



Town of Pelham State of New Hampshire 2025 Town Meeting

To the inhabitants of the Town of Pelham, in the County of Hillsborough and the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs, you are hereby notified of the following annual Town Meeting Schedule.

First Session of Annual Meeting (Deliberative Session)

You are hereby notified to meet at the Sherburne Hall, 6 Village Green, Pelham, New Hampshire on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 7:00pm. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of warrant articles numbered 2-24. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles, the wording of which, is prescribed by law shall not be amended and (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended.

Second Session of Annual Town Meeting (Official Ballot Voting)

You are hereby notified to meet again at the Pelham High School, 85 Marsh Road, Pelham, New Hampshire on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, between the hours of 7:00am and 8:00pm to vote by official ballot in choosing all necessary Town officials for the ensuing year and to vote on warrant articles numbered 1-24.

Article 1

To see what action the Town will take in the election of the following Officers: Two (2) Selectmen for a the term of three (3) years; One (1) Budget Committee member for the term of one (1) year; One (1) Budget Committee member for the term of two (2) years; Three (3) Budget Committee members for the term of three (3) years; One (1) Cemetery Trustee for the term of (3) years; One Cemetery Trustee for the term of two (2) years; Two (2) Library Trustees for the term of three (3) years; One (1) Planning Board member for two (2) years; Two (2) Planning Board members for the term of three (3) years; One (1)Town Clerk/Tax Collector for the term of three (3) years; One (1) Trustee of the Trust Funds for the term of three (3) years.

Article 2

Are you in favor of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Pelham to amend Pelham Zoning Article II Section 307-6 Definitions to add a definition for Short Term Rentals and to update Article V Permitted Uses, Table 2 to add to the existing language Hotels, motels, inns, rooming houses, or tourist cabins are treated as short term rentals as defined. (Recommended by the Planning Board 7-0-0)

Article 3

Are you in favor of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Pelham to amend Pelham Zoning Article XII Section 307-74 Additional Requirements for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) to add that an interior door shall be provided between the principal dwelling unit and the attached ADU consistent with RSA 674:71-73. (Recommended by the Planning Board 7-0-0)

Article 4

Are you in favor of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Pelham to amend Pelham Zoning Article XII Section 307-76, II Minor Home Occupations to limit minor home occupations that are located in an accessory structure to utilize no more than 25% of the primary dwelling unit total square footage by removing the allowance that an occupation conducted in an accessory structure can be based on the total square footage footprint of all structures on the property? Further, to amend Section 307-76, II to not limit minor home occupations to only single-family residences by allowing minor home occupations in duplexes or multi-family properties if the duplexes or multi-family dwelling met all established criteria. Minor

Home Occupations do not require the approval of any Town board or official. (Recommended by the Planning Board 7-0-0)

Article 5

Are you in favor of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Pelham to amend Pelham Zoning Article XVIII Natural Resources Management to clarify that the requirement of all new major subdivisions and commercial/business developments maintain an undisturbed fifty-foot perimeter buffer around the entire parcel with the exception of the entrance into the property is only until such time that the Planning Board has had the opportunity to approve the removal of the buffer and further, to remove the requirement of a performance guarantee on the water infrastructure of new major subdivision and commercial/business developments since the implementation of the new Well Ordinance provides adequate assurances for water quality and quantity of all new developments. (Recommended by the Planning Board 7-0-0)

Article 6

Are you in favor of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Pelham to amend Pelham Zoning Article VIII – Floodplain Development Ordinance, Section 307-46 Definitions, to define Floodway vs. Floodplain and Section 307-47 (E) to regulate development within flood-prone areas to ensure that construction and modifications do not increase flood risks by requiring applicants of new development to demonstrate through analysis that their proposed development will not raise floodwater levels anywhere in the floodplain and by prohibiting encroachments (e.g., fill or construction) within designated Floodplains and Floodways unless the developer provides equivalent on-site flood storage to offset the displaced volume of fill inside the floodplain and floodway. The changes would also require that the encroachment complies with standard engineering practices. (Recommended by the Planning Board 7-0-0)

