

APPROVED

TOWN OF PELHAM
BUDGET COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 18, 2021

CALL TO ORDER – Amber Capone opened the meeting at approximately 7:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT: Amber Capone (Chair)
Meg Bressette (Vice Chair)
Megan Larson
Bob Sherman
Eduardo Martony
Philip Haberlen
Jason Croteau
Paul Grant
Bob Haverty
Jennifer Castles
Brian McCarthy

ABSENT: Kannan Sasi (unexcused)

MINUTES REVIEW:

MOTION: (Mr. Sherman/Mr. Croteau) To place the November 4, 2021, meeting minutes on file. No one had any corrections to be made.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Megan Larson – yes
Eduardo Martony – yes
Bob Sherman - yes
Meg Bressette – yes
Philip Haberlen - yes
Jason Croteau – yes
Paul Grant – abstain
Bob Haverty – abstain
Amber Capone - yes

(7-0-2) Motion passes.

Ms. Capone welcomed Mr. Grant back to the committee. Ms. Capone will ensure Megan Larson is on the email distribution list. There is a new schedule printed with a December 16, 2021 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Capone said they are continuing to work through the by-laws update.

NEW BUSINESS: REVIEW OF THE WARRANT ARTICLES

SCHOOL ARTICLES:

Regarding Article #2, The Operating Budget: Shall the Pelham School district raise and appropriate an operating budget, not including appropriations in special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session of the annual school district meeting for purposes set forth herein totaling \$39,943,415.00. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$38,995,734.00, which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action by the Pelham School District or by law or the Pelham school board may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Majority vote required and this is recommended by the school board.

MOTION: (Mr. Sherman/Mr. Haverty) To accept the article as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Bob Sherman – yes
Meg Bressette - yes
Philip Haberlen – yes
Jason Croteau - yes
Paul Grant - abstain
Bob Haverty - yes
Megan Larson – yes
Eduardo Martony – yes
Amber Capone – yes

(8-0-1) Motion passes.

TOWN ARTICLES

Article #1

Ms. Capone said that on Line 3 there is one change: for the removal of the two years, the one position with the two years. Mr. McCarthy asked if one budget committee member for a term of two years needed to be removed. Ms. Capone said yes. Mr. McCarthy said they are going to add one planning board member for one year.

Article #4

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500,000.00 gross budget to purchase land and easements for conservation purposes and to authorize the board of selectmen to issue bonds or notes in compliance with provisions of the municipal finance act RSA 33:1 and what follows as amended, provided however that notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the town shall not issue more than \$1,500,000.00 of bonds or notes in any one calendar year to authorize the selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and determine the rate of interest thereon in the maturity of other terms thereof and to take any action they deem appropriate to effectuate the sale and/or issuance of said bonds or notes and to additionally to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 for the bond's first year interest payment and costs. Land or property in trust to be purchased with bond proceeds shall be acquired in the name of the town by the conservation committee, subject to approval of the selectmen pursuant to RSA 36-A:4. Recommended by the selectmen, 3/5th vote required. Mr. Sherman asked Mr. Gagnon how much land the town has currently put aside. Mr. Gagnon said it is somewhere near 3,200 acres of land set aside and of that, 1,452 have been set aside since 2000 and the rest predates that. Mr. Sherman asked if that includes the land that has schools or town buildings on it. Mr. Gagnon said it does not include any land that is developed. Mr. Sherman asked about the goal of obtaining 25% and does that include any land, such as government, library, fire stations or schools. Mr. Gagnon said that is correct and going back to 2003 was when they asked for the first 3-million-dollar bond. This goal came from the NH Protection and forest, to

