishing a reserve fund for the school is to assist in stabilizing the budgets from year-to-year.
- Warrant Article 5 – Dumpster Reserve Fund: the schools will need to purchase replacement dumpsters in the coming years. This reserve fund sets aside funds for the eventual replacement as needed.
- Warrant Article 6 – Food Service Program: The revenue for the food service program comes from the sale of food as well as state and federal sources. This article authorizes the receipt and expenditure of those funds to run the food service program.
- Warrant Article 7 – Grant Funds – the school will be applying for these funds through a grant with the Federal government and private foundations. This article authorizes the receipt and expenditure of those funds should they be granted to the schools.

Public Questions & Discussion:

- Jim Adams asked for clarification on the new pay scale in the teachers' contract.
- A. Ramsey asked if a new teacher coming into the district could end up being paid at a higher level than a teacher already in the district. B. Lane answered that no new teacher will come in at a higher pay rate than anyone already in the district.

Agenda Item 2: Town of Pittsfield Budget and Warrant Articles

Documents Referenced:

- *NH Department of Revenue Administration Tax Rate Breakdown – Pittsfield*
- *Town of Pittsfield Draft 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant*
- *NH Department of Revenue Administration Tax Rate Breakdown – Pittsfield*

Discussion: K. Bocash and C. Marston introduced the Warrant Articles and town budget proposal.

- Warrant Article 2 – Operating Budget: There have been some increases to the budget but overall the budget is stable. Increases are due to some changes in town employees insurance and
- Warrant Article 3 – Town Clerk/Tax Collector: this increase, if passed, would be reflected in the operating budget.
- Warrant Article 4 – Sidewalks Improvement: the purpose of this article is to appropriate funds to continue the ongoing sidewalks improvement project.
- Warrant Article 5 – Replacement of the Fire Engine Pumper: the funds for the new Fire Engine will come from the reserve fund set aside for this.
- Warrant Article 6 – Raise Matching Funds for a Fire Department Grant:
- Warrant Article 7 – Police Cruiser Replacement
- Warrant Article 8 – Dump Truck Replacement
- Warrant Articles 9 thru 20 – Capital Reserve Funds contributions: J. Christakos gave a summary of the CIP and the reserve funds established for saving resources as part of a plan to replace equipment in the Highway Department, Fire Department and Police Department. If each of these articles passes these departments are able to replace equipment on a schedule and as needed without introducing instability to the budget from year-to-year.
- Warrant Article 21 – Floral Park Fence Trust Fund

Public Discussion:

- There was a question about the fire department budget line items and how the revenues work to offset the expenses.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Submitted by: Jeremy Everson, Secretary

Approved:

Katie Bocash, Chair

Date

