

# 2012 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

## STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE TOWN OF PITTSFIELD

Moderator Cedric Dustin called the 2012 Town Meeting to order at 10:05 AM on Saturday, March 17, 2012 in the Pittsfield Elementary School Gymnasium.

Members of the Pittsfield Boy Scout Troop #84 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Dustin pointed out the emergency exits of the gymnasium to those in attendance and asked all to quiet their cell phone ringers.

Moderator Dustin explained the ground rules for the meeting. There will be no debate until a Motion has been made and seconded. The debate is limited to the motion in question. Anyone wishing to speak will use the microphone and identify him/herself. All remarks and questions shall be addressed to the Moderator and not to members of the body present. Any amendment to a Motion must be made in writing and given to the Moderator. Only one amendment will be considered at a time. All votes will be by cards unless it is a secret ballot. The use of the secret ballot on any one article is permitted if and whenever five registered voters present at the meeting make a written request to the Moderator prior to the card vote on that article.

Moderator Dustin read the introduction to the posted 2012 Town Meeting Warrant:

To the inhabitants of the Town of Pittsfield, Merrimack County and State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall Meeting Room at 85 Main Street in said Town on the second **Tuesday** in March next, **March 13, 2012**, to act upon the subjects mentioned in Articles 1 through 6. You are hereby warned that on said date and at said place the polls will be opened at **7:00 AM** and will remain open until **7:00 PM** for the reception of your ballots under the Non-Partisan Ballot System. You are hereby warned that on **Saturday, March 17, 2012, at 10:00 AM** at the Pittsfield Elementary School Gymnasium, the matter of appropriations and such other business properly brought before said meeting will be taken up for your consideration and action.

Moderator Dustin read the official ballot results of the 2012 Annual Town Election held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012:

**Article 1:** To choose by ballot the following officers: one Moderator for a two (2) year term; two Selectmen for a three (3) year term; one Town Clerk/Tax Collector for a three (3) year term; two Planning Board Members for a three (3) year term; one Trustee of the Trust Funds for a three (3) year term; one Library Trustee for a three (3) year term; two Ethics Committee Members for a three (3) year term; one Ethics Committee Member for a two (2) year term; one Supervisor of the Checklist for a (6) year term; one Cemetery Trustee for a one (1) year term; one Cemetery Trustee for a two(2) year term; one Cemetery Trustee for a three (3) year term;

# 2012 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

## Annual Town Election results:

**one Moderator** for a two (2) year term –

**Stephen Adams elected** – 132 write-in votes

**two Selectmen** for a three (3) year term –

**Lawrence (Larry) J. Konopka elected** – 427 votes, **Linda P. Small elected** – 349 votes, Frederick T. Hast – 271 votes, Paul Vien, Jr – 109 votes, Joshua Michael McCabe – 90 votes

**one Town Clerk/Tax Collector** for a three (3) year term –

**Erica B. Anthony elected** – 372 votes, Nancy A. Bates – 204 votes, Colleen Ann Laro – 103 votes, Joan E. Osborne – 19 votes

**two Planning Board Members** for a three (3) year term –

**Clayton Wood elected** – 295 votes, **John W. (Bill) Miskoe elected** – 293 votes, Theodore (Ted) Mitchell – 240 votes, Jesse J. Pacheco – 198 votes, Eric Nilsson – 123 votes

**one Trustee of the Trust Funds** for a three (3) year term –

**Harry Emil Vogt elected** – 584 votes

**one Library Trustee** for a three (3) year term –

**Dana M. Sansom elected** – 576 votes

**two Ethics Committee Members** for a three (3) year term –

**\*by vote of Article 7 on March 17, 2012 the Code of Ethics was rescinded\***

There were no candidates for these positions on the ballot. Hank FitzGerald received 3 write-in votes. Dan Schroth also received 3 write-in votes.

**one Ethics Committee Member** for a two (2) year term –

**\*by vote of Article 7 on March 17, 2012 the Code of Ethics was rescinded\***

There were no candidates for this position on the ballot. Tom Boyd received 2 write-in votes.