Article 7

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the purpose of creating a watershed management plan for Long Pond and to authorize the issuance of not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the conditions and the rate of interest thereon; further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to

apply for loan funding for the above-referenced amount through the Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF), it being understood that repayment of the loan funds may be, but is not guaranteed to be, eligible for up to 100% principal forgiveness in the amount up to \$100,000. (Recommended by the Selectmen 4-1-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-0) (Requires a 3/5 ballot vote)

Article 8

Shall the Town vote to approve cost items included in the five (5) year collective bargaining agreement ratified by the Board of Selectmen and the Professional Firefighter's of Pelham, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), Local 4546, which calls for the following increases in salary and benefits and to further raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty One Dollars (\$123,521) to fund this year of the agreement, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? (Recommended by the Selectmen 5-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-0) (Majority vote required)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Cost</u>
2025	\$123,521	\$123,521
2026	\$128,594	\$252,115
2027	\$ 97,367	\$349,482
2028	\$ 80,737	\$430,219
2029*	\$ 93,503	\$523,722

*Including 3 months of 2030

Article 9

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 amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth herein totaling Twenty-Two Million, Three Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand, Three Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars (\$22,377,323)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Twenty One Million, Seven Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand, Four-Hundred and Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$21,727,427) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body 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. (Recommended by the Selectmen 5-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-0-0) (Majority vote required)

<u>Department</u>	Selectmen 2025 Approved	Budget Committee 2025 Approved
Assessor	\$ 247,345	\$ 246,647
Budget Committee	\$ 2	\$ 2
Cable Department	\$ 180,340	\$ 180,340
Cemetery	\$ 239,491	\$ 229,189
Conservation	\$ 10,900	\$ 10,900
Debt Service Interest	\$ 40,985	\$ 40,985
Debt Service Principal	\$ 248,507	\$ 248,507
Elections	\$ 23,670	\$ 23,670
Emergency Management	\$ 10,813	\$ 10,813
Fire Department	\$ 3,138,245	\$ 3,138,245
Health Officer	\$ 69,652	\$ 69,652
Health Services	\$ 46,665	\$ 46,665
Highway Maintenance	\$ 2,217,352	\$ 2,217,352
Human Services	\$ 75,650	\$ 75,650
Insurance	\$ 3,560,625	\$ 3,482,715
Legal	\$ 202,500	\$ 202,500
Library	\$ 568,842	\$ 568,842
Parks & Recreation	\$ 497,358	\$ 497,358
Planning Dept	\$ 585,510	\$ 614,970
Police Department	\$ 4,209,815	\$ 4,242,315
Retirement	\$ 2,612,167	\$ 2,604,110
Selectmen	\$ 732,646	\$ 734,223
Senior Center (in Parks & Rec now)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Technology	\$ 315,426	\$ 315,426
Town Buildings	\$ 907,445	\$ 907,445

Town Celebrations	\$ 24,960	\$ 24,960
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$ 342,382	\$ 341,722
Transfer	\$ 1,388,540	\$ 1,294,600
Treasurer	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
Trust Funds	\$ 520	\$ 520
Total	\$ 22,505,353	\$ 22,377,323

Article 10

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a three-year lease-purchase agreement in the amount of Four-Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$456,000) for the purpose of leasing and purchasing seven cruisers for the Police Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the first year's payment for that purpose. All proceeds from sale of any vehicles to be replaced by the vehicles purchased under this warrant article will be used to offset the cost of the acquired vehicles. This capital lease agreement contains a non-appropriation (escape) clause. (Recommended by the Selectmen 5-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-0) (Majority vote required)

Article 11

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing fire apparatus and associated equipment and to raise and appropriate the sum of Five-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. (Recommended by the Selectmen 5-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-0) (Majority vote required)

Article 12

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty-Seven Thousand Nine-Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars (\$87,949), for the purpose of hiring and equipping an additional School Resource Officer effective April 1, 2025. Said amount includes anticipated wages, benefits, taxes, and retirement contributions. If approved, the appropriation for this position will

become part of the annual operating budget in subsequent years. (Recommended by the Selectmen 5-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-0) (Majority vote required)

Article 13

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for the purpose of funding the engineering and design costs associated with the development of a public water supply to service the Sherburne Road area of the Town. This sum will be used for the planning, surveying, designing, and engineering necessary to evaluate and create plans for a proposed water supply system to the Sherburne Road area of Town to include all properties beginning at Map 39, Lot 1-103 (including Scenic View Drive) and including all lots reflected on Tax Map 39 Lots on Sherburne Road to the west of Lot 1-103, as well as all Lots on Tax Maps 32 and 38. This appropriation will be considered a non-lapsing appropriation pursuant to RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the monies are expended or December 31, 2030, whichever is earlier. (Recommended by the Selectmen 5-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-4-0) (Majority vote required)

Article 14

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) for repair, maintenance, purchase of equipment and upgrading of Town roads, to be offset by anticipated Highway Block Grant funds? This special article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, IV. No money to be raised by taxation. (Recommended by the Selectmen 5-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-0) (Majority vote required)

Article 15

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate an additional sum of Two-Million One-Hundred Four-Thousand and Eight Hundred Thirteen Dollars (\$2,104,813) for the purpose of constructing a roundabout located at Mammoth Road and Marsh Road, of which One-Million Six-Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand One-Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars (\$1,667,189) will be funded by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) as a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program Grant, and Four-Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand and Six-Hundred Twenty-Four Dollars (\$437,624) to be expended from the Unassigned Fund Balance. No money to be raised by taxation. This appropriation is in addition to the non-lapsing appropriation authorized by Article 8 of the 2024 Town Meeting for the construction of two roundabouts at the intersections of Sherburne Road and Mammoth Road and Mammoth Road and Marsh Road. This is a special,

non-lapsing warrant article in accordance with RSA 32:7, IV. (Recommended by the Selectmen 5-0-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-0-0) (Majority vote required)

Article 16

Shall the Town modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for the elderly exemption from property taxes, based on the assessed value, for qualified taxpayers to be as follows:

For persons aged 65 to include 74 years of age, \$116,000

For persons 75 to including 79 years of age, \$167,000

For persons 80 years and above, \$216,000

To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive 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 to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$48,000, if single, not more than a combined net income of \$58,000, if married, and own assets (excluding the value of the person's residence) of not more than \$250,000. (Recommended by the Selectmen 5-0-0) (Majority vote required)

Article 17

Shall the Town of Pelham vote to modify the current exemption from property taxes for inhabitants who are legally blind, as determined by the blind services program, pursuant to RSA 72:37, to increase the exemption from \$57,800 to \$59,000 on the assessed value of the inhabitant's residential real estate, provided all other eligibility criteria shall remain unchanged. (Recommended by the Selectmen 5-0-0) (Majority vote required)

Article 18

Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:37-b, Exemption for the Disabled from property tax, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers to be \$116,000. To qualify the person must be eligible under Title II or Title XVI of The Federal Social Security Act for benefits to the disabled. Additionally, to qualify, the person: must be a resident of the state for at least five (5) years; must occupy the property as his/her principle place of abode; must own the property (as defined in RSA 72:37-b (IV) individually or jointly, or if owned by a spouse, they must have been married for at least five (5) consecutive years; had in the calendar year preceding April 1 a net income from all sources, of not more than \$48,000, if a single person, and \$58,000, if married; and own

net assets not in excess of \$250,000, excluding the value of the person's residence as described in RSA 72:37-b (III)(b). (Recommended by the Selectmen 5-0-0) (Majority vote required)

