

# Town of Pittsfield

## FALSE ALARM ORDINANCE

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### **Section 1: PURPOSE OF ORDINANCE**

This ordinance is to ensure the proper and responsible use of automatic fire alarms which result in the dispatch of the Pittsfield Volunteer Fire Department. Responsible use includes the maintenance and servicing of equipment to ensure these systems are operating correctly to avoid false alarms.

### **Section 2: STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

This ordinance has been reviewed and approved by the Town of Pittsfield Select Board under authority of 24 V.S.A. §§ 1971-1976.

### **Section 3: PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR FALSE ALARM**

An alarm system user shall be responsible for the false alarms generated by their system or devices

### **Section 4: PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT**

**4.1 Penalties:** No penalty shall be imposed against the user for the first false alarm within a twelve-month period.

**4.2 Penalties:** The penalty for the second offense for a false alarm within a twelve-month period shall be \$200.00 and the penalty for the third and subsequent offenses within a twelve-month period shall be \$300.00 for each offense.

**4.3 Enforcement:** This is a civil ordinance. Tickets issued under this ordinance shall be enforced by the Vermont Judicial Bureau in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 1974a.

### **Section 5: EXCEPTION**

Any building owned by the Town of Pittsfield or the Pittsfield Volunteer Fire Department shall be exempt from any penalties.

### **Section 6: SEVERABILITY**

If any section, subsection, phrase, or any part thereof, is for any reason held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remaining portions of this ordinance for any part thereof.

### **Section 7: ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance shall become effective 60 days after its adoption by the Pittsfield Select Board unless a petition is filed as provided by 24 V.S.A. § 1973.

Approved by the Pittsfield Select Board at a meeting held on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2012

**Attest: Town of Pittsfield Select Board**

*/s/ Mark Begin*

*/s/ Jerry Drugonis*

*/s/ George J. Deblon*