set aside 25% for NH. Mr. Sherman wanted to clarify for the upcoming master plan if the school and other town sites were included in that. Ms. Bressette asked if this was the third bond. Mr. Gagnon said yes, the 3-million-dollar bond was taken in 2004, a 1.5 million taken out in 2018 and this one is the third. He said they just closed yesterday on a 1.7-million-dollar deal to protect 240 acres of the Steck property. There is a plan to close 85 acres on Tower Hill this December. They hope to close on 40 acres and another 12 acres in December and he has a meeting scheduled on Monday with a landowner that has 77 acres. Al Steward is working on another piece with 50 acres. If this bond doesn't pass, then he said they will be done. Ms. Bressette said with those that are coming up, she asked if that will be land that people can walk on or to would it be protected land, that can't be developed on. Mr. Gagnon said the Steck deal is the only one that is a conservation easement, which means the town owns the development rights, but the Steck family owns the land, so it is not open to the public. All of the other mentioned deals, would be fee simple purchases and would be open to the public. He said this is the number one goal. Mr. Sherman asked if down the road, if land was needed for a town building, could the voters vote to change the land designation. Mr. Gagnon said the land could be voted to be taken out of conservation if approved. Mr. Gagnon wouldn't recommend the town do that, as that would take away from the 25% if they did that. They want to keep the distinction of open space versus developed properties. Mr. Haverty said that is the primary way the town can keep their green space and keep the character of our town. He said that Mr. Gagnon and his committee have done great work and he urged complete support and acceptance of this. Mr. Croteau asked what the percentage the town is at now. Mr. Gagnon said the town has about 17,000 total acres and we are at about 16-17%. They are coming up to 3,400, so a little shy of 20%. Ms. Capone asked if he was anticipating a fourth bond. Mr. Gagnon said he wouldn't rule that out, but it depends on the current use money. One of the other warrant articles is the conservation committee is asking to get 100% of the current use money. If that happened, then they would need less bond monies. Mr. Sherman said he should think about the girl scout camp and that they were lucky to get the boy's camp on Long Pond. Ms. Bressette asked if the money from timber harvesting gets put into that fund. Mr. Gagnon said no, not into the land use change tax fund. The timber harvest monies are used for putting in parking lots, putting in kiosks, bridges and developing trails. Once these properties are purchased, there are no taxpayer's monies spent for maintenance of these properties. The only time taxpayer's money is spent is when they spend bonds. They've only spent 4.5 million with bonds. With the upcoming deals, they've spent over 9 million to purchase these lands. So, half the money has come from bonds and the other half came from land use change tax.

MOTION: (Mr. Sherman/Mr. Croteau) To approve Article #4 as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Meg Bressette - yes
Philip Haberlen – yes
Jason Croteau – yes
Paul Grant – yes
Bob Haverty – yes
Megan Larson – yes
Eduardo Martony – yes
Bob Sherman - yes
Amber Capone – yes

(9-0-0) The motion passes.

Article #5

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by the vote of the first session for the purposes set forth herein totaling \$19,817,755.00. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$19,215,595.00, which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the town or bylaw or the governing

bylaw will hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Recommended by the selectmen. Majority vote required.

MOTION: (Mr. Sherman/Mr. Croteau) To approve Article #5 as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Philip Haberlen – yes
Jason Croteau – yes
Paul Grant – abstain
Bob Haverty – yes
Megan Larson – yes
Eduardo Martony – yes
Bob Sherman – yes
Meg Bressette – yes
Amber Capone - yes

(8-0-1) Motion passes.

Article #6

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$320,372.00 for repair maintenance purchase of equipment and upgrading of the town roads to the offset by the state highway grant. This is a non-lapsing account per RSA 32:7 IV. No money to be raised by taxation. Recommended by the selectmen. Majority vote required. Mr. Sherman asked if this article would still allow the town to apply to the federal government to receive funding. Mr. McCarthy said yes.

MOTION: (Mr. Sherman/Mr. Croteau) To approve Article #6 as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Jason Croteau – yes
Paul Grant – yes
Bob Haverty – yes
Megan Larson – yes
Eduardo Martony – yes
Bob Sherman - yes
Meg Bressette – yes
Philip Haberlen – yes
Amber Capone – yes

(9-0-0) Motion passes.

Article #7

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 to be placed in the compensated absence trust fund for the purpose of distributing accrued time, annual earned and paid time off to terminating employees as required by law or negotiated contracts. Recommended by the selectmen. Majority vote required. Ms. Capone asked where they are holding this money now. Mr. McCarthy confirmed that they are holding it as a liability on the books. They are looking to add money to it with the new contracts and additional employees. The total exposure is \$1,505,650.00. Currently they have \$502,234.00. They should typically hold about 50% of that and this will help them get to this. Ms. Bressette asked if they added to that last year and Mr. McCarthy said yes and that they've had a bunch of retirements. Mr. McCarthy recalled there was a line item in the selectmen's budget every year for \$100,000.00 and they were paying it out of that instead of the fund. Ms. Larson asked if there wasn't enough money in the compensated absence fund, would it be funded out of the general fund and Mr. McCarthy said yes. Ms. Capone asked if

