

45 Mr. Croteau asked if they had any estimates on the cost of the repairs. Ms. Gallagher stated they
46 did not have any currently, but all costs would be covered by the sponsor. Mr. Croteau advised
47 that it may be a good idea to have the building inspector do a walk-through before and after the
48 repairs just to be sure that everything is okay.

49
50 **MOTION:** (Cote/Croteau) To approve ARNNE to make the necessary repairs to the animal
51 shelter.

52
53 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

54
55
56 **Al Steward, Conservation Commission: Tree Warden Volunteer Position**

57 Mr. Steward stated that a Tree Warden would help the Town with shade, ornamental, shrubs, and
58 all public spaces which include public ways, cemeteries, village greens, and other public
59 property. They also would be a member of the Forestry Committee and the Conservation
60 Commission could manage their open spaces and Town forests with the help of a Tree Warden.

61 Mr. Steward explained that with the help of a Tree Warden, the Town could help the public get
62 more access to the open space, which, in turn, would ensure satisfaction for the voters and will
63 increase their support of warrant articles that allow the Town to continue to buy open space and
64 maintain the rural character of Pelham. He explained that they hope to achieve a 25% open
65 space, which would require the Town to acquire 1,000 more acres of land. They currently have
66 3,000 acres.

67 Chairwoman Corbett asked if the Tree Warden would be a full voting member of the Forestry
68 Committee and Mr. Steward confirmed they would be by statute. Mr. Bergeron asked if the Tree
69 Warden would have to be an existing member of the Forestry Committee. Mr. Steward explained
70 that it could be anyone, but it recommends that they be educated and experienced in the subject.
71 Mr. Bergeron noted that you cannot have more than five voting members on the Forestry
72 Committee. Mr. Cote agreed and stated that an existing member would be the Tree Warden
73 based on what positions are up this year.

74 Mr. Lamoureux stated that Mr. Steward could be a voting member of the Forestry Committee.
75 Chairwoman Corbett explained that if this motion carries, they would have to wait until a term is
76 up, and when that happens one term would be held for the position of Tree Warden. Mr. Croteau
77 explained that if the board decides to carry the motion for a Tree Warden position, one would
78 probably not be appointed until March or April when terms are up. Mr. Cote explained that they
79 could even appoint more than one Tree Warden position, but only one of them would be able to
80 vote on the Forestry Committee. Ms. Takesian noted that the steps would be to vote to adopt the
81 position, then appoint someone to the position, then they would become a voting member on the
82 Forestry Committee.

83 Chairwoman Corbett asked if the Board would like to think about this, and then hold another
84 non-budgetary meeting in a few weeks to discuss and vote on it. Mr. Croteau agreed he would

85 like to think about it and research it more before voting. Mr. Cote explained that the position
86 might be unnecessary for the Town. Chairwoman Corbett noted that the Town does have many
87 trees and that there are frequently issues with them. Mr. Cote informed that the Town has already
88 hired people in the past to take care of issues with the trees and that the Highway Department
89 also helps with these issues. Mr. Steward explained that having a Tree Warden would be
90 beneficial for the Conservation Commission and Forestry Committee. Mr. Croteau asked if Mr.
91 Steward had any examples of other towns that have a Tree Warden position. Mr. Steward
92 explained that he was not able to access it on the website, but that there is a list he can provide
93 them once he can access it.

94 Chairwoman Corbett stated that they will schedule a non-budgetary meeting within the next few
95 weeks to discuss this again.

96

97 **Bob Long and Rhonda Martin, Transfer Station: Trash and Recycling RFP for containers**

98 Ms. Martin stated that the Transfer Station recently opened an RFP and two companies, K-Town,
99 and Casella, put in a bid on the project. This was for the containers at the schools, Senior Center,
100 Police Station, Fire Department, and Parks and Recreation totes and front loader containers.

101 Chairwoman Corbett asked if the bidding window for this project was now closed. Ms. Martin
102 confirmed that it is closed now. Mr. Cote asked Ms. Martin what her opinion was on K-Town
103 versus Casella. Ms. Martin stated that K-Town came in lower and is conveniently located in
104 Salem. She also stated that K-Town will not charge the town for any extras, like fireworks or
105 extra bin pick-ups during special events. She stated that Casella will charge the Town for any
106 extra pick-ups, which could be \$62.00 to \$97.00 depending on the department. Interim Town
107 Administrator Roark stated that although no term has been decided with either company as of
108 now, K-Town is open to a multi-year contract. He also noted that they put an escalator of 3-5%
109 each year and that if they were to sign the contract with them, they would try and tie them down
110 to only a 4% increase each year. Interim Town Administrator Roark also stated that when Ms.
111 Martin and Mr. Long discuss the term length, he recommends no less than three years.

112 Interim Town Administrator Roark also explained that as of October 1, Republic will no longer
113 be taking care of the totes, so something needs to be put into place before then. He recommended
114 that the Board allows them to sit down with K-Town and draft a contract for the Board for final
115 approval as soon as possible. Ms. Takesian asked about the reliability of K-Town. Ms. Martin
116 explained that they sound reliable based on their presentation and that all the containers they
117 would be providing the Town with would be brand new. She also stated that if any container gets
118 damaged, they will replace them within two years. Interim Town Administrator Roark stated
119 they also provided them with references they can contact. He also stated that K-Town has been
120 very responsive to any questions they had and that the significantly lower price they offered
121 would be difficult to look past.

122

123 Interim Town Administrator Roark stated that if the Board approved it, Ms. Martin, Mr. Long,
124 and himself would draft a tentative contract with K-Town. When doing this, they would try and
125 lock them down to at least a three-year contract with a set increase rate of 4%.

126
127 Mr. Bergeron asked if they were sure they had references from K-Town, since they were not
128 listed in the documents they were given. Mr. Cote confirmed they did have them, and that they
129 would call them.

130
131 **MOTION:** (Cote/Bergeron) To authorize the Transfer Station to engage in contract
132 negotiations with K-Town.

133
134 **VOTE:** (4-0-1) The motion carried with one abstention.

135
136 Interim Town Administrator Roark also noted that there was a second RFP for the hauling
137 portion of the trash that no companies had bid on. They have reached out to a few different
138 companies to see if anyone is interested. They are making progress to ensure that trash hauling
139 continues October 1. However, there will be a price increase.

140
141

142 **Jenny Larson, Agricultural Commission: Noise Ordinance**

143 Ms. Larson stated that the Agricultural Commission would like to amend the current noise
144 ordinance to benefit the farming community in the Town. She stated that the police have been
145 called multiple times on individuals conducting farming activities. She explained that the State of
146 New Hampshire has designated Pelham as a “right to farm” Town. RSA 147-1 states that no
147 agricultural operation should be found a public or private nuisance around the locality of the
148 agricultural operation if the agricultural operation has been happening for a year or more. RSA
149 21:34-a lists the specifics of what is considered an agricultural operation.

150 Ms. Larson explained that the current noise ordinance is from 11:00 PM to 7:00 AM. She stated
151 that it is only usually two to three times per year that a farmer may have to spray their fruit trees
152 before 7:00 AM and the sun comes out. Also, they may have to mow their fields for haying
153 before bees come out or drought conditions occur. She explains this would not be an everyday
154 occurrence, just a few times per year.

155 Mr. Cote asked if the noise complaints were coming in for night noise or morning noise. Ms.
156 Larson informed that it was usually morning complaints. She stated that the farmer has been in
157 operation for 62 years, and only needs to work before 7:00 AM a couple of times per year. She
158 also disclosed that the person who complained about the noise was a new resident in Town. Mr.
159 Cote asked if Ms. Larson was asking for an exemption form. Ms. Larson explained that she
160 would like to amend the current noise ordinance to add an overall agricultural exemption section.
161 Mr. Cote noted that in the current ordinance, there is an exemption section, and that the
162 exemption could be added there.

163 Chairwoman Corbett noted they need to make it clear that this exemption does not apply to
164 people with small gardens, and that an overall agricultural exemption could be misleading. She
165 also explained that case-by-case exemption requests are an option and maybe a better choice.
166 Ms. Larson stated that the farmers cannot predict the weather, so they would not be able to
167 contact the Town and ask for a certain date for the exemption ahead of time. Chairwoman

168 Corbett informed that the exemption form does not ask for a specific date and that they could
169 bring it up at the start of the spring season and provide a general explanation and time frame of
170 what was going to be happening. Ms. Larson asked who approves the forms. Mr. Bergeron
171 informed that the Board and Town Administrator approve the forms. Ms. Larson stated she still
172 believes it should be put in the ordinance since RSA147-1 states that agricultural operations
173 cannot be found a nuisance. Chairwoman Corbett explained that they would only be considered
174 “found a nuisance” if they were charged, but they were not. Ms. Takesian asked if the police
175 threatened to fine them if they received another complaint. Ms. Larson confirmed that the police
176 did state there would be a fine the next time they received a complaint.

