



## 2021 Voter's Guide

The Board of Selectmen are pleased to present our residents with the Voter's Guide to assist all voters who plan to visit the polls on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at Pelham High School between the hours of 7:00am and 8:00pm. Please note that voter turnout can be quite high during peak hours, so be sure to follow posted directions and traffic patterns to ensure the safety of all parties. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, **masks are mandatory at the polls for your safety, as well as for the safety of others.**

The purpose of this guide is to help you, the voter, make informed decisions as you cast your ballot. The way the Town operates and how much it spends is determined by you, the voters. Please note that the State's "No means no" law prohibits the Town from spending any funds for the purposes described in the articles you are voting on, should the majority vote "no". The sole exemption is Article 4, the Town Budget. Please refer to Article 4 for explanation.

We strongly encourage you to vote on March 9, 2021 and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued civic participation and to remind you that, regardless of outcome, we move forward together, as the Town of Pelham.

Sincerely,

*Pelham Board of Selectmen*

Robert Haverty, Chair - 2023

Heather Forde, Vice Chair - 2021

Kevin Cote - 2022

Hal Lynde – 2022

Jaie Bergeron - 2023

**Town of Pelham  
State of New Hampshire  
2021 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 2, 2021 at 7:00pm. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of warrant articles numbered 2-9. 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 9, 2021 between the hours of 7:00am and 8:00pm to vote by official ballot to choose all necessary town officials for the ensuing year and to vote on warrant articles numbered 1-9.

## **-A Citizen’s Guide to Understanding Terms-**

**Appropriations:** A sum of money or total of assets devoted to a specific purpose.

**Article:** Individual numbered items within the warrant.

**Budget Committee:** An elected body of eleven (11) individuals which reviews and elects to approve or not approve all town and school budgets, as well as any and all articles involving the expenditure of funds. The budgets presented are prepared by the Budget Committee.

**CBA:** A Collective Bargaining Agreement is a contract between a group of employees (police, fire, or other municipal employees) and the Board of Selectmen, cost items of which are approved by the voters.

**Capital Reserve Fund:** Essentially a “savings account” created by action of a prior town meeting vote into which funds are placed for a designated purpose, but limited to capital expenditures- such as a piece of major equipment, building, etc.

**Conservation Commission:** A group of appointed officials tasked with “the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources of the Town, per RSA 36-A:2.

**Forestry Committee:** An appointed group of five (5) members who volunteer to plan, preserve, and protect public, forested lands (forests, parks, open space, water courses, wetlands) and the wildlife therein. They often work in conjunction with the Conservation Committee, Planning, the Board of Selectmen, as well as with Parks and Recreation.

**Map/Lot:** This designated the exact location of a parcel of land on the Town tax map.

**Non-Capital Reserve Fund:** The same “savings account” concept as a capital reserve fund, but not specifically tied to buildings or equipment.

**RSA:** Refers to a state law- **R**evised **S**tatute **A**nnnotated. These laws can be found on the State of New Hampshire’s website under “Laws and Rules”

**Special Warrant Article:** As provided in State law, this designation identifies any appropriation in the article as non-lapsing (having no expiration date) and non-transferable (not to be used for anything other than the specific expressed purpose).

**Unassigned Fund Balance:** The accumulation of revenues over expenditures, accrued over the years. It can be used for any purpose voted on by the Board of Selectmen (with app and has been used to offset tax increases as well as to offset the cost of “big ticket” projects, such as the fire station.

**Warrant:** The official legal name for a group of articles presented to the voters.

## **2021 Town Warrant**

### **Article 1**

To see what action the Town will take in the election of the following Officers: one (1) Selectman for a term of three (3) years; one (1) Cemetery Trustees for a term of three (3) years; one (1) Trustee of the Trust Funds for a term of three (3) years; one (1) Library Trustees for a term of three (3) years; three (3) Budget Committee Members for a term of three (3) years: and two (2) Planning Board Members for a term of three (3) years.

### **Article 2**

Are you in favor of Zoning Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Pelham Planning Board to add to Pelham zoning and entirely new ordinance, Article XV RESIDENTIAL OPEN SPACE SUBDIVISION BY SPECIAL PERMIT? The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the conservation of undeveloped land, limit the length of new roads to minimize the impact of their future and ongoing maintenance, preserve the rural character of the town, provide an alternative option for landowners to conserve open space from development while minimizing impacts on environmental resources, to provide for connected corridors of open land, to conserve scenic views and to provide design flexibility. This ordinance requires a yield plan that limits the number of homes in any Open Space subdivision to the number of homes that would be allowed in a conventional subdivision with no allowance for additional homes beyond the density determined in the yield plan. Lot size would be a minimum of 30,000 square feet with 125 feet of frontage required on interior roads and 40% of the land area kept as open space. (Recommended by the Planning Board) (Supported by Conservation Commission)

***Article 2 Explanation: The purpose of this amendment is to replace the previous ordinance pertaining to Conservation Subdivisions, which were voted down in the March 2020 Town Meeting. The primary changes are as follows:***

- No bonus lots for density.***
- Increase the minimