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**APPROVED
TOWN OF PELHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN – MEETING MINUTES
February 16, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Haverty called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 pm

PRESENT: Robert Haverty, Heather Forde, Hal Lynde, Jaie Bergeron, Kevin Cote, Town Administrator Brian McCarthy

ABSENT: None

Mr. Haverty announced the sad passing of longtime Pelham resident Bill McDevitt on February 5, 2021. He expressed that his thoughts and prayers were with the family and that he will be very missed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES REVIEW:

January 19, 2021

MOTION: (Forde/Cote) To approve the January 19, 2021 meeting minutes as amended.

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

OPEN FORUM

No one came forward for open forum.

APPOINTMENTS

Chief Midgley and Karen McGlynn – Pandemic Update

Chief Midgley and Ms. Karen McGlynn came forward to give an update on the COVID-19 Pandemic. Ms. McGlynn informed that the current test positive rate in NH is 5.9%, which is down from 9.45% in January. It is still higher than the goal of below 5%, so while there is a downward trend, people still need to take proper precautions. She noted that there are 2,953 current active cases in New Hampshire, which is down 1,709 from two weeks ago. There are currently 125 people still hospitalized in the State. The State is still seeing deaths, so precautions are still necessary. Ms. McGlynn informed that Pelham is down 56 active cases from two weeks ago and currently has 28 active cases.

Ms. McGlynn informed that the numbers being seen now are still higher than at the first peak, meaning that they are still too high. She noted that Pelham's positivity rate is at 6.4%, which is higher than the State's average. She showed a chart to demonstrate how the numbers have changed over the past few months. She highlighted a drop in February in Pelham and noted that it was most likely due to vaccinations, as a majority of the community is elderly. Since that dip, Pelham has remained steady instead of decreasing. The majority of positive cases in the State are coming from 20–26-year-olds. However, more positive cases are coming from the elementary level.

52 Ms. McGlynn then addressed wearing double-masks. She informed that the media had been highlighting a
53 recent study from the CDC on wearing two masks. She stated that it is believed that there is still a lot of
54 community transmission happening, mostly due to people wearing masks incorrectly. Ms. McGlynn then
55 showed a graph from the study depicting the effectiveness of wearing different combinations of two masks
56 compared to one mask or no mask. Experts say that if someone is wearing an N95, KN95, or a mask that
57 already has two layers, then they do not need to wear a double mask. It is not recommended to wear two
58 surgical masks and no longer recommended to wear gator masks. She informed that it is now recommended
59 to wear a cloth mask over a surgical mask and use the knot-and-tuck method to knot the ends and tuck the
60 corners in.

61
62 Ms. McGlynn stated that new variants are starting to enter the United States. The UK variant has now
63 reached Hillsborough county. As the variant is 70% more contagious than the current strain, more cases
64 will likely start to come up. She stated that people need to try to stay ahead of the virus by wearing masks
65 correctly. She urged people to continue social distancing and to hold out for a little longer.

66
67 Since the UK variant is more contagious, Mr. Haverty asked if it is also more lethal. Ms. McGlynn
68 responded that so far, it is about just as deadly as the current strain, and the vaccine still works against it.
69 She stated that the vaccine is not as effective against the South African variant. She informed that the
70 vaccine, at the very least, should help prevent serious illness from the virus that would lead to
71 hospitalization and death.

72
73 Mr. Cote asked how someone could know how the virus actually spreads and which information is correct.
74 He stated that the double mask study made him think that the virus could spread by air. Ms. McGlynn
75 responded that the virus is always evolving, and more studies are being done on it. She stated that the double
76 mask study was done in an actual lab where they simulated the virus coming through a mask. They found
77 that the virus could spread through a single layer of mask. She informed that a good rule to follow is to hold
78 the mask up to the light, and if light can be seen through it, it needs another layer. It has been found, in
79 some instances, that the virus could become airborne and travel farther than six feet, which is why social
80 distancing with masks is still essential. Ms. McGlynn reiterated that this is only in certain cases. She
81 informed that experts keep adding more recommended mitigations to cover all bases and try to stay ahead
82 of any potential variants that could come.