the town has a plan to stay on top of this. Mr. McCarthy said they do, and Ms. Padykula has a spreadsheet to track this. The plan is to periodically ask the town for these funds. Mr. Haverty said it is recommended that the town has 50% of the total liability and right now they only have a third. This would get them a lot closer. Ms. Capone said our liabilities are always going up, so is there a plan to stay on top of this instead of asking the taxpayers. Mr. McCarthy said the plan is to evaluate their debt and if there's a need to add to it, they will put out a warrant article to fund it. Mr. Haverty said another way is to forecast it over a period of years and then build it into the budget and that was the way it was being done. Mr. McCarthy said they also cannot predict retirements and they try and forecast the best they can. Ms. Capone noted that this isn't only retirement, but also includes absences and accrued time.

MOTION: (Mr. Haberlen/Mr. Croteau) To approve Article #7 as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Paul Grant – yes
Bob Haverty – yes
Megan Larson – yes
Eduardo Martony – yes
Bob Sherman - yes
Meg Bressette – yes
Philip Haberlen – yes
Jason Croteau - yes
Amber Capone – yes

(9-0-0) Motion passes.

Article #10

Shall the town vote to place 100% of revenue of all future payments for the land use change tax into the conservation fund in accordance with the RSA 36-A:5 III, as authorized under the provisions of RSA 79-A:25 II. Said monies to be used for the acquisition of conservation land, conservation easements, development rights and the costs associated there within. Currently 75% of revenues from the land use change tax are place into the conservation fund. So this would increase from 75% to 100%. Recommended by the selectmen. Majority vote required. Mr. Sherman asked why it doesn't say there is no tax impact. Mr. Gagnon agreed that it should be added. Mr. McCarthy said he will make sure it's added. Mr. Grant asked where the other 25% is currently going. Mr. Gagnon and McCarthy said it goes into the general fund.

MOTION: (Mr. Martony/Ms. Bressette) To approve Article #10 with the addition of 'no tax impact'.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Bob Haverty – yes
Megan Larson – yes
Eduardo Martony – yes
Bob Sherman - yes
Meg Bressette – yes
Philip Haberlen – yes
Jason Croteau – yes
Paul Grant - yes
Amber Capone – yes

(9-0-0) Motion passes.

Article #11

Shall the town vote to authorize the conservation commission to purchase for conservation purposes approximately 36.3 acres of land on tax Map 31, Lots 11-32, 11-34, 11-35 in the vicinity of Blueberry Circle, which is adjacent to a 20-acre town conservation parcel with said purchase in the amount of \$225,000.00 to be funded by the town's conservation fund. No money to be raised by taxation. Per the terms of the town's purchase and sales agreement Lot 11-33, 3.7 acres shall be transferred at no cost to the town for conservation purposes once this lot is no longer used for telecommunication purposes. Subject to the acceptance of the selectmen at that time. Recommended by the selectmen. Majority vote required. Ms. Bressette asked if there is a tower going on the 3.7 acres. Mr. McCarthy said it is the tower. Mr. Gagnon brought up the point that they've learned they couldn't spend the whole 1.5 million dollar bond this year and they have to spend half a million next year. They've spent all this year's current use monies, and this has to be paid from a bond and this warrant article does not say that now. He thinks it needs to be reworded. He said there was a stipulation in the bond used for the Steck property, that they couldn't spend more than one million a year. So, they can only spend one million of it and they took the balance out of the current use monies. The original plan was to pay for this deal with the current use monies and now they have to pay for this deal out of the half million dollars left in that bond. This article needs to be edited where to say 'to be funded by the 2018 bond and eliminate the no money to be raised by taxation'. Mr. McCarthy said that he will arrange for Attorney Rattigan and Mr. Gagnon to meet and go over the wording for this and come back on December 16, 2021.

MOTION: (Mr. Sherman/Mr. Martony) To table this article until December 16, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Megan Larson – yes
Eduardo Martony – yes
Bob Sherman - yes
Meg Bressette – yes
Philip Haberlen – yes
Jason Croteau - yes
Paul Grant – yes
Bob Haverty - yes
Amber Capone – yes

(9-0-0) Motion passes.

