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**APPROVED**  
TOWN OF PELHAM  
BUDGET COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, November 21, 2019

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**CALL TO ORDER** – at approximately 7:30pm

PRESENT: Ms. Amber Capone, Mr. Bob Sherman, Mr. Dave Cate, Ms. Daryle Hillsgrove,  
Ms. Meg Bressette, Mr. Eduardo Martony, Mr. Kannan Sasi, Jas Moorjani,  
Selectmen Representative Heather Forde, School Board Representative Deb Ryan

ABSENT: Mr. David Cronin (excused)

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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**November 7, 2019**

**MOTION:** (Sherman/Cate) To approve the November 7, 2019 meeting minutes as written.

**VOTE:** (9-0-1) The motion carried. Mr. Moorjani abstained.

**NEW BUSINESS / OLD BUSINESS**

There was no new or old business discussed.

**Fiscal Year 2021 SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING BUDGET REVIEW**

Presenting the School budget was Superintendent of Schools Bill Furbush and Business Administrator Deb Mahoney.

Mr. Sherman made a motion for the proposed budget (\$34,003,221) to be the number ‘on the table’. Mr. Cate seconded. All in favor; no objection.

The Board then reviewed the proposed budgets.

***Pelham Elementary School***

FY2021 School Board Recommended: \$7,252,852

There were no questions or amendments.

***Pelham Memorial School***

FY2021 School Board Recommended: \$5,217,918

There were no questions or amendments.

43 ***Pelham High School***  
44 FY2021 School Board Recommended: \$8,567,874

45  
46 Ms. Hillsgrove made a motion to reduce the vocational tuition \$20,000. Mr. Cate seconded the  
47 motion. In reviewing historical data, she saw they hadn't spent the entire budget line. Mr. Cate  
48 believed the anticipated cost for next year was approximately \$95,000; therefore, the reduced  
49 budget line of \$100,000 should be adequate.

50 **MOTION:** (Hillsgrove/Cate) To reduce the vocational tuition line by \$20,000 bringing the  
line to \$100,000.

**VOTE:** (9-0-0) The motion carried.

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52 The high school budget was amended to: \$8,547,874

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55 ***District***  
56 FY2021 School Board Recommended: \$11,120,289

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58 There were no questions or amendments.

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60 ***Food Service***  
61 FY2021 School Board Recommended: \$1,092,288

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63 There were no questions or amendments.

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65 ***Grants Funds***  
66 FY2021 School Board Recommended: \$700,000

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68 There were no questions or amendments.

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70 ***Other Special Fund***  
71 FY2021 School Board Recommended: \$52,000

72  
73 There were no questions or amendments.

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75 **MOTION:** (Cate/Sherman) The total Budget Committee recommended School Operating  
Budget is \$33,983,221.

**VOTE:** (9-0-0) The motion carried.

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78 **SCHOOL DISTRICT – Warrant Article Review**

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80 **Article 1** – Election of Officers

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82 **Article 2** – Capital project Pelham Memorial School (\$31,054,000 raised through bonds/notes);  
83 first year payment of interest bond \$776,350.

84

85 Mr. Furbush along with Principal Stacy Maghakian went through a Power Point presentation of  
86 the proposed renovation/addition project which will be phased in over two years. The Committee  
87 discussed the proposal.

88

89 **Article 3 – Operating Budget**

90 Approved budget - \$33,983,221

91 Default budget - \$33,693,288

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93 **Article 4 – PESP Collective Bargaining Agreement**

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96 **TOWN – Warrant Article Review**

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98 Town Administrator Brian McCarthy came forward to review the proposed warrant articles. To  
99 begin, Conservation Commission Chairman Paul Gagnon stepped forward and discussed the  
100 funding used to purchase conservation land (through change-of-use tax and bonds approved by  
101 voters). He described the warrant articles pertaining to declaring lands as Town Forests. He also  
102 spoke to land the committee hoped to acquire to include with Town conservation land.

103

104 **Article 1 – Operating Budget**

105 Approved budget - \$17,461,162

106 Default budget - \$17,161,833

107

108 **Article 2 – Purchase Fire Truck to replace Engine 1**

109 \$630,000 to be taken from the unassigned fund balance.

110 Mr. McCarthy told the Committee based from the Town’s audit report the unassigned fund  
111 balance was \$6.3 million. He said in addition Pelham received \$180,000 from the State to put  
112 toward the tax rate. From this balance approximately \$1.8 million was recently used to set the tax  
113 rate.

114

115 **Article 3 – Fire Contract** – deferred until final figures are submitted.

116

117 **Article 4 – Highway Block Grant**

118 \$336,185 to be offset from the State Block Highway Grant

119

120 **Article 5 – Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund** - \$100,000 to be raised and  
121 appropriated for placement in the fund.

122

123 **Articles 6, 7 & 8** – Conservation articles (non-money articles)

124

125 **Article 9 – Elderly Exemption** – deferred for final figures.

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127

128 The Budget Committee’s next meeting will be held during Budget Reconsideration.

129

**MOTION:** (Sherman/Cate) To vote regarding proposed Warrant Articles during Budget  
Reconsideration.

**VOTE:** (10-0-0) The motion carried.

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133 **ADJOURNMENT**

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**MOTION:** (Sherman/Hillsgrove) To adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE:** (10-0-0) The motion carried.

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136 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:56pm.

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138

Respectfully submitted,

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Charity Landry

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Recording Secretary