

**2007 VOTER GUIDE
DRAFT**

ARTICLE 1:

To see what action the Town will take in the election of the following officers:

- Two (2) Selectmen for a period of three (3) years
- One (1) Town Clerk/Tax Collector for a term of three (3) years
- Three (3) Budget Committee Members for a term of three (3) years
- One (1) Cemetery Trustee for a term of three (3) years
- Two (2) Library Trustees for a term of three (3) years
- One (1) Trustee of Trust Funds for a term of three (3) years
- Two (2) Planning Board Members for a term of three (3) years
- Two (2) Planning Board Members for a term of two (2) years
- Two (2) Planning Board Members for a term of one (1) year

ARTICLE 2:

To increase buildable lot size for duplex's and lots with steep slopes

Explanation: The purpose of the proposed change is to provide Pelham residents with greater protection from storm water run-off by enlarging minimum buildable area requirements and further restricting what land can be included. Refer to the full text for specifics.

ARTICLE 3:

To add to zoning table auto repair facilities, truck trailers & container pods as a permitted use, but restrict to business/industry area

Explanation: Article 3 is intended to prohibit auto repair facilities within the residential district and to restrict the use of industrial type storage containers within the residential district.

ARTICLE 4:

To revise senior housing ordinance definitions and other minimum sizing requirements

Explanation: The main purposes of the proposed changes are to limit the density allowed under the current Senior Housing Ordinance, increase setbacks to abutting properties and clarify age restrictions, bonding and escrow requirements. Refer to the full text for specifics.

ARTICLE 5:

To revise the sign ordinance to clarify and add new definitions and restrictions

Explanation: The proposed changes will provide better controls on signs to allow businesses to advertise utilizing modern technology while limiting negative impacts to the Town's visual aesthetics. The proposed language also increases sign permit fees. Refer to the full text for specifics.

ARTICLE 6:

To revise the enforcement ordinance with respect to expiration of variance in accordance with state law

Explanation: Town Counsel recommends that we eliminate 307-88D from Pelham's Zoning Ordinance in light of recent landmark NH Supreme Court cases that conflict with that section.

ARTICLE 7:

To revise the flood plain development ordinance in accordance with state law. Failure of this ordinance will result in Pelham being suspended.

Explanation: The Town was notified by FEMA that we must make specific changes to our Flood Plain Ordinance to prevent Pelham from being dropped by the National Flood Insurance Program. The proposed language contains only those changes required by FEMA. Refer to the full text for specifics.

ARTICLE 8:

To accept a portion of Longview Drive and Greenmeadow Drive road as a Class V town road

Explanation: The portion of Longview recommended for acceptance by the Planning Board is only the middle section as illustrated on the tax map below. Also recommended for acceptance is the portion of Greemeadow that has not yet been accepted as a Town Road. Both roads have been thoroughly inspected and the wearing courses have successfully “wintered over”.

ARTICLE 9:

To accept Quail Run Lane and Empire Road after final offsite improvements are complete after Planning Board review and BOS public hearing

Explanation: Both Quail Run and Empire have wearing courses that have successfully withstood more than one winter period, but both roads have minor work and inspections that must be completed to the Planning Board's satisfaction before they should be accepted. Since this work will be completed in the summer of 2007, the Planning Board recommends that the authority to accept the roads be given to the Board of Selectmen rather than making the residents of these roads wait until Town meeting 2008.

ARTICLE 10:

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,300,000 (gross budget) for the construction of a new central fire station and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue \$6,900,000 in bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Budget Act (RSA 33), and to authorize the Selectmen to negotiate and determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms there of not to exceed a term of 15 years and to take any other action they deem appropriate to effectuate the sale and/or issuance of said bonds or notes and additionally to apply \$400,000 of impact fees to the construction project and also raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the first year's interest and costs? (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee) (3/5 Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: Two years ago, the Board appointed a committee to review alternatives and create plans for a central fire station. This Article funds final design and construction of a fire station that meets full build out of the town and will not exceed \$7.3 million in cost.

ARTICLE 11:

Shall the Town vote to hear the reports of auditors, agents, and other committees heretofore chosen and pass any votes relating thereto? (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 12:

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 \$9,916,234? Should this article be

defeated, the default budget shall be \$9,567,713 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. (\$9,992,620 approved by the Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: This Warrant provides the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommended town operating budget for 2007. Also included in compliance with state regulations, is the compliant default budget, which would be in effect should the electorate reject the recommended budget. Review of the recommended 2007 budget versus the 2006 operating budget shows a net increase of 5.7%.

