

APPROVED
TOWN OF PELHAM
BUDGET COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 11th, 2024

1 **CALL TO ORDER** – Ms. Meg Bressette opened the meeting at approximately 6:34 PM.

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3
4 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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7 Ms. Bressette called attendance:

8
9 **PRESENT:** Chair Meg Bressette
10 Vice Chair Greg Smith
11 Secretary Deborah Ryan
12 Bob Sherman
13 Phil Haberlen
14 Paul Grant
15 Garrett Abare
16 Selectmen Representative Jason Croteau
17 School Board Representative David Wilkerson
18 Recording Secretary Heidi Zagorski

19
20 **ABSENT:** Ellen Cormier - *excused*
21 David Silva – *excused*

22
23
24 **BUSINESS**

25 Ms. Bressette began the meeting with a discussion regarding if a member of the Budget Committee could
26 participate remotely.

27
28 Ms. Bressette highlighted relevant sections under RSA 91A-2:III:

29
30 III. A public body may, but is not required to, allow one or more members of the body to participate in a meeting
31 by electronic or other means of communication for the benefit of the public and the governing body, subject to the
32 provisions of this paragraph.

33
34 a. Any reason that such attendance is not reasonably practical shall be stated in the minutes of the meeting.

35
36 c. Each member participating electronically or otherwise must be able to simultaneously hear each other and
37 speak to each other during the meeting shall be audible or otherwise discernable to the public in attendance at the
38 meeting’s location. Any member participating in such fashion shall identify the persons present in the location
39 from which the member is participating.

40
41 A:1. (e) A member participating in a meeting by the means described in this paragraph is deemed to be present at
42 the meeting for the purposes of voting. All votes taken during such a meeting shall be by roll call vote.

43
44 Ms. Bressette stated Mr. David Silva is a Budget Committee member who would like to participate remotely
45 because he is on a work trip.

46

47
48 **MOTION:** (Smith/Sherman) To consider for discussion.
49
50

51 Ms. Deborah Ryan stated that she would be inclined to vote no because it was never an option available to the
52 Budget Committee from the beginning of the Budget season. Ms. Ryan gave an example from when she was ill
53 during this Budget season and said she may have been able to participate from home if she knew this was an
54 option, but she did not believe participating remotely was an option. Ms. Ryan said that the Budget Committee
55 should keep consistency throughout the Budget Committee season.
56

57 Mr. Greg Smith said such a change would have benefited him because he did miss one meeting due to a business
58 trip. Mr. Smith said he had a concern from a policy point of view. He said this should be talked about and voted
59 upon at the beginning of a budget cycle. Mr. Smith said he is not convinced the remote set-up can meet all of the
60 standards. He added this should have been tested in advance. Ms. Bressette stated they did test this to make sure
61 Mr. Silva was available. Mr. Smith said he would vote no.
62

63 Mr. Paul Grant asked Ms. Ryan if she had requested to participate remotely. Ms. Ryan said she did not ask
64 because she understood that the Zoom meetings were set up with parameters during Covid, however, these
65 parameters were not set up now. Mr. Grant said that Mr. David Silva is attempting to be able to participate. Mr.
66 Grant said consideration should be given to Mr. Silva's desire to participate.
67

68 Mr. Bob Sherman said there is an additional member, Ms. Ellen Cormier, who is excused this evening, and he is
69 concerned that she should have the opportunity to participate remotely as well. He said it should be addressed
70 and added to the bylaws as a possible option going forward.
71

72 Mr. Garrett Abare said he thought that Mr. Silva should be able to participate remotely stating that Mr. Silva can
73 hear the meeting and speak remotely.
74

75 Ms. Bressette said the expectation is to be in person adding that the schedule was sent out seven months ago.
76
77

78 **MOTION:** (Grant/Abare) To allow Budget Committee member Mr. David Silva to participate
79 remotely.