Article #13

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$56,100.00 for the purpose of forest management, stewardship, signage, trail building, maps, parking, etc. security, public education and other costs associated with the maintenance and care of town forest land. Said funds to come from the forest maintenance fund, which is funded from revenues produced from timber harvesting in connection with forest management. No amount to be raised through taxation. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 and shall not lapse until 12/31/2027 or until the project is completed. No money to be raised by taxation. This is a special warrant article recommended by the selectmen. Majority vote required.

MOTION: (Mr. Martony/Mr. Sherman) To approve Article #13 as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Eduardo Martony – yes
Bob Sherman - yes
Meg Bressette – yes
Philip Haberlen – yes
Jason Croteau - yes
Paul Grant - yes

Bob Haverty – yes
Megan Larson - yes
Amber Capone – yes

(9-0-0) Motion passes.

Article #14

Shall the town vote to modify the current elderly exemption limits from property tax in the town of Pelham, pursuant to RSA 72:39-a, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers as follows: For persons aged 65 to include 74 years of age \$106,000.00. For persons 75 to including 79 years of age \$152,000.00. For persons 80 years and above \$196,000.00. To qualify, the person must meet requirements of state law designated in RSA 72:39-a and 72:39-b. In addition, a qualified taxpayer must have an annual net income of not more than \$44,000.00 if single and not more than a combined net income of \$54,000.00 if married and own assets excluding the value of the person's residence, not more than \$250,000.00. Recommended by the selectmen. Majority vote required. Mr. Sherman said he went back to the numbers from 2016. He said it read, for people 65 to 74 it was \$103,200.00. He said this new figure increases by \$2,800.00. For 75 to 79 it was \$133,200.00 and this increases to \$152,000.00. For people that are 80 or above the figure was \$233,260.00 and that has been lowered to \$196,000.00. Ms. Snide asked him where he was getting his numbers from. Mr. Sherman said it was from the 2016 town report. Ms. Snide said those were not the numbers they were working with. Mr. Sherman said those were the numbers voted on in 2016. He said it was Article #14 and 1269 voted yes and 420 voted no. He wasn't sure if there were any changes since then. Ms. Snide didn't know what to say, as those were not the numbers they worked with. Mr. Sherman said on the second part, it had the number \$37,240.00, which now is being raised to \$44,000.00 and the net income was \$47,760.00 and that was raised to \$54,000.00. Ms. Snide reported the numbers they've been working with are, age 65-74 is \$78,400.00, age 75-79 is \$112,000.00 and 80 and above \$145,000.00. She said income did not exceed \$35,000.00 and \$45,000.00 for married and their assets could not exceed \$130,000.00 excluding their home. Mr. Sherman had the assets at \$132,340.00. Mr. Sherman said they should go back and take a look and to table this Article.

MOTION: (Mr. Sherman/Mr. Croteau) To table Article #14 until December 16, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Bob Sherman - yes
Meg Bressette – yes
Philip Haberlen – yes
Jason Croteau - yes
Paul Grant – yes
Bob Haverty – yes
Megan Larson – yes
Eduardo Martony – yes
Amber Capone – yes

(9-0-0) Motion passes.

Ms. Snide will look into this for the board.

Article #15

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the additional sum of \$500,000.00 for the purpose of constructing the Old Bridge Street flood relief bridge adjacent to the Old Bridge Street Abbott bridge in response to construction escalation costs of which 80%, \$400,000.00 will be reimbursed by the NH department of transportation, NHDOT, as a state bridge project. And \$100,000.00 to be expended from the unassigned fund balance. The total cost for this project is \$2,294,000.00. \$122,805.00 has been expended from the 2015 appropriations for engineering study for this project. Currently the project is being funded

from the 2019 appropriations for designs permitting bidding and construction. The appropriation shall not lapse until the fulfillment of the purpose or completion of the project and/or at the end of the 2027 fiscal year or whichever occurs first. Recommended by the selectmen. Majority vote required. Mr. Sherman said this is very important going forward because the state is going to do the Main Street bridge and when that gets redone it will release more water and it will then hit the Abbott Bridge. He hopes the voters approve this. Mr. Haverty said it is a very important piece to the overall system. The reimbursement from the state is significant and we shouldn't miss this opportunity. Ms. Bressette asked if they are starting it this year. Mr. McCarthy said in 2023. Mr. Croteau asked if this was the last piece to the Beaver Brook puzzle. The board said it is very complex. Mr. Sherman said that Windham Road backs up with water at times. He said once Main Street and Abbott are done, then they need to look at Windham Road bridge.

