

# 2007 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

## STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE TOWN OF PITTSFIELD

Moderator Lester Firstenberger called the 2007 Town Meeting to order at 10:10am on Saturday, March 17, 2007 in the Pittsfield Elementary School Gymnasium.

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Arthur E. Morse thanked the outgoing Selectwoman Donna M. Keeley for her years of service to the town.

Moderator Firstenberger read the results of the ballot votes of the 2006 Annual Town Elections held on Tuesday, March 13, 2007 ~

**Article 1:** To choose by ballot the following offices: two Selectmen for a three (3) year term; a Trustee of Trust Funds for a three (3) year term; a Library Trustee for a three (3) year term; a Library Trustee for a two (2) year term; and an Ethics Committee Member for a three (3) year term.

### **Annual Town Election Results ~**

**Selectmen – Two to elect -- Linda P. Small** elected – 497 votes, **John D. Lenaerts** elected – 386 votes, Robert Elliott – 305 votes, Denise L. Morin – 279 votes, Don S. Phillips – 11 votes, Donald Chase – 246 votes

**Ethics Committee – Henry FitzGerald** elected – 630 votes

**Library Trustee (Three-Year Term) – Sylvia J. Wallace** elected – 746 votes

**Library Trustee (Two-Year Term) – William J. Provencal** elected – 770 votes

**Trustee of Trust Funds – Cara M. Marston** elected – 792 votes

**Article 2:** To see if the town will vote to have Planning Board members be elected positions pursuant to RSA 673:2, II (b)(1) starting in 2008? (Submitted by Petition)

**Article 2 passed – Yes (551) – No (327)**

**Article 3:** Do you favor adoption of the town manager plan as provided in chapter 37 of the Revised Statutes Annotated?

**Article 3 was defeated – Yes (330) – No (581)**

Moderator Firstenberger explained the ground rules for the meeting and stated that if anyone was interested in serving on the Budget Committee or Housing Standards Agency to see him in the next couple of weeks.

Moderator Firstenberger then moved on to the warrant articles that were to be taken up at the 2007 Town Meeting on March 17, 2007. Moderator Firstenberger then explained that the next article was for a bond issue, that it needed to be voted on by ballot, and that the polls needed to remain open for an hour.

**Article 4:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Dollars (\$810,740), for the purpose of implementing the Septage Pretreatment Project at the Waste Water Treatment Facility, and to authorize the issuance of not more than Eight Hundred Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Dollars (\$810,740) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. This appropriation will be utilized to supplement a previous appropriation for the same purpose approved by the voters in 2005 in the amount of One Million Five Hundred Sixty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Four Dollars (\$1,566,994). (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (2/3 ballot vote required) (no tax impact)

Chairman Morse moved to accept Article 4 as read, Selectman Vien seconded.

# 2007 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

A discussion took place with detailed input from Joseph Ducharme of the Turner Group, who gave an update of the septage facility's progress and explained the reason for this 'supplemental' bond article, which was mostly due to a significant rise in construction costs since 2005, when the town approved the first bond amount for the Septage Pretreatment Project.

At the end of the discussion, the polls opened at 10:30a.m. A short recess was called for the voters to place their ballot vote. After the recess, Moderator Firstenberger explained that Article 5 would be addressed after Article 24 and moved onto Article 6 and, with the approval of the voters, the polls remained open while the meeting progressed.

The polls closed at 11:30a.m.

## **Article 4 passed – Yes (129) – No (17)**

**Article 6:** 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 Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Fund balance is \$159,838.49 on 12/31/06) (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .10) (town valuation used is 310,164)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 6 as read, Selectwoman Keeley seconded.

**There being no discussion, card vote on Article 6 as read passed.**

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Small Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Fund balance is \$31,913.23 on 12/31/06) (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .03)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 7 as read, Chairman Morse seconded.

**There being no discussion, card vote on Article 7 as read passed.**

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be added to the Department of Public Works Loader Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Fund balance is \$77,503.97 on 12/31/06) (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .05)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 8 as read, Selectwoman Keeley seconded.

**There being no discussion, card vote on Article 8 as read passed.**

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500) to be added to the Parks & Recreation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Fund balance is \$4,323.33 on 12/31/06) (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .01)

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

**There being no discussion, card vote on Article 9 as read passed.**

**Article 10:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Department of Public Works Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund

# 2007 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

previously established. (Fund balance is \$43,539.24 on 12/31/06) (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .06)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 10 as read, Selectman Konopka seconded.

