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**APPROVED
TOWN OF PELHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN – MEETING MINUTES
March 2, 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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES REVIEW:

January 19, 2021

MOTION: (Cote/Forde) To approve the February 16, 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

Ms. Karen McGlynn and Chief Midgley came forward to give an update on the Pandemic. Ms. McGlynn informed that New Hampshire currently had 2,362 active cases, 90 hospitalizations, and a total death count of 1,118 due to COVID. She stated that Pelham had 17 active cases, which is one higher than the State report, as she had just received notice of another case that day. She stated that this number was down 11 from two weeks prior. She noted that there is expected to be an increase over the next few weeks due to February vacation. In the last 14 days, she informed that Pelham had 37 active cases, which was 14 down from the previous update. She noted that the 7-day positivity rate for the Town was 4.2%, which is a really good indication that the mitigations in place are working.

Ms. McGlynn informed that she had a call with the State Department of Health and the State Epidemiologist about the new Johnson & Johnson vaccine. She stated that it is about 67% effective after 14 days in preventing COVID in the vaccinated person but is equally as effective as Pfizer and Moderna at preventing severe illness and death. She explained that the State is prioritizing Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for those at higher risk and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for the general public.

Ms. McGlynn noted that there had been some updates regarding vaccine deliveries. She informed that mass vaccinations would soon be starting. She stated that those who already have appointments booked out would most likely get a call to report to a vaccine station nearest to them. She highlighted that someone could not just drive up and ask for a vaccine; they need to already have an appointment set up to receive the vaccine.

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Mr. Cote asked if there was any information on what the federal government was planning to do regarding vaccinating minors. Ms. McGlynn replied that there was no information yet, but they were starting to do trials on pregnant women. Chief Midgley responded that Moderna was now starting trials on 12–17-year old’s but was mainly focusing on testing the new variants. Mr. Cote asked why they were not recommending the vaccine to minors. Chief Midgley replied that they do not want to test it on children if it could even potentially harm them.

Mr. Bergeron asked if the side effects were similar for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine as Moderna and Pfizer. Chief Midgley replied that this vaccine appears to be less severe on the body. Ms. McGlynn stated that all of the vaccines would come with some minor fatigue or muscle aches.

Chief Midgley stated that there had been many updates within the last few hours. He informed that the State was in the red the last time he gave a report and saw an infection rate of 26.5 per 100,000 people, which has since decreased to 20.2 per 100,000 people. He informed that the numbers in Florida, Georgia, and Texas are all decreasing. He stated that this trend is projected to continue through to the Midwest as well.

Chief Midgley stated that 16.8% of New Hampshire residents had received their first dose of a vaccine, and an additional 7.1% had received their second dose. He noted that the variants were spreading but significantly slower. He explained that the UK variant had only infected 1,980 people, the South African variant had infected 53 people, and the Brazilian variant had infected ten people, which were numbers very similar to what he had reported on at the previous meeting.

Chief Midgley said that information regarding the vaccines' effectiveness is all over the place and that studies are continuing to be done. He informed that Johnson & Johnson is now studying how effective it would be to wait eight weeks and give another dose of their vaccine to people.

Chief Midgley noted that on Sunday night, he received an email from the State asking all public safety chiefs to attend a conference call on Monday. It was made known on that call that they would be setting up a super vaccination site in the State of New Hampshire. Chief Midgley informed that the vaccination site would be receiving 12,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to give out in 4,000 lot increments over Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. He expressed that this would hopefully bring the State back on track, as they are currently behind schedule. The goal was to have Group 2A begin vaccination on March 1. Chief Midgley stated that for comparison, the Londonderry site has four lanes with eight vaccinators for 10 hours a day and vaccinated about 500-700 people a day. He informed that for the site to work, 300 safety personnel would be needed. He stated that this vaccination site would only be for those who already have a vaccination appointment.

