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APPROVED
BOARD OF SELECTMEN – MEETING MINUTES
April 5, 2022

CALL TO ORDER – Selectman Bergeron called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 pm.

PRESENT: Jaie Bergeron, Heather Corbett, Kevin Cote, Jason Croteau, Charlene Takesian, Interim
Town Administrator Joe Roark

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES REVIEW:

March 22, 2022

MOTION: (Croteau/Takesian) To amend line 110 to change the word termination to
resignation.

VOTE: (3-0-0)

March 29, 2022

MOTION: (Croteau/Takesian) To approve the March 29, 2022 meeting minutes as written.

VOTE: (3-0-0) The motion carried.

OPEN FORUM:

No one came forward to address the board in open forum.

DISCUSSION:

ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS FROM ROBERT HAVERTY AND DOUGLAS VIGER.

Mr. Bergeron read the resignation letter from Robert Haverty.

MOTION: (Takesian/Croteau) To accept the resignation of Robert Haverty.

VOTE: (3-0-0) The motion carried.

Mr. Bergeron read the resignation from Douglas Viger.

MOTION: (Croteau/Takesian) To accept the resignation of Douglas Viger.

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VOTE: (3-0-0) The motion carried.

Mr. Bergeron took a moment to thank Mr. Haverty and Mr. Viger for their service to the town of Pelham.

SWEARING IN NEW SELECTMEN HEATHER CORBETT AND KEVIN COTE.

MOTION: (Takesian/Croteau) To appoint Heather Corbett as selectman for a one-year term.

VOTE: (3-0-0) The motion carried.

MOTION: (Croteau/Takesian) To appoint Kevin Cote as selectman for a two-year term.

VOTE: (3-0-0) The motion carried.

MOTION: (Croteau/Cote) To appoint Heather Corbett as the new chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

VOTE: (4-0-1) The motion carried. (Heather Corbett abstained.)

MOTION: (Cote/Croteau) To appoint Jaie Bergeron as the vice chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

VOTE: (4-0-1) The motion carried. (Jaie Bergeron abstained.)

Ms. Takesian thanked Mr. Bergeron for stepping up as interim chair over the last week.

Mr. Croteau thanked Mr. Bergeron for keeping things together over the last week.

INTRODUCTION OF JOSEPH ROARK AS INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

Ms. Corbett said they are thankful for Chief Roark’s leadership in the upcoming weeks and welcomed him.

Chief Roark thanked the board for the invitation. He said he is excited for the challenge of upcoming events.

COMPENSATED ABSENCE EXPENDITURE REQUEST.

Chairman Corbett noted compensated absence is its own line in the budget. It is held by the trustees of the trust fund. It is the money the town has set aside to cover things such as vacation days and leave. She noted the board had as request from Deb Padykula to release \$119,404.11.

MOTION: (Cote/Bergeron) To allow Ms. Padykula to disburse the funds.

103 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.
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106 **BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS.**
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108 **Agricultural Committee:** Mr. Cote recommended Ms. Takesian.
109

110 **Budget Committee:** Mr. Croteau. (Mr. Croteau asked if they could have an alternate for the
111 committee. The board agreed that they would assign an alternate unless they determined it wasn't allowed.
112 Ms. Takesian volunteered to be the alternate.)
113