**There being no discussion, card vote on Article 10 as read passed.**

**Article 11:** 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 Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Fund balance is \$31,791.84 on 12/31/06) (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .03)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 11 as read, Chairman Morse seconded.

**There being no discussion, card vote on Article 11 as read passed.**

**Article 12:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) to be added to the Municipal Building Reserve Fund previously established. (Fund balance is \$31,017.88 on 12/31/06) (Not Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .24)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 12 as read, Selectwoman Keeley seconded.

Budget Committee Chairman Cedric Dustin made a motion to amend the dollar amount to Fifty Thousand dollars (\$50,000).

Moderator Firstenberger then read the amended Article 12 as submitted in writing ~

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Municipal Building Reserve Fund previously established.

The motion was seconded by Leonard Deane

A short discussion took place on the necessity of the repairs to be made to the town hall.

After Moderator Firstenberger read Article 12 as amended, and a card vote on the amendment passed.

Moderator Firstenberger then re-read Article 12 as amended ~

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Municipal Building Reserve Fund previously established.

**Card vote on Article 12 as amended passed.**

**Article 13:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Sidewalk Tractor Capital Reserve previously established. (Fund balance is \$1,227.42 on 12/31/06) (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .03)

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

**There being no discussion, card vote on Article 13 as read passed.**

**Article 14:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$230,000) for the purpose of purchasing a grader for the public works department, and to authorize the withdrawal of One Hundred Two Thousand Three Hundred Sixty One Dollars

# 2007 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

(\$102,361) from the Public Works Grader Capital Reserve created for that purpose; and the balance of the appropriation shall come from the general fund balance in the amount of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) and general taxation in the amount of Fifty Two Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Nine Dollars (\$52,639). (Fund balance of the Capital Reserve is \$102,361.24 on 12/31/06) (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .17)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 14 as read, Selectman Konopka seconded.

Eric Bahr made a motion to lay the article on the table until Public Works Superintendent George Bachelder was present to address the article. Motion was seconded. A card vote to lay the motion on the table passed. Moderator Firstenberger then moved on to Article 15.

When Public Works Superintendent Bachelder was present (after Article 18 was voted on), Moderator Firstenberger read Article 14 ~

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$230,000) for the purpose of purchasing a grader for the public works department, and to authorize the withdrawal of One Hundred Two Thousand Three Hundred Sixty One Dollars (\$102,361) from the Public Works Grader Capital Reserve created for that purpose; and the balance of the appropriation shall come from the general fund balance in the amount of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) and general taxation in the amount of Fifty Two Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Nine Dollars (\$52,639). (Fund balance of the Capital Reserve is \$102,361.24 on 12/31/06) (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .17)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 14 as read, Selectman Konopka seconded.

Superintendent Bachelder explained the need to replace the 1990 grader, the estimated costs that it would take to repair it if not replaced, and the details of the grader that he is looking to purchase.

**There being no further discussion, a card vote on Article 14 as read passed.**

**Article 15:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$240,000) for the purpose of constructing a salt storage shed, and to authorize the withdrawal of Two Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$240,000) from the Salt Storage Facility Capital Reserve previously established. (Fund balance is \$262,743.30 on 12/31/06) (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (no tax impact)

A motion to lay the article on the table until Public Works Superintendent George Bachelder was present to address the article. Motion was seconded. A card vote to lay the motion on the table passed. Moderator Firstenberger then moved on to Article 16.

When Superintendent Bachelder was present, Moderator Firstenberger read Article 15 ~

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$240,000) for the purpose of constructing a salt storage shed, and to authorize the withdrawal of Two Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$240,000) from the Salt Storage Facility Capital Reserve previously established. (Fund balance is \$262,743.30 on 12/31/06) (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (no tax impact)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 15 as read, Chairman Morse seconded.

Superintendent Bachelder explained some of the building details (that will be put out to bid); size, type, and sand & salt capacity, and the estimated site work costs.

