

1 **NOT APPROVED**
2 **TOWN OF PELHAM**
3 **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**
4 **MINUTES**
5 **December 26, 2013**
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9 **CALL TO ORDER** - approximately 6:30 PM
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PRESENT: Mr. Edmund Gleason, Mr. William McDevitt, Mr. Doug Viger, Mr. Robert Haverty, Town Administrator Tom Gaydos

ABSENT: Mr. Hal Lynde

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12 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
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15 **MINUTES REVIEW**

16 **December 10, 2013 (public session)**

MOTION: (Viger/Haverty) To approve the December 10, 2013 public meeting minutes as amended.

VOTE: (3-0-1) The motion carried. Mr. McDevitt abstained.

17 **Non Public Meeting Minutes**

18 The non-public meeting minutes for December 10, 2013 were not
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20 **ANNOUNCEMENT(S)**
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- 22 • 2014 Town Meeting Schedule
- 23 • 2014 Town Deliberative Session – Tuesday, February 4, 2014 @ Sherburne Hall
- 24 • School Deliberative Session – Wednesday, February 5, 2014 @ Sherburne Hall
- 25 • 2014 Town Meeting – Tuesday, March 11, 2014 @ PHS
- 26 • Tuesday, January 14, 2014 Last day for voters to petition selectmen to include an article in the town meeting warrant.
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- 28 • Wednesday, January 22, 2014 First day for candidates in towns with non-partisan official ballot system to file declarations of candidacy with town clerk. Friday, January 31, 2014 is the last day for candidates to file. List of Openings:
 - 31 Selectmen – 2 for 3 years Town Moderator – 1 for 2 years
 - 32 Town Treasurer – 1 for 3 years Budget Committee – 3 for 3 years
 - 33 Cemetery Trustee – 2 for 3 years Library Trustee – 2 for 3 years
 - 34 Trustees of the Trust Funds – 1 for 3 years Planning Board – 2 for 3 years
- 35 • Budget Committee Upcoming Meetings
 - 36 ○ January 6, 2013 at 7:30 PM at the PES Media Center – Discuss and Vote on the Police, Fire and Teachers Union Contracts
 - 37
 - 38 ○ January 13, 2013 6:30 PM – 7:00 PM at the PES Media Center - Hearing on School Bond
 - 39 Item 7:00 PM – 7:30 PM Review and Vote on PESPA Contract (School Support Staff
 - 40 Union) 7:30 PM Town & School Budget Reconsideration
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43 **OPEN FORUM**

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45 None.

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47 **APPOINTMENT**

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49 **2014 Warrant Article Discussion and Vote**

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51 The Selectmen reviewed the proposed listing of warrant articles. Mr. Gaydos noted they would need
52 to determine the order in which they would appear on the warrant.

- 53
54 A) Election of Officers;
55 B) Discontinue a portion of Valley Hill Road;
56 C) Town operating budget;
57 D) State Highway Grant – figure to be updated at reconsideration;
58 E) Ambulance Fund increase from \$25,000 to \$60,000 funded from service fees;
59 F) Police Contract;
60 G) Firefighter Contract;
61 H) Elderly Exemption;
62 I) Add land to existing Town Forests.

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64 With regard to the discontinuance of Valley Hill Road (in association with the Dunkin’ Donuts
65 project) The Board agreed to leave Article B as a placeholder until after they were given a
66 presentation as to what the plan would be for the area. The article would not require Budget
67 Committee review.

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69 Mr. Gleason understood that the Planning Board was coming forward with zoning warrants. Mr.
70 Haverty noted that the Planning Board held the first of two public hearings; their second public
71 hearing was scheduled for their next meeting.

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73 Mr. Gaydos told the Board the insurance number had been received. He asked if they wanted to
74 submit the number at this time, or at reconsideration. Mr. Viger suggested waiting since they still
75 needed to make changes to the fuel number. Mr. Gleason said the Budget Committee had already
76 approved the budget. The updated figures would be reviewed at reconsideration. Mr. Gaydos read
77 aloud the article in association with the operating budget. Mr. Gleason said he verified that the
78 figures in the article were correct.

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80 Mr. Gaydos read aloud the article for the State Highway Grant. He said the dollar amount was the
81 same as proposed last year because the State had gone to a fiscal year (July 1st- June 30th) for its
82 appropriations. At this time they don’t have the new numbers for 2014, however Mr. Gaydos didn’t
83 believed they would be far off.

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85 It was noted that the Budget Committee had already approved the article for the annual increase to the
86 ambulance fund, which is funded from annual service fees collected each year. Mr. Gaydos said
87 should the change be made, when the ambulance is due to be retired, they will have the money to buy
88 a new one without having to go back to the taxpayers.

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90 Mr. Gaydos read aloud the article in association with the Police union contract. He said by vote of the
91 Board the contract would be ratified; the Budget Committee had yet to see it. He noted there was also
92 a request for the Board to pass judgment on the wording of whether they should include 2012 and
93 2013 as part of the list of increases. He said there was no contract in 2012-2013 and therefore no

94 additional cost. He said the voters would be voting on 2014-2017. He went on to read aloud the
95 increases in connection with each year. The Selectmen discussed the language and came to a
96 consensus to remove language regarding 2012-2013, but wanted the voter guide to include
97 information explaining the contract.
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MOTION: (McDevitt/Viger) To approve Warrant Article D (State Highway Grant) as provided.

VOTE: (4-0-0) The motion carried.

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Mr. Gleason reviewed the tax impact on the tax rate if the Police contract passed: Year 1: \$.04, Year 2: \$.08, Year 3: \$01, Year 4: \$.07. The cumulative cost over four years on the tax rate for the current assessed value is \$.20. If the assessed value goes up, the cumulative cost will decrease.

