

2022 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

TOWN OF PITTSFIELD

February 5, 2022

Town Moderator Cedric Dustin III called the First Session of the 2022 Town Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 5, 2022 in the Pittsfield Middle High School Cafeteria. He welcomed those in attendance and asked Select Board Chairman James Allard to lead the *Pledge of Allegiance*. Moderator Dustin explained he would read each warrant article and then would open the floor for discussion and the option to amend. He stated that no final votes would be taken today, but would happen by ballot on Election Day Tuesday, March 8, 2022. He stated any proposed amendments must be submitted in writing.

After explaining the rules of procedure, Moderator Dustin read the introduction to warrant:

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

You are hereby notified to meet for the first session of the annual meeting, to be held in the Pittsfield Middle High School Cafeteria at 23 Oneida Street in said Pittsfield on Saturday, February 5, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. This first (deliberative) session, for the transaction of all business other than voting by official ballot, shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each warrant article as allowed by law. In the event of inclement weather, the snow date for the first session will be Monday, February 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the same location.

You are also notified to meet for the second session of the annual meeting, to be held in the Pittsfield Middle High School Gymnasium at 23 Oneida Street in said Pittsfield on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, to vote on the 2022 annual town meeting warrant articles by official ballot. The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.

Article 1:

To choose by ballot the following officers:

- one Cemetery Trustee for a three (3) year term
- one Library Trustee for a three (3) year term
- one Town Moderator for a two (2) year term
- one Planning Board member for a three (3) year term
- two Board of Selectmen members for a three (3) year term
- one Supervisor of the Checklist for a six (6) year term
- one Trustee of the Trust Funds for a three (3) year term
- one Zoning Board of Adjustment member for a three (3) year term

Article 2 – Municipal Operating Budget

Shall the town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including the appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **\$5,180,655**?

Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **\$4,855,485** which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the town or by law; or the governing body may hold one

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special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Estimated tax impact is \$7.98 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 8-1-0)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

Article 02 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 2 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 2 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 3 – salary increase for Town Clerk/Tax Collector

To see if the town would raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,894** to increase the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's annual salary by \$3,200, from \$54,412 to \$57,612, plus the related payroll cost items of \$694. These increases would be effective January 1, 2022. The current salary is in the operating budget. If approved, this amount will become part of the operating budget.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.011 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Article 03 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman James Adams made the motion to accept Article 3 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 3 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 4 - Municipal Sidewalks improvement

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000** for the purpose of improvements to our municipal sidewalks and to authorize the withdrawal of **\$25,000** to come from the Municipal Sidewalks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance collected in 2021 was \$29,855, which will be transferred to the Municipal Sidewalks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund in fiscal year 2022. The balance of the Municipal Sidewalks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund was \$18,487.13 on December 31, 2021.

There is no estimated tax impact.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Article 04 was read by Moderator Dustin.

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Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 4 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 4 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 5 – replacement of the 1992 fire engine (pumper)

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$615,000** for the purchase of a fire pumper and to authorize two withdrawals from separate capital reserve funds; one withdrawal of **\$380,700** to come from the Fire & Rescue Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose and the second withdrawal of **\$234,300** to come from the Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund also created for this purpose. The balance of the Fire & Rescue Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund was \$380,714.05 on December 31, 2021. The balance of the Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund was \$251,153.96 on December 31, 2021.

There is no estimated tax impact.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Article 05 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 5 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 5 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 6 – raising matching funds for a Fire Department grant – 1994 fire tanker replacement

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$308,000** for the purchase of a tanker truck for the fire department, with a **grant revenue offset of \$248,000** to come from an Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, leaving \$60,000 required as matching funds and to authorize the withdrawal of **\$60,000** from the Fire Department Tanker Capital Reserve Fund. The matching funds amount will be spent only if the grant is received. This article is required to be written to show the entire appropriation and offsetting grant revenue, not just the net obligation, per the gross budgeting concept for transparency. The balance of the Fire Department Tanker Capital Reserve Fund was \$108,468.30 on December 31, 2021.

There is no estimated tax impact.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Article 06 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 6 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

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There being no further discussion, Article 6 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 7 – police cruiser replacement

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$47,000** for the purchase of a police cruiser, to authorize the withdrawal of **\$11,000** to come from the Police Special Detail Fund created for this purpose, and to authorize the withdrawal of **\$30,000** to come from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose, with the balance of **\$6,000** to be funded by taxation.

The balance of the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund was \$30,040.24 on December 31, 2021.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.017 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Article 07 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 7 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 7 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 8 – dump truck replacement

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$210,000** for the purchase of a dump truck for the public works department, to authorize the withdrawal of **\$208,000** to come from the Public Works Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose, with the balance of **\$2,000** to be funded by taxation.

The balance of the Public Works Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund was \$208,318.91 on December 31, 2021.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.006 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Article 08 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 8 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

Budget Committee Vice Chairman Bob Schiferle asked if \$210,000 was enough to purchase the truck. Superintendent of Public Works Noel Gourley explained he spoke with the truck dealer and is confident that with the trade value of the current truck the \$210,000 would be enough. Mike Cabral asked the make of the truck up for consideration. Superintendent Gourley stated he is looking at a Freightliner. It comes highly recommended by other Superintendents of Public Works.

There being no further discussion, Article 8 shall appear on the ballot as written.

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Article 9 – add to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000** to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund was \$30,040.24 on December 31, 2021.

(majority vote required)

Estimated tax impact is \$0.085 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Article 09 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 9 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 9 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 10 – add to the Fire Department Small Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,000** to be added to the Fire Department Small Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Fire Department Small Equipment Capital Reserve Fund was \$2,048.63 on December 31, 2021.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.003 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Article 10 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 10 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 10 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 11 – add to the Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$98,000** to be added to the Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund was \$251,156.96 on December 31, 2021.

Estimated tax impact is approximately \$0.279 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Article 11 was read by Moderator Dustin.

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Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 11 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 11 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 12 – add to the Fire Department Tanker Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,000** to be added to the Fire Department Tanker Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Fire Department Tanker Capital Reserve Fund was \$108,468.30 on December 31, 2021.

Estimated tax impact is approximately \$0.043 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Article 12 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 12 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 12 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 13 – add to the Fire Department Forestry Truck Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$8,000** to be added to the Fire Department Forestry Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Fire Department Forestry Truck Capital Reserve Fund was \$21,075.39 on December 31, 2021.

Estimated tax impact is approximately \$0.023 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Article 13 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 13 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 13 shall appear on the ballot as written.

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Article 14 – add to the Small Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$22,000** to be added to the Small Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This Capital Reserve Fund is for the replacement of **two small trucks, in different staggered years**. The balance of the Public Works Small Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund was \$131,042.52 on December 31, 2021.

Estimated tax impact is \$.063 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Article 14 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 14 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 14 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 15 – add to the Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$80,000** to be added to the Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The proposed addition to this Capital Reserve Fund is to support the replacement of **three dump trucks, in different staggered years**. The balance of the Public Works Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund was \$208,318.91 on December 31, 2021.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.228 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Article 15 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 15 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 15 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 16 – add to the Loader Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$12,500** to be added to the Loader Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Public Works Loader Capital Reserve Fund was \$68,328.84 on December 31, 2021.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.036 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

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Article 16 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 16 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 16 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 17 – add to the Grader Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000** to be added to the Grader Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Public Works Grader Capital Reserve Fund was \$164,079.52 on December 31, 2021.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.085 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Article 17 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 17 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 17 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 18 – add to the Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$9,000** to be added to the Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Public Works Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund was \$34,937.46 on December 31, 2021.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.026 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Article 18 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 18 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 18 shall appear on the ballot as written.

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Article 19 – add to the Sidewalk Tractor Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$20,000** to be added to the Sidewalk Tractor Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of the Public Works Sidewalk Tractor Capital Reserve Fund was \$36,684.53 on December 31, 2021.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.057 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Article 19 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 19 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 19 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 20 – establish a Public Works Light Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing light equipment for the Public Works Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$20,000** to be placed into this fund.

Estimated tax impact is \$0.057 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

Article 20 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 20 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 20 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Article 21 – add to the Floral Park Cemetery Fence Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,500** to be added to the Floral Park Cemetery Fence Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is the amount of a \$2,000 donation and a \$500 Select Board Member stipend that was designated to be donated to this Trust Fund which is in the general fund's unassigned fund balance as an unspent appropriation and no amount is to be raised by taxation. The balance of the Floral Park Cemetery Fence Expendable Trust Fund was \$1,636.13 on December 31, 2021.

There is no estimated tax impact for this warrant article.

(majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0)

(Recommended the Budget Committee 9-0-0)

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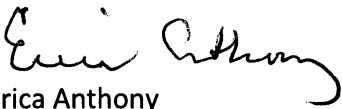
Article 21 was read by Moderator Dustin.

Selectman Gerard Leduc made the motion to accept Article 21 as read. Seconded by Select Board Chairman James Allard.

There being no further discussion, Article 21 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Moderator Dustin adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erica Anthony
Town Clerk