# 2007 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 15 as read passed.**

**Article 16:** To see if the town will vote to establish a Shaw Road Bridge Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of repairing/replacing the Shaw Road Bridge and to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000) to be placed in this fund. Twenty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Seven Dollars (\$24,797) is to come from the town's undesignated fund balance. Said sum represents the amount received by the town from FEMA for the Shaw Road Bridge. This is a Municipal Bridge Aid Project with the State paying 80%, and the town paying 20% of the cost. (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .13)

A motion to lay the article on the table until Public Works Superintendent George Bachelder was present to address the article. Motion was seconded. A card vote to lay the motion on the table passed. Moderator Firstenberger moved on to Article 17.

When Superintendent Bachelder was present, Moderator Firstenberger read Article 16 ~

To see if the town will vote to establish a Shaw Road Bridge Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of repairing/replacing the Shaw Road Bridge and to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000) to be placed in this fund. Twenty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Seven Dollars (\$24,797) is to come from the town's undesignated fund balance. Said sum represents the amount received by the town from FEMA for the Shaw Road Bridge. This is a Municipal Bridge Aid Project with the State paying 80%, and the town paying 20% of the cost. (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .13)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 16 as read, Selectwoman Keeley seconded.

Superintendent Bachelder gave a brief history of the Shaw Road Bridge that was damaged in the May 2006 flood. He explained that the bridge repairs that were made should last about four years, which should be enough time before the bridge can be replaced with State Bridge Aid (where the costs that will be state matched at 80%), and he explained the type of bridge he is looking to replace the bridge with. He also explained that the town will be receiving a \$325,000 bridge for approximately \$40,000, with the 80% match from the state, and using the \$24,797 that was received from FEMA (due to the flood damage).

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 16 as read passed.**

At this point Chairman Morse thanked Superintendent Bachelder and his crew for the wonderful job that they do maintaining the roads. Moderator Firstenberger then continued to Article 18 as Article 17 had been previously considered.

**Article 17:** To see if the town will vote to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Police Department Drug Awareness and Education Fund, for the purpose of instituting drug awareness programs and to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for this fund; and further to appoint the selectmen as agents to expend. (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .03)

A motion was made by Selectman Konopka to amend Article 17 as follows ~

To see if the town will vote to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Police Department Drug Awareness and Education Fund, for the purpose of instituting drug awareness programs *and for drug enforcement* and to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for this fund; and further to appoint the selectmen as agents to expend.

# 2007 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Motion was seconded by Selectman Vien

Moderator Firstenberger clarified that the motion was to insert the four words ‘ and for drug enforcement’ after instituting drug awareness programs.

The purpose of the amendment is to further clarify the purpose of the Fund.

A discussion regarding the purpose and use of the fund monies took place with input from Chief Robert Wharem. Moderator Firstenberger to then re-read the Article as amended above ~

To see if the town will vote to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Police Department Drug Awareness and Education Fund, for the purpose of instituting drug awareness programs and for drug enforcement and to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for this fund; and further to appoint the selectmen as agents to expend. (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .03)

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 17 as amended passed.**

As Superintendent Bachelder was now present a motion to take Articles 14, 15, & 16 off of the table for consideration, the motion was seconded and Moderator Firstenberger continued on to Article 14.

**Article 18:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Four Thousand Dollars (\$44,000) for the purpose of ambulance repair, to fund eight hours of the forty-eight hour work week and any over expended amount of the ambulance overtime or on-call personnel budgeted line items, paramedic intercepts, and for the replacement and repair of ambulance equipment, and to authorize 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 the adjournment of the 2008 Annual Town Meeting. (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 18 as read, Chairman Morse seconded.

A short discussion took place on the establishment and purpose of the Fund.

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 18 as read passed.**

**Article 19:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the purpose of repairing and/or replacing the roof at the Town Hall and to authorize the withdrawal of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) from the Town Hall Building Capital Reserve. The balance of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) is to come from general taxation. (Fund balance is \$77,301.08) (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .08)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 19 as read, Selectwoman Keeley seconded.

A discussion took place on the status of the repairs that already took place and the need to repair/replace the roof completely before any future interior renovations.

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 19 as read passed.**

At this point Moderator Firstenberger declared the polls closed on Article 4 and continued on to Article 20.

# 2007 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

**Article 20:** To see if the municipality will vote to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Economic Development Initiative Fund, for the purpose of stimulating and sustaining economic development in Pittsfield, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for this fund; and further to appoint the selectmen as agents to expend. (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .08)

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

Selectwoman Small gave a brief update of the economic development committee's progress and explained that is fund is a 'tool' that the committee can use for studies, research, and programs to help initiate economic development. A discussion took place on what Central NH Regional Planning Commission is doing to help the committee and on the progress the committee has made thus far.