80 **ROLL-CALL VOTE:** Mr. Grant - YES
81 Mr. Haberlen - YES
82 Mr. Abare – YES
83 Ms. Ryan - NO
84 Mr. Wilkerson - NO
85 Mr. Croteau - NO
86 Mr. Sherman - NO
87 Mr. Smith - NO
88 Ms. Bressette - NO
89 (3-6-0) The motion failed.
90

91 Mr. Jason Croteau suggested the Chair for the next Budget Committee season should address this at the beginning
92 of the season.
93
94

95 **MINUTES REVIEW: November 16th, 2023**

Mr. Phil Haberlen asked to replace ‘default budget’ with ‘originally proposed budget’ on line 477. Mr. Haberlen asked to change ‘Ms.’ to ‘Dr.’ on all items for Ms. Marandos. Mr. Haberlen asked for a correction to line 567 to include the corrected amount to be ‘\$40,965,693’. Ms. Bressette asked for a correction to line 271 to include the corrected amount of ‘\$21,558’ under Insurance.

MOTION: (/) To place the November 16th, 2023 Budget Committee Meeting minutes on file as amended.

VOTE: (8-0-1) The motion passed.

Ms. Bressette said she had a few remarks to give to the Town and School Administrations as well as the Department Heads, School Board, and Selectmen. Ms. Bressette apologized for not providing specific cuts and leaving a budget number only with no direction. Ms. Bressette apologized for the extra work and tremendous effort that the administrations had to put in.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Bressette said because this was the reconsideration meeting, she would open the discussion for public comment. Hearing and seeing no response, Ms. Bressette closed the discussion for public comment.

Town Budget Reconsideration

Mr. Joseph Roark introduced himself as the Town Administrator, Ms. Tammy Penny introduced herself as the Town Finance Director, and Mr. Brian Demers introduced himself as the IT Administrator.

Ms. Bressette said the current Town budget was \$21,632,408. Ms. Bressette said for the purpose of moving on with reconsideration, they would need the specific cuts, or they could work from the numbers that she proposed during the November 16th, 2023 Budget Committee meeting.

Ms. Tammy Penny said on November 16th, 2023 there was a motion that passed to reduce the budget to \$21,632,408, adding that she stated she would need assistance filling out the budget form because the Budget Committee has the official duty of filling out the form. Ms. Penny said the operating budget article is drafted to include a proposed budget and a default budget. Ms. Penny said the voters have that choice. Ms. Penny said if things were to go forward and the default budget was the same as the proposed budget, then they have essentially taken away the voters' choice and could be opening themselves up to a lawsuit. Ms. Penny said she would need precise cuts. Ms. Penny suggested going to the board-approved budget and applying Ms. Bressette’s cuts as she presented on November 16th, 2023 which would leave a difference of about \$136,000.

Ms. Bressette stated the new default budget is \$21,548,493. Ms. Bressette said this is due to finding out after the fact that elections are not part of the default budget. Ms. Penny added that she backed out a one-time expense for the Civic Gov software and a couple of other minor items that needed to be reclassified.

Mr. Croteau asked what the original cut from the Board of Selectmen was from the Department Heads. Mr. Smith stated it was \$640,000. Mr. Croteau said when the budget process started, the Department Officials came in with a budget of \$640,000 higher than it is now.

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MOTION: (Croteau/Ryan) To restore the Town budget to the Board of Selectmen approved budget of \$22,003,547.

ROLL-CALL VOTE: Mr. Grant - NO
Ms. Ryan - YES
Mr. Haberlen - YES
Mr. Abare - YES
Mr. Wilkerson - YES
Mr. Croteau - YES
Mr. Sherman - YES
Mr. Smith - YES
Ms. Bressette - YES
(8-1-0) The motion passed.

MOTION: (Sherman/Ryan) To approve the line cut of \$3,000 from the Assessor Department's budget.

Ms. Susan Snide introduced herself as the Town Assessor. Ms. Snide said the reduction of \$3,000 to the Assessor Department budget will make no material difference if it is removed from her budget.

ROLL-CALL VOTE: Mr. Grant - YES
Ms. Ryan - YES
Mr. Haberlen - YES
Mr. Abare - YES
Mr. Wilkerson - YES
Mr. Croteau - YES
Mr. Sherman - YES
Mr. Smith - YES
Ms. Bressette - YES
(9-0-0) The motion passed.