83
84 Chief Midgley informed that the numbers around the nation are starting to drop; the whole country used to
85 be red but has transitioned into mostly orange. The states that are still in the red are predominantly around
86 the southern states and some of the eastern seaboard. He stated that there are seven new variants of the
87 virus, but there is only information on three currently. The three variants that are being talked about in the
88 media are the UK variant (B.1.1.7), the South African variant (B.1.351), and the Brazilian variant (P.1).
89 Chief Midgley stated that the vaccine is close to 90% effective against the UK and South African variants
90 but only about 60% effective against the Brazilian variant. He noted that if a person who was vaccinated
91 were to contract one of the variants, they would get less ill than if they had not received a vaccine. Chief
92 Midgley informed that these variants are not very predominant in the United States yet. He stated that the
93 UK variant had infected 1,173 patients across 40 states, the South African variant had infected 17 patients
94 across eight different states, and the Brazilian variant had infected three patients across two states.

95
96 Chief Midgley informed that the Pelham Fire Department, in conjunction with Salem, Windham, and
97 Londonderry, is now staffing the Londonderry vaccination site. Each department has committed a minimum
98 of one firefighter per day for a 12-hour shift for seven days a week. Chief Midgley noted that they would
99 most likely go back to five days a week. He stated that the State receives about 19,000 vaccination shots
100 per week, though the number fluctuates slightly from week to week. He stated that there had been 146,718
101 total vaccination doses in the State. Currently, 10.8% of the population has received their shot, and 4.5%
102 have received full vaccination.

103
104 Mr. Cote stated he saw a report that there were almost no flu cases in the country. Chief Midgley replied
105 that it was predominantly due to wearing masks. He affirmed that masks help stop the spread of the virus
106 and help prevent the spread of other upper respiratory viruses. Ms. McGlynn stated that several viruses
107 have dropped due to wearing masks.

108
109 Mr. Haverty asked if this virus has changed the way things will work in society and if people will wear
110 masks all the time moving forward. Ms. McGlynn replied that she believed that many people would most
111 likely adopt masks as a part of everyday life. However, it will be a personal choice for people.

112
113 Mr. Bergeron asked if the supply of vaccinations that will be going to the pharmacies will be coming from
114 the same pool of vaccinations that the Londonderry Site has been using. Chief Midgley replied that 211
115 would look at the demographics of the pharmacies' areas and start to divert patients over to them. He stated
116 that it is estimated that about 100 doses per week will be funneled to those pharmacies. Ms. McGlynn
117 replied that the State has been getting about 10-11% more vaccination doses per week. Mr. Bergeron asked
118 if the first dose of the vaccine helps people even if they do not get the second dose. Chief Midgley replied
119 that the first dose gives people about 60% immunity, and the second dose brings people to about 96%
120 immunity from the virus. He stated that the second dose has been causing people to feel ill for about 12-24
121 hours, which is a good sign that their bodies are responding the way they are supposed to, to start building
122 the antibodies needed to protect them. Ms. McGlynn stated that it is vital for people to get both doses of the
123 vaccine.

124
125

126 **APPOINTMENTS**

127
128 **Sue Snide: Review of the Corcoran Contract.**

129
130 Ms. Sue Snide came forward to discuss the Town's contract with Corcoran. She informed the Board that
131 the Town had signed three five-year contracts with the company so far. She wanted to ask the Board if they
132 wanted to go out to bid when the contract ran out or to resign with them. Mr. Haverty asked how many
133 years the Town has been using the company and whether the Town has ever gone to bid on it. Ms. Snide
134 replied that the Town has been using Corcoran since 2004 and that they had never gone out to bid. She
135 stated that the Town used Corcoran in 2006 when the whole Town went out to bid to help monitor what
136 Vision was doing. She noted that the most recent contract would end in December of 2021, with the next
137 cycle going from 2022 to 2027.

138
139 Mr. Haverty asked how much annually it costs to sign with Corcoran. Ms. Snide answered that it is a little
140 more than \$100,000.00. Mr. Haverty then questioned if Ms. Snide thought there would be a significant
141 interruption in service if they were to do an RFP and select a new company. She replied that she believed
142 it would be a problem for someone new to get to know the Town as well as Corcoran does. She informed
143 that since there is not a large staff, they need to hire outside contractors to help fill in the gaps. She stated
144 that Corcoran does most of the outside work. Ms. Snide noted that getting to know the community is a large
145 part of what the data collectors do to get to know the roads, houses, and community.