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 20 as read passed.**

**Article 21:** 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 the Pittsfield Town Employees NHFT Local #6214, AFT, AFL-CIO which calls for the increase in salary and benefits of \$41,087.00, at the current staffing level for the 2007 year, and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$41,087.00, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year. (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .13)

Chairman Morse moved to accept Article 21 as read, Selectwoman Small seconded.

Clarification was made as to which employees were covered in this agreement.

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 21 as read passed.**

**Article 22:** 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 the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local #633 of New Hampshire, which calls for the increase in salary and benefits of \$9,937.00, at the current staffing level for the 2007 year, and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,937.00, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year. (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact - .03)

Chairman Morse moved to accept Article 22 as read, Selectwoman Small seconded.

**There being no discussion, card vote on Article 22 as read passed.**

**Article 23:** Shall the town of Pittsfield, if articles 21 and 22 are defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article 21 and article 22 cost items only?

Motion was made and seconded to pass over this article as Article 21 & Article 22 passed.

**A card vote to pass over Article 23 passed.**

**Article 24:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million Six Hundred Four Thousand Four Hundred Forty Six Dollars (\$3,604,446) to fund the Town Budget and Capital Outlay as recommended by the Budget Committee. Said sum does not include the sums contained

# 2007 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

in special or individual articles of this warrant. (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact – 8.05) (the 2006 town tax portion of the total tax rate of 22.60 is 7.34)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 24 as read, Selectwoman Keeley seconded.

A short discussion took place on the proposed budget and it's estimated tax impact.

Moderator Firstenberger re-read Article 24 ~

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million Six Hundred Four Thousand Four Hundred Forty Six Dollars (\$3,604,446) 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. (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen) (estimated gross tax impact – 8.05) (the 2006 town tax portion of the total tax rate of 22.60 is 7.34)

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 24 as read passed.**

**Article 5:** Shall we modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the town of Pittsfield based on the assessed value, for qualified voters to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, (\$50,000); for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, (\$75,000); for a person 80 years of age or older, (\$125,000); To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than (\$23,140) or, if married, a combined net income of less than (\$33,130); and own net assets not in excess of (\$43,983).

Selectman Konopka moved to accept Article 5 as read, Selectwoman Small seconded.

Selectwoman Small explained the need for the increase, to offset the burden that the revaluation's value adjustments have added to the elderly and to bring the exemptions in line with other towns. A discussion took place about which assets were included in the allowance (excludes primary residence), how the income/asset adjustments were made (consumer price index), and the possibility of changing the wording of the article to restrict it to Pittsfield residents for five years (which isn't recommended to be done as it is strictly from NH statute).

**There being no further discussion, the question was called and a card vote on Article 5 as read passed.**

**Article 25:** Shall the town vote to adopt the provisions for RSA 79:E for a community revitalization tax relief incentive program? Adoption of this tax relief program will allow a property owner to apply for tax relief, for a limited duration on improvements, when rehabilitating a qualifying structure. At the end of the tax relief period, the property shall be taxed at its full market value in accordance with RSA 75:1.

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

Selectwoman Small explained that this is the second of the three 'tools' that the committee can use to help initiate economic development, a downtown area where this can be used (for business purposes only) has been established by the committee and support of this will help move the town forward. A discussion took place about what was eligible for this tax relief with detailed input from economic development committee member Eric Bahr, who explained that the Selectboard has the discretion of which projects will be considered, that it is for commercial/business purposes only, the terms of relief are for one to five years, how the amount of relief is calculated, and explained that the period of tax relief will help the business recoup their investment.



# 2007 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 25 as read passed.**

**Article 26:** Shall the municipality accept the provisions of RSA 41:14-a, which grants to the Board of Selectmen, until specific recession of such authority, the authority to buy and sell land and buildings without additional voter approval, after first submitting any proposed acquisition or sale to the planning board and conservation commission for review and comment and hold two public hearings regarding such sale or acquisition?

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

Selectwoman Small explained that this is the third of the three ‘tools’ that the committee can use to help initiate economic development, if an apartment building comes up for sale, the Selectboard would be able to enter into an agreement to purchase it for business development purposes (with two public hearings) without having to have a special meeting or wait for the annual town meeting. A discussion took place about granting the Selectboard more authority (to purchase land), yet the Selectboard would still have to come to the townspeople in the form of public hearings, which have more of a faster timeline than special town meetings.