Mr. Cote stated that there was a news story on Massachusetts having an issue with distributing second doses of the vaccine, so some people who received their first shot could not get a second one. He asked if that had been seen in New Hampshire. Ms. McGlynn replied that she had not been seen in New Hampshire. She informed that the main issue the State was having was that they were not receiving enough of the vaccine to give out. She stated that the State has been very proficient in organizing the logistics of the vaccine so that if someone got the first shot, they have a second one available when it is time for their next dose. Ms. McGlynn noted that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is only one dose for now, so people will not need another one, which will help to get more people vaccinated. Chief Midgley added that this vaccine does not need to be super refrigerated, so one dose vial can last a lot longer. He highlighted that people should not turn away from the Johnson & Johnson vaccine based on comparisons between the three vaccines. He stated that the phase three trials for Johnson & Johnson looked at different symptoms and side effects than Moderna and Pfizer. He stated that Johnson & Johnson looked at if someone had been vaccinated and contracted COVID, would they become seriously ill. In contrast, Pfizer and Moderna looked at if a

103 vaccinated individual contracted COVID if they would be asymptomatic. He informed that no one who had
104 received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine who had contracted COVID died from the disease. Ms. McGlynn
105 stated for comparison that the flu vaccine is only 45-55% effective, so 67% is very effective as far as
106 vaccines go.

107
108 Mr. Haverty asked if Johnsons & Johnson is less effective at preventing people from contracting the virus
109 compared to Pfizer and Moderna but the same for preventing severe illness and death. Ms. McGlynn replied
110 yes. He asked how Pfizer and Moderna worked differently from Johnson & Johnson. Ms. McGlynn replied
111 that they were two distinct types of vaccine. She stated that Pfizer and Moderna are mRNA vaccines, while
112 Johnson & Johnson is a recumbent vaccine.

113
114 Mr. Haverty asked what the travel restrictions were as February vacation has just ended. Ms. McGlynn
115 replied that the State requires people to quarantine for ten days, though at seven days, they can get a PCR
116 test for COVID to end their quarantine earlier. Chief Midgley clarified that that is only for those who are
117 unvaccinated and have not had the virus in the last three months. If someone was 14 days past their
118 vaccination or was less than three months out from having COVID, they did not need to quarantine after
119 returning home from outside of New England.

120
121

122 **Paul Zarnowski/Herbert & Associates: Map 39 Lot 59 - 15 Mammoth Road - Restoration of**
123 **involuntarily merged lots.**

124
125 Mr. Paul Zarnowski of Herbert & Associates in Windham, New Hampshire, came forward on behalf of the
126 Jarosky Trust to restore the involuntary merger of three lots into one. Mr. Zarnowski explained that the first
127 parcel was merged in 1951, the second in 1956, and the third in 1958. He read aloud from RSA 674:30-aa:
128 *“Involuntary merger’ and ‘involuntarily merged’ mean lots merged by municipal action for zoning,*
129 *assessing, or taxation purposes without the consent of the owner.”* He stated that they had done research
130 and presented documentation to the Zoning Administrator and Assessor that there was no record that the
131 owners ever voluntarily merged these lots. He informed that the Zoning Administrator was satisfied with
132 the documentation provided.

133
134 Mr. Zarnowski stated that per RSA, the involuntarily merged lots need to be presented to the Town's
135 governing body, which is the Board of Selectmen, to have the Assessor adjust the tax maps. Mr. Haverty
136 asked if this was only regarding the three lots mentioned above or if it included another lot on the presented
137 map. Mr. Zarnoswki replied that it did not include the other lot as it was owned by someone else.

138
139 **MOTION:** (Forde/Cote) To reverse the involuntary merger of Lots 1, 2, and 3 so that pending the
140 approval of the Assessor’s Office that there will be three separate lots as dictated in the
141 provided documentation of Map 39 Lot 59 – 15 Mammoth Road shown in the
142 Hillsborough Country Registry of Deeds Book 9051 Page 1582.

143
144 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

145
146

147 **Representative Hershel Nunez: Legislative Updates.**

148
149 Representative Nunez sent his apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting tonight.

150
151

152 **Deb Waters/Forestry Committee: Formation of a subcommittee.**

153

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154 Ms. Deb Waters of the Forestry Committee came forward via telecommunication to speak with the Board.
155 She wanted to briefly acknowledge that the Committee had reached its 41st year since its founding in 1980.
156 She informed that they had established approximately 2,000 acres of conservation areas in Town forests as
157 well as 20 miles of mapped and marked trails.

