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

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

PRESENT: Robert Haverty, Douglas Viger, Hal Lynde, Jaie Bergeron, Kevin Cote, Town Administrator Brian McCarthy

ABSENT: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES REVIEW:

March 2, 2021

MOTION: (Cote/Lynde) To approve the March 2, 2021 meeting minutes as amended.

VOTE: (4-0-1) The motion carried. Mr. Viger abstained.

OPEN FORUM

No one came forward for open forum.

APPOINTMENTS

Election of Officers.

MOTION: (Cote/Lynde) To appoint Mr. Robert Haverty as the Chairman.

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

MOTION: (Cote/Bergeron) To appoint Mr. Douglas Viger as the Vice-Chairman.

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

Chief Midgley and Karen McGlynn – Pandemic Update.

Ms. McGlynn and Chief Midgley came forward to give an update on the COVID Pandemic. Ms. McGlynn informed that the State currently has 2,064 active cases and 68 hospitalizations. She noted that the State's seven-day positivity rate was 3.5%, which is still below 5%, but higher than they would like to see. She stated that the positivity rate has started to level off, which they do not want to see – they want to see a continuous decline before they loosen up on more restrictions.

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52 Ms. McGlynn informed that Pelham now had 44 active cases with a seven-day positivity rate of 8.9%, both
53 of which were up significantly from two weeks prior. She explained that some of this increase was due to
54 a small cluster in Town connected to Hampton's wrestling tournament on March 6, 2021. She asked that if
55 anyone was associated with that event to get tested. She further explained that this increase was due to
56 families going away on February Vacation. She stated that people are starting to feel a false sense of security
57 based on some of the numbers going down, but as a community, they need to do better.

58
59 Mc. McGlynn informed that the vaccinations are working. She stated that the number one goal with
60 vaccines was to reduce the death rate and that on Monday, there were no deaths in the State. She noted that
61 this is adding to the false sense of security that people are feeling. She explained that the virus changes over
62 time. This time last year, no one under the age of 16 was contracting the virus, but now it is widespread in
63 children. She stated that she did not want to see this virus get any stronger and urged people to continue
64 mitigations for a little while longer.

65
66 Ms. McGlynn informed that the Chief and herself worked in conjunction with the Nashua Regional Health
67 Department to put together a mini-vaccination clinic at the Hobbs Senior center in Town. The vaccination
68 center's goal would be to capture those in the community from groups 1A and 1B who had not yet been
69 vaccinated. She informed that they expect to vaccinate about 100 people on that day. She also noted that
70 the School District was working on getting a vaccination clinic in conjunction with Walgreens to vaccinate
71 all of the teachers.

72
73 Ms. McGlynn stated that she had been receiving many questions regarding vaccines since the release of the
74 Johnson & Johnson vaccine. She informed that people could not choose which vaccine they want to take.
75 She explained that there is no way the State could manage a program that allowed for people to choose one
76 vaccine over the other. She stated that if there is a medical need that requires someone to receive one shot
77 over the other, the State is requesting that that person waits until the vaccines are available in doctors'
78 offices to allow them to choose. She noted that this would not be for quite some time.

79
80 Chief Midgley informed that New York, New Jersey, and Rhode Island were all still in the red. He stated
81 that nationally, there is a downward trend happening still. He noted that the variants are now seen in every
82 State, including Puerto Rico and except for Vermont. He informed that the UK variant is present in 50 states
83 with 4,690 people infected, the South African variant is in 143 patients in 25 states, and the Brazilian variant
84 is in 25 patients across ten states. He explained that the Brazilian variant is moving much slower than the
85 others, which is good news as the vaccines are having a difficult time working against it.

86
87 Chief Midgley informed that the State's infection rate had been increasing and that the ICU was at 72%
88 usage. He urged people not to let their guard down as numbers are starting to slip. Chief Midgley then
89 informed that the State had administered 333,445 vaccinations, with 158,168 people receiving their second
90 dose. This brings the totals to 11.6% of people in the State received their second dose, and 24.7% had
91 received their first dose.