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 26 as read passed.**

**Article 27:** To see if the town will vote to change the membership of the conservation commission from 5 members and 1 alternate to 5 members and 2 alternates in accordance with RSA 36-A:3 with the terms to be arranged such that approximately 1/3 of the members and alternate will expire each year. The additional alternate member shall be appointed by the selectmen.

Selectwoman Keeley moved to accept Article 27 as read, Chairman Morse seconded.

Selectwoman Keeley explained that most towns have two alternates and this would make it easier to achieve the quorum needed at meetings for when some of the members travel for a few months of the year.

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 27 as read passed.**

**Article 28:** To see if the town will vote to amend Section VI (C) (1) of the Code of Ethics to allow employees to present written complaints even if they are not residents of the town.

Chairman Morse moved to accept Article 28 as read, Selectman Konopka seconded.

**There being no discussion, card vote on Article 28 as read passed.**

**Article 29:** To see if the town will vote to amend Section VI of the Code of Ethics to amend the definition of “personal interest” to include interests arising from property ownership as personal interests, even if pecuniary interest is not present.

Chairman Morse moved to accept Article 29 as read, Selectman Konopka seconded.

Chairman of the Ethics Committee, Glenn Amcott, explained that the purpose of this article was to further define and clarify the state’s definition. A short discussion ensued about the concern over amending the state’s definitions in the statutes.

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

**Article 30:** To see if the town will vote to amend Section VI of the Code of Ethics to amend the definition of “pecuniary interest” to include advantages in the form of property ownership as pecuniary interests.

# 2007 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Morse moved to accept Article 30 as read, Selectman Konopka seconded.

After a definition of pecuniary was explained, the article was called to question as the subject matter of discussion was a parrot of the previous article.

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 30 as read passed.**

**Article 31:** Are you in favor of amending the Housing Standards Ordinance as proposed by the Housing Standards Agency? (Copies of the changes are available at Town Hall)

Selectman Konopka moved to accept Article 31 as read, Selectwoman Small seconded.

Housing Standards Agency Chairman William Elkins explained that the proposed changes were to clarify verbiage and to keep consistent with state requirements.

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 31 as read passed.**

**Article 32:** To see if the town will vote to have Zoning Board members be elected positions in 2008? (Submitted by Petition)

Dan Schroth moved to accept Article 32, motion was seconded by Don Chase.  
A lengthy discussion took place over the reasons for and against electing the Zoning Board members.

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 32 as read was defeated.**

**Article 33:** Are you in favor of rescinding the policy regarding animals in the Town Hall, adopted on April 12, 2005? We would like the town to allow animals in the Town Hall (including Sugar Bear, a 12 year old Samoyed, who has been the Town Hall employees' mascot for over a year). (Submitted by Petition)

Dan Schroth moved to accept Article 33, motion was seconded by Scot Palmer.  
A discussion took place about the reasons for creating the policy.

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 33 as read was defeated.**

**Article 34:** To see if the town will vote to abolish the Pittsfield Ethics Committee in accordance with NH RSA 669:17-b, and to appoint the Pittsfield Board of Selectmen as the overseers of the Pittsfield Code of Ethics. (Submitted by Petition)

Dan Schroth moved to accept Article 34, motion was seconded by Denise Patterson.  
A discussion took place about the reasons why the article was drafted and the voters expressed their feelings about the why the town does or does not need an Ethics Committee.

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 34 as read was defeated.**

**Article 35:** If the article to abolish the Ethics Committee passes, to see if the town will vote to adopt the Pittsfield Code of Ethics as amended to reflect the absence of an Ethics Committee. (Submitted by Petition)

**As Article 34 was defeated Moderator Firstenberger passed over Article 35.**

**Article 36:** To see if the town will go on record in support of effective actions by the President and the Congress to address the issue of climate change which is increasingly harmful to the environment and economy of New Hampshire and to the future well being of the people of

# 2007 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Pittsfield. These actions include 1. establishment of a national program requiring reductions of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions while protecting the U.S. economy. 2. creation of a major national research initiative to foster rapid development of sustainable energy technologies thereby stimulating new jobs and investment. In addition, the town of Pittsfield encourages New Hampshire citizens to work for emission reductions within their communities, and we ask our Selectmen to consider the appointment of a voluntary energy committee to recommend steps to save energy and reduce emissions. The record of the vote on this article shall be transmitted to the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation, to the President of the United States, and to declared candidates for those offices. (Submitted by Petition)

Article was moved and seconded.