146
147 Ms. Forde stated that if Ms. Snide is satisfied and comfortable with resigning with Corcoran, then she is as
148 well. Mr. Haverty asserted he would like Ms. Snide to send Mr. McCarthy a memo that outlines the decision
149 to re-sign with Corcoran so that the reasons are documented and on file.

150
151

152 **Public Hearing: Jeff Gowan/Acceptance of Piper Lane and Drummer Road**

153

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING/February 16, 2021

154 Mr. Jeff Gowan came forward to discuss the acceptance of Piper Lane and Drummer Road as Town roads.
155 He informed that Stonepost Road turns into Drummer Road through a traffic calming measure put in by the
156 developer that the Town already approved and owns. Drummer Road connects from there all the way to
157 Poplar Hill Road. He stated that Piper Lane comes off of Drummer Road and ends in a cul-de-sac. Mr.
158 Gowan noted that the Road Agent, the Inspector from Keach-Nordstrom, and himself were satisfied with
159 how the roads have turned out. He then read aloud a letter from the Planning Board stating that they
160 recommended accepting these two roads as Town roads.

161
162 Mr. Haverty opened the discussion to the Public.

163
164 Mr. John Connolly of 4 Piper Lane came forward. He stated that though he is excited at the idea of these
165 roads being accepted as Town roads, he is nervous and cautious regarding his detention pond located in the
166 front of his lawn. He informed that he has lived at 4 Piper Lane for four years and has had issues with the
167 detention pond for those four years. He noted that he has been working with the Town and the developer to
168 solve these issues. He wanted to know what would happen to solve the detention pond issue if Town
169 accepted the road.

170
171 Mr. Connolly stated that there is a large detention pond that catches the watershed from a large hill. He
172 explained that the detention pond is a leaching system where the water is supposed to saturate into the soil
173 and enter a pipe to be funneled out, but it does not work very well. They attempted to fix it with a large
174 overflow pipe that was installed in November of 2019. He informed that this seemed to work, but this past
175 summer was a record drought, so it has not been thoroughly tested. He noted that the leaching system is
176 covered in about 6-8 inches of silt, so the water cannot drain. He stated that the overflow pipe helps but can
177 only hold 15 inches of water, so it cannot keep up with the water that goes into the detention pond. He
178 explained that significant erosion has happened on his property due to the water that flows through. Mr.
179 Connolly stated that a representative from Keach-Nordstrom had been working alongside him to develop a
180 solution.

181
182 Mr. Haverty asked Mr. Gowan what is being done to fix the pond and how the road acceptance affects what
183 is being done. Mr. Gowan explained that the only item left was to clean out the detention pond in the spring.
184 He stated that the representative from Nordstrom and the Road Inspector did not want the liability to fall
185 on the Town to clean out the detention pond, so there is a bond amount that the developer needs to post
186 before the road is accepted. This bond would be used in the spring to clean up the pond if the developer did
187 not fix it. Mr. Haverty asked if this meant that there is a reliable resolution that will fix the pond. Mr. Gowan
188 replied that he felt it was a sufficient resolution. However, they cannot make the developer clean out the
189 pond until the spring.

190
191 Mr. Connolly asked if the bond was not significant enough to make the developer fix it, will the new bond
192 make a difference, and where does the Town stand to ensure he gets the work done. Mr. Gowan stated that
193 the way the bond works is that if the developer does not undertake the work, then the Planning Board would
194 call a bond and deal with it. Mr. McCarthy asked if that meant the Town would have to deal with it. Mr.
195 Gowan replied that it would. He stated that they could also hold off on accepting the road until later in the
196 spring. Mr. Haverty asked if this would incentivize the developers to fix the issue.

197
198 Mr. Cote asked if the Town could fix this problem faster than the developer instead of waiting until the
199 spring. Mr. Gowan replied that this type of work cannot be completed during the winter and would need to
200 wait until spring. Mr. McCarthy stated that he wanted to see a permanent solution to the detention pond
201 that will not erode, degrade, or impact Mr. Connolly's property before accepting the road. Mr. Connolly
202 agreed that he did not want this to become a taxpayer problem and wanted it fixed before the Town accepts
203 it.

204

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING/February 16, 2021

205 Mr. Cote asked how they will know the detention pond works once the silt is cleaned up. Mr. Connolly
206 thinks that cleaning the silt out will help the water to drain. Mr. Lynde asked how they knew the silt wouldn't
207 come back after it is cleaned out. Mr. Connolly answered that the silt became a problem because the project
208 had been going on for several years with no erosion protection in place. Now that the developments are
209 completed, there is no more silt washing into the system.

