

1 **APPROVED**
2 TOWN OF PELHAM
3 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
4 MINUTES
5 February 7, 2014
6 **APPROVED – February 18, 2014**
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9 **CALL TO ORDER** - approximately 6:45PM
10

PRESENT: Mr. Edmund Gleason, Mr. William McDevitt, Mr. Doug Viger, Mr. Hal Lynde
 (arrived after meeting commenced)

ABSENT: Mr. Robert Haverty

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12 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
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14 **Announcement regarding Town Administrator**
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16 Mr. Gleason read aloud the press release as issued:
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18 *After many years of service to the Town of Pelham, Thomas Gaydos has decided to resign his*
19 *employment, effective February 11, 2014.*
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21 *(the public announcement included the following “The Board of Selectmen thank him for his years of*
22 *service.”*
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24 Mr. Gleason said there would be no further comment from the Board.
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26 **Reconsideration of the Selectmen’s Recommendation/Non-Recommendation of 2014 Petition**
27 **Warrant Articles number 13&14 as Amended at the Town Deliberative Session, Tuesday,**
28 **February 4, 2014**
29

30 Mr. McDevitt commented that the law provides the Selectmen the opportunity to revisit their
31 recommendation because Town Meeting can make an amendment. He said an amendment was made
32 at Town Meeting. He said the numbers and percentages on both warrant articles were changed to
33 zero. Currently those warrants read “*Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen*”. He said that
34 wording would be confusing to voters. Mr. McDevitt believed the Board had two choices, they could
35 have the warrant read “*Submitted without recommendation*” or “*Recommended*”.
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37 In Mr. Viger’s opinion, the articles were submitted by petition and didn’t hold true to what the
38 Board’s position had been throughout the year, regardless of the dollar amount. He said they didn’t
39 support the reduction or a fire truck. He supported the wording to not recommend the articles.
40

41 Mr. Gleason noted that the Selectmen’s Executive Secretary Marie Maruca spoke with Attorney
42 Sanderson at the New Hampshire Municipal Association who recommended in this instance was that
43 the Selectmen indicate that the articles were ‘submitted without recommendation’. The Board agreed
44 with the proposed recommendation of counsel. It was noted that both the Voter’s Guide and the
45 Town Report would be amended.
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MOTION: (McDevitt/Viger) To modify Article 13 and Article 14 to reflect that they were
“Submitted without recommendation by the Board of Selectmen”.

VOTE: (3-0-0) The motion carried.

Mr. Lynde arrived.

The Selectmen then discussed a certified letter the Board received from Mr. Leo Rush. Mr. Gleason read the letter aloud which cited RSA 39:3. He would like to respond to Mr. Rush indicating that the action was not made by the Selectmen and Mr. Rush was in error relative to the RSA, which addresses an article being put on the ballot. He would also call Mr. Rush’s attention to the correct RSA that reflects an article can be reduced in value. Mr. Gleason said the letter would be in general; if Mr. Rush has further questions they should be addressed to the Moderator since the amendment was not an action by the Selectmen.

Mr. Lynde added that the Selectmen complied totally with the RSA and submitted the petition article without alteration to Town Meeting. He said Town Meeting had a right to modify it.

Mr. Gleason then read aloud RSA 40:13 which allowed the voters at the Deliberative Session to reduce the dollar figure; however, they cannot change the intent of the warrant.

The Board was in agreement to have Mr. Gleason write a letter in response to Mr. Rush that stated the facts.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Gleason said with the announcement of Mr. Gaydos’ resignation he asked the acting Administrator Joseph Roark to begin putting together job descriptions. A copy of such was provided to the Selectmen. He said the Board would need to look at the information beginning at their next meeting, February 18th. He said they also received a recommendation from counsel pertaining to a personnel policy and a town administrator contract, which should be discussed. Mr. Gleason suggested beginning with a guideline of three months to go through the search process (for a town administrator). Mr. Viger said three months may be an aggressive timeframe.

Mr. Gleason reiterated that the Selectmen had been advised by Town Counsel to not make further comment on the resignation.

Mr. Gleason then discussed the handicap doors at the Senior Center. Acting Administrator Roark had requested three bids for the door; the lowest was \$1,800. Because of safety concerns, Mr. Gleason felt they should move forward with the low bidder for the door; there was adequate money available. He also asked that bids be requested for the handicap ramp and a handrail.

Mr. Lynde said he spoke with Mayor Lozeau at a Nashua Regional Planning Commission gathering who suggested that the Selectmen send the Pennichuck Water Board a letter notifying that Mr. Gaydos no longer works for the Town. It was Mr. Viger’s opinion that was a separate entity Mr. Gaydos was pursuing on his own. He said if they would like to know whether he was employed they could send an RSA 91-A request. He didn’t want to send an independent letter. Mr. Gleason stated that the Selectmen made an announcement with the press present. The press release would be put on PTV, the Town message board, Facebook and sent to the press via Police Citizen Alerts. He said at the advice of counsel the only thing they should state is the wording contained on the press release.

94 **ADJOURNMENT**

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

VOTE: (5-0-0) The motion carried.

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97 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00pm.

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Respectfully submitted,
Charity A. Landry
Recording Secretary