**one Supervisor of the Checklist** for a (6) year term –

**Roberta J. Maxfield elected** – 617 votes

**one Cemetery Trustee** for a three (3) year term –

**Cara M. Marston elected** – 621 votes

**one Cemetery Trustee** for a two (2) year term –

**Cedric Dustin III elected** – 607 votes

**one Cemetery Trustee** for a one (1) year term –

**Vincent C. Watts elected** – 517 votes

**Article 2:** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No.1 as proposed by the Pittsfield Planning Board to amend the Town of Pittsfield Zoning Ordinance as follows:

# 2012 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

- (a) replace current Article 16, Parking Requirements, with a new Article 16, Parking Regulations, as follows:
  - (1) clarify the parking requirements for one or more uses on a single lot;
  - (2) make the parking regulations uniform throughout the Commercial District, as required by RSA 674:20;
  - (3) establish standards based on floor area to reduce parking requirements for nonresidential uses in the Commercial District;
  - (4) change relief from parking requirements to be by special exception (RSA 674:33, IV) instead of conditional use permit (RSA 674:21, II);
  - (5) add design standards for parking spaces and parking lots;
- (b) replace current Article 6, Special Exceptions, with a new Article 6, Special Exceptions, to clarify general provisions and to make Article 6, Section 2, compatible with new Article 16;
- (c) amend Article 3, Definitions, by adding definitions of “principal floor area,” “special exception,” and “street.”

(Recommended by the Planning Board)

**Article 2 passed** – Yes (350) – No (278)

**Article 3:** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Pittsfield Planning Board to amend the Town of Pittsfield Zoning Ordinance as follows:

- (a) replace current Article 5, Section 3, Powers, with a new Article 5, Section 3, Powers of Zoning Board of Adjustment, to agree with RSA 674:33 as amended 2009.
- (b) replace current Article 7, Variances, with a new Article 7, Variances, to clarify general provisions and to agree with RSA 674:33, I, (b), as amended 2009;
- (c) amend Article 3 by replacing the current definition of “variance.”

(Recommended by the Planning Board)

**Article 3 was defeated** – Yes (299) – No (314)

**Article 4:** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Pittsfield Planning Board to amend the Town of Pittsfield Zoning Ordinance as follows:

- (a) amend Article 3 by adding a definition of “frontage” defining “frontage” as class V or better highway frontage;
- (b) amend Article 4, Section 1, (c), (nonconforming lots) by defining “street frontage” as any road frontage.

# 2012 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

(Recommended by the Planning Board)

**Article 4 was defeated** – Yes (312) – No (313)

**Article 5:** Are you in favor of amending the Zoning Ordinance to allow the following:

Any lot of record located on a class VI road in Pittsfield shall be eligible to receive Planning Board approval for a minor subdivision application if the lot meets the requirements of frontage and area. Such approval would create not more than 3 lots, none of which would be eligible for further subdivision prior to road improvement to class V or better.

[The purpose of this amendment is to allow owners on class VI roads the opportunity to deed land to family members, and to allow the creation of retirement home sites without the need to make road improvements.]

(Submitted by Petition) (Not Recommended by the Planning Board) (4-0-1)

**Article 5 was defeated** – Yes (231) – No (405)

**Article 6:** To see if the town will vote to rescind the action taken at the 2007 Town Meeting to elect planning board members and instead to return to a planning board consisting of one ex officio member and 4 or 6 other members (depending on the outcome of Article 31, seeking to increase the membership of the planning board from 5 to 7 members), all of whom are to be appointed by the selectmen.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**Article 6 was defeated** – Yes (198) – No (419)

Moderator Dustin then moved on to the warrant articles that were to be taken up at the 2012 Town Meeting, March 17, 2012:

The articles will appear in numerical order in the minutes, however, at the meeting the bond item (Article 9) was addressed first since that is what State law requires and also as the polls are required to be open for an hour.

