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3 **APPROVED**  
4 **TOWN OF PELHAM**  
5 **BOARD OF SELECTMEN–MEETING MINUTES**  
6 **APRIL 2, 2024**

7 **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Croteau called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30pm

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9  
10 **PRESENT:** Kimberly Abare, Jaie Bergeron, Heather Corbett, Jason Croteau, Charlene  
11 Takesian, Town Administrator Joseph Roark

12  
13  
14 **ABSENT:** None

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16  
17 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

18  
19  
20 **MEETING MINUTES REVIEW**

21  
22 March 19, 2024

23  
24 **MOTION:** (Corbett/Bergeron) To approve the March 19, 2024 meeting minutes as amended.

25  
26 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

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28  
29 **OPEN FORUM**

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31 No one came forward during open forum.

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33  
34 **APPOINTMENTS**

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36  
37 **Cemetery Trustees Resignation Letters**

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39 Chairman Croteau stated that they received 3 resignation letters from the Cemetery Trustees.

40  
41 The first letter was from Lisa Wood. Ms. Wood submitted her letter of resignation to Town  
42 Administrator Roark on February 26, 2024. Ms. Wood stated that decided to resign from her  
43 position as secretary of the Town of Pelham Cemetery Department. She decided to further her  
44 career in the moratory field. She thanked everyone for many memorable years.

45  
46 The next letter of resignation was from Timothy Zalonis. Mr. Zalonis stated that due to the  
47 continuous prevailing circumstances he was very saddened to submit his resignation after 22

48 years as a Cemetery Trustee in the Town of Pelham. He thanked the voters of Pelham for their  
49 years of trust and support.

50  
51 The last letter of resignation was from Donna Smith. Ms. Smith asked for her letter to be read  
52 into record: “It is with mixed emotions I hereby submit my letter of resignation as cemetery  
53 trustee...For over 14 plus years, I have served as a trustee as well as providing countless hours of  
54 physical work of my own donated time to maintain and improve the atmosphere and  
55 environment of our 6 cemeteries. As a Board member, we conducted ourselves with dignity and  
56 fiscal responsibility to the townspeople/taxpayers of Pelham. We made annual improvements to  
57 the grounds, development of buildings with minimal budgetary increases or tax burden to the  
58 community. Unfortunately, the cohesiveness of the board has been negatively impacted by a  
59 handful of individuals that have resorted to bullying and social media attacks not only our work  
60 at the cemetery, but also on as individual citizens personally and otherwise. Recently, one of the  
61 newly elected Board members from his write-in campaign, took it upon himself to personally  
62 disparage my name and reputation in writing to my Catholic parish where I also devote countless  
63 hours on a weekly basis cooking and caring for parishioners and the church. It’s one thing to  
64 disagree with someone, but to tarnish and smear my faith and actions in the eyes of God is  
65 borderline religious persecution aimed at doing nothing more than acting in a libelous and  
66 slanderous manner and passing it off as ‘concern for the church’. The actions of this person have  
67 created nothing short of a hostile environment on the cemetery board of trustees, the physical  
68 grounds of the cemetery, and now my place of worship. It is with this final cowardly act by  
69 Board member Lance Oullette that I tender my resignation effective immediately.”

70  
71 Chairman Croteau and Mr. Bergeron thanked those who resigned for the years of hard work in  
72 the Town.

73  
74

#### 75 **Introduction of Pelham Economic Development Committee (PEDC) logo.**

76  
77 Mr. Bergeron stated that when they started this committee back up, they reached out to past  
78 Board members to see what worked and what did not. The past Board members stated they were  
79 trying to install welcome signs in Pelham, but it did not gain traction back then. The PEDC then  
80 worked with Ms. Abare and Mr. Jeanson to ask a company for samples. They narrowed it down  
81 to one logo and are now looking for the Board of Selectmen’s opinions.

82  
83 Mr. Bergeron stated that, with the consensus of the Board, they will look into getting pricing for  
84 the welcome signs with this new logo. The Board agreed.

85  
86

#### 87 **Final appointment of two (2) full-time board members on the Forestry Committee.**

88  
89 Chairman Croteau stated that 2 weeks ago they held 9 interviews for the Forestry Committee. He  
90 thanked the 9 volunteers who were interviewed but stated they only had 2 positions to fill.

91  
92 **MOTION:** (Abare/Croteau) To appoint Robert Lamoureux to the Forestry Committee.

93  
94 Ms. Abare asked to speak on her motion. Ms. Abare stated that after all of the interviews she was  
95 thinking about the dam break in Pelham and how the Select Board called one person. She stated

96 that in times of crisis, you look to leadership, and they decided to call Bob Lamoureaux instead  
97 of anyone else. Ms. Abare also stated that in our society we have a bad habit of having someone  
98 work for a long period, then deciding we do not want them anymore.

99

100 **MOTION:** (Abare/Croteau) To appoint Robert Lamoureaux to the Forestry Committee.

101

102 **VOTE:** (2-3-0) The motion failed.