Article 19

To see if the Town vote will vote, in a non-binding advisory capacity, to support the Pelham Water Commission continuing plans to design and build, using any combination of state, federal and private funding and local taxation, the necessary infrastructure to supply public water to the Sherburne Road area of Town to include all properties beginning on Tax Map 39 Lots on Sherburne Road to the west of Lot 1-103, as well as all Lots on Tax Maps 32 and 38? (Recommended by the Selectmen 5-0-0) (Majority vote required)

Article 20

To see if the Town will vote, in a non-binding advisory capacity, to support the Pelham Water Commission continuing plans to design and build, using any combination of state, federal and private funding and local taxation, the necessary infrastructure to supply public water along the Route 38 commercial area from Main Street south to the Massachusetts State Line? (Recommended by the Selectmen 5-0-0) (Majority vote required)

Article 21

To see if the Town will vote, in a non-binding advisory capacity, to support the Pelham Wastewater Commission continuing to seek publicly funded wastewater treatment solutions for the Town? (Recommended by the Selectmen 5-0-0) (Majority vote required)

Article 22 – Citizens Petition

Shall Pelham adopt the partisan official ballot system for the election of town officers, as provided under RSA 669:12?

RSA 669:12 states:

Any town may vote to adopt the partisan official ballot system for election of town officers under an article in the warrant for any town meeting, and may rescind such action in like manner. The partisan ballot system shall not be in effect until the town election first following the town meeting at which such system is adopted. A plurality shall elect in towns using the partisan ballot system.

- Source: 1979, 410:1, effective July 1, 1979.

By adopting this system, Pelham voters will have greater clarity on candidate affiliations, allowing for more informed choices and encouraging candidates to share their positions openly.

We urge our fellow residents to support this change, which will bring transparency and clearer options to our local elections. (Not Recommended by the Selectmen 0-3-2) (Majority vote required)

Article 23 – Citizens Petition

Per RSA 289:6, II-a(a), shall the Town of Pelham delegate the duties and responsibilities of the Cemetery Trustees to the Board of Selectmen? A majority vote in the affirmative shall delegate these duties to be effective 90 days after adoption and shall continue until rescinded by vote of the Town meeting. (Recommended by the Selectmen 4-0-1) (Majority vote required)

Article 24 – Citizens Petition

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) for the Pelham Trails Subcommittee, for the purpose of funding expenditures directly related to the development, improvement, and maintenance of Town trails infrastructure, including but not limited to trail repairs, signage, construction of new trails, and maintenance of existing trails. This appropriation shall be funded by taxation and shall be non-lapsing, with any unexpended funds to be carried forward into subsequent years for the same purpose. (Not Recommended by the Selectmen 0-3-2) (Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 0-10-0) (Majority vote required)

Given under our hands this 27th day of January 2025,

Jason Croteau, Chair



Charlene Takesian, Vice Chair



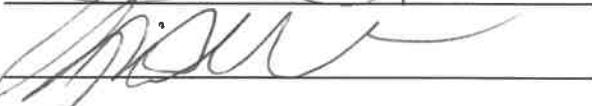
Jaie Bergeron, Selectman



Heather Corbett, Selectman



Kimberly Abare, Selectman

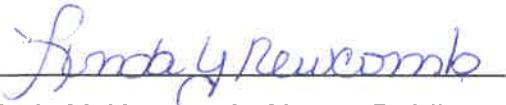


I, the undersigned, Joseph A. Roark, serving as the Town Administrator, do hereby certify that on this 27th day of January 2025, I did post signed copies of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant at the Pelham Town Hall, located at 6 Village Green and the Pelham High School, located at 85 Marsh Road and at the Pelham Public Library, located at 24 Village Green of said Town.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph A. Roark, Town Administrator



Linda Y. Newcomb, Notary Public

LINDA Y NEWCOMB
NOTARY PUBLIC - State of New Hampshire
My Commission Expires
September 7, 2027