MOTION: (Mr. Croteau/Mr. Sherman) To approve Article#15 as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Meg Bressette – yes
Jason Croteau - yes
Philip Haberlen – yes
Paul Grant – yes
Bob Haverty – yes
Megan Larson – yes
Eduardo Martony – yes
Bob Sherman – yes
Amber Capone – yes

(9-0-0) Motion passes.

Article #16

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$190,000.00 for the purchasing and equipping of a forestry fire fighting vehicle. This vehicle will replace a 2005 forestry vehicle currently in the department. Recommended by the selectmen. Majority vote required. Mr. Sherman asked Chief Midgley why they need this this year, as it wasn't on the capital improvement plan and could they get by until next year. They have bonds for the schools and the town building this year, so he thought there would be more flexibility next year. Chief Midgley said they learned a lesson that they were unprepared for all the land the town has bought. Back in April, there was a four-day brush fire, and they totaled a truck out there, as there was no capability to get into these areas. The current vehicle was a 2005 F350, with a water tank on the back that could hold 200 gallons at a flat pitch. The new vehicle has between 400-500 gallons and has a higher wheelbase to get through the land. With conservation continuing to buy land and this includes servicing this land as far as fire and having people in contact with this land. He showed a photo of the vehicle to the board and said it is an F550 vehicle. There is a need for a higher ground clearance with a vehicle. Also, the state law doesn't allow them to maintain class-6 roads. The current vehicle's frame was bent due to the rocks on these roads. They also can't allow just any vehicle on these roads. During the brush fire they had to have someone come in and clear roads so that the fire department could get their trucks in. They need a vehicle to be able to get into these areas during emergencies. They would have a forestry pickup truck, the new vehicle and are looking at getting a UTV for extracting patients, which would have a small water tank. The conservation committee is restricting the access to these areas by putting boulders in, but that is a problem for the fire department. Chief Midgley said, yes, it could be put off, but would be worried if there was another big issue like in April. Ms. Capone asked about the totaled vehicle. Chief Midgley said the frame was bent and Primex looked at the vehicle and could've totaled it, but said they could not get another vehicle, as there are none out there. Primex put a new frame under it. Ms. Capone asked what a class-6 road was. Mr. McCarthy said it is a town, dirt road that is not maintained. Mr. Haverty said you can put a gate on a class-6 road but can't lock it and they are non-maintained, dirt roads. Ms. Capone asked what

the plan would be with the current truck. Chief Midgley said they currently have 80 cisterns in town, and they need two plow trucks to maintain their own parking areas. They also have to deploy a plow truck with an ambulance and an engine during snowstorms. When the 2005 truck becomes decommissioned, it would become a utility truck and remain as a plow truck. The new truck would not be used for plowing. Mr. Sherman asked if any other towns had a vehicle like this. Chief Midgley said Hookset, NH has one, but not many towns have this type of truck. Ms. Bressette asked if there is room to park this truck. Chief Midgley said yes because they are getting rid of a utility trailer. This trailer isn't owned by us and would be given back to the state. Mr. Haverty said the board of selectmen have recognized a deficiency in public safety and this would fill that void. The board of selectmen support the need for this vehicle. Ms. Capone asked if this truck would meet the future needs as the town continues to buy more conservation land. Chief Midgley said that is exactly what this is for. Mr. Sherman asked if there was a possibility of getting a state or federal grant. Chief Midgley said right now vehicles are very difficult to get, so no. Mr. Martony asked if the land use could fund this, as they keep buying more land and now are in need of a truck to service this land. Mr. Haverty mentioned if the two articles got combined together then they can say there is a tax impact, but as long as they are separate, one shows a tax impact and the other does not. Chief Midgley mentioned that currently there is a ton of town forest and land that we own now. Mr. Croteau asked about how public safety will be handled with conservation blocking off access to these lands and that it is getting worse. Chief Midgley said a committee has been formed with the police chief, himself, conservation committee and a board of selectmen member to start to determine these issues. Chief Midgley said there have been instances of having a gate ripped off, which is very expensive damage. The police will become involved more in protecting this property. Ms. Bressette asked if there have been any other fires other than the one in April. Chief Midgley said they've had some smaller ones, but the last large one was over 50 acres behind Dogwood Road that went into Windham and Hudson back in 2008 or 2009. Chief Midgley said they were going to build a truck themselves, but they would then assume all the liability, so they decided against that. The engineering with the new truck comes with a warranty and a guarantee, and this is very beneficial. Ms. Capone asked if this cost would go up. Chief Midgley said it may, but they built in about 4% for that because the vote is not until March. He confirmed that this new truck will be a diesel.

