

## Budget Reconsideration Meeting, 1/12/2023

Thank you everyone for your time and commitment to our town and for giving me the opportunity to speak tonight.

As a family living on a fixed income, we are concerned about inflation, high taxes and the town and school budget

As background, my husband and I built our accessible home here in Pelham for our sons almost 19 years ago. Because we were homeschooling the School Board rejected our pleas for PT and OT even though Debbie Bergeron's salary was already paid by the school and she had time to treat Ben and Sam.

My husband worked 60-70 hours per week to provide for our family, but he passed away in January of 2012, 11 years ago last week.

I have spent most of his life insurance and we are living mostly on a fixed income.

Ben and Sam need 7/24 care for all aspects of daily living, and I am their primary caregiver. I was recently told by the owner of a home health care company that I'd have a better chance of winning the lottery than finding a new caregiver because the state Medicaid rates only allow for \$14 per hour and no benefits.

I have been trying to get a fair disability property tax exemption from the town of Pelham for years. Once our home was reassessed and our taxes went up exponentially this year, I asked again. Since our home was reassessed, the eligible improvements which make our home accessible for Ben and Sam were supposed to be reassessed as well.

Last year I asked to meet with the Selectman and was told by Chief Roark that I was not allowed to attend/speak at the meeting. He suggested I file an appeal with the NH Board of Land and Tax Appeals which I have done.

I have a court date of February 9<sup>th</sup>. The town of Pelham would rather spend our legal resources taking me, a widow with two severely disabled adult sons, to court than to provide the necessary relief for our taxes.

I am 60 years old, and it is becoming increasingly difficult for me to care for Ben and Sam. If I lose our home, Ben and Sam will end up in a Nursing Home at the cost of about \$300,000 per year which will be paid by the state and the town through our County taxes.

Therefore, I hope you will understand if I am not in agreement with the increased budgets of the town and school.

Thank you,

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