Ms. Lisa Wood introduced herself as the Chair of the Cemetery Board and spoke to the reduction of cuts for the Cemetery Department. Ms. Wood said the Cemetery Board agreed to eliminate/hold off on the full-time caretaker position for 2024. Ms. Wood said that the main expense would be to receive the \$40,000 allotment for the development of the Columbarium. Ms. Wood said the units have been purchased through the Cemetery's Trust Fund money. Ms. Wood said the purchase of the Columbarium units was at no expense to the townspeople. She explained it was the percentage that came back from their lot sales. Ms. Wood explained that the \$40,000 is a one-time expense just for this year. Mr. Croteau asked if the Board was proposing a cut to the Columbarium. Ms. Bressette stated that they are not proposing a cut to the Columbarium.

MOTION: (Bressette/Abare) To approve the line-item cuts in the Town budget as listed below which total \$332,675.

Assessor - \$3,000 from overtime.
Cemetery - \$41,659 by cutting the caretaker position, cutting the recording clerk, and cutting \$500 from the new position that you wouldn't be adding. Cut the overtime by \$2,100 and fund it at 50 units and base the secretarial pay at an \$18.50/hourly rate.

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194 Conservation – \$300.

195 Fire Department – \$78,976 by funding only one paramedic schooling and call-backs.

196 Highway Maintenance – \$19,300 based on the new lower salt price.

197 Insurance –\$21,558 due to the elimination of the Cemetery Caretaker position.

198 Library - \$5,000 in salary cuts.

199 Parks and Recreation – \$13,500 due to a retirement.

200 Retirement – \$4,713 due to not adding the new cemetery caretaker position.

201 Senior Center –\$10,000 due to a staffing change.

202 Technology – \$60,840 due to cutting the proposed new website and the costs associated with hosting the website.

203 Town Buildings - \$73,829 due to cutting the Police Department's replacement carpet request, the A/C in the
204 training room, and the electrical gates at the Highway Department.

205
206 **ROLL-CALL VOTE:** Mr. Grant - YES
207 Ms. Ryan - YES
208 Mr. Haberlen - YES
209 Mr. Abare - YES
210 Mr. Wilkerson - YES
211 Mr. Croteau - YES
212 Mr. Sherman - YES
213 Mr. Smith - YES
214 Ms. Bressette - YES
215 (9-0-0) The motion passed.

216
217
218 Ms. Penny said the new proposed reconsideration Town budget would now be \$21,670,872. Ms. Penny said this
219 would be a .62% change in the tax rate and the average change on a household of approximately \$16.70 for the
220 municipal portion of the tax rate. Ms. Bressette confirmed that this number does not include the increase in the
221 insurance.

222
223 Ms. Bressette said they need to provide line-item cuts for an additional \$136,254.

224
225
226 **MOTION:** (Grant/Sherman) To cut \$38,000 from the Planning Department Special Project line for the BMP
227 project.

228
229 Mr. Grant stated he proposed this cut because based on previous discussions and correspondences, he received an
230 impression that it is money for a project that has no control measure. Mr. Grant explained an example provided
231 was from a town in Massachusetts that received a \$120,000 fine for intentionally dumping waste into a body of
232 water. Mr. Grant said he did not believe it was a good expenditure for the taxpayers' money.

233
234 Mr. Sherman clarified this is a discussion about a mitigation system proposed for Veteran's Park. Mr. Sherman
235 added that there are two other towns involved in this as well.

236
237 Mr. Grant said if they implemented the retention pond, it wouldn't be a guarantee that the EPA wouldn't come
238 back to us. Mr. Grant said there are two other towns around the lake, and it is a bigger problem than just the
239 phosphorous issues coming into the Long Pond side of Pelham. Mr. Grant said he would like to see a guarantee
240 from the EPA that the Town would be complying if they were to install this. Ms. Bressette said, however, that if
241 the Town did nothing, they would be out of compliance. Mr. Grant said he understood it as there is no definition
242 of compliance and non-compliance.

Ms. Jennifer Beauregard introduced herself as the Planning Department Director. Ms. Beauregard said they have talked to the Stormwater coordinator with the Department of Environmental Services who assured them that doing this type of structure does put them in compliance with this particular requirement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Ms. Beauregard stated that doing nothing would put them at risk of being non-compliant. Ms. Beauregard said they are part of the MS4 permit and will always have some kind of obligation to stay in compliance with the EPA but there would be different aspects of it along the way.