**Article 7:** To see if the town will vote to rescind the Code of Ethics adopted by the town in 2005. (Submitted by Petition)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 7 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

Dan Schroth explained that he submitted the petition as he has seen the ineffectiveness of the committee and wants to return the previous way of addressing complaints.

Merrill Vaughan, Chairman of the Ethics Committee, explained that over the past four years the committee has handled two major complaints that were resolved peacefully. Currently there are vacancies that need to be filled.

# 2012 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Art Morse stated that he was a Selectman when the Ethics Committee was formed and was a strong proponent for it, yet in watching how the process has worked and the complaints that have come forward; he now supports rescinding the Ethics Committee.

Steve Adams asked for procedural clarification as to when this would take effect if the article passes. Moderator Dustin clarified from the Town Administrator that the action would take place immediately if the article is passed.

Town Administrator Paul Skowron explained that there is a current process for the Board of Selectmen to address complaints received on employees and Board appointed officials.

Louis Houle expressed concern that this article was only rescinding the Code of Ethics and not the Ethics Committee. Town Administrator Skowron clarified that Dan Schroth had asked for assistance in drafting this article correctly and that town counsel had provided the correct wording for this article, the intent of which is to rescind the Code of Ethics, and by the virtue of this rescinding the Ethics Committee would also be dissolved.

A motion to move the question was made and seconded. A card vote was conducted and 2/3 of the voting body approved to move the article to question.

Moderator Dustin re-read Article 7 as printed in the warrant.

## **A card vote passed Article 7.**

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to rescind the authorization granted at the 2006 Town Meeting pursuant to RSA 79-A: 25, II and RSA 36-A: 5, III, which provided for twenty percent of the money collected through the Land Use Change Tax be placed in the existing Conservation Fund, so that 100% of the money collected through the Land Use Change Tax will be placed in the General Fund. This article shall take effect for the tax year beginning April 1, 2012. (Submitted by Petition) (Ballot Vote Required)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 8 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

Linda Small stated that this fund was started with good intention and as there is a good build up of funds in the account, this is one area that the town could regain little more revenue to help offset the expenditures when setting the tax rate.

Bob Lincoln stated that when he built his house with the land use change tax penalty he paid over ten thousand dollars into this account and felt this was good to help in conserving our land for future generations.

Conservation Commission Chair Mark Wallace explained that this is a wise use of our resources and that the surrounding towns are putting 50% to 100% of the Land Use Change Tax in their conservation funds. He urged to keep the funding at 20% to do long term good for Pittsfield land conservation.

# 2012 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Pat Heffernan asked the amount of the funds in the account, Moderator Dustin replied that as of 12/31 there is \$78,306.85 and clarified that this fund gets added to when land gets taken out of Current Use.

Helen Schoppmeyer explained that this fund is self regulating – in bad times people aren't building and land isn't being taken out of current use so there aren't penalties that could be offsetting the taxes, but when times are good, the fund will be added to.

After further discussion Moderator Dustin re-read Article 8.

Moderator Dustin explained that this will be a ballot vote and that the hour is almost up since the voting on Article 9 started, after the voting is completed on Article 8, the results can be read on both Article 8 and Article 9.

A recess was called for the voters to place their ballots on Article 8.

**Article 8 failed** – Yes (49) – No (88)

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to rescind the authorization granted by the 2007 Town Meeting to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Dollars (\$810,740) as a supplemental appropriation, and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes in that amount for the purpose of making improvements to the waste water treatment plant, more specifically for the construction of the Septage Pretreatment Project. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-0) (Two-thirds Ballot Vote Required)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 9 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

Selectman Vien explained that this was a housekeeping article, as the town was not going to do this project, the funding needed to be removed from the books.

As there was no discussion, a short recess was called for the voters to place their ballot vote. After the recess Moderator Dustin continued on to Article 7 and the polls remained open for (over) an hour.

The polls closed after the discussion on Article 7 and Article 8.

**Article 9 passed with 2/3 of the ballots cast** – Yes (131) – No (7)

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Nine Dollars (\$15,269) as a supplemental appropriation for the construction of sidewalks on Catamount Road and new signage on Catamount Road, Tilton Hill Road, and Oneida Street and authorize the acceptance of the same amount from a Safe Routes to School Program grant set forth by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. The DOT has awarded a grant to Pittsfield (\$260,667).