Included in this growth are approximately 2.0% of contractual obligations resulting from existing contracts.

Continuing with the budget preparation initiatives implemented last year, the Board of Selectmen required that all departments prepare their 2007 budgets using "Zero Based" budgeting. This approach required a completely new generation of budgets, rather than using the previous year's budget as a starting point. Also, this year, unlike previous years, where departments were allowed to establish their budgets based upon perceived needs, the Board of Selectmen challenged each town department to become more efficient by establishing a 5% growth objective. To their credit, each department embraced the concept and provided budgets which, not only resulted in a met objective, but withstood BOS and Budget Committee scrutiny with minimal reductions. Any growth beyond the 5% objective is attributed to inclusion in to the budget of life and safety items and compensated absence contingencies previously addressed through separate warrant articles. It is now intended to require "Zero Based" budgeting every 3 to 4 years to eliminate the inherent growth that occurs when budgets are developed using the past year's budget as a baseline.

As review shows, the Board of Selectmen affected \$69,247 in reductions from the requested budgets, while the Budget Committee reduced the budget further by \$76,387 all of which represents a total of \$145,634, or a reduction of 1.5% from departmental requests.

Voter approval of the recommended budget will enable the town to provide services and supplies consistent with voter expectations, as well as, satisfy public safety considerations.

ARTICLE 13:

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be placed in the Compensated Absence Trust Fund for the purpose of disbursing accrued time (annual vacation and sick leave) to terminating employees as required by law and/or negotiated contracts? The fund is currently depleted. \$70,000 of this amount would meet projected current growth in the liability and \$30,000 would accrue toward the present unfunded liability of \$583,873. (Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: Employees accumulate vacation and personal time and they are allowed by contract to carry a portion over from year to year. When the employee terminates employment or retires, local contracts and state law require balances be paid in a lump sum. Although the amount is limited per employee, the total when considering all 67 full time employees is substantial. The town funds this liability annually and needs to replenish the fund balance due to a series of retirements and employee turnover.

ARTICLE 14:

Shall the town vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a 5 year lease agreement for \$345,000 for the purpose of leasing/purchasing a Fire Pumper Truck and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 81,900 for the first year's payment for that purpose? This agreement will have a non-appropriation and non-replacement clause as prescribed by state statute. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: The Fire Pumper Truck is essential for fire fighting as it provides sustainable water to fight a fire. This truck also provides mutual aid to other communities who, in turn, provide aid to us at no cost. Without this truck we will be unable to offer water pumping to other towns and request they provide it for us.

ARTICLE 15:

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$138,901 for the purpose of hiring and equipping four new Firefighter/EMT positions? The amount raised equals the costs from July to December, 2007 after which the position, if approved, will be funded through the Fire Department operating budget. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: This warrant proposes to increase staffing of the Fire Department to 4 Firefighter/EMT's per shift with a minimum level of EMT-Intermediate. This will also allow us to respond to incidents with the appropriate manpower.

ARTICLE 16:

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,071 for the purpose of funding and equipping a Full Time Deputy Fire Chief? The amount raised equals the costs from July to December, 2007 after which the position, if approved, will be funded through the Fire Department operating budget. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Not Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: Each department in Town is developing a chain of command and succession plan. This is essential for a safety department that operates 24/7. The Police Department has shown the advantages of this structure and this Article will establish a position to meet this goal.

ARTICLE 17:

Shall the town vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of enabling safety measures to protect against pandemics and outbreaks such as West Nile Virus and EEE and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend and furthermore to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be placed in this fund? (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: We have seen in recent years the need for protecting our residents against the threat of West Nile virus and EEE. Although there have been no documented cases in Pelham, all our surrounding communities have experienced evidence of these potentially deadly threats. Approval of this Article will provide funding to take preventive measures and to make applications chemical applications as necessary should an outbreak occur.

ARTICLE 18:

Shall the Town vote to approve cost items included in the three year Collective Bargaining Agreement ratified by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Pelham and the Professional Fire Fighters of Pelham, International Association of Fire Fighters Local 4546, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits and to further raise and appropriate \$46,683 to fund the first year of the agreement?

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>ACCUMULATED COST</u>
2007	\$46,683	
2008	\$69,186	\$115,869
2009	\$63,594	\$185,055

(Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: The Board of Selectmen and the Professional Fire Fighters of Pelham reached an agreement where education, training and spiraling health insurance costs were addressed. Incentives are given for Fire Fighters to complete Paramedic training and continue employment with the town. A lower cost, managed care program was selected by the Fire Fighters that reduce health insurance costs to the community without reducing the quality of medical care the employees receive.