92
93 Chief Midgley explained that the Londonderry mass site was closing and moving to the Rockingham Mall.
94 He noted that those who had their vaccinations scheduled should be notified to go to the new site. He
95 explained that the Londonderry site had maxed out at about 1,100 patients a day. They believe that by
96 moving the site indoors can help increase the max to at least 1,500 people a day. He noted that on March
97 22, 2021, appointments for group 2B would be opening up and urged people to shoot for the Rockingham
98 Mall site.

99
100 Mr. Cote asked if there had been any recent information regarding the longevity of the vaccines. Ms.
101 McGlynn replied that it was still early, though Pfizer had released a study predicting that the vaccine will
102 work long-term. She asserted that it is still too early to tell.

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103
104 Mr. Cote asked if there was a difference in the illness's intensity for those under the age of 18. Ms. McGlynn
105 replied that the intensity is all over the place; she had seen children mostly either be asymptomatic or very
106 sick, though no hospitalizations at this point.

107
108 Mr. Cote stated that he believed 12 states had removed their mask mandates. He asked if any new
109 information had come out of that. Ms. McGlynn replied that she knew Texas reversed their mask mandate
110 as their numbers increased by 75% when they removed their mask mandate.

111
112 Mr. Cote noted that he believed the Brazilian variant was found in Massachusetts.

113
114 Mr. Viger advised people to answer their phones if an unknown number called. He explained that he knew
115 of two people who were scheduled in Concord to receive their vaccine at the end of April and got
116 rescheduled to Walgreens in Pelham much earlier.

117
118 Mr. Bergeron informed that he had a customer who lived alone and who should have been vaccinated
119 months ago but had not been able to get through to schedule a vaccine. He asked if that person needs to go
120 through 211 to schedule himself for the Senior Center. Ms. McGlynn replied that he should reach out to
121 her, as she would take care of the spreadsheet for the Senior Center. Mr. Cote asked how they planned to
122 get in touch with the seniors in Town. Ms. McGlynn replied that they had several methods of reaching out
123 to the seniors. She noted that they only were going to receive about 100-120 doses.

124
125 Chief Midgley wanted to clarify that if someone had missed their group, it did not mean that they missed
126 out on the vaccine. He explained that once someone's group opened up, they were eligible to still sign up
127 for the vaccine. Ms. McGlynn added that some sites would even try to move that person's vaccine date up.

128
129 Mr. Cote stated that the President mentioned that by May 1, 2021, they wanted to have every adult in
130 America vaccinated and asked if they saw this as a possibility. Ms. McGlynn stated that she wanted to be
131 optimistic and saw that every adult in DC would most likely be vaccinated by that timeframe. Chief Midgley
132 informed that it was a matter of being able "to get needles in arms." He explained that the outdoor sites are
133 not efficient as vaccinators need to go from car to car pushing around carts. With vaccine sites being moved
134 indoors, vaccinators can be stationary and have patients go to them. This allows for more vaccinations to
135 be completed.

136
137 Mr. Bergeron asked if any of the sites were looking for volunteers. Chief Midgley replied that the State
138 vaccination sites were very well staffed at this time. Ms. McGlynn added that the local pods might need
139 some more help, though it would be difficult if someone were not already affiliated with the Town as they
140 would need to be background checked with the Nashua Department of Health, which can be a lengthy
141 process.

142
143

144 **Gary Williams: Contract Renewal.**

145
146 Mr. McCarthy informed that Mr. Williams could not attend the meeting and asked to push this off until the
147 next meeting. Mr. Viger asked if they could approve the contract renewal now without Mr. Williams being
148 there, as it was very similar to his old one.

149
150 **MOTION:** (Viger/Cote) To approve Mr. Gary Williams' two-year contract.

151
152 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

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Agriculture, Board of Adjustment, Forestry (including the subcommittee) and Conservation Committee applicant interviews.

Mr. Haverty explained that candidates would be interviewed tonight, and then the Board would vote on March 30, 2021.