# 2012 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

This is a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7 and will not lapse until December 31, 2014 or upon completion of the project components, whichever comes first. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 10 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

Town Administrator Paul Skowron explained that at last year's town meeting the body approved \$245,398 for this Safe Routes to School project, after the Town submitted the grant application the state awarded additional grant funding for the project. This article needs to be approved to be able to expend the funds to complete the project and receive the entire amount of the grant.

Police Chief Wharem explained that this is to enhance the safety of the kids going to and from school by upgrading/constructing the sidewalks and for the proper signage and crosswalks.

**There being no further discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read the article and a card vote passed Article 10.**

**Article 11:** To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and AFT-NH, Local 6214, which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

2011 No Signed Contract Extension	2012 \$17,765.47	2013 \$4,734.00
--------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,765.47 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. (Estimated gross tax impact \$.07) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-1-0)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 11 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

Selectman Vien explained that the membership of the AFT-NH union agreed to an 85%/15% split in health insurance premiums in the proposed contract, in lieu of the current 90%/10% split. State law requires that the article appear as it is written on the warrant. A yes vote on warrant article #11 will allow for the budget article #30 to be reduced between \$22,794.00 and \$20,501.00, in essence offsetting the 2012 year costs in article #11. A no vote on warrant article #11 will not result in any reduction to budget article #30. Selectman Vien also explained that there will be no salary increases in 2012 or 2013, and there were none in 2011, as there was no contract.

As there was no discussion Moderator Dustin asked if it was okay to not re-read the article. This was acceptable to the voting body.

**A card vote passed Article 11.**

# 2012 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

**Article 12:** To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and Teamsters, Local 633, which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

2011 No Signed Contract Extension                      2012 \$ 187.85

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$187.85 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. (Estimated gross tax impact less than \$.01) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-1-0)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 12 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

Selectman Vien explained that the \$187.85 is for a longevity increase. In negotiations the detail rate was increased by \$2.00 an hour. There are no salary or health insurance increases.

**There being no discussion, a card vote passed Article 12.**

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of police special details. All revenues received for the police special details, including fees collected for use of a police cruiser, will be deposited into the fund, and the revenues shall be used to compensate the police officers, to pay for any and all benefits associated with special detail payment to the police officers, and for the periodic purchases of a police cruiser. Any remaining monies in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund unreserved fund balance. The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds shall only be expended for the purposes for which the fund was created. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-1-0)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 13 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

Linda Small stated that the special detail revenue helps significantly, in 2011 the details generated almost \$80,000 that was raised and the expenditures were \$47,000, this is revenue that can offset our taxes, if not designated for a special purpose.

Selectman Hast explained that the net revenue from a year like 2011 can purchase a new cruiser, without having to raise the money on the town meeting floor.

Dan Schroth stated he is against this article, as it should come to the town meeting floor to decide what should be spent at the police department, depending on the year and their needs.

# 2012 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Louis Houle, Chairman of the Budget Committee, explained the Budget Committee voted 8-1 against the article to keep the revenue coming into the general fund to be used, not into a special revenue fund.

More discussion took place on the existing police fleet and the purpose of setting up this fund.

**After the discussion, a card vote on Article 13 failed.**

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.) for the purpose of managing the properties acquired by the town through tax deed, engaging in such activities such as demolition, and land and building cleanup. (Estimated gross tax impact \$.10) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-0) (Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-1-0)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 14 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

Selectman Vien and Public Works Superintendent George Bachelder explained the costs of cleaning up some of the properties that were taken for tax deed.

A discussion took place as to why the town needs to invest just enough clean up funds to get the properties sold and back on the property tax warrant.

A motion to move the question was made and seconded. A card vote was conducted and 2/3 of the voting body approved to move the article to question.

Moderator Dustin re-read Article 14 and a card vote was conducted. As the outcome of the vote was to close to readily determine, Moderator Dustin requested another card vote be counted by the Supervisors of the Checklist. **A counted card vote on Article 14 passed with 70 Yes votes** and 56 No votes.

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.) for the purpose of retaining the services of George Sansoucy as outlined in the proposal dated September 7, 2011 to provide an estimate as to the cost to purchase the Pittsfield Aqueduct Company through the City of Nashua from Pennichuck Corporation. (Estimated gross tax impact \$.12) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-3-1)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 15 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

Selectman Hast explained the history of the town researching the possible purchase of the Pittsfield Aqueduct and that this article will allow us to obtain an estimate as to how much the company is valued.

Art Morse stated that the town should explore to see if we should buy the Aqueduct but the Board should put this cost to obtaining an estimate out to bid.

# 2012 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Selectmen Vien made a motion to amend Article 15 to read:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.) for the purpose of acquiring an estimate as to the cost to purchase the Pittsfield Aqueduct Company through the City of Nashua from Pennichuck Corporation.

The motion was seconded.

Moderator Dustin clarified that the discussion on the floor is for the amendment, which puts the estimate out to bid.

Helen Schiff, Budget Committee member, stated that she was thankful for this amendment to put the estimate work out to bid as the budget committee was in favor of this article but had reservations because it named a specific individual for the estimate.

Selectmen Hast clarified that this cost estimate can be placed on the amount of a bond issuance to purchase the Aqueduct.

Budget Committee Chair Louis Houle explained that this article is important for the future of the town, and that if the Aqueduct was purchased it would be owned by a separate water district, which would not affect the tax rate. The Water District would be regulated by the PUC (Public Utilities Commission) and the water users would pay for it and not pay a profit to the City of Nashua or to the former company Pennichuck.

**Moderator Dustin re-read the amended article and a card vote on the amendment passed.**

A short discussion took place explaining that the purpose of the \$30,000, which is to pay for an estimate of the cost to purchase the water company; this estimate requires professional engineering calculations to value a public utility company.

A motion to move the question was made and seconded. A card vote was conducted and 2/3 of the voting body approved to call the article to question.

Moderator Dustin re-read the amended Article 15.

**A card vote passed Article 15 as amended.**

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.) for the purpose of removing the municipal fire alarm system and installing dialer systems in locations presently served by master boxes, and authorize the withdrawal of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.) from the Fire Alarm System Capital Reserve Fund previously created for that purpose. (Reserve Fund balance is \$11,444.29 on 12-31-11) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

# 2012 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 16 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

Selectman Hast asked if this included the salvage rights or if it is just for the alarm company to pull the wire down.

Fire Chief Johnson answered that the request for proposals for the fire alarm system removal will ask for the companies responding to the bid work price out the cost both ways.

Fire Chief Johnson clarified that this will remove the municipal responsibility of the fire alarm system that runs throughout the downtown area. The businesses will be responsible for their cost of annual monitoring of their dialers.

**There being no further discussion, a card vote passed Article 16.**

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$15,200.) for the purpose of purchasing 25 pagers, reprogram 11 mobile radio units, and reprogram 22 portable radio units in the Fire Department. (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.06) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 17 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

Carole Dodge asked how many of the radios were for EMS and if this could come from the Ambulance Fund.

Fire Chief John explained that the radios/pagers/units are for combined Fire/EMS use and that as a result of Federal FCC regulations being amended as of January 1, 2013 the department's pagers and radio units must operate on a narrow band, they currently operate on a wide band.

Town Administrator Skowron stated that this could not come out of the Ambulance Fund, as it would have needed a Public Hearing notice.

**As there was no further discussion, a card vote passed Article 17.**

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Seven Dollars (\$47,267.) which represents 36 weeks of salary and related benefits to continue the employment of a current police officer in the Police Department. Such amount, if approved, will be added to the 2012 town budget. (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.18) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-4-0)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 18 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

Linda Small shared concern over the next three articles and stated that there are ways to tighten up the budget and make it more efficient without eliminating positions that might not be beneficial to the town. Small suggested that if the next three articles are voted in, she has prepared an

# 2012 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

amendment to cut operating budget in the amount of the three articles, \$125,138, to be made to Article 30 so the current Board of Selectmen can make the cuts.

Selectman Vien explained that he hopes the next three articles are voted in and that there is nothing more to take out of the budget. These articles are separated out to show that there is not enough to cut and still operate the town efficiently.

**After further discussion, a card vote passed Article 18.**

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Three Dollars (\$33,793.) which represents 36 weeks of salary and related benefits to continue the employment of a current EMT in the Ambulance Department. Such amount, if approved, will be added to the 2012 town budget. (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.13) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-3-0)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 19 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

A request was made in writing with 5 registered voters to have Article 19 and 20 be conducted by secret ballot. Moderator Dustin explained that there would be discussion on the separate articles first, and then the secret ballot vote could be done at the same time.

There was discussion on the services that would be impacted by the loss of the positions and dislike expressed for the positions being placed separately on the warrant instead of being decided on by the Selectboard.

Fire Chief Johnson explained the loss of the EMT position would result in no longer being able to staff on Saturdays, depending only on on-call response which lengthens the overall response time. Also, not being able to transport to the hospital would result in a loss of ambulance revenue.

**After the secret ballot voting was conducted, Article 19 passed with 107 Yes votes and 31 No votes.**

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Four Thousand Seventy Eight Dollars (\$44,078.) which represents 36 weeks of salary and related benefits to continue the employment of a current employee in the Highway Department. Such amount, if approved, will be added to the 2012 town budget. (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.16) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0) (Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-4-0)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 20 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

Superintendent of Public Works George Bachelder explained that the position that would be lost is a heavy equipment operator who operates the grader, loader, and backhoe; which is critical for the department – specifically noting the need of the grader for the maintenance of the 20 miles of dirt roads, the operating of the backhoe and loader for the road construction projects, also the down town plowing and in-town snow removal.

# 2012 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

**After the secret ballot voting was conducted, Article 20 passed with 114 Yes votes and 25 No votes.**

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.) to be added to the Fire and Rescue Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Reserve Fund balance is \$314,459.02 on 12-31-11) (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.12) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-0) (Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-3-0)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 21 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

Selectman Vien stated that \$106,000 is the total of the next articles for capital reserve and expendable trust funds.

Fred Okrent stated that the growing number of years of level funding the budget which has meant costly deferred maintenance on equipment and that the town will be in a deep hole when equipment needs to be replaced and the years of level funding has kept the funds from being put away slowly.

**After there was no further discussion, a card vote on Article 21 failed.**

**Article 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.) to be added to the Small Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Reserve Fund balance is \$145.11 on 12-31-11) (Estimated gross tax impact less than \$0.01) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-1-0)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 22 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

**There being no discussion, a card vote on Article 22 failed.**

**Article 23:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$28,000.) to be added to the Department of Public Works Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Reserve Fund balance is \$163,748.51 on 12-31-11) (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.11) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-3-0)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 23 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

**There being no discussion, a card vote on Article 23 failed.**

**Article 24:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.) to be added to the Department of Public Works Loader Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Fund balance is \$125,558.19 on 12-31-11) (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.04) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-3-0)

# 2012 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 24 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

**There being no discussion, a card vote on Article 24 failed.**

**Article 25:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.) to be added to the Department of Public Works Grader Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Reserve Fund balance is \$17,855.96 on 12-31-11) (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.04) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-0) (Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-1-0)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 25 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

**There being no discussion, a card vote on Article 25 failed.**

**Article 26:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.) to be added to the Department of Public Works Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Reserve Fund balance is \$55,837.83 on 12-31-11) Estimated gross tax impact less than \$0.01) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-3-0)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 26 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

**There being no discussion, a card vote on Article 26 failed.**

**Article 27:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.) to be added to the Sidewalk Tractor Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Reserve Fund balance is \$32,725.69 on 12-31-11) Estimated gross tax impact less than \$0.01) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-4-0)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 27 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

**There being no discussion, a card vote on Article 27 failed.**

**Article 28:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.) to be added to the Municipal Buildings Repair and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established. (Reserve Fund balance is \$68,160.08 as of 12-31-11) (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.10) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-1-0)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 28 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

Town Administrator Skowron answered a question that there is an adequate amount in the fund for this year's anticipated expenses.

**There being no further discussion, a card vote on Article 28 failed.**

# 2012 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

**Article 29:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Three Dollars (\$122,823.00) for the purpose of funding 1.) ambulance repair, 2.) eight hours of the forty-eight hour work week, 3.) ambulance overtime, 4.) on-call personnel, 5.) paramedic intercepts, and 6.) replacement of ambulance vehicles; and further to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of that sum from the Ambulance Replacement and Equipment Special Revenue Fund previously created, with no amount to be raised by taxation. This article is designated as a special warrant article and the appropriation shall not lapse until adjournment of the 2013 Annual Town Meeting. (Fund balance on 12-31-11 is \$516,756.25) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Selectman Vien moved to accept Article 29 as read, Selectman Rogers seconded.

Moderator Dustin clarified that the proposed \$122,823 would come out of the stated fund account balance of \$516,756.25.

**There being no further discussion, a card vote on Article 29 passed.**

**Article 30:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million Six Hundred Twenty Two Thousand Four Hundred Forty Dollars (\$3,622,440.) to fund the Town Budget and Capital Outlay as recommended by the Budget Committee. Said sum does not include the sums contained in special or individual articles of this warrant.

Budget Committee Chair Louis Houle moved to accept Article 30 as read, Bill Miskoe seconded.

Linda Small made a motion to amended Article 30 –

To see if the Town of Pittsfield will vote to amend Article 30 of the 2012 Town Warrant, decreasing the total sum recommended by One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand One Hundred and Thirty Eight Dollars (\$125,138), adjusting the total sum to be raised and appropriated to **Three Million Four Hundred Ninety Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Two Dollars (\$3,497,302)**, not including appropriations voted in other warrant articles or other amendments that may be voted on. (Majority vote required) (Secret vote requested).

Dan Schroth seconded the motion.

Linda Small explained that this amendment reflects the amount of the three positions that were just saved.

Bill Miskoe stated that he was not in favor of reducing the budget by a lump sum, as it is uncertain what services will be given up.

After further discussion on the amendment, a secret ballot vote was conducted and the amendment passed with 73 Yes votes and 51 No votes.

# 2012 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Moderator Dustin clarified that the budget amount of Article 30 that is now being discussed is \$3,497,302.

After there was no further discussion Moderator Dustin read the amended Article 30 –

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Million Four Hundred Ninety Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Two Dollars (\$3,497,302)** to fund the Town Budget and Capital Outlay as recommended by the Budget Committee. Said sum does not include the sums contained in special or individual articles of this warrant.

**A card vote passed Article 30.**

**Article 31:** To see if the town will vote to increase the membership of the planning board from 5 to 7 members. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

Since Article 6 was defeated (to rescind elected Planning Board), this is moot, however it should be tabled to take action all items on the warrant.

Selectman Vien made a motion to table Article 31, Selectman LeDuc seconded.

**A card vote to TABLE Article 31 passed.**

**Article 32:** To transact any other business that may be legally brought before said meeting.

Moderator Dustin reminded the newly elected officials can be sworn in after the meeting.

Dan Schroth asked if the 9:00pm curfew horn not be used, as it is too loud for the abutters. Selectmen LeDuc explained that the horn will be removed when the fire alarm system is removed.

Merrill Vaughan thanked the Ethics Committee members that had served over the years.

Pat Heffernan thanked Cedric Dustin for his years served as Town Moderator.

Selectman Vien thanked Frederick Hast and Denise Morin for their years served on the Board of Selectmen. He also thanked Elizabeth Hast for her great thirty years of service.

Louis Houle thanked Ed Vien for his years served as a Selectman.

Moderator Dustin adjourned the meeting at 14:47.

Minutes submitted by Cara M. Marston, Administrative Assistant.