ARTICLE 19:

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,651 for the purpose of hiring and equipping one new Police Officer? The amount raised equals the costs from June to December, 2007 after which the position, if approved, will be funded through the Police Department operating budget. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: This Article would fund a full time Patrol officer to the cover the increasing call volume and incident coverage during overnight shifts. This will increase efficiency and reduce overtime.

ARTICLE 20:

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$244,407 for repair, maintenance and upgrading of town roads, to be offset by the State Highway Grant for highway construction? This will be a non-lapsing account per RSA 32:7. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: This Grant is provided by the State of New Hampshire for road maintenance in Pelham. This article allows the town to spend the grant money for its designated purpose.

ARTICLE 21:

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 to be placed in the Tallant Road/Willow Street Bridge Capital Reserve Fund? This funding is for the Willow Street Bridge which is identified by the State of New Hampshire as being sub-standard and is eligible for 80% grant reimbursement. There is approximately \$113,000 in this fund. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: This fund was established for replacement of two bridges identified by the State as deficient. This article continues contributing to the fund for the Willow Street Bridge Replacement. The State of New Hampshire will pay 80% of the total cost to replace both bridges. It has not yet been scheduled.

ARTICLE 22:

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$170,000 for the purpose of obtaining State Permits and constructing a second egress from George M. Muldoon Park on to Nashua Road? (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: The current single access to Muldoon Park is from a highly trafficked Mammoth Road. Approval of this Article will fund engineering, design and construction of a second egress to Nashua Road which will greatly improve traffic flow both to and from the Park.

ARTICLE 23:

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$195,000 to construct two soccer fields and to correct and address drainage and erosion issues at Raymond Park in compliance with the town's State Permit issued by the Department of Environmental Services? (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: The Town can implement erosion control measures in accordance with the Site Specific permit to stabilize the gravel pit in Elmer G. Raymond Park or construct the soccer fields. Field construction would permanently resolve outstanding conditions per NHDES and provide new facilities for the Town to use. These fields will meet the growing demands of the Parks and Recreation Department's soccer programs. Pelham Parks and Recreation Youth Soccer currently has over 500 youth ages 3-12 participating in the program. If the fields are not constructed, erosion control measures will have to take place immediately and be inspected/maintained until the site is completely stable (having an annual maintenance cost without the benefit of Town use).

Full construction plans and storm water pollution prevention plans for this proposed project are available in the Parks and Recreation office.

ARTICLE 24:

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$39,000 for the purpose of refurbishing the current bathrooms at the Pelham Veteran's Memorial Park? (Recommended by Selectmen) (Not Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: The lakeside bathroom at Veteran's Park is in disrepair and in need of renovation. The bathrooms are primarily used during the Summer, particularly during the

Recreation Summer Camp where over 300 children attend. Funding this Article will permit the necessary renovations.

ARTICLE 25:

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate up to \$35,000 from the Forestry Trust Fund for the purpose of land stewardship (signage, trail maps, parking, etc.), forest management, tree care, security, public education, and other costs associated with the maintenance and care of Town forestland? The balance of this fund is approximately \$94,000. All expenditures to be approved by the Board of Selectmen. This is a non-lapsing account. Funds requested come from revenues produced by timber harvesting, not property taxes. No tax impact (Recommended by Forestry Committee) (Recommended by Conservation Commission) (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required).

Explanation: The Forestry Fund was adopted by the Town of Pelham for the purpose of managing its forested properties. Funds collected from tree harvests are placed in an account and appropriated for various projects which include land stewardship, forest management planning and improving trail systems for greater public enjoyment. In order to spend any money from tree harvests, it must be appropriated. Approval of this Article will fund the listed activities.

ARTICLE 26:

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$198,000 to correct code issues with the electrical and sprinkler systems in Sherburne Hall and to furthermore install heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems? (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: Currently Sherburne hall is not up to building code, is a liability risk under the town's insurance provisions and is therefore unsuitable for public use. Activities in this facility are now limited to town government meetings.

The intent of this warrant is to only bring Sherburne Hall up to code so that interested town groups involved in theater, boys scouts, recreational or fundraising endeavors will have an adequate facility for their purposes. The Sherburne Hall Committee will still be responsible for fund raising and improvements beyond bringing the hall up to necessary code requirements. Once Sherburne Hall is brought up to code it will become a true focal point for the community. Numerous groups and organizations have already expressed an interest in providing educational and entertaining presentations from the stage.

ARTICLE 27:

Shall the Town vote to establish a Senior Center Building Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of constructing an addition and making improvements to the current Senior Center and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be placed in that fund for that purpose? (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: The Pelham Senior Center is seeing increased participation from Pelham residents and in increasing their services are running out of room. The Senior Center is exploring alternatives to increase the facility size and maintain its current character. Establishing this

Capital Reserve will allow time to complete plans and allow time to build funding to pay for this expansion project.

ARTICLE 28:

To see if the Town will vote to designate the "Lower Beaver Brook" wetland system as a prime wetland as authorized in RSA 482-A:15. No tax impact. (Recommended by Planning Board and Conservation Commission)

Explanation:

ARTICLE 29:

To see if the Town will vote to adopt Pelham interim residential growth management regulation.

To insure that growth occurs in an orderly, planned manner that town services such as safety, schools, roads, municipal infrastructure, human services, fire, police, and value are all maintained. "To preserve and enhance the existing community character and value of property". (Submitted by Petition) (Not Recommended by the Planning Board) (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 30:

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to pay for the cost to clean up an illegal tire dump including oversight costs and the costs of disposing the tires and other unsuitable materials located in a portion of the J. Albert Lynch addition to the Elmer G. Raymond Park. Passage of this article will not prevent the Town from seeking further restitution against those whom may be found responsible for the creation of the illegal tire dump. (Submitted by Petition) (Not Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: In spite of an amendment on the floor of Town Meeting, the Department of Revenue Administration has indicated a Town may not exempt itself from State Statutes therefore, failure of this Article will not allow removal and disposal of tires and other debris from the site.

ARTICLE 31:

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nine hundred and sixty thousand dollars (\$960,000) for the purpose of constructing a multipurpose 140'x120' gymnasium facility in Pelham Veterans Memorial Park with 52'x36' available for a stage, office and conference space. User fees collected from groups using the multipurpose gym facility will be returned to the Town of Pelham and will offset the ENTIRE appropriation. (Submitted by Petition) (Not Recommended by Selectmen) (Not Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 32:

Pursuant to RSA Chapter 673:2 Subsection II.(a), are you in favor of allowing the Board of Selectmen to appoint the 6 members of the Planning Board who are residents of the town.

The Planning Board is a Quasi-judicial board according to State Statute and as such must follow specific laws and duties. (Submitted by Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 33:

Shall to Town of Pelham vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of fixing the traffic problems at the intersection of Mammoth Rd. and Sherburne Rd. These Roads are State Roads. No money is available in the State Budget to fix this intersection presently nor will it be scheduled in the 14 year State Transportation Plan. Said Money would be combined with funds collected from approved residential developments on Sherburne Rd. and surrounding areas and be used for the minimum down payment of 20% needed in order to apply for CTAP or other grants in order to complete this project with funds allocated to communities within the Rte 93 widening corridor. (Submitted by Petition) (Recommended by Selectmen) (Not Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 34:

To see if the town will go on record in support of effective actions by the President and the Congress to address the issue of climate change which is increasingly harmful to the environment and economy of New Hampshire and to the future well being of the people of Pelham.

These actions include:

- 1. Establishment of a national program requiring reductions of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions while protecting the U.S. economy.**
- 2. Creation of a major national research initiative to foster rapid development of sustainable energy technologies thereby stimulation new jobs and investment.**

In addition, the town of Pelham encourages New Hampshire citizens to work for emission reductions within their communities, and we ask our Selectmen to consider the appointment of a voluntary energy committee to recommend local steps to save energy and reduce emissions. The record of the vote on this article shall be transmitted to the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation to the President of the United States, and to declared candidates for those offices. (Submitted by Petition) (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 35:

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be combined with Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) of private funds provided by the Pelham Little League organization and its volunteer membership to install fencing and sprinkler system on the two new fields behind the playground at Muldoon Park. (Submitted by Petition) (Not Recommended by Selectmen) (Not Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 36:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$148,164.80 for the purpose of building a Cemetery Garage. The department needs garage space for

equipment along with space for a small office, bathroom and meeting room. This will be a non-lapsing account per RSA 32:7 and will not lapse until the project is complete or in two years, whichever is less. (Recommended by the Cemetery Trustees) (Recommended by Budget Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: The Cemetery Trustees are seeking funds to construct a building to house maintenance equipment, provide office space and replace the existing inadequate well. Currently, space is quite limited for record storage and Trustee meeting area. Bathroom facilities will be part of the building and will be accessible to the public during burial proceedings.