158
159 Ms. Waters stated that the Town had grown significantly since 1980, which has caused more traffic in the
160 trails. She noted that trail finder programs have caused several people from outside communities to come
161 to the Town forests. That, along with the Pandemic has caused overflowing parking lots and an
162 unprecedented number of people utilizing the trails. She believed that the Committee's rapid response to
163 public safety and vandalism issues along with forestry projects were not on a sustainable path. She
164 explained that since so many people were using the trails, more rapid response issues have come up that
165 have prevented the Committee from carrying out their forestry projects. She asked that the Board consider
166 establishing a subcommittee for the Forestry committee. She informed that per the RSA that governs the
167 Committee, they are capped at five members, and according to the Town Attorney, they are allowed a
168 subcommittee. She felt it would be appropriate for the Board to appoint a member of the subcommittee who
169 would serve in a similar three-year term fashion to the Forestry Committee members.

170
171 Mr. Haverty stated that he was in full support of a subcommittee. He believed that there was room to work
172 with the legislatures in the future to allow for more than five members with alternates. He informed that he
173 had reached out to local representatives about the issue to help move it along.

174
175 Mr. Cote asked if Ms. Waters was requesting for the Board of Selectmen to appoint the subcommittee and,
176 if so, why. Ms. Waters replied that she was in favor of the alternate program that was available to other
177 boards, as it allows for an alternate to stand in place of a member. She also stated that it creates a built-in
178 succession plan. She informed that it was her thinking that she would try to get this subcommittee to be as
179 close to alternates as possible without making them alternates. Mr. Cote stated that he is in support of a
180 subcommittee and to have that subcommittee report back to the Forestry Committee and have the Forestry
181 Committee appoint the members.

182
183 Mr. Cote asked if an official subcommittee was subject to RSA 91:A. Mr. McCarthy read aloud from a
184 section of a letter from Attorney Rattigan stating that subcommittees are subject to RSA 91:A.

185
186 Mr. Lynde asked if the Board could authorize the Forestry Committee to establish a subcommittee to report
187 to the Forestry Committee. Mr. Haverty stated that he did not believe that the Board had to authorize the
188 Forestry Committee to do so, as they are already able to based on existing law.

189
190 Ms. Waters asked for clarification on if the Forestry Committee would be the ones to appoint members of
191 the subcommittee. Mr. Haverty replied that they had the authority to create a subcommittee and that the
192 Forestry Committee would be in charge of interviewing and appointing the subcommittee. Mr. McCarthy
193 stated that if she would like to create a posting for the positions to send it to him and that he would direct
194 questions from applicants to her. She stated that she was satisfied with the plan and is excited about the
195 extra help.

196
197

198 **DISCUSSION**

199
200 **Subcommittee for the Transfer Station.**

201
202 Mr. Cote stated that he wanted to discuss the trash contracts coming up. He wanted to know if the Board
203 was interested in forming a subcommittee to explore trash options for the Town as well as the Transfer
204 Station.

205
206 Mr. Haverty asked what Mr. Cote imagined the composition of the subcommittee would look like. Mr. Cote
207 stated that he was open to ideas but would like to have a public feedback session at some point. Mr. Lynde
208 expressed his interest in helping out. He added that it would be a good idea to try to incorporate Ms. Rhonda
209 Martin of the Transfer Station, as she has a lot of knowledge on the subject.

210
211 Mr. Haverty stated that it seemed like two separate items were being proposed – a subcommittee for the
212 Transfer Station and a subcommittee for the trash contract. Mr. Cote stated that it could be beneficial to
213 have a subcommittee to evaluate how to improve the current Transfer Station while working with the
214 employees of the Transfer Station. He stated that there were also many other avenues for trash disposal that
215 could be explored than the Town is currently utilizing.

216
217 Mr. Bergeron agreed that the trash disposal was a major issue moving forward but asked why they would
218 not just work on it as a Board. He did not know if it was necessary to form a subcommittee for it. Mr. Lynde
219 discussed some different options that the Town could start to utilize, including composting, which could
220 eliminate 20% of trash weight.