114 **Bridge Project:** Mr. Bergeron
115

116 **Capital Improvement Project Committee:** Mr. Cote
117

118 **Congestion Litigation and Air Quality:** Chairman Corbett
119

120 **Council on Aging:** Ms. Takesian
121

122 **Energy and Solar Committee:** Mr. Cote noted the idea of the committee was to bring the schools and
123 town together to pursue solar panels. The town voted the first year to allow town buildings to be leased.
124 The school didn't at that point as they were trying to get the school project going. The town has now
125 voted to allow schools to use space for the project. Mr. Cote said there was talk of getting rid of the
126 committee. As far as the town is concerned, unless there is a fix for some issues that were found in the
127 process, the town can't put solar on all the roofs, just some, and it doesn't make it an economically viable
128 project. Mr. Cote said the town found out another town had solar panels installed and they interfered with
129 the communication systems for safety, so the town decided not to go through with the process as public
130 safety is more important. The committee also discussed other programs such as energy. Mr. Cote
131 mentioned an aggregate program and said there are options to keep the committee open. Chairman
132 Corbett asked if there was interest in taking the word solar out of the title and approaching this as a board.
133 Mr. Cote said he would call it an energy committee. Mr. Cote said he would keep the committee but
134 there is nothing in the workings. He said if someone wants to bring something to the table, they board
135 can address it at the time. Ms. Takesian asked if there was an actual committee. Mr. Cote listed the
136 previous five members and some options they had explored over their eighteen months of research. Ms.
137 Takesian asked if the committee still exists. Mr. Cote said it does not. It was formed to find out if there
138 was an economically viable option for solar. Mr. Cote said they found if the school buildings and town
139 buildings were looked at together, there was a lot of money to be saved. With the schools holding off, the
140 savings weren't there and there were other issues involved. Mr. Cote said the option is always there and
141 the town still has the ability to put solar on the roofs. The option doesn't go away and can still be
142 pursued. Ms. Takesian confirmed Mr. Cote said it interfered with safety. Mr. Cote said the company's
143 fix was to remove the panels. Therefore, their fix wasn't an actual fix. The interference would still need
144 to be addressed. Ms. Takesian asked if Mr. Cote felt there was a need to keep the committee going
145 forward. Mr. Cote said as of now, there is no reason to go forward with it. Chairman Corbett noted that
146 if a viable option was found, the committee could be brought back together.
147

148 **Forestry Committee:** Mr. Croteau
149

150 **Hazmat Director:** Chairman Corbett
151

152 **Nashua Regional Planning Commission:** Mr. Bergeron
153

154 **Pelham Community Coalition:** Ms. Takesian said that should fall how the Energy and Solar
155 Committee did. She didn't believe it was an active committee, but they still have funds. She didn't feel it
156 needed a representative from the BOS. Ms. Corbett noted that the representatives from the Coalition
157 would know where to find the BOS.

158
159 **School Board:** Chairman Corbett. (Mr. Croteau asked what it entailed. Chairman
160 Corbett said the BOS representative would basically go to the school board meetings. She mentioned that
161 she would be happy to see a tighter relationship between the two boards down the road.)

162
163 **Pelham Planning Board:** Mr. Cote. Mr. Bergeron took the alternate.

164
165 **Salem Chamber of Commerce:** Mr. Croteau, noting that he was a member.

166
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168 **ATV Committee:** Mr. Cote noted they needed to discuss the ATV committee as the board needs to make
169 use of the one-year period. Mr. Croteau stepped up for this.

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172 SELECTMEN/TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

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174 **Mr. Croteau** mentioned he is part of the Pelham Baseball Board. They have been talking over the last
175 year to install t-ball fields next to the major's field. He said he met with Brian Johnson, other board
176 members and Boyden's Landscaping last week. This is privately funded by Pelham Baseball. Mr.
177 Croteau said the board for Pelham Baseball is looking to get on the agenda for the next BOS meeting to
178 give a rendering. If they get the approval of the BOS, they will move to get Planning's blessing.

179
180 Chairman Corbett confirmed this was at Muldoon. She asked if Muldoon was still owned by the
181 Muldoon family and whether they needed to get them involved. Mr. Croteau said they have looked into
182 this, and it is not necessary. He noted they will bring the verbiage into public record when they come in
183 front of the BOS.

184
185 **Ms. Takesian** nothing to report.

186
187 **Mr. Bergeron** nothing to report.

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189 **Mr. Cote** nothing to report.

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191 **Chairman Corbett** nothing to report.

192
193 **Chief Roark, interim Town Administrator,** noted his is just getting his feet wet. He said Mr. McCarthy
194 brought him up to speed on a few projects the board should keep in mind. These include the roundabout
195 projects on Marsh/Mammoth and Sherburne/ Mammoth, the two dam projects as two dams are on the on
196 red list, the Abbot Bridge Project, which is being handled by Quantum, the same firm that handled the
197 Willow Street Bridge, and the Main Street Bridge Project, which will be a state project in the near future.
198 He said they'll all need to be up to speed and understanding process. Chief Roark also mentioned he had
199 started with Mr. McCarthy and is continuing with collective bargaining with the police union. Their
200 contract is up. They typically like to get it on next March's vote. They have had two or three meetings.
201 Chief Roark thinks they will get together with something to present to the board. He said as usual, the
202 things that are being negotiated are things like compensation and benefits. He feels they are making good
203 headway and is hoping to bring a proposal to the board in the next few weeks.

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205 **ADJOURNMENT**

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207 **MOTION:** (Cote/Bergeron) To adjourn.

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

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211 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:02.

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Respectfully submitted,
Jill Atkinson
Recording Secretary