210
211 Mr. McCarthy suggested reevaluating the system in the fall to see if the system works. Mr. Cote stated he
212 wanted the silt removed as soon as possible. Mr. Gowan reiterated that this work could not be completed
213 until the winter is over but agrees that it should be completed as soon as possible.

214
215 Mr. Haverty closed it to the Public.

216
217 Mr. McCarthy summarized that it sounded like the Board did not want to accept these roads right now and
218 wanted the developer to fix the detention pond and come back in the fall to reevaluate the roads. Mr. Gowan
219 stated that instead of picking a specific date, keep it under the scrutiny of the Road Agent and Keach and
220 have them keep the Board updated. When they feel that they are comfortable with the situation, they can
221 come back then.

222
223 Mr. Lynde asked if they would accept Piper Lane. Mr. Haverty replied that the two roads were connected,
224 so it was better to address them as one topic.

225
226

227 **Jeff Gowan: TAP Grant update.**

228
229 Mr. Jeff Gowan informed that he had submitted a letter of interest to the Department of Transportation
230 regarding the Transportation Alternatives Program, a federal grant, after receiving support from the Board
231 at a previous meeting. He stated that it is not likely that the Town would be accepted, as many projects
232 throughout the State will most likely be prioritized. However, it is worth a shot to apply. He recommended
233 proceeding with the application process. He explained that he needed to submit a letter of support from the
234 Board of Selectmen committing to actively engage and lead the project with the application, as the
235 application will not be considered without the letter of support. He stated that if the Board was comfortable
236 with him proceeding, he would need the letter that would express the Board's support and that they would
237 seek funding through whichever means is appropriate to cover the remainder of the project that the grant
238 would not cover. Mr. Gowan informed that the application would be due on Friday, March 19, 2021.

239
240 Mr. Lynde asked what the Town would be committed to if they received the award. Mr. Gowan replied that
241 if they were selected, the hope would be to follow through with the project, but it would take a long time
242 before even knowing if they were selected. Mr. McCarthy asked what the financial responsibility of the
243 Town would be. Mr. Gowan replied that it would be about a million-dollar project, and they would
244 reimburse the Town about \$800,000.00 that would go back to the general fund. He explained that this is
245 the same process they went through when they received the grant for the roundabouts. Mr. McCarthy stated
246 that the Town would be responsible for \$200,000.00. Mr. Haverty asked if they would need a warrant article
247 for the million dollars to come from tax dollars and would then be reimbursed \$800,000.00 back to the
248 general fund. Mr. Gowan replied that was correct and stated he wanted to manage the expectations on the
249 project. He affirmed it was not likely that the Town would receive this Grant.

250
251 Mr. Lynde asked what the project would be. Mr. Gowan replied that it would be to extend the sidewalks on
252 Old Bridge Street from where they end all the way to Beaver Brooke across a new pedestrian bridge, which
253 is the majority of the cost, to Route 38, where it would eventually lead to crosswalks to Pelham Plaza if the
254 State accepts it. The project would be about 150 feet offset of the historic Abbott Bridge. He informed that
255 Nashua Regional Planning Commission likes the project, but the grant is very competitive.

256
257 Mr. Haverty asked who would be using the sidewalks and bridge. Mr. Gowan stated that he could not be
258 sure of the demographic that would be using the bridge, but there is not a more dangerous place to cross
259 than Abbott Bridge. He stated he could not estimate the number of people who would use the bridge but
260 could get an estimate with the help of the NRPC.

261
262 Mr. Bergeron asked if the Town would need to buy property to build all the necessary sidewalks. Mr.
263 Gowan replied that there is a parcel of land that would make a nice Town Center Park that would connect
264 Beaver Brook to Willow Street, but that would not be part of the project being discussed, though they could
265 potentially connect. Mr. Gowan stated that there would need to be some surveying completed to ensure no
266 frontage is required to be purchased, but it is not a huge length of sidewalk.

267
268 Mr. Lynde stated that he believed that the bridge is necessary, and putting the bridge in would lead to more
269 foot traffic, as it would be safer. Ms. Forde agreed that she was in favor of the project. She is in favor of a
270 more walkable Pelham with safer passageways for people around Town.

271
272 Mr. Haverty stated that the consensus from the Board is to craft the letter of support with Mr. McCarthy.

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274

275 **DISCUSSION**

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277 **2021 Voters' Guide/Town Report completed.**

279 Mr. McCarthy informed that the 2021 Voters' Guide has been completed and been disseminated to the
280 Public. He stated that they are in the Town offices, so anyone who would like a Voters' Guide can find
281 them there. He explained that the Town Report has been completed and expects to see a draft by the end of
282 the week for a final review. He thanked Ms. Melissa Binette for the hard work she did on the Town Report.

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285 **Deliberative Session Results.**

286
287 Mr. McCarthy stated that it was a record Deliberative Session, lasting only 13 minutes. He asserted it was
288 very thorough and efficient.

289
290

291 **NRPC Candidates.**

292
293 Mr. McCarthy informed that there were a few NRPC applicants and that the Board had copies of their
294 applications. Mr. Haverty asked if there was only one vacancy. Mr. McCarthy replied that there was and
295 that there were two applicants. Mr. Haverty stated that the next step would be to interview the candidates,
296 so he stated they would do that at the next meeting.

297
298

299 **Forestry committee – as requested by Kevin Cote at the meeting.**

300
301 Mr. Cote stated that the Forestry Committee Chairwoman reached out to the Board to ask for more help.
302 He explained that the committee has five full-time members and is not allowed to have alternates. Mr.
303 Haverty clarified that they are unable to have alternates under RSA, so it is not Town controlled. Mr. Cote
304 stated that she reached out to see if the Board could find a way to allow more official participation from
305 more individuals. He explained that the Forestry Committee does more than going out into the woods to

306 clean up trash; they also work to harvest the forest, address drainage issues, and other issues. Mr. Cote
307 recommended reaching out to the Town Council to suggest a subcommittee.

308
309 Mr. Haverty stated that he had exchanged emails with the Chairwoman as well. He thinks that the next step
310 would be to bring her in to discuss this. His understanding was that she was looking to create specific
311 identifiable subcommittees to act in a more official fashion. Mr. Cote asked if they should invite her to the
312 next meeting. Mr. Haverty replied that he had already asked Mr. McCarthy to do so.

313
314 Mr. Lynde stated he supported the subcommittees. He suggested pursuing the possibility of having the
315 representatives change the legislation to allow the Committee to have alternates. Mr. Haverty noted that the
316 local representatives would be at the next meeting, so the timing might work out very well to have them in
317 the room at the same time.

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319

320 **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR / SELECTMEN REPORTS**

321
322 Mr. Bergeron had nothing to report.

323
324 Mr. Lynde had nothing to report.

325
326 Mr. McCarthy wanted to echo the comments about Mr. McDevitt. He stated that Mr. McDevitt was the
327 epitome of a community caretaker, and he did many things for this community. During one of his last
328 conversations with Mr. McDevitt, Mr. McCarthy reminded him of that and told him that he was a man of
329 the Town and a man who cared very much about Pelham and its development. He worked very hard at
330 pointing the Town in the right direction. He thanked Mr. McDevitt for his service and all he has given to
331 the community and that the Town would be forever in debt to him. Mr. Haverty stated that when he first
332 joined the Selectmen that Mr. McDevitt taught him the wisdom of listening more before speaking. He is
333 forever in debt for that lesson.

334
335 Mr. Cote stated that the trash contract for the Town is up in 2022. He suggested possibly discussing a
336 subcommittee at the next meeting.

337
338 Ms. Forde had nothing to report.

339
340 Mr. Haverty had nothing to report.

341
342

343 **REQUEST FOR NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

344
345 **MOTION:** (Forde/Cote) Request for a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II, a, d.

346
347 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

348
349 It was noted that when the Board returned, after the non-public session, the Board would not take any other
350 action publicly, except to possibly seal the minutes of the non-public session and to adjourn the meeting.
351 The Board entered a non-public session at approximately 7:46 pm.

352
353 **MOTION:** (Forde/Cote) To leave the non-public session.

354
355 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

356

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357 The Board returned to public session at approximately 8:20 pm.

358

359 **MOTION:** (Forde/Cote) To indefinitely seal the minutes of the non-public session.

360

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

362

363 **ADJOURNMENT**

364

365 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 pm.

366

367

Respectfully submitted,

368

Jordyn M. Isabelle

369

Recording Secretary

370

371