MOTION: (Viger/Haverty) To approve Warrant Article F (Police contract, Local 3657) as modified by the deletion of years 2012 and 2013 from the warrant.

VOTE: (4-0-0) The motion carried.

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Mr. Gaydos read aloud the article in association with the Fire Fighter, Local 4546 union contract. Mr. Gleason said the impact on the tax rate would be: Year 1: \$.04, Year 2: \$05, Year 3: \$.05.

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Mr. McDevitt explained that the Selectmen had conducted many non-public discussions about the provisions in the contracts, so the information was not new to anyone on the Board. Mr. Gaydos discussed the part of the negotiation pertaining to the Police contract where they had agreed no one within the union would stay with the high value insurance program. He said with insurance costs going up there will be a significant savings by them taking a managed care plan as opposed to an unmanaged care plan. He said the people (including himself) on the managed care plan had found it in many ways equal to, and in paperwork wise, better than the unmanaged plan. Mr. Gaydos said there had been significant savings which had allowed the Board to provide some increases for the Police officers because they hadn't had a raise in two years. Mr. Gleason noted the savings to the Town in changing the insurance plan was: Year 1: \$72,355, Year 2; \$99,548, Year 3: \$109,467 and Year 4: \$106,933. This represents a cumulative savings to the Town of \$388,303. Mr. Gaydos said without that savings it was very hard for the Selectmen to discuss any kind of increase. He indicated as part of the agreement they had frozen their insurance contribution for the four years; those costs are also included in the cost of the contract.

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With regard to the Fire Fighter contract, Mr. Gaydos said they had agreed to no longer sign up for, and the Town would no longer offer the high end insurance program. He said contract negotiations were somewhat easier because they had already provided the Town with cost savings, which allowed the ability for an increase over the three years and the ability to fix the insurance cost over the life of that contract. All costs (+/-) are reflected in the contract number.

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Mr. Gleason cited the fact that the Fire contract had a three year term and the Police contract had a four year term. Mr. Gaydos said the purpose of such was so the contracts didn't come up simultaneously for renewal. He said they would like to have every group come to the taxpayers without having another group competing with the same interest.

MOTION: (Viger/Haverty) To approve Warrant Article G (Fire Fighter contract, Local 4546) for a three year period

VOTE: (4-0-0) The motion carried.

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Article H, Elderly Exemption was reviewed. Mr. Gaydos suggested changing the word ‘modify’ to ‘replace’. He then read the entire article aloud with the proposed modification. Mr. Gleason suggested a further modification to have the first sentence read “To see if the Town will vote to *replace the current Elderly Exemption with an Elderly Exemption* from property tax in the Town of Pelham...”

There was no monetary value therefore the article didn’t require Budget Committee review/vote.

MOTION: (McDevitt/Viger) To approve Warrant Article H (Elderly Exemption) as amended.

VOTE: (4-0-0) The motion carried.

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Article I pertained to designating land as Town Forest; Mr. Gaydos read the article in its entirety aloud. He asked that the language be consistent and use the word ‘lots’ when referencing more than one lot on a tax map.

MOTION: (Viger/Haverty) To approve Warrant Article I (designation of Town Forest) as modified.

VOTE: (4-0-0) The motion carried.

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The Selectmen discussed the order in which the articles would be listed. The following order was agreed upon:

- 1) Open Positions
- 2) Town operating budget
- 3) Police contract
- 4) Fire contract
- 5) State Highway Grant
- 6) Ambulance Fund
- 7) Elderly Exemption
- 8) Reconfiguration of Valley Hill Road
- 9) Designation of Town Forest

It was noted if the Planning Board comes forward with Zoning amendments, they will be inserted after the Town operating budget.

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OTHER BUSINESS

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Re-Appointment of Paul Gagnon to Forestry Committee for a Three (3) year term from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2016

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Mr. Gleason said it was brought to the Selectmen’s attention they neglected to reappoint Paul Gagnon to the Forestry Committee in April, 2013. The following motion was made:

MOTION: (McDevitt/Haverty) To reappoint Paul Gagnon to the Forestry Committee with the

term of April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2016.

VOTE: (4-0-0) The motion carried.

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178 **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR / SELECTMEN REPORTS**

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180 Mr. Gaydos told the Selectmen that they recently opened the bids regarding the Highway Department
181 services (crack seal, asphalt, etc.). He said the Highway Agent was still reviewing the bids and they
182 would be posted on the internet in the next week. He noted, in doing a survey of surrounding towns,
183 it looked like Pelham would be paying a very favorable rate for asphalt next year. Mr. Gleason asked
184 for a comment regarding electricity. Mr. Gaydos said this was the second year the Nashua Regional
185 Planning Commission ('NRPC') tried to get communities involved in bidding for an electricity
186 purchase. Last year NRPC had a grant for the bidding process; this year there will be a small charge
187 for that process. He commented that the first line of bids went out for twelve months and it was not
188 favorable to some towns, Pelham being one of them. NRPC then went out with a nine month bid
189 which ended up being extremely favorable to many communities, including Pelham. He said starting
190 in February, Pelham would see a very favorable electricity price.

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192 Mr. Gleason reported he had a meeting at NRPC as a commissioner and learned they were doing
193 good things that would be beneficial to the tax payers in terms of available resources and public
194 environment. He advised the Board that Hudson was pulling out of NRPC, which came as a surprise
195 to him and to NRPC. He said Hudson was pulling out because they didn't see the value from
196 participation. Mr. Gleason felt Pelham was aware of NRPC's contribution efforts and hoped they
197 would never get in that position.

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199 **ADJOURNMENT**

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MOTION: (Viger/Haverty) To adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: (4-0-0) The motion carried.

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202 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,
Charity A. Landry
Recording Secretary