Ms. Danielle Masse-Quinn of 9 Meadow Lane came forward to apply for the 3-year Full-Time position on the Agricultural Commission. Mr. Haverty congratulated Ms. Masse-Quinn on her recent election to the Planning Board. Mr. Haverty asked Ms. Masse-Quinn to elaborate on her background and how it pertains to the Agricultural Commission. Ms. Masse-Quinn explained that she attended Alvirne High School for four years, where she worked with large animals, livestock, dairy management, and wildlife management there. She noted that she supports many local livestock rescue agencies and rescues livestock of her own. She noted that she owns pigs, ducks, chickens, and goats. She explained that she was seeking this position to offer her experience on livestock and farming projects and wanted to work creatively with the Agricultural Commission and Pelham residents to establish farming and gardening programs to bring the community together. She further explained that she wanted to work on farm meet and greets, compost programs, 4H programs, gardening programs, the farmer's market, and more.

She informed that her specific goals if she were to be appointed, would be to bring the community together through farming and agricultural programs, educate the community on the Town's roots in lumbering, farming, and the rural character, protect and preserve agricultural land for future generations, and report back to the Planning Board regarding any and all Agricultural Commission questions, concerns, and requests.

Mr. Haverty asked what her thoughts were on the progress of the first year of the Agricultural Commission. Ms. Masse-Quinn replied that she thought they had done a great job so far.

Mr. Dave Hennessey of 71 Dutton Road came forward to apply for a Full-Time 3-year term for the Zoning Board of Adjustment. He informed that he has been on the Zoning Board for 20 years. Mr. Haverty asked Mr. Hennessey to elaborate on what experience he brings to the position. Mr. Hennessey informed that he attended William and Mary College for his Master's in History after returning from the army about 50 years ago. He wrote his Master's Thesis on the origins of zoning in New York City and Virginia and has been interested in planning issues ever since. He noted that when he lived in Methuen, he was involved with the Town in reviewing applications on zoning variances. He explained that when he moved to Pelham 23 years ago, he applied to be an alternate on the Zoning Board and served as one until he applied to be a full-time member. He informed that he was Chairman of the Board for several years and then stepped down to allow other members to have their time. He further explained that this has also allowed him some more freedom to talk about his opinions on cases rather than running the meetings. He asserted that the ZBA was one of the best boards in the Town, partially because they are non-policy makers. They go by the State's rules to go through each criteria, everything is by the books, and nothing is predetermined. He stated that no one takes a hard and fast stance on any case. He stated that he is proud to be a member of that Board.

Mr. Haverty asked what some of the challenges he faces on the Board. Mr. Hennessey replied that the biggest challenge would be the new Housing Appeals Board. He informed that this would make it cheaper for people to appeal, so he believes that they will see a large increase in appeals from applicants. He noted that this means that the Town will need to now spend money defending these decisions as well. He respectfully suggested that they add some money to the budget to help with the costs of appeals. Mr. Hennessey also mentioned that there is a threat of builder's remedy on affordable housing being instituted. He informed that there should be scorecards coming out in the near future that list how the Governor thinks

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205 each Town is doing regarding affordable housing. He noted that he favors affordable housing, but this is
206 something to keep in mind.

207
208 Mr. Lynde stated he was glad that Mr. Hennessey made those statements. He stated that the ZBA has to
209 rule on the five criteria and that people often get hung-up on the hardship criteria, as they try to see a
210 hardship on the person rather than the land. He reiterated that he was glad that Mr. Hennessey follows the
211 criteria.

212
213
214 Mr. Joe Passamonte of 17 Stonepost Road came forward to apply for the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Mr.
215 Haverly asked for an overview of the experience he would bring to the Board. Mr. Passamonte replied that
216 he had been on the Planning Board as both an alternate and an elected member for several years. He believed
217 that his knowledge of the Zoning Regulations would make him a good member of the Zoning Board. Mr.
218 Haverly asked if he was currently a member of the Planning Board. Mr. Passamonte replied that he was
219 not. Mr. Lynde asked if he was aware of the five criteria. Mr. Passamonte replied that he was and that he
220 had them with him. Mr. Lynde stated that as long as he was aware of that, he was good. Mr. Haverly asked
221 if there were any specific goals that he wanted to accomplish. Mr. Passamonte replied that he had not
222 official goals but wanted to make every decision as fair and lawful as he good.

223
224
225 Mr. Bill Kearney of 36 Gaudet Lane came forward to apply for the Zoning Board of Adjustment. He
226 informed that he had served on the Board for over 12 years as an alternate, full member, secretary and was
227 currently sitting as the Chairman. Mr. Haverly asked if he had any specific goals or objectives he was
228 looking to accomplish. Mr. Kearney replied that his main goals were to present the Board in a professional
229 manner, listen to the applicants, and then determine fairly and equitably the best thing for the applicant and
230 the Town. Mr. Lynde commented that he thought Mr. Kearney was doing a good job. He noted that
231 sometimes people did not go by the five criteria and were happy that Mr. Kearney tries to make sure all
232 members follow them. Mr. Haverly asked if he saw any pitfalls or challenges coming up in the next few
233 years relating to the ZBA. Mr. Kearney replied that he is not sure they are necessarily pitfalls or challenges
234 but that there have been recent issues with workforce housing. He asserted that as a Town, they need to
235 define workforce housing to ensure that they have it in their ordinance to ensure they do not have any
236 challenges.

237
238
239 Ms. Theresa Wentzell of 1 Meadow Lane came forward to apply for the alternate position on the
240 Agricultural Commission. Mr. Haverly asked if this was a reappointment. Ms. Wentzell replied that it was.
241 She informed that she served a full-time one-year position, and her seat was up. She thought that the
242 alternate position would be a better position for her this time around. She stated that she still wants to be
243 involved and loves what the Commission had done so far. Mr. Haverly asked what she was looking to do
244 for the year to come. She stated that she had nothing specific right now, as they were heading up the farmer's
245 market, which has been a huge accomplishment. She informed that the Commission tends to focus on one
246 item at a time before moving on, so they would start discussing the next steps at the following meetings.

247
248
249 **MOTION:** (Cote/Lynde) To appoint Ms. Danielle Masse-Quinn as a full-time member of the
250 Agricultural Commission for a three-year term.

251
252 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

253
254

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255 **MOTION:** (Cote/Lynde) To appoint Ms. Theresa Wentzell as an alternate member of the Agricultural
256 Commission for a three-year term.

257
258 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.
259

260
261 MS. Louise Delehanty of Winterberry Road came forward to apply for the three-year position on the
262 Conservation Commission. She informed that she had just completed her second three-year term, and this
263 would be her third three-year term if she were to be reappointed. Mr. Haverty asked how the first couple of
264 terms had gone for her. She stated that everything had been working out great so far and that she had learned
265 quite a bit under Mr. Paul Gagnon and Ms. Karen McKay. Mr. Haverty asked what she hopes to accomplish
266 in the next three years. Ms. Karen McKay stated that she was an educator for 33 years and wanted to
267 continue to educate people on wildlife and their habitats, as well as endangered and threatened animals. She
268 stated that she likes to ask questions of developers and is very interested in stonewalls. She informed that
269 if it had not been for COVID, then they would have had a speaker from NPR to help them map stonewalls
270 in Pelham. She informed that if she were to be reappointed, then she would further work on the conservation
271 of stonewalls as they are historical and a natural resource.

272
273
274 Mr. Paul Gagnon from Dutton Road came forward to apply for the Conservation Commission. He informed
275 that he had been on the Commission for a while and wanted to remain for a little longer. He explained that
276 his passion is protecting open space. He informed that there were four deals in the works this year and
277 wanted this year to be a record-setting year for acquiring open space. He noted that he worked with the
278 Planning Board this past year to get an open-space ordinance passed. He stated that he would like to update
279 the wetland conservation district ordinance as it is in severe need to be updated.

280
281
282 Mr. Don Paquin of 128 Windham Road came forward to apply for the Conservation Commission. He
283 informed that he had been a resident of the Town for 38 years and has much experience with the Town. He
284 explained that the outdoors is one of his biggest passions and would like to help work on the recreational
285 areas in the Town. Mr. Haverty asked if he had been a previous member of the Conservation Commission.
286 Mr. Paquin replied that was correct; he was not currently on the Commission but served about 15 years ago.
287 Mr. Haverty asked why he is seeking to come back. Mr. Paquin explained that his children had grown up
288 and that he had a lot more time on his hands. He left the Commission in the past as he did not have the time,
289 he thought the position required, but now he does. He noted that he saw the great work the Commission
290 was doing in Town and wanted to be a part of it.

291
292
293 Ms. Karen McKay of 31 Blueberry Circle came forward to apply for the Conservation Commission. She
294 informed that she had been a member since 2006. Mr. Haverty asked how the Commission was going. She
295 replied that it was going well and that they had done much work and accomplished many things. She
296 informed that since she joined the Commission that they had conserved about 1,000 acres and were working
297 on conserving more. Ms. McKay explained that they recently created a subcommittee to rewrite the natural
298 resources inventory. She noted that they just got that started and that they had a meeting with the NRPC
299 about two weeks ago. She informed that they were going to help with mapping and possibly some write-
300 ups as well as to help review the old natural resources inventory and add to it. Mr. Lynde recognized that
301 Ms. McKay carried a big load as a member of the Conservation Commission and thought that she was doing
302 a great job.

303
304

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305 Mr. Nick Spanos of 9 Claudine Drive came forward to apply for the forestry committee. He explained that
306 he had been in Pelham for a little over five years and had applied to the Forestry Committee for the last 3-
307 4 years. He informed that he tries to attend every meeting he can and help out where he can, especially with
308 cleaning up the trails. He noted that he has been plowing some of the parking lots for the parks over the
309 past few years. He recognized that he was relatively new to Town but wanted to give back what he could.
310 He mentioned that he was also a part of the snowmobile club, so cleaning up trails was not something that
311 was new to him. Mr. Cote commented that Mr. Spanos had been an active volunteer in the Committee for
312 a while. Mr. Haverty asked if he had any goals or objectives that he wanted to accomplish. Mr. Spanos
313 replied that he wanted to work on saving space, as there is a lot of building going on. He understood that
314 building was needed but thought that keeping up with the trails was important. He noted that many people
315 in Town were unaware that there were trails in Town and thought that education could help shed some light
316 on it. Mr. Lynde stated he was glad to hear that Mr. Spanos was involved and attending meetings. Mr.
317 Lynde asked if he were not to be selected for the Forestry Committee, would he still be interested in serving
318 in the subcommittee. Mr. Spanos replied that he would.

319
320
321 Mr. Ray Brunelle Jr. of 3 Matthew Drive came forward to seek a position on the Forestry Committee. He
322 informed that he had lived in Town his whole life and has attended a handful of meetings, and is very
323 familiar with the trail systems in Town. He explained that now that his children are older, he wants to do
324 his part with the expansion and conservation of the Town. He stated that he was on the Planning Board as
325 an alternate for a couple of years and thought that this would be a good opportunity for him. Mr. Haverty
326 explained that there were a number of applicants for only a few seats and if he was not selected, would he
327 be amendable to a subcommittee. Mr. Brunelle stated that he would like to sit on the Committee, but would
328 sit on the subcommittee if not selected.

329
330
331 Ms. Christine Gallaher of 265 Windham Road came forward to apply for a position on the Forestry
332 Committee. She informed that she had a lot of experience that she could bring to the Committee. She noted
333 that she served on the Conservation Commission and the Forestry Committee for several years, she created
334 the first trails and first trail maps in Town, has organized trail workdays, and was on the Committee that
335 created the open space plan for the Town. She informed that she was instrumental in getting the early
336 successional habitat program implemented at Gumpas Pond, created the NH Hikers Facebook page, and is
337 currently the trail adopter for Mariam Farm off of Mammoth Road. She explained that she completed
338 training through the UNH Cooperative Extension, where she received education on all aspects of
339 maintaining conservation lands. She stated that her goal is to help with the development and maintenance
340 of the trails in Town. She informed that she is now partially retired, hopefully soon to be fully retired, so
341 she has the time to devote to this. Mr. Haverty asked what her goals would be for the next couple of years.
342 Ms. Gallaher replied that she would want to focus heavily on the Mariam Farm, she would want to continue
343 to assist with the development and maintenance of trails and properties, and she would also want to help
344 with monitoring properties to try to avoid vandalism.

