MEETING MINUTES OF Tuesday, November 24, 2020

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Chairman, J.C. Allard at 6:00 p.m.
All who attended the Town meeting stood together and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT
J.C. Allard, Chairman
Gerard LeDuc, Vice-Chairman
Jim Adams
Carole Richardson

MEMBERS ABSENT
Carl Anderson

PUBLIC INPUT-regarding agenda items only
None

AGENDA REVIEW
J.C.: None
Gerard: None
Jim: None
Carole: None

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

J.C. read a letter from a citizen of Pittsfield addressed to the Select Board as follows:

I am writing you today to say what a great job our Pittsfield Police and Fire departments did this past weekend. There was a motor vehicle accident on RT 28 in Barnstead in front of the Blueberry Express. I happened to drive up on the scene right after it happened. Police and Fire departments were there within minutes of 9-1-1 being called. They dispatched out of Pittsfield. The cop on the scene, I'm sorry I do not know who it was as I stayed in my car, the cop was there and working doing everything he had to do and making sure traffic was being directed around the scene. The Fire Department showed up and had the whole scene cleaned up and the car out of there within 30 minutes. They all work great together. It was amazing to see how great our departments are.
Sincerely,
Jill Gauthier
PUBLIC HEARING – 6:05 p.m. – Donation for Fire Station renovations
J.C. opened the Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m. for discussion on the donation in excess of $10,000 for renovations to the Fire Station. Since there was no public input, J.C. closed the Public Hearing and the Board voted to accept the donation for the Fire Station renovations.
Jim motioned to accept the generous donation on behalf of the Pittsfield Fire Department.
Gerard: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.

Deputy Chief Rob Freese from the Pittsfield Fire Department updated Board members on the work being done. Rob said that the total work should be completed sometime in January 2021 since the last remaining piece of renovations will be replacing the windows which are in order but waiting on installation. The total donations to the Fire Department renovations are currently around $109,000.

NEW BUSINESS
ACTION ITEMS
1. COVID19 Department Protocols
The Board adopted a policy in June 2020 to abide by the State and Federal Government protocols. Board members discussed the State of New Hampshire now mandating that masks are to be used.
Gerard motioned to continue to follow State protocols for COVID-19.
Jim: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.

2. Consideration of purchasing air purifiers for Town Hall (CARES Act offset)
Board members discussed purchasing air purifiers for the Town Hall through the CARES Act. As COVID-19 cases increase in many towns across New Hampshire and winter approaches the Town won’t be able to leave windows and doors open to help cleanse the air in the Town Hall building. The extra money left through the CARES Act would cover air purifiers for the Town Hall and not impact the taxpayers.

Board members discussed two types of air purifiers; one with a filter that will need to be replaced periodically and another air purifier, while more expensive, doesn’t use the filters because it ionizes while having a safe level of ozone output. There was further discussion over needing an air purifier in each of the rooms and the concern for costs to replace filters going forward. It was also pointed out that many Towns will be looking into air purifiers as well so a decision on which purifiers to purchase would need to be made soon.

Another option that was brought up would be to look into adding something to the HVAC system that the Town Hall currently uses. Cara pointed out that it was an older system so it might be hard to get someone to look at it, but it would solve the issue of needing an air purifier box in each room or the cost concern of needing to purchase replacement filters.

Board members agreed that it might be more cost effective and a faster solution to find someone local to look at the HVAC system. Cara will reach out to see if anyone is interested in taking a look at the system and offer a quote vs. going with air purifiers in each room.

3. Fire Chief’s Employment Agreement
Jim said that an agreement was reached last week and, if supported by the Board members, Chief Peter J. Pszonowsky will remain the Pittsfield Fire Chief for the next 3 years. Jim said that Chief Pszonowsky has agreed to a contract of $72,500 year wage. Jim said that the Town is getting an outstanding person for a very fair wage.

Jim made a motion that the Town will, through the instrument of this contract, retain the services of Chief
Peter J. Pszonowsky as our Fire Chief for 3 more years for the term of $72,500 per year with $2,500 raise each consecutive year for that 3-year period.

Gerard: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.

4. Appeal of Land Use Change Tax – Map R17 Lots 3-3, 3-4, & 3-8
The recommendation from the accessing company is to deny abatement because the land use has changed and the property has become less than 10 acres so it no longer qualifies for current use. Cara said that a letter was received from the family stating that they didn’t know this was going to happen and the sales price would have reflected that. Board members decided to submit the letter to the assessing company for further review and table the discussion until they receive a response.

5. Application for Solar Energy Systems Exemption – Map R53 Lot 4-6
Carole motioned to approve the application from Solar Energy Systems for an exemption on Map R53 Lot 4-6.
Gerard: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.

6. Application for Veteran’s Tax Credit & Service-Connected Credit – Map R34 Lot 14
Carole motioned to approve the application for Map R34 Lot 14 Veteran’s Tax Credit for $300 & Service-Connected Disability for $1,400.
Gerard: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.

7. Review of Elderly property tax exemptions
Gerard motioned to deny three of the previously qualified Elderly property tax exemptions that no longer qualify based on the criteria the Town voted on for qualifications.
Jim: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.

Jim motioned to re-approve eleven of the previously qualified Elderly property tax exemptions based on the criteria the Town voted on for qualifications.
Gerard: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.

A review of the current Elderly Exemption qualifications will be discussed when there is a full Board.

Added item – 2021 Deliberative Session
The Board decided to hold the deliberative session on Saturday, January 30, 2021, with a snow date of the following Saturday, February 6th. Cara to check to make sure the same location will be available.