Mr. Sherman asked if there was any possibility of receiving a Federal grant to fund this since there are three towns involved. Ms. Beauregard said there are some grants that they are going to pursue.

Mr. Beauregard said Ms. Dena Hoffman, the Environmental Regulation Compliance Specialist, provided an email response to the Budget Committee members in which she explained that the proposed system does have to show that it is mitigating phosphorous, and they would have to measure the amount of phosphorus coming off of the structure. Ms. Beauregard said this type of structure has great results in doing the mitigation that they are required to do. Ms. Beauregard said they do share the pond with two other towns that are required to do similar types of mitigation.

Mr. Smith asked if there would be any downside if they waited until next year. Ms. Beauregard said they do not know exactly what the EPA would do, but the State did say they would be at risk of being fined.

ROLL-CALL VOTE: Mr. Grant - YES
Ms. Ryan - NO
Mr. Haberlen - YES
Mr. Abare - YES
Mr. Wilkerson - YES
Mr. Croteau - NO
Mr. Sherman - YES
Mr. Smith - YES
Ms. Bressette - NO
(6-3-0) The motion passed.

MOTION: (Sherman/Grant) To cut \$3,050 from the Board of Selectmen budget for the Actuaries' expenses.

VOTE: (9-0-0) The motion passed.

MOTION: (Sherman/Smith) To cut \$26,008 from Town Buildings for the replacement of the electronic access control for the Police and Fire buildings.

VOTE: (9-0-0) The motion passed.

Ms. Bressette said these cuts total \$67,058. Ms. Penny said with these cut changes, the budget is at \$21,603,814. Ms. Bressette asked for the total of the insurance that would be asked for at reconsideration. Ms. Penny stated the total insurance increase was \$97,789. Ms. Penny explained the insurance line does contain a \$50,000 contingency to allow for insurance changes throughout the year. Ms. Penny said they could remove some contingency and reduce this by \$25,000 which would bring the insurance increase to \$72,789.

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Ms. Bressette said as of right now, the bottom line is at \$21,603,814 without considering the insurance increase.
Ms. Bressette said that the insurance proposal of \$72,789 would bring the budget to \$21,676,603.

MOTION: (Smith/Grant) To add the insurance increase of \$72,789 to the Town budget.

ROLL-CALL VOTE: Mr. Grant - YES
Ms. Ryan - YES
Mr. Haberlen - YES
Mr. Abare - YES
Mr. Wilkerson - YES
Mr. Croteau - YES
Mr. Sherman - YES
Mr. Smith - YES
Ms. Bressette - YES
(9-0-0) The motion passed.

MOTION: (Abare/Sherman) To add the Board of Selectmen stipends of \$6,300 to the proposed budget.

Mr. Abare explained that the Selectmen give their time to the Town. Mr. Abare said the Board of Selectmen stipend should be added to the budget. He said for a modest amount you are getting people who care and want to do the right thing.

ROLL-CALL VOTE: Mr. Grant - YES
Ms. Ryan - YES
Mr. Haberlen - YES
Mr. Abare - YES
Mr. Wilkerson - YES
Mr. Croteau - YES
Mr. Sherman - YES
Mr. Smith - YES
Ms. Bressette - YES
(9-0-0) The motion passed.

Ms. Penny stated the updated Town budget is now at \$21,681,997. Ms. Penny said the difference in the Town budget that was voted on November 16th, 2023, and where they are at now is \$49,589. Ms. Bressette asked the Board members if there were any other proposals for cuts. There were no responses from the Board members.

Ms. Penny said it is a .69% increase in the tax rate and the average impact per household is estimated to be under \$19.

MOTION: (Bressette/Grant) To approve \$21,681,997 as the Town budget at reconsideration.

ROLL-CALL VOTE: Mr. Grant - YES
Ms. Ryan - YES
Mr. Haberlen - YES
Mr. Abare - YES

341 Mr. Wilkerson - YES
342 Mr. Croteau - YES
343 Mr. Sherman - NO
344 Mr. Smith - YES
345 Ms. Bressette - YES
346 (8-1-0) The motion passed.
347

348 Ms. Bressette stated the Budget Committee’s recommendation for the Town budget is \$21,681,997.
349

350 Vote Town Warrant Article

351 Ms. Bressette said they would need to vote on the operating budget for the Town.
352

353
354 Ms. Bressette read the 2024 Town Operating Budget Article into the record.
355

356 *Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special*
357 *warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the*
358 *warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth herein totaling Twenty-One Million,*
359 *Six Hundred Eighty-One Thousand, Nine-Hundred and Ninety-Seven Dollars (\$21,681,997). Should this article be*
360 *defeated, the default budget shall be Twenty One Million, Five Hundred Forty Eight Thousand, Four-Hundred*
361 *and Ninety-Three Dollars (\$21,548,493)which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by*
362 *previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with*
363 *RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.*
364

365 Ms. Bressette stated that these would go before the voters at the Deliberative Session.
366

367 **ROLL-CALL VOTE:** Mr. Grant - YES
368 Ms. Ryan - YES
369 Mr. Haberlen - YES
370 Mr. Abare - YES
371 Mr. Wilkerson - YES
372 Mr. Croteau - YES
373 Mr. Sherman - YES
374 Mr. Smith - YES
375 Ms. Bressette - YES
376 (9-0-0) The motion passed.
377

378
379 Ms. Bressette announced a five-minute recess. The meeting resumed at 9:02 PM.
380

381
382 School Budget Reconsideration

383 Ms. Bressette announced that they would be starting a Presentation and Review of School Warrant Article 2:
384 Pelham Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement (PEA CBA).
385

386 Dr. Chip McGee introduced himself as the Pelham School District’s Superintendent, Dr. Sarah Marandos
387 introduced herself as the Pelham School District’s Assistant Superintendent and Ms. Deborah Mahoney
388 introduced herself as the Pelham School District’s Business Administrator.
389

Ms. Bressette read the PEA CBA Article 2 into the record.

Shall the Pelham School District vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Pelham School District and the Pelham Education Association (PEA) that calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year at current staffing levels: Year Estimated Increase 2024-2025 \$ 931,677 2025-2026 \$ 635,257 2026-2027 \$ 689,791 and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Hundred Thirty-One Thousand, Six Hundred Seventy-Seven Dollars (\$ 931,677) for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement that would be paid at current staffing levels. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the School Board (4-0-0)

Dr. McGee said the CBA covers 161 teachers. Dr. McGee presented a slideshow about Warrant Article 2. The slideshow began with information regarding the need to recruit and retain teachers. The slideshow showed that 117 teachers left the Pelham School District in the last four years. Dr. McGee explained the School Board and Teachers Association reached a tentative agreement that will help retain more professional staff.

Dr. McGee highlighted a big change which is in Health Insurance. He explained that they eliminated two expensive health insurance plan options. He showed in the slideshow that they introduced a cost-effective health insurance plan that is competitive and familiar in other districts. Dr. McGee said they are reducing the amount the district pays for the standard health insurance plan. He said the reduction is \$182,652 in FY25 and an estimated \$29,802 in FY26 and \$29,802 in FY27.

Dr. McGee said currently, a Pelham teacher earns on average \$4,423 less than they could in a neighboring peer district. He said for some the gap is as high as \$14,447. He said with the new contract, they will cut that gap. He said the average gap will close by \$2,629. He said the highest gap would be closed by \$7,263. Dr. McGee provided a chart illustrating the gap between 12 peer districts comparing teacher contracts for 2023-24 for Teachers with a Master's Degree and 13 years of experience; Pelham ranked last.

Ms. Bressette stated that the last CBA was a five-year contract and Dr. McGee stated that this CBA would be a three-year contract.

MOTION: (Sherman/Wilkerson) To approve the PEA CBA contract.

ROLL-CALL VOTE: Mr. Grant - YES
Ms. Ryan - YES
Mr. Haberlen - YES
Mr. Abare - YES
Mr. Wilkerson - YES
Mr. Croteau - YES
Mr. Sherman - YES
Mr. Smith - YES
Ms. Bressette - YES
(9-0-0) The motion passed.

Ms. Bressette stated the next item would be for specific line-item reductions on the budget. Ms. Bressette said the Budget Committee reduced the School Board's recommended budget from \$41,768,453 down to \$40,965,693, a reduction of \$802,760. Ms. Bressette said the Budget Committee is obligated to provide the line cuts. Dr. McGee said the School Board did not provide a set of possible reductions for this evening. Dr. McGee said that they

439 respect that the Budget Committee sets the number in the warrant article for the deliberative session. Dr. McGee
440 said they do need their MS27 completed with function areas by the Budget Committee. Dr. McGee said that they
441 held personnel, special education, and debt services as budgeted for FY25. He said they proportionately allocated
442 the reduction of \$802,00 that the budget Committee decided on at the November 2023 meeting to all other areas.
443 He explained that netted a reduction of about 14% in each of those areas. Dr. McGee said there is one
444 reconsideration item. He said the reconsideration item is the \$802,760 reduction was intended to be the district
445 operating budget for this year. He said the district operating budget had two warrants: the Operating Budget and
446 the PESPA Contract. He said their understanding of the intent of the Budget Committee was not to reduce the
447 budget by \$802,760 but to reduce it by \$701,184. He said this would bring them back to their current budget.
448

449 Ms. Bressette said the Budget Committee has to determine where those cuts should be applied. Ms. Bressette said
450 it should not have fallen on the School Board to do this since it is the Budget Committee's budget that goes before
451 the voters at Deliberative.
452

453 Dr. McGee made it clear that the suggested line-item cuts provided by the School Board are not reasonable. He
454 explained that these are allocations based on their interpretation of what the Budget Committee required the
455 budget to be. Dr. McGee stated that they are proportional cuts, and in several areas, they are completely
456 unreasonable and further provided an unreasonable example that takes \$200,000 out of the transportation budget.
457

458 Ms. Bressette said for discussion purposes if it is the \$802,760 cut, the following amounts allocated by the School
459 Board would be proportionately cut:

460 Regular Programs \$81,380
461 Special Programs \$127,000
462 Vocational Programs \$16,267
463 Other Programs \$29,556
464 Non-Public Programs \$2,155
465 Support Services \$11,282
466 Instructional Staff Services \$69,838
467 General Administration \$10,705
468 Executive Administration \$8,475
469 School Administrative Services \$27,006
470 Business \$14,026
471 Plan Operations \$231,078
472 Student Transportation \$214,214
473 Support Service Central \$78,180
474 Site Improvement \$8,471
475

476 Ms. Bressette said these cuts total \$802,760. Ms. Bressette said if it is the reconsidered adjusted amount to
477 include the CBA for the Instructional Assistants the voters approved, then that reconsideration bottom number is
478 \$701,184.
479

480 Ms. Bressette said under the statute, the Budget Committee needs to provide specific cuts because the numbers
481 read above are not cuts from the Budget Committee.
482

483 Dr. McGee said the cost for the PESPA contract was voted upon last year and they would have to provide this.
484

485 Mr. David Wilkerson explained the School District did not provide cuts; they are simply an evaluation of what the
486 impact of the current Budget Committee budget would be if they applied equally across the functional areas. Mr.
487 Wilkerson said he wanted it to be clear that these are not cuts recommended by the School District.

488
489
490 **MOTION:** (Abare/Grant) To accept the reconsideration budget of \$41,670,269 which is an increase of
491 \$101,576.

492 **ROLL-CALL VOTE:** Mr. Grant - YES
493 Ms. Ryan - YES
494 Mr. Haberlen - YES
495 Mr. Abare - YES
496 Mr. Wilkerson - YES
497 Mr. Croteau - YES
498 Mr. Sherman - YES
499 Mr. Smith - YES
500 Ms. Bressette - YES
501 (9-0-0) The motion passed.
502

503
504 Ms. Bressette said the Budget Committee needs to identify the areas from which the \$701,184 line cuts would
505 come.
506

507 Ms. Bressette said if the Budget Committee went with the cuts that were proposed on November 16th, 2023, they
508 would total \$450,167, and at this point, they would need to provide additional line cuts for \$251,017.
509

510 Ms. Bressette identified the areas that would receive the budget cuts she proposed:

511 Special Education: \$250,000
512 Truck: \$58,000
513 Team Leaders Department Head Deans: \$14,813
514 PMS Shirts: \$500
515 PES Desk/Chairs/Broken Furniture: 18,219
516 PES SEL Furniture: \$3,000
517 PES School Admin Furniture: \$2,500
518 PHS Ground Supplies: \$2,000
519 Take Home Devices: \$750
520 PHS Café Tables: \$2,200
521 PHS Digital Cameras: \$1,100
522 PHS Vinyl Cutter Supplies: \$1,000
523 Admin Supplies: \$800
524 Building Service Overtime: \$4,000
525 PMS Cheer Mats: \$10,000
526 PMS Building Services Overtime: \$3,000
527 PMS Equipment: \$11,000
528 PMS Furniture: \$4,500
529 PES Office Furniture: \$1,000
530 PHS Furniture Replacement: \$4,785
531 PHS Art Supplies: \$5,000
532 PHS Co-Curricular: \$1,000
533 IA Positions: \$51,000
534

535 Ms. Bressette said these budget cuts would total \$450,167. Ms. Bressette stated the Committee needed to identify
536 line cuts for an additional \$251,017 to total \$701,184.

537
538
539 **MOTION:** (Wilkerson/Sherman) To accept the line-item cuts of \$450,167 made by the Chair to be
540 applied to the Budget Committee’s Budget.

541 **ROLL-CALL VOTE:** Mr. Grant - YES
542 Ms. Ryan - YES
543 Mr. Haberlen - YES
544 Mr. Abare - YES
545 Mr. Wilkerson - YES
546 Mr. Croteau - YES
547 Mr. Sherman - YES
548 Mr. Smith - YES
549 Ms. Bressette - YES
550 (9-0-0) The motion passed.

551
552
553 Ms. Bressette stated the current budget is now at \$41,318,286. Ms. Mahoney calculated that total to be a .61%
554 increase over last year’s budget.

555
556
557 **MOTION:** (Sherman/Smith) To approve the School Budget for \$41,318,286.

558 **ROLL-CALL VOTE:** Mr. Grant - YES
559 Ms. Ryan - YES
560 Mr. Haberlen - YES
561 Mr. Abare - YES
562 Mr. Wilkerson - YES
563 Mr. Croteau - YES
564 Mr. Sherman - YES
565 Mr. Smith - YES
566 Ms. Bressette - YES
567 (9-0-0) The motion passed.

568
569
570 Vote School Warrant Article 1

571 Ms. Bressette read the School Warrant Article 1 Operating Budget into the record.

572
573 *Shall the Pelham School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by*
574 *special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted*
575 *with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session of the annual school district meeting, for the purposes*
576 *set forth herein, totaling Forty Million, Three-Hundred Eighteen Thousand, Two-Hundred Eighty-Six Dollars*
577 *(\$41,318,286). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Forty-One Million, Five Hundred Three*
578 *Thousand, Four Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$41,503,442), which is the same as last year, with certain*
579 *adjustments required by previous action of the Pelham School District or by law; or the Pelham School Board*
580 *may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised*
581 *operating budget only. (Majority vote required) Not Recommended by the School Board (1-3-0) Recommended by*
582 *the Budget Committee (5-4-0).*

583
584
585 **ROLL-CALL VOTE:** Mr. Grant - NO

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday, January 11th, 2024

586 Ms. Ryan - NO
587 Mr. Haberlen - YES
588 Mr. Abare - YES
589 Mr. Wilkerson - NO
590 Mr. Croteau - YES
591 Mr. Sherman - NO
592 Mr. Smith - YES
593 Ms. Bressette - YES
594 (5-4-0) The motion passed.

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597 Mr. Sherman announced that four positions on the Budget Committee will be on the ballot and there is an
598 opportunity for anyone who would like to join. Ms. Bressette added that there are three seats for three years and
599 one seat for one year open.

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602 **FUTURE BUSINESS**

603 Ms. Bressette said Deliberative Sessions are to be held on February 6 (Town) & 7 (School), 2024.

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606 **ADJOURNMENT**

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609 **MOTION:** (Sherman/Smith) To adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:30 PM.

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

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613 Respectively Submitted,
614 Heidi Zagorski
615 Recording Secretary