345
346
347 Mr. Robert Lamoureux of 28 Blueberry Circle came forward to apply for the three-year seat on the Forestry
348 Committee. He noted that he was reapplying for his seat. He informed that he had been involved with using
349 the trails since he moved to Pelham in the 70s and that he had recently been heavily involved with the
350 purchasing of land. He explained that he started to deal with landowners and when he was on the
351 Snowmobile Club, which was how he was able to start setting up land deals. He stated that he helped to
352 work on the previous Master Plan for the Town, where he learned that the Town had no growth control
353 measures, so he started to work on purchasing properties to save trails and help with growth control. He
354 noted that working with the timber harvest helps to generate revenue for the Committee. He stated that he
355 was excited about how many people were putting in for the Forestry Committee and noted that those in the

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356 Forestry Committee were a great team. Mr. Haverty asked what he was hoping to accomplish in the next
357 few years on the Committee. Mr. Lamoureux stated that he wanted to get caught up on the timber harvest
358 to help generate some more revenue for the trails. Mr. Lynde asked that when creating trails on new parcels,
359 do they add more? Mr. Lamoureux replied that they did not want to flood properties with trails but that they
360 wanted to continue to work on connectivity.

361
362 Ms. Mary Hathaway of 93 Tallant Road came forward to apply for a position on the Forestry Committee
363 or on the Subcommittee. Mr. Haverty asked what experience brought her there. Ms. Hathaway replied that
364 she had been working with the Forestry Committee for over the past two years as a trail maintenance
365 worker. Mr. Haverty asked for clarification that she had been a volunteer with the Committee and is now
366 seeking further involvement. Ms. Hathaway replied that was correct. Mr. Haverty asked if she had any
367 specific goals or objectives she was looking to accomplish within the Committee. Ms. Hathaway replied
368 that she had worked a lot with Troop 610 to create the blue trail at Gumpas Pond. She explained that her
369 goal would be to get more youth involved and possibly work with the Eagle Scouts on their projects. She
370 noted that she did not have much experience but had been doing trail markers and working with the Forestry
371 Committee for a little while and had enjoyed it. Mr. Haverty explained that experience is only half of the
372 equation and that they need people who are willing to volunteer their time. He asked Ms. Hathaway if she
373 would still stay active if she were appointed to the Subcommittee. She replied that she would.

374
375
376 Ms. Deb Waters of 6 Harley Road came forward to apply for the Forestry Committee. Mr. Haverty asked
377 her to elaborate on her experiences. Ms. Waters replied that she started out by attending Planning Board
378 meetings and asking questions related to planning and then went on to join the Conservation Commission,
379 where she served for a few years. She informed that she helped to work on the Town's Master Plan and the
380 Natural Resource Inventory in 2002-2003. She stated that she then moved over to forestry, which is where
381 she has been for the last 15 years. She noted that she also attended the training from the UNH Cooperative
382 Extension program. Ms. Water's explained that as far as goals go, it is important to recognize that the
383 forestry program is in conjunction with the New Hampshire tree farm system. She explained that they have
384 a licensed forester that they work with on their management plan. She further explained that once they have
385 a solid management plan, they try to implement everything in it. She stated that good forest management is
386 the foundation of what they need to do. Mr. Lynde commented that she does a great job.

387
388
389 Mr. Don Paquin of 128 Windham Road came forward again to apply for the position on the Forestry
390 Committee. He explained that he had no intention of being on both committees but saw that the Town was
391 looking for volunteers, and he wanted to help out where he could.

392
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394
395 Mr. Haverty explained that the Board would vote on all of these positions on March 30, 2021.

396
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398 **DISCUSSION(S)**

399
400 **BOS Committee Assignments.**

401
402 Mr. Haverty stated that the Board members would all go through the list of Committee Assignments and
403 come back to the next meeting with an idea of where they each might want to go.

404
405
406 **Revision Solar Energy Project.**

407
408 Mr. McCarthy informed that as of today, there is still no resolution with the issues they have been dealing
409 with regarding Revision Energy. Mr. Haverty explained that the Board had been through numerous
410 iterations of a presentation with Revision and finally got to a plan that was palatable to a majority of the
411 Board and was very close to signing the contract. He further explained that they found out that the Town
412 of Lebanon, NH, was having issues with their solar panels interfering with their public safety buildings and
413 their radio systems. He stated that they questioned Revision on if there was a solution to the issue, as the
414 Town was planning to put solar panels on the Police and Fire Stations, both of which have critical radio
415 infrastructure. He noted that to date, they had not been able to provide a resolution or an answer and that
416 Lebanon's only solution was to remove the solar panels from the roof of their Police Department.

417
418 Mr. Bergeron asked how long it had been since they originally found out about the radio issues. Mr.
419 McCarthy replied that it had been back on January 19th, the day they had voted on the contract. Mr. Haverty
420 noted that Revision did supply a list of public safety buildings that they completed work on, none of which
421 had the critical radio infrastructure that Pelham's departments use. Mr. Cote stated that more than half of
422 the project exists on those two buildings.

423
424 Mr. McCarthy informed that Revision had sent him numerous documents to sign, which he has refused
425 until they provide a resolution to the radio interference problem.

426
427 Mr. Cote stated that it did not matter if they voted to scrap the project or not, as there were deadlines
428 associated with the project that would soon pass. He noted that it is unfortunate, as there were about 18
429 months of work associated with the project.

430
431 Mr. Lynde stated that they could complete some of the buildings, like the Highway Building, as it would
432 be a shame to see the whole project canceled. Mr. Haverty explained that the numbers change drastically
433 when panels start to be eliminated. He agreed that it did not have to be an all-or-nothing decision but that
434 the financial benefit might not be there if they took away more panels. Mr. Cote noted that the original goal
435 was to include the schools in the project, as that is where a majority of the money-saving opportunities
436 would be. He explained that there were minimal savings associated with the Town buildings, and if the
437 Police and Fire Station were not included, then there would be no savings. He stated that it did not mean
438 that they could not look into a similar project in the future.

439
440 Mr. Bergeron stated that the solar panels project was one of the main reasons that he ran for Selectman, but
441 when the numbers came out, he was not as satisfied as he had hoped. He stated that he thought the schools
442 should still be involved, as that is where the majority of the savings would be. He stated that the initial
443 problems with the contract and this new issue were both strikes for him; he did not trust the company and
444 wanted to cancel the deal. He noted that the Biden administration is really pushing for more solar energy,
445 so it is possible that they could find a better deal within the next few years.

446
447 Mr. Lynde stated that he was okay with canceling the deal as long as they keep their willingness to proceed.
448

449

450 **MOTION:** (Bergeron/Cote) To cancel this deal and in the future look for a better deal.

451
452 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

453
454
455 **Planning Director Jeff Gowan's retirement.**
456

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING/March 16, 2021

457 Mr. McCarthy informed that he received Mr. Jeff Gowan's, the Planning Director, resignation letter on
458 March 1, 2021, that would become effective on June 1, 2021. Mr. McCarthy read the resignation letter
459 aloud.

460
461 Mr. Haverty thank Mr. Gowan for his service and dedication to the Town.
462

463
464 **MOTION:** (Viger/Cote) To accept Mr. Jeff Gowan's resignation.
465

466 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.
467

468 Mr. Haverty stated that the Board wished Mr. Gowan luck in his retirement.
469

470
471 **Ongoing Pandemic updates.**
472

473 Mr. Haverty stated that Chief Midgley and the Health Officer, Ms. Karen McGlynn, have come to every
474 meeting since the start of the pandemic to give an update. He asked the Board if they wanted to keep things
475 going the way they were or if they wanted to reduce the frequency that they give updates. Mr. Viger stated
476 he was willing to let the Chairman decide. Mr. Lynde stated that he liked the updates and felt it gave an
477 avenue for the Health Officer to get her news out. Mr. Haverty explained that he did not want to insinuate
478 that there was no value to them coming to the Board to give their updates; he just wanted to know what the
479 Board thought. He stated that he would think on it and let them know at the next meeting.
480

481
482 **2021 Town Meeting Results.**
483

484 Mr. McCarthy informed that the Town vote was very positive, with almost all of the articles passing with
485 the exception of Article IX, the Citizen's Petition. He explained that this showed that the community has
486 confidence in them to manage the Town effectively. He noted that there were 3,185 votes, which is the
487 highest he had since he started working with the Town. He mentioned that Article II for the Middle School
488 passed, which would begin work in July.
489