8. 2020 appropriation for donation to Floral Park Fence Fund - $500 journal entry
Gerard motioned to approve the donation of $500 from Carole’s stipend to the Floral Park Fence Fund.
Jim: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.
9. 2020 transfers to Capital Reserve & Expendable Trust Funds
Gerard motioned to transfer $272,000 to the Capital Reserve & Expendable Trust Funds.
Carole: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.

10. 2021 Municipal Budget open items
Carole motioned to approve the 2021 Regional Association dues in the amount of $8,109 which includes Central NH Regional Planning Association & NH Municipal Association.
Gerard: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.

Jim motioned to approve the revised Fire Department budget which includes the Fire Department Chief 2021 contract.
Gerard: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.

Gerard motioned to approve the capital outlay for the Fire Department grant in the amount of $40,196 for radio replacement.
Jim: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.

Jim motioned to approve the addition of $19,656 for the water hydrant rate fee increase of 11.18% for 2021.
Gerard: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Gerard updated Board members of the BCEP operating budget final number of $220,137 of which 50% goes into Capital Reserve. BCEP is currently looking for a part-time administrator with engineering experience.

INFORMATION ITEMS
1. Notification of Pittsfield Aqueduct’s upcoming filed water rate increase request
A letter was recently sent out to residents from Pennichuck about the upcoming water rate increase.

OLD BUSINESS
1. Perambulation of town lines (8/14/2018)
3. Proposed Health Ordinance (8/11/2020)
4. Sewer User Fee study (10/27/2020)

CHECK MANIFESTS
1. Accounts Payable
Gerard made a motion to approve Accounts Payable.
Jim: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.
MINUTES
1. November 10, 2020 – Public Session Minutes
Gerard motioned to approve the November 10, 2020 Public Session minutes.
Jim: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.

2. November 17, 2020 – Public Session Minutes
Gerard motioned to approve the November 17, 2020 Public Session minutes.
Carole: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.

3. November 17, 2020 – Nonpublic Session Minutes
Gerard motioned to approve the November 17, 2020 Nonpublic Session minutes.
Jim: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.

PUBLIC INPUT
Police Chief Joe Collins addressed Board members with some concerns about the 2012 Charger that was approved to be replaced in the Spring. Just recently, while doing detail in another town, the Charger lost all its fluid. The Charger has had to be towed several times over the last 1½ years, is unreliable and currently having issues with the cooling system. Chief Collins requested authorization to auction the Charger off before the Spring instead of putting more money in it for repairs. Chief Collins also wanted to know if it was possible to put out an early bid for the Ford Police Interceptor.

Board members agreed that it would be best to let the 2012 Charger go to auction now to try and get the maximum return value out of it. Although the funds for the Ford Explorer are in Capital Reserve, replacement for it is in the warrant article so the Police Department would have to wait for the warrant to go to Town meeting in March 2021 for a vote before putting out a bid.

Chief Collins requested permission to allow a Federal Arms licensed dealer to quote the fair market value of six AR-15s the Police department will be selling. Board members agreed and hoped for a fair price for the 20-year-old rifles.

Chief Collins said with the recent personnel shortages in Barnstead, the town has requested Pittsfield Police department to help with extra patrol details. Board members agreed to the extra detail and remembered how Barnstead had been there for Pittsfield when it was needed.
Jim motioned to approve Pittsfield Police detail for Barnstead Police when needed.
Gerard: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.
The Select Board said that it would send written confirmation over to Barnstead for the police detail.

NONPUBLIC SESSION
Gerard motioned to go into Non-Public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) & (c).
Carole: Second.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0.

When the Board returned to public session Gerard made a motion to seal the nonpublic minutes and the motion was seconded by Jim.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried 4-0-0. Roll call was done and all approved.

Approved:

James C. Allard, Chair  
12/22/20  
Date
MEETING AGENDA
TOWN OF PITTSFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OFFICE, 85 MAIN STREET
PITTSFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03263

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m. – call to order

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC INPUT – regarding agenda items only

AGENDA REVIEW

PUBLIC HEARING – 6:05 p.m. – Donation for Fire Station renovations

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS
1. COVID19 Department Protocols
2. Consideration of purchasing air purifiers for Town Hall (CARES Act offset)
3. Fire Chief’s Employment Agreement
4. Appeal of Land Use Change Tax – Map R17 Lots 3-3, 3-4, & 3-8
5. Application for Solar Energy Systems Exemption – Map R53 Lot 4-6
6. Application for Veteran’s Tax Credit & Service-Connected Credit – Map R34 Lot 14
7. Review of Elderly property tax exemptions
8. 2020 appropriation for donation to Floral Park Fence Fund - $500 journal entry
9. 2020 transfers to Capital Reserve & Expendable Trust Funds
10. 2021 Municipal Budget open items

COMMITTEE REPORTS

INFORMATION ITEMS
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OLD BUSINESS
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4. Sewer User Fee study (10/27/2020)

CHECK MANIFESTS
1. Accounts Payable

MINUTES
1. November 10, 2020 – Public Session Minutes
2. November 17, 2020 – Public Session Minutes
3. November 17, 2020 – Nonpublic Session Minutes

PUBLIC INPUT
Public Input standards: The Board of Selectmen may accept the public’s input that is addressed directly to the Chair in a courteous and respectful manner in a time frame of three minutes or less.

NONPUBLIC SESSION - The Board of Selectmen may enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3

Please note: The meetings of the Board of Selectmen are recorded, audio and video.

Board of Selectmen meeting agenda – November 24, 2020
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