221
222 Mr. McCarthy suggested that a couple of Selectmen could meet and figure out what the objective would be
223 and form a roadmap of how to achieve that objective. He stated that they could bring in whomever they
224 thought could bring in people who work in the Transfer Station to give some feedback. Mr. Bergeron
225 wanted to focus on using Town employees before bringing the Public in. He stated that he felt that Mr.
226 Ferreira and Ms. Martin had enough knowledge.

227
228 Mr. Cote suggested having a couple of Selectmen have a short meeting once a month to discuss. Mr. Lynde
229 stated that he believed that there was enough energy within the Board to work on the issue. Mr. Haverty
230 replied that while there is a lot of energy on the Board, having a subcommittee helps to not lose sight of the
231 focus and to help build up a framework. He thought it would make sense for a couple of people to develop
232 a framework and then report back to the Board on how to start working through it.

233
234 Mr. Cote stated he was comfortable with heading a subcommittee and that he would report back at the
235 following meeting with a proposal.

236
237

238 **Highway Building Expenditures.**

239
240 Mr. McCarthy informed that they were closing in on the completion of the building. He stated that there
241 were some invoices for work that was completed. There were electric bills from DEM Electric, a bill for
242 the IT infrastructure and lighting, concrete for the project, completion of the build-out of the offices, work
243 done for the trenches in the underground electric, and the door lock system. He stated that the total request
244 amount was for \$154,077.23.

245
246 Mr. Lynde stated he had a problem with the door lock system. He asked if it was for the Town Hall building.
247 Mr. McCarthy replied that it was for the Highway Building. Mr. Lynde asked how many locks they would
248 need. Mr. McCarthy replied that there were 12 doors, so there would be 12 locks. Mr. Lynde stated that
249 was what Mr. McCarthy had wanted to do in the Town Hall building. Mr. McCarthy replied that they had
250 already installed door lock systems in the Town Hall and were now talking about doing it in the Highway
251 Building. Mr. Lynde stated that they had already spent 50% of the budget and asked if Mr. McCarthy was
252 sure that this cost was associated with the Highway Building. Mr. McCarthy replied that he was 100% sure
253 it was for the Highway Building.

254
255

256 **MOTION:** (Cote/Forde) To expend \$154,077.23 to be paid for from the Highway Building Capital
257 Reserve Fund to pay for the aforementioned invoices.

258
259 **VOTE:** (4-0-1) The motion carried. Mr. Lynde abstained.

260
261
262 **Release of the Town report, dedication & special acknowledgment.**

263
264 Mr. McCarthy informed that the Town Report was released and mailed out. He wanted to commend Ms.
265 Melissa Binette on her hard work on the Town Report. He stated that she cleaned it up and refined it. He
266 informed that they had the dedication and special acknowledgment service on Friday. The Town Report
267 was dedicated to Ms. Glennie Edwards, who was a long-time Pelham employee. The special
268 acknowledgment was awarded to Mr. Bill McDevitt. Mr. McCarthy stated that the service was well
269 appreciated by the families.

270
271
272 **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR / SELECTMEN REPORTS**

273
274 Mr. Bergeron stated that he was out last night in the storm and witnessed the first responders take care of
275 everyone and how hard the plows worked. He believed that the infrastructure on the electrical has
276 significantly improved over the years.

277
278 Mr. Lynde had nothing to report.

279
280 Ms. Forde wanted to address a piece of mailing that she, along with many other residents, had received
281 regarding the proposed middle school project. She stated that much of the information on the pamphlet was
282 incorrect but wanted to highlight two specific points. She informed that there was a false claim that the
283 student population was in decline due to COVID. She stated that while some families elected to remote
284 learn, schools' enrollment rates had not decreased. She informed that another false claim was that this was
285 the worst possible time to complete a project like this. She acknowledged that many people are in difficult
286 positions at this time, but bond rates had never been lower. She stated that the 60-year-old building was in
287 desperate need of repair. She stated that she saw the mailing from an anonymous group as a larger issue
288 with society. On her last night on the Board, she wanted to encourage people to remember who they were
289 as a community. She reminded that they were a Town that when handicapped children were having a hard
290 time on Halloween, they rewrote Halloween. She thought it was important for people to take some time off
291 Facebook and the internet to remember that they are all neighbors and a community and try to remember
292 what that means.