MOTION: (Mr. Sherman/Mr. Croteau) To approve Article #16 as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Philip Haberlen – yes
Jason Croteau - yes
Paul Grant – yes
Bob Haverty – yes
Megan Larson – yes
Eduardo Martony – no
Bob Sherman – yes.
Meg Bressette – yes
Amber Capone – yes

(8-1-0) Motion passes.

Article #17

Shall the town vote to increase the annual contribution to the ambulance replacement revolving fund from \$60,000.00 to \$75,000.00 to be funded from the ambulance fees collected in each calendar year. The fund was established in 2005 pursuant to RSA 31:95-h. These funds are held by the treasurer and may only be expended with town vote approval for the replacement or major refurbishment of an ambulance. No monies to be raised by taxation. Recommended by the selectmen. Majority vote required. Ms. Bressette asked how much there are in ambulance fees. Mr. McCarthy said there are \$271,972.00. Once they buy an ambulance, that gets zeroed out and they start all over again.

MOTION: (Mr. Haverty/ no one seconded) To approved Article #17 as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Jason Croteau - yes
Paul Grant – yes
Bob Haverty – yes
Megan Larson – yes
Eduardo Martony – yes
Bob Sherman – yes
Meg Bressette – yes
Philip Haberlen – yes
Amber Capone – yes

(9-0-0) Motion passes.

Ms. Capone said there will be a meeting on December 16, 2021. This is a mandatory meeting. Mr. Grant addressed the committee by saying he had failed the town and committee with his attendance for the last few months. He said he will do better moving forward. He has become a part-time policeman with the town. He mentioned RSA 32:15 and that there was a vote motioned by Mr. Sherman and Mr. Haverty to have him removed. He said he was excused by the Chairwoman and felt that he was improperly removed from the board. He asked the committee when they were aware he was going out for the police department. Mr. Haverty said it wasn't appropriate to have an inquisition at this time. Ms. Capone asked how it pertains to the budget. Mr. Grant said he was removed during public session and wanted to ask these questions in public session. Mr. Grant asked everyone if they knew he was excused. Ms. Capone said the board was not aware and may have made that decision out of confusion. Mr. Haverty said that on October 14, 2021, he made the motion under RSA 32:15, after discussion with town counsel at length and if a member misses four meetings without being excused, the law says automatically that one is removed from service and there is no vote required. He said the board unanimously voted yes to have Mr. Grant removed and why if his absences were excused, why would the chair vote to have him removed. Mr. Grant then asked if everyone knew his absences were excused. Mr. Haverty thanked him for his service to the town as new police officer. He said he was unaware that his absences were excused and still does not know if they were. Mr. Grant said he can give the board copies of materials and he said he talked to his superiors, and they told him it was up to the chairwoman of the board. He said he spoke to the chairwoman on October 8, 2021, and they discussed it then. Ms. Capone said she did vote yes, and the board can go back and look at the minutes to review. Mr. Grant resolved to be at all meetings going forward and would like to keep communications open. Mr. Grant distributed an email from October 8, 2021, to the board. Mr. Haberlen asked if the debate hinged on whether the absences were excused or not. Ms. Capone said they do not document whether the absences are excused or not in meetings. Mr. Haverty said it is entirely up to the chairwoman to decide. Ms. Capone said she had decided to bring Mr. Grant back to the committee.

ADJOURN

MOTION: (Mr. Sherman/Ms. Bressette) To adjourn the meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Megan Larson – yes
Eduardo Martony – yes
Bob Sherman – yes
Meg Bressette – yes
Philip Haberlen – no
Jason Croteau – yes
Paul Grant - yes

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING/Thursday, November 18, 2021

Bob Haverty - yes
Amber Capone – yes

(8-1-0) Motion passes.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Castles
Recording Secretary