It was explained how many towns have this question on their town meeting warrants and why the article was drafted.

A motion to postpone the article indefinitely, motion was seconded. A card vote on the motion to postpone the article indefinitely was made. As it was too close to call, Moderator Firstenberger requested the card vote be counted by the Supervisors of the Checklist.

**A card vote on the motion to postpone indefinitely failed with 41 Yes votes and 72 No votes.**

**After a motion was made and seconded to call the question, a card vote on Article 36 passed.**

**Article 37:** To rescind the policy of only allowing public input at the beginning and end of the selectmen meetings. Instead, input may be given at any time during the meeting according to the accepted rules of conduct at any public forum by simply a raising of the hand and acknowledgement by the chairperson. In this way, the town people get to take part in the meeting and be involved in the process. (Submitted by Petition)

Dan Schroth moved to accept Article 37, motion was seconded by Kevin Buchanan.

A discussion took place why the article was drafted and the reasons why the policy of receiving input was changed was explained.

**After a motion was made and seconded to call the question, card vote on Article 37 as read was defeated.**

**Article 38:** Are you in favor of instructing the Pittsfield Selectmen and the HSA board to abate the \$2,100.00 penalty assessed against Deborah Miglioizzi and refund any welfare voucher held back or money collected for the non-payment of a \$60.00 fee? (Submitted by Petition)

Dan Schroth moved to accept Article 38, motion was seconded by Merrill Vaughan.

A discussion took place why the article was drafted.

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 38 as read was defeated.**

**Article 39:** Are you in favor of amending the policy regarding Financial Penalties as prescribed in our Housing Standards Ordinance, 106.3.1. Whereby, penalties are limited to twice the amount of the fee in the event a fee is not paid on time. This amendment is limited to fees and does not affect any other application of this policy. (Submitted by Petition)

**Article 39 failed for lack of a motion.**

**Article 40:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) to be added to the Animal Control Budget for the purpose of alleviating the suffering of abandoned, stray and or feral (wild) cats; to assist in decreasing the reproduction of unspayed cats. (A single pair unspayed can produce 420,000 cats in 7 years, ref: MCSPCA 06) In pursuant of animal laws: cruelty to animals criminal code (cc) 644:8, Sale of pets and disposition of

# 2007 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

abandoned animals (cc) 437:1 Animal Population Control Program (cc) 437-A:1 (ASPCA).  
(Submitted by Petition) (Not Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Recommended by the  
Board of Selectmen)

Article was moved and seconded.

A discussion took place why the article was drafted.

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 40 was read was defeated.**

**Article 41:** To see if the voters will vote not to transfer any town funds to Municipal Resources, Incorporated for any reason. (Submitted by Petition)

Article was moved and seconded.

A discussion took place why the article was drafted.

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 41 was read was defeated.**

**Article 42:** We, the good citizens of Pittsfield demand an immediate withdrawal of NH and other US troops from Iraq. It is our desire to bring our soldiers home now and end this unjustified war. This issue is of such urgency that silence is no longer an option. (Submitted by Petition)

Article was moved and seconded.

A discussion took place why the article was drafted.

**There being no further discussion, card vote on Article 42 was read was defeated.**

**Article 43:** To see if the town will vote to accept the \$1,000.00 addition to the existing F.B. Argue Memorial Trust Fund effective December 31, 2006?

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 43 as read, Selectwoman Keeley seconded.

**There being no discussion, card vote on Article 43 as read passed.**

**Article 44:** To see if the town will vote to increase the number of alternate members of the planning board from three to five. This article shall be null and void if Article 2 (Election of Planning Board Members) passes.

**As Article 2 passed, this article was not considered.**

**Article 45:** To transact any other business that may be legally brought before said meeting.

Scott Brown implored the members of the media present to focus on the items that were more important and to minimize the more frustrating articles.

Moderator Firstenberger adjourned the 2007 Town Meeting.

Minutes submitted by Cara Marston, Administrative Assistant, and approved by Elizabeth Hast, Town Clerk.

---

Elizabeth A. Hast, Town Clerk

---

Cara M. Marston, Administrative Assistant