



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

MEETING MINUTES OF Wednesday, January 2, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Call to order at 6:31 PM by Robert Schiferle, Chair

MEMBERS PRESENT (11)

Robert Schiferle, Chair
Mary Paradise, Vice Chair
Jeremy Everson, Secretary
Katie Bachelder
Fred Hast
Louis Houle
Gail Nickerson
Ralph O'Dell
Helen Schiff
Randy Severance
Carol Richardson, Select Board Rep.

MEMBERS ABSENT (2)

Richard Guild
Heidi Asdot, School Board Rep.

GUESTS PRESENT

Cara Marston, Town Administrator

Document Distributed:

- *2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant*
- *Town of Pittsfield 2019 Budget Recap by Department*

Item 1: Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Document Referenced: 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

- The Clark's Pond Dam remediation has been issued as required by NH DES Dam Bureau. This money is to bring the town pool dam into compliance with the Letter of Deficiency.
- Municipal Sidewalks Improvement: there is an additional \$40,000 in the Highway Department budget for this project.
- Purchase of Cardiac Monitors: This has no tax impact because the funds can

come out of the CIP balance for replacement ambulances.

- Matching Funds for a Fire Department Grant: a grant writer has been engaged to write the grant for these funds which would be matched by the grant, leaving \$21,328 raised by taxation.
- All equipment reserve funds total \$.73 per thousand in taxation.
- The funds for the Floral Park Cemetery Fence Expendable Trust Fund (\$1100) is from the select board stipend being donated by the select board members.
- Land Use Change Tax: currently 20% of the Land Use Change Tax goes to the Conservation Fund. This article would change that to 50% to the Conservation Fund.
- Property Acquisition and Redevelopment Trust: (\$94,000 in balance)
- Citizen Petition to Increase Wages at the Library: \$1,123 increase to give a 2% increase in salary to the library employees. This would give funds for this purpose in the event of a default budget vote at town meeting.

Item 2: Answers to questions for the school

Document Referenced: email from Dr. John Freeman

- Q: What happens if Article 1 fails (school lunch)?
 - A: There will be no school lunches. Funds may not be appropriated from anywhere else. “NO means NO.”
- Q: Why are the sick day buyback numbers different among the teachers?
 - A: This is a benefit provided in the collective bargaining agreement. Different employees have different sick day allowances than others. Sick days are bought back at 50% per diem over 110 days.
- Q: What savings will be realized by the medical insurance percentage changes in the teachers’ contract over the coming years if it is approved by the voters?
 - A: \$10,346.00 per year for each percentage point. In 2019-2020 the total savings will be \$10,346.15, for 2020-2021 it will be \$20,692.30, and in 2021-2022 it will be \$31,038.45.
- Q: What budget items would be added back if funds were available?
 - A: Discussion continues at the School Board level.

Item 3: Calendar and Schedule

- January 9 – Public Hearing 7pm, at the High School Lecture Hall
- January 10 – Public Hearing Snow Date or Voting Session
- January 16 – Committee Voting Session
- January 17 – Committee Voting Session Continued (if necessary)
- January 23 – Final Meeting to sign budgets

Item 4: Approval of Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes

- Motion to Approve: M. Paradise
- Motion 2nd: L. Houle
- 11 (yes) – 0 (no) – 0 (abstentions)

Motion Passed

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 9, 2018, starting at 7 PM in the Lecture Hall at the High School.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Submitted by: Jeremy Everson, Secretary

Approved:



Robert Schiferle, Chair

1/12/2019

Date