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APPROVED
TOWN OF PELHAM
BUDGET COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 22, 2016
APPROVED – September 12, 2016

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CALL TO ORDER – at approximately 7:30pm

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PRESENT: Mr. Daniel Guimond, Mr. David Cate, Mr. David Cronin, Mr. Bob Sherman, Ms. Daryle Hillsgrove, Mr. Michael Bilby, School Board Representative Megan Larson, BOS Representative Amy Spencer. Also present was BOS Alternate Representative Doug Viger and Town Administrator Brian McCarthy

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ABSENT: None.

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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BUSINESS

Possible By-Law Changes

Mr. Guimond explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss a possible amendment to the By-Laws, under Section VI,D – Quorum, which reads that a quorum shall consist of a majority of six (6) members of the Budget Committee including the appointed members from the Board of Selectmen and School Board.

MOTION: (Spencer/Cate) To discuss whether to reduce the number of people that constitutes a quorum of the Budget Committee.

VOTE: (8-0-0) The motion carried.

The concern was with only eight members if anyone was absent, or had to abstain the Board may not be able to hold a meeting or conduct business. An example of this was both Mr. Guimond and Mr. Cate abstain during certain School votes as both of their wives work in the School District. During those meetings, if any other member is absent, the Board would be unable to conduct business.

Ms. Spencer opposed reducing the number of people as it could create a situation where only ‘interested’ people are making the decisions, which was not the purpose of the BudCom. She stated everyone needed to try to recruit people and encourage involvement.

Mr. Viger spoke to the concern of Mr. Guimond and Mr. Cate abstaining. He noted a member had to abstain if they would gain financially by voting; however, even though they abstained, they were still counted as part of the quorum.

Ms. Larson pointed out that the BudCom schedule was flexible and allowed dates to be shifted later in the year if necessary, while still meeting required deadlines.

Ms. Spencer discussed the importance of the members having good communication. If a member was unable to attend a meeting they need to contact both Mr. Guimond and Mr. Cate. It was understood that emergencies and/or family obligations arise from time to time.

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Mr. Sherman noted land use boards have alternate members and questioned if that was possible for the BudCom. Mr. Viger believed only certain types of boards were allowed alternate members. Mr. Cronin questioned how the BudCom was organized and if changing the number of members required a vote at Town Meeting. Mr. McCarthy referred to the RSA and will contact the New Hampshire Municipal Association for clarification.

The Board discussed and were agreeable to pursuing an answer whether there could be alternate members. Ms. Larson felt it was important to have regular members present on vote nights. There was a brief discussion about having longer meetings on nights when the Board knew they would have a quorum. They also discussed consolidating meetings. It was noted the Town review consists of six presentation meetings, one review night and one night for voting. The School consists of four presentation meetings, one review night and one night for voting. For the upcoming budget season Mr. Guimond understood that warrant article review for the Town and School could be done in one night as neither were submitting very many articles.

After further discussion the Board agreed to consolidate the Monday and Thursday meetings into one meeting on Monday. Thursday would be at the call of the chair in the event of a lack of quorum, inclement weather, etc. Meetings will begin at 7:30pm. Mr. Guimond and Mr. Cate will create a consolidated schedule for review and public posting. Each of the public notices will list Thursday as the alternate meeting date.

MOTION: (Spencer/Cate) To consolidate the Monday and Thursday meeting schedule into Monday only meeting nights, holding Thursday as an alternate meeting date.

VOTE: (8-0-0) The motion carried.

Mr. Sherman noted there were some Monday holidays. In reviewing the proposed schedule, Mr. Guimond saw that the Columbus Day holiday fell on the weeks off between the Town and School budget reviews, so there wouldn't be a conflict.

The Board agreed that the By-Laws would not change at this time. They discussed how to advertise the open positions, such as through the School newsletter, Citizen Observer, Library newsletter and posting at the Hobbs Community Center (fka Pelham Senior Center).

The Board asked Mr. McCarthy to check the statutes and research whether there could be alternate members appointed to the Board. Mr. McCarthy stated he would contact the New Hampshire Municipal Association. If the Board is allowed alternates, they will consider a warrant article for such at Town Meeting.

The Board will conduct the Town site walk September 10, 2016 and the School site walk September 24, 2016. The first budget review meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Sherman/Cate) To adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: (8-0-0) The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:03pm.

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Respectfully submitted,
Charity A. Landry
Recording Secretary