490 Mr. Viger asked where they stood on Article VIII, which was to establish \$200,000.00 to the Compensated
491 Absence Fund. Mr. McCarthy replied that the fund was to protect the Town in the event that they had to
492 close down the Town and pay everyone's retirements out. He noted that it was an unrealistic event, but it
493 is recommended to have at least 50-60% of the fund for that liability. He noted that the Town would need
494 \$1.1 million and that they currently have \$457,936.85; with the additional \$200,00.00, it would bring them
495 to almost \$700,00.00, which is more than 50% of their liability. He stated that they are in good shape at this
496 point.
497

498 Mr. Viger explained that the ballot is like a report card for the Board and that the Board had done a very
499 good job this past year. He stated that almost everything got passed, even two articles that were tax-based.
500 He cautioned that as they move into budget season, to try to reduce spending as much as possible while
501 also maintaining services. He did not want to take this recent support for granted and wanted to remain
502 fiscally responsible.
503

504
505 **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR / SELECTMEN REPORTS**
506

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING/March 16, 2021

507 Mr. McCarthy stated that he received a letter from Mr. Richard Jensen of Gladys Street and read it aloud
508 for the Board. The letter explained that Mr. Jensen was under the impression that there were two positions
509 open for the Cemetery Trustee but found out that there was only one write-in candidate position. He talked
510 to the Town Clerk and Secretary of State's Office and got nowhere. He was hoping that the Board of
511 Selectmen would make this right and confirm him as a winning candidate for the second seat open for a
512 three-year term starting on March 9, 2021.

513
514 Mr. McCarthy explained that in researching the matter, there were two candidates on the 2018 ballot,
515 meaning that there should have been two on the 2021 ballot. He informed that when he emailed with the
516 Cemetery Trustee earlier in the night, they were also under the impression that only one position was open.
517 Mr. McCarthy stated that he brought it to Attorney Ratigan's attention and spoke with the Secretary of State
518 on how to resolve the issue. He informed that the Board could appoint a person to the position, and it was
519 up to the Board on what they wanted to do moving forward.

520
521 Mr. Viger stated that he did not want to act on this tonight and wanted some time to digest the information.
522 Mr. Haverty agreed.

523
524 Mr. Lynde stated that there were two write-ins, and they should respect that each write-in got it and should
525 be appointed.

526
527 Mr. McCarthy stated that he wanted to have a conversation with Attorney Ratigan and the Town Clerk. He
528 thought it would be prudent to allow him to look into it and speak to the Town Clerk to find out more
529 information.

530
531 Mr. Haverty asked Mr. McCarthy to put this on the next agenda.

532
533 Mr. Lynde stated that he had nothing to report. He wanted to comment that he is appreciative of the voters
534 who showed their confidence in the Board and will always work to keep their confidence.

535
536 Mr. Bergeron had nothing to report. He welcomed Mr. Viger back to the Board.

537
538 Mr. Cote informed that the Agricultural Commission secured a spot at the Congregational Church for the
539 farmer's market. He noted that he had a meeting this Thursday with Ms. Rhonda Martin of the Transfer
540 Station to start that process to see what information they could start to gather. Mr. Cote also mentioned that
541 the Planning Board interviewed three candidates for the Master Plan. He noted that the process is on the
542 way and would need to be budgeted for next year.

543
544 Mr. Viger had nothing to report. He thanked everyone for voting him back in.

545
546 Mr. Haverty had nothing to report.

547
548
549 **REQUEST FOR NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

550
551 **MOTION:** (Cote/Bergeron) Request for a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II, a (personnel).

552
553 **VOTE:** (4-1-0) The motion carried. Mr. Viger voted against this.

554
555 It was noted that when the Board returned, after the non-public session, the Board would not take any other
556 action publicly, except to possibly seal the minutes of the non-public session and to adjourn the meeting.
557 The Board entered a non-public session at approximately 8:32 pm.

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MOTION: (Cote/Bergeron) To leave the non-public session.

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

The Board returned to public session at approximately 9:13 pm.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordyn M. Isabelle
Recording Secretary