103

104 Chairman Croteau thanked Mr. Lamoureaux for his time and service to the Town.

105

106

107 **MOTION:** (Corbett/Bergeron) To appoint Dale Gallaher to the Forestry Committee.

108 **VOTE:** (4-1-0) The motion carried.

109

110 Ms. Corbett stated that Mr. Gallaher has quietly helped the Town for many years and is always  
111 there to help when needed.

112

113 **MOTION:** (Takesian/Abare) To appoint James Fisher to the Forestry Committee.

114

115 **VOTE:** (3-2-0) The motion carried.

116

117 Ms. Takesian stated Mr. Fisher was the only interviewee who talked about locking the forest,  
118 which is important to her. She also stated that Mr. Fisher is very knowledgeable about forest  
119 management.

120

121 Ms. Abare stated that she seconds Ms. Takesian's comments, as Mr. Fisher is very  
122 knowledgeable, and she thinks he will serve the Forestry Committee well.

123

124 Chairman Croteau asked the new members to go in open-minded and for the existing members to  
125 help make this new committee work together for the Town.

126

127

### 128 **Transportation and Logistics costs of acquisition of portable classroom from Pelham** 129 **School District to Raymond Athletic Fields**

130

131 Town Administrator Roark stated that the Memorial School is nearing completion and part of  
132 their completion includes removing the 2 portable classrooms that are on Marsh Road. The  
133 school district and superintendent offered them to the Town if they had a use for them. Mr.  
134 Johnson from the Parks and Recreation Department expressed interest in them. Town  
135 Administrator Roark stated the idea is to bring at least one of them to Raymond Park to be used  
136 as storage and a couple of bathrooms. They reached out to a few companies to see how much it  
137 would cost to move them, and only one company was interested. JR Transport, Inc. out of  
138 Tewksbury moves these trailers for a living and is very reputable. Town Administrator Roark  
139 stated that the price was more than they were expecting, especially since it is not a line item in  
140 the Town's budget. The first cost to tow the portable classrooms to Raymond Park is \$27,357.00.  
141 Upon arrival at the park, the cost to place, set, level, and put them back together is \$30,440.00.  
142 The total cost is almost \$58,000.00 and this does not include any sitework, electrical work, septic  
143 system work, or anything else.

144  
145 Town Administrator Roark and Mr. Johnson decided it was too costly to ask the Board to move  
146 forward with this but wanted to speak about it with the Board in case they thought of another  
147 way to fund this project.

148  
149 Mr. Bergeron stated that the project was appealing when they thought about getting the portable  
150 classrooms for free, but the costs and upkeep were too high to move forward with it.

151  
152 Ms. Takesian asked if the Town would have to pay to remove them from the school. Town  
153 Administrator Roark stated that he does not want to speak for the school, but he believes they  
154 budgeted funds for the disposal or removal of them. Mr. Bergeron added that the company  
155 knows people who may take them, so they might not have to pay to destroy them. He noted that  
156 the school will be facilitating this.

157  
158 Ms. Abare stated that she thinks it is a shame to destroy the portable classrooms, especially  
159 during a housing crisis. However, she understands they have no other solutions since they need  
160 to be removed by June.

161  
162 The Board of Selectmen decided to pass on the portable classrooms. Town Administrator Roark  
163 stated he would let the school know.

164

165

166 **Finance Director, Tammy Penny: Proposed Town budget modifications due to default**  
167 **budget being voted in.**

168

169 Ms. Penny stated that since the 2024 operating budget article was defeated on the March ballot,  
170 the Town is now in default budget status. This means they have \$268,380.00 less to work with  
171 than what was put forth to the voters. Ms. Penny stated that she and Town Administrator Roark  
172 looked at the Town's history to put together this year's budget and now it is going to look a lot  
173 different. Ms. Penny showed the Board her proposed 2024 budget transfers. Ms. Penny stated  
174 that RSA 32:10 allows the Board to transfer money in the budget so long as the spending does  
175 not exceed the bottom line of the approved budget, and this holds for the default budget.

176

177 Ms. Penny stated that her proposed transfer brings departments to the deliberative session  
178 amounts, with a few exceptions. She noted that the Board has the authority to revisit the budget  
179 throughout the year and reallocate funds as necessary. The following items would be left  
180 unfunded if the proposed budget transfer gets approved as drafted: \$39,459 in requested  
181 cemetery appropriations (expendable trust funds could be used for a columbarium, they already  
182 have around \$33,000.00 in the fund), \$17,416.000 in library appropriations (PT increases, staff  
183 development, book processing), \$148,365 for the vacant Deputy Fire Chief Position (increase  
184 salary, insurance, and retirement), \$38,000.00 for the MS4 structure requested by the Planning  
185 Department (low-interest loan or waiver possibility), \$7,350.00 for a vacant part-time Transfer  
186 Station attendant, \$13,062.00 in senior center salaries (the Director's position is vacant),  
187 \$3,000.00 in professional development requested for the Town Administrator, \$1,611.00 in  
188 paving (Highway Department could fill the gap with block grant monies if necessary), and  
189 \$108.00 in emergency management (contingency wages have not been spent in years).

190

191 **MOTION:** (Abare/Corbett) To approve the 2024 proposed transfer budget as presented.

192  
193 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.  
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195 Ms. Abare noted that this was a tough situation, and she commends Ms. Penny for her hard work  
196 and guidance in drafting this budget. Ms. Takesian and Chairman Croteau agreed.  
197

198  
199 **Anonymous complaints discussion**  
200

201 Ms. Abare stated that over the past few weeks, she has been watching the reports come in  
202 through the Planning Department. She seen anonymous reports come in and the Town's  
203 government chases the reports on sometimes very innocent people, which she believes can tear  
204 down the community. Ms. Abare noted that she knows anonymous complaints are necessary for  
205 safety reasons, but some of the anonymous complaints she thinks are just people trying to cause  
206 problems. She thinks they can bring their community together by holding an anonymous  
207 complaints moratorium.  
208

209 Chairman Croteau asked Ms. Abare what she thinks they should implement. Ms. Abare stated  
210 she would like to ask the Planning Director for guidance but thinks they could have a form  
211 everyone needs to fill out to hold accountability when someone asks someone to look into  
212 something. Chairman Croteau asked Ms. Abare if she thinks this form should be public  
213 information or kept in-house. Ms. Abare stated she thinks it should be kept confidential, but  
214 people could file a 91:A for the form if they wanted it.  
215

216 Mr. Bergeron stated he also looked into this and talked to Code Enforcer about his thoughts on  
217 this as well. He stated he does receive a lot of anonymous complaints, but he thinks about 90%  
218 of them are legitimate complaints. Mr. Bergeron thinks they should leave it up to the Code  
219 Enforcer's judgment when complaints are received.  
220

221 Ms. Takesian stated she also spoke with the Code Enforcer about this. She also thinks people  
222 may be reluctant to file complaints officially at Town Hall because they do not want to rat on  
223 their neighbors. She agrees with Mr. Bergeron to allow the Code Enforcer to use their judgment  
224 for anonymous complaints.  
225

226 Ms. Corbett agreed that some of the complaints may be intended to stir the pot, she thinks it  
227 would be a mistake to overlook the fact that a lot of these complaints are legitimate, and a lot of  
228 good things have come from them. She noted that you also have to think about complaints from  
229 renters as well, who may be nervous to give their information out of fear of reprisal.  
230

231 Mr. Bergeron noted that Ms. Abare did state they would consider safety for anonymous  
232 complaints. However, they can encourage the Code Enforcer to ask people to put their names  
233 down on their complaints if their safety is not threatened.  
234

235 Chairman Croteau stated that everyone made valid points, and he does think people should be  
236 accountable for their actions but if there is a safety risk it concerns him. He noted that this  
237 discussion is taking place due to what they think are "repeat offenders" in Town who keep filing  
238 anonymous complaints, which costs the taxpayers money every time they have to send the Code  
239 Enforcer out to investigate the complaints over and over again. He thinks they should revisit this

240 discussion and meet with the Code Enforcer. Mr. Bergeron agreed they should invite the Code  
241 Enforcer and Planning Director to the next meeting. The rest of the Board agreed as well.

242

243

244 **DISCUSSION**

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246 There was nothing up for discussion.

247

248 **SELECTMEN AND TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

249

250 **Ms. Abare** reported that she is a Selectmen Representative on the Forestry Committee, and they  
251 have a meeting at the end of April. She is looking forward to working closely with the new  
252 committee and working together as a team. She also spoke with the Southern NH Chamber of  
253 Commerce yesterday and is lining up a ribbon cutting.

254

255 **Mr. Bergeron** reported that since the Board gave their consensus for the new welcome signs in  
256 Town, he will continue working on that project with Ms. Abare.

257

258 **Chairman Croteau** had nothing to report.

259

260 **Ms. Takesian** had nothing to report.

261

262 **Ms. Corbett** reported that Dena Hoffman from the Planning Department will be hosting a  
263 Protect our Ponds information session and conference on April 6, 2024 at 9 am. Dartmouth  
264 College and NHDES will be attending and will discuss an array of factors that affect ponds.

265

266 **Town Administrator Roark** had nothing to report.

267

268

269 **REQUEST FOR NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

270

271 **MOTION:** (Corbett/Bergeron) Request for non-public session per RSA 91-A: 3, II (a):  
272 personnel & (b) employment.

273

274 **ROLLCALL VOTE:**

275

276 Selectman Bergeron– Yes

277 Selectman Corbett– Yes

278 Chairman Croteau– Yes

279 Selectman Takesian – Yes

280 Selectman Abare – Yes

281

282 (5-0-0) The motion carried.

283

284 It was noted that when the Board returned, after the non-public session, the Board would not take  
285 any other action publicly, except to seal the minutes of the non-public session and to adjourn the  
286 meeting. The Board entered a non-public session at approximately 7:15 p.m.

287

288

289 **ADJOURNMENT**

290

291 Respectfully submitted,

292

293 Makayla Clougherty

294 Recording Secretary