



TOWN OF PELHAM  
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
2023 TOWN MEETING

To the inhabitants of the Town of Pelham, in the County of Hillsborough and the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs. You are hereby notified of the following annual **Town Meeting schedule:**

**First Session of Annual Meeting (Deliberative)**

You are hereby notified to meet at the Sherburne Hall, 6 Village Green, Pelham, New Hampshire on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 7:00 PM. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of warrant articles numbered 2 through 16. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles, the wording of which, is prescribed by law shall not be amended and (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended.

**Second Session of Annual Town Meeting (Official Ballot Voting)**

You are hereby notified to meet again at the Pelham High School, 85 Marsh Road, Pelham, New Hampshire on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, between the hours of 7:00 AM and 8:00 PM to vote by official ballot to choose all necessary Town Officials for the ensuing year and to vote on warrant articles numbered 1 through 16.

## **Article 1**

To see what action the Town will take in the election of the following Officers: One (1) Selectman for a the term of one (1) year; Two (2) Selectmen for a term of three (3) years; Three (3) Budget Committee members for a term of three (3) years; Two (2) Cemetery Trustees for a term of three (3) years; Two (2) Library Trustees for a term of three (3) years; Two (2) Planning Board members for a term of three (3) years; One (1) Supervisor of the Checklist for a term of one (1) year; One (1) Trustee of the Trust Funds for a term of three (3) years.

## **Article 2**

Are you in favor of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Pelham to amend Pelham Zoning Article VII Section 307-41 Special Provisions to increase residential and commercial septic leach field setbacks from wetland areas from 25 feet to 50 feet from poorly drained soils and from 50 feet to 75 feet from very poorly drained soils. These changes are consistent with the State of New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules (Env-Wq 1008.04). (Recommended by the Planning Board Unanimously)

## **Article 3**

Are you in favor of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Pelham to add a new article to Pelham's Zoning Ordinance Article TBD Solar Ordinance to permit the regulation of solar energy systems and to support solar energy system usage. This ordinance will allow residential roof top solar installations less than 15KW to be permitted by right in all zoning districts and ground mounted solar systems that are 15KW or less, and 1000 square feet or less will not require Planning Board approval. Any commercial solar energy systems would require application to the Planning Board for Site Plan Review as well as a Conditional Use Permit. All solar energy systems shall obtain building and electrical permits prior to installation. (Recommended by the Planning Board Unanimously)

## **Article 4**

Are you in favor of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Pelham to add a new article to Pelham's Zoning Ordinance Article TBD Natural Resources Management Ordinance to promote and ensure the orderly development of land within the Town of Pelham to promote public health, safety, and welfare of its residents and to ensure for the future population of the Town that essential municipal services, transportation/roads, and clean water are available

and will have sufficient capacity and quality to accommodate new and future development.  
 (Recommended by the Planning Board Unanimously)

**Article 5**

Shall the Town vote to approve cost items included in the five (5) year Collective Bargaining Agreement ratified by the Board of Selectmen and the Pelham Police, Local 3657 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits and to further raise and appropriate the sum of \$114,110 to fund for the current fiscal, the first year of this agreement, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? (Majority Vote Required) (Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9 to 0)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Cost</u>
2023	\$114,110	\$114,110
2024	\$141,763	\$255,873
2025	\$117,339	\$373,212
2026	\$112,514	\$485,726
2027*	\$145,585	\$631,311

\*Including 3 months of 2028

**Article 6**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth herein totaling Twenty-One Million, One Hundred and Seventy-Eight Thousand, Four Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$21,178,495)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Nineteen Million, Nine Hundred and Forty-Three Thousand, Eight-Hundred and Ninety-Eight Dollars (\$19,943,898) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9 to 0)

<u>Department</u>	<u>Selectmen</u>	<u>Budcom</u>
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	<b><u>2023 Approved</u></b>	<b><u>2023 Approved</u></b>
Assessor	\$229,193	\$229,193
Budget Committee	\$2	\$2
Cable Department	\$172,837	\$172,837
Cemetery	\$177,573	\$177,573
Conservation	\$10,700	\$10,700
Debt Service Interest	\$68,881	\$68,881
Debt Service Principal	\$487,416	\$487,416
Elections	\$18,143	\$18,143
Emergency Management	\$10,673	\$10,673
Fire Department	\$2,918,972	\$2,918,972
Health Officer	\$87,956	\$87,956
Health Services	\$73,700	\$73,700
Highway Maintenance	\$2,254,522	\$2,254,522
Human Services	\$75,640	\$75,640
Insurance	\$3,170,326	\$3,170,326
Legal	\$96,000	\$96,000
Library	\$566,655	\$536,656
Parks & Recreation	\$294,414	\$294,414
Planning Dept	\$571,215	\$571,215
Police Department	\$3,734,042	\$3,703,059
Retirement	\$2,421,463	\$2,421,463
Selectmen	\$670,604	\$670,604
Senior Center	\$193,338	\$193,338
Technology	\$374,401	\$374,401
Town Buildings	\$890,764	\$890,764
Town Celebrations	\$24,960	\$24,960
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$319,683	\$319,683
Transfer	\$1,309,845	\$1,309,845
Treasurer	\$15,224	\$15,224
Trust Funds	\$335	\$335

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,239,477</b>	<b>\$21,178,495</b>

**Article 7**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Forty-Three Thousand, Six Hundred Seventy-One Dollars (\$343,671) for repair, maintenance, purchase of equipment and upgrading of Town roads, to be offset by the State Highway Grant? This will be a non-lapsing account per RSA 32:7, IV. No money to be raised by taxation. (Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 4 to 0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9 to 0)

**Article 8**

Shall the Town vote to establish, as Town Forests, pursuant to RSA 31:110-113, the following parcels: tax map 31 lots 11-32, 11-34, and 11-35 (formerly owned by Kleczkowski) and add them to the abutting Blueberry Circle Town Forest? The enlarged Town Forest will total approximately 57 acres. No tax impact. (Majority Vote Required) (Recommended by Forestry Committee) (Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 4 to 1)

**Article 9**

Shall the Town of Pelham vote to modify the current solar energy exemption pursuant to RSA 72:62 up to 100% of the assessed value of the qualifying equipment as defined in RSA 72:61?

72:61 Definition of Solar Energy Systems. – I. For purposes of an exemption under RSA 72:62 adopted before January 1, 2020, in this subdivision "solar energy system" means a system which utilizes solar energy to heat or cool the interior of a building or to heat water for use in a building and which includes one or more collectors and a storage container. "Solar energy system" also means a system which provides electricity for a building using photovoltaic panels. (Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 2)

**Article 10**

Shall the Town vote pursuant to RSA 72:39-a and 72:39-b to modify the current Elderly Exemption and Income limits from property tax in the Town of Pelham for qualified taxpayers as follows:

For persons aged 65 to include 74 years of age: \$114,000

For persons 75 to including 79 years of age: \$ 164,000

For persons 80 years and above: \$ 212,000

In addition, a qualified taxpayer must have an annual net income of not more than \$48,000 if single and not more than a combined net income of \$58,000 if married and own assets (excluding the value of the person's residence) not more than \$250,000. (Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0)

### **Article 11**

Shall the Town of Pelham vote to modify the current blind exemption per RSA 72:37 from \$15,000 to \$57,800? (Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0)

### **Article 12**

Shall the Town of Pelham re-adopt the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit of \$500 pursuant to RSA 72:28, II to include individuals who have not yet been discharged from service in the armed forces? (Recommended by Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0)

### **Article 13**

Shall the Town of Pelham re-adopt the All Veterans' Tax Credit of \$500 pursuant to RSA 72:28-b to include individuals who have not yet been discharged from service in the armed forces? (Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 4 to 1)

### **Article 14**

Shall the Town of Pelham vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:81 and enable the Town to grant tax exemptions for new construction performed on commercial or industrial uses. The intent of the exemption authority is to provide incentives to businesses to build, rebuild, modernize, or enlarge within the municipality. The exemption shall apply only for municipal and local school property taxes assessed by the municipality. The exemption will not apply to the entirety of the property value, but only to any increase in assessment which results from the new construction. The period of time for which the property is eligible for exemption is ten years.

The percentage of authorized exemption is as follows:

Year 1 to Year 5, 50% of the increased assessment value as described above;

Year 6, 40% of the increased assessment value as described above;

Year 7, 30% of the increased assessment value as described above;

Year 8, 20% of the increased assessment value as described above;

Year 9 and Year 10, 10% of the increased assessment value as described above;

For purposes of this exemption, the term "new construction" shall mean new structures, or additions, renovations, or improvements to existing structures.

For purposes of this exemption, the term "commercial" shall include retail, wholesale, service and similar uses and the term "industrial" shall mean manufacturing and heavy manufacturing, consumable manufactured goods, lumberyard, timber activities, recycling facility (household wastes), veterinary and large veterinary hospital, and warehouse.

If adopted, this Warrant Article will become effective April 1, 2023 and will remain in effect for five (5) years. (Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 2)

### **Article 15**

Shall the Town vote to expand the current established Water Utility District from those properties that are adjacent to and within five hundred feet (500') of the following two water main line extensions: 1) an extension of the existing Marsh Road water line beyond Pelham High School along Marsh Road to the Intersection of Mammoth Road; and 2) an extension of the existing Pennichuck water line beginning at the Nashua Road/Main Street intersection, traveling East along Main Street to the intersection of Bridge Street, and then extending down Bridge Street to the Dracut town line to the entire Town of Pelham, New Hampshire per NH RSA 31:134-149; and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint up to two (2) alternate members for a term of two (2) years to the five (5) member Water Commission? (Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0)

### **Petition Article 16**

Shall the Town vote to adopt the following provision pertaining to elections:

Any and all town or school board regular or special election voting shall be by paper ballot only and all ballots shall be hand counted. The use of any and all electronic ballot counting devices shall immediately cease and are prohibited for all voting purposes. This removes any and perceived or actual authority under RSA 656:40 for selectmen or any other governing body of the Town of Pelham, NH to approve on a trial or permanent basis the leasing, use or experimentation of any electronic ballot counting devices. (Not recommended by Selectmen)

Given under our hands this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023

Heather Corbett, Chair



Jaie Bergeron, Vice Chair



Kevin Cote, Selectman



Charlene Takesian, Selectman

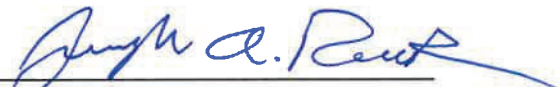


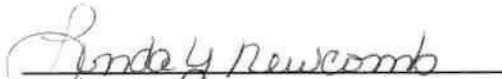
Jason Croteau, Selectman



I, the undersigned, Joseph A. Roark, serving as the Town Administrator, do hereby certify that on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023, I did post signed copies of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant at the Pelham Town Hall, located at 6 Village Green and the Pelham High School, located at 85 Marsh Road and at the Pelham Public Library, located at 24 Village Green of said Town.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joseph A. Roark, Town Administrator

  
Linda Newcomb, Notary Public

**LINDA Y NEWCOMB**  
**NOTARY PUBLIC - State of New Hampshire**  
**My Commission Expires**  
**September 7, 2027**