293
294 She thanks Mr. McCarthy, the Board, both past and present, and everyone in Town Hall who had made this
295 an educational and great experience for her.

296
297 Mr. Cote informed that the Master Plan was coming to fruition, with Mr. Samuel Thomas taking the lead
298 to update and overhaul the current Master Plan. He did not want to speak for anyone but informed that if
299 someone was interested in how the Town is growing and will keep growing to keep an eye open for the
300 opportunity to work and be involved in the Master Plan.

301
302 Mr. McCarthy brought out flowers to Ms. Forde, as it was her last night on the Board. He wished her the
303 best of luck and expressed that it had been a pleasure working with her.

304
305 He informed that there were two positions open on the Zoning Board of Adjustment for three years, one
306 position on the Agricultural Commission for three years, three alternate positions for the Agricultural

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307 Commission for three years, a position for the Conservation Commission for three years, and two positions
308 for the Forestry Committee for three years. He informed that volunteer applications could be found in the
309 Selectmen's office and on the Town webpage. He asked if anyone was interested in submitting a volunteer
310 application to do so by Friday, March 12, 2021, by 4:00 pm.

311
312 Mr. Lynde asked if they should change the Conservation Commission to two positions for one year. Mr.
313 McCarthy stated that he had confirmed with all of the chairs that the information he stated was accurate.
314 Mr. Cote asked if there was anything open for the Water Commission. Mr. McCarthy stated there was not.
315 Mr. Haverly asked if there should have been. Mr. McCarthy stated he would follow up with Mr. Cote about
316 that.

317
318 Mr. McCarthy stated that he had given Ms. Binette the task of being the Grant Manager. He informed that
319 a Grant Manager is someone who looks for grants for the Town. He gave the task to her two days ago, and
320 she had already found a grant for the Senior Center to apply for. He stated that the position is always
321 evolving, and he had wanted to appoint someone to this position for a long time to help the Town find
322 additional funding without significant tax impact.

323
324 Mr. Lynde wanted to comment on the statement Ms. Forde made about the Memorial School. He stated
325 that she made some good points about the school and that those who want to delay the project will make
326 the Town pay for a lot more money. He stated that they could not afford to not do it now, as it would cost
327 significantly more later. He stated that the air conditioning system in that building puts the children at risk.

328
329 Mr. Haverly thanked Ms. Forde for her time on the Board. He stated it had been a pleasure working with
330 her and appreciated her partnership, honesty, and support. He appreciated her being the voice on his
331 shoulder urging him to think about things in different ways. He asserted that she was a talented, intelligent
332 Town leader, and they were very lucky to have her in this role.

333
334 Mr. Haverly stated that this year had been an unusual year for them with elections, COVID, and droughts.
335 He stated it had not been the average year by any means. He stated that there were many large challenges,
336 but they had worked hard as a team to knock them down and work through them. He informed that he had
337 been part of some Board that did not have the cohesion and cooperation that this Board had.

338
339

340 **REQUEST FOR NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

341
342 **MOTION:** (Forde/Cote) Request for a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II, a, d.

343
344 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

345
346 It was noted that when the Board returned, after the non-public session, the Board would not take any other
347 action publicly, except to possibly seal the minutes of the non-public session and to adjourn the meeting.
348 The Board entered a non-public session at approximately 7:53 pm.

349
350 **MOTION:** (Forde/Cote) To leave the non-public session.

351
352 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

353
354 The Board returned to public session at approximately 8:10 pm.

355
356 **MOTION:** (Forde/Cote) To indefinitely seal the minutes of the non-public session.

357

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

359

360 **ADJOURNMENT**

361

362 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 pm.

363

364

Respectfully submitted,

365

Jordyn M. Isabelle

366

Recording Secretary

367

368