177
178 Interim Town Administrator Roark explained that the neighbor who called the police stated that
179 the farmer had been mowing since 4:00 AM. He explained that the police arrived around 5:51
180 AM and provided the farmer a copy of the noise ordinance, and he agreed he would wait and
181 start after 7:00 AM. The second time a complaint was called in for the same farmer, it was
182 regarding where he was cutting, not about noise.

183
184 Chairwoman Corbett explained that if the farmers filled out the exemption form, it would then be
185 given to the police. If the police received a complaint, they could educate the person on the
186 exemption, and explain that it is only going to be happening a few times per year. Mr. Croteau
187 asked about the examples of certified agricultural operations. Ms. Larson informed him of some
188 of the examples. Mr. Croteau asked if the State required a certain number of acres as well. Ms.
189 Larson stated that they only require that the operation had to of been happening for a year or
190 more.

191
192 Ms. Larson asked why snow removal has a noise ordinance exemption if agricultural operations
193 cannot. Chairwoman Corbett explained that the snowplows beeping as they reverse are a safety
194 precaution.

195
196 Ms. Larson explained that the Agricultural Commission can put together the details of the
197 exemption using the RSAA guidelines, and then present it to the Board. Mr. Croteau stated that
198 his only concern is that people will take advantage of the exemption and mow their lawns
199 whenever they please. Ms. Larson suggested that she can get in contact with the State
200 Commissioner about the best guidelines for this exemption could be. She also explained that the
201 goal of this exemption is to make life easier for the farming community left in the Town. Mr.
202 Bergeron asked Interim Town Administrator Roark how many complaints there had been about
203 farming noise within the last year. Interim Town Administrator Roark stated that there had only
204 been the one that is being discussed currently. Mr. Croteau suggested that Ms. Larson comes
205 back with more information so the Board can make a more informed decision. Mr. Cote also
206 suggested coming back with actual wording for the amendment. Interim Town Administrator
207 Roark stated he will reach out to her with a date approximately two months from now to meet
208 with the Board again.

209

210

211 **DISCUSSION**

212

213 Chairwoman Corbett stated that the State is in a severe drought, and the Town has recommended
214 limiting watering to 8:00 PM TO 7:00 AM every other day.

215

216

217 **SELECTMEN AND TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

218

219 **Mr. Croteau** stated that the baseball field work has begun. The diamonds are dug, and the clay
220 will be applied in a few days. Behind the major's field, a pathway was put in so people can travel
221 to and from. The Pelham Good Neighbor Fund golf tournament just happened and approximately
222 \$30,000.00 was raised. The OHRV Committee has found an area and will meet with
223 Conservation next month before they come before the Board.

224

225 **Ms. Takesian** stated that the Agricultural Commission responded to a few complaints regarding
226 animals and noise. The Farmer's Market is still happening on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 1:00
227 PM. They are trying to figure out a place to have the market on Old Home Day on September 18,
228 2022 since it also takes place outside of the church. The Council on Aging is opening its thrift
229 store starting on September 20, 2022 from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM Monday through Thursday and
230 9:00 AM to noon on Fridays, due to an increase in volunteers. They are always looking for
231 donations. The COA is also still raising money for the pickleball courts. There is a free shredding
232 event on September 10, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. At this same time, there will be an
233 open house for the thrift store, and the Chowder Lunch fundraiser will be happening from 11:30
234 AM to 1:30 PM. Tickets are \$15.00. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. Tickets can be purchased
235 at the Hobb's Center or through Ms. Takesian.

236

237 **Chairwoman Corbett** stated construction is still underway at the middle school as they prepare
238 for the school year to begin.

239

240 **Mr. Bergeron** had nothing to report.

241

242 **Mr. Cote** stated that the CIP Committee is finished, and there were- a lot of great discussions
243 within the group on how the Town can save money and prepare for the future.

244

245 **Interim Town Administrator Roark** had nothing to report.

246

247

248 **REQUEST FOR NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

249

250 **MOTION:** (Croteau/Cote) Request for non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II, A
251 (personnel).

252

253 **ROLLCALL VOTE:**

254

255 Chairwoman Corbett – Yes

256 Selectman Bergeron – Yes

257 Selectman Croteau– Yes

258 Selectmen Cote – Yes

259 Selectmen Takesian – Yes

260

261 (5-0-0) The motion carried.

262

263 It was noted that when the Board returned, after the non-public session, the Board would not take
264 any other action publicly, except to seal the minutes of the non-public session and to adjourn the
265 meeting. The Board entered a non-public session at approximately 8:00 PM.

266

267

268 **ADJOURNMENT**

269

270 Respectfully submitted,

271

272 Makayla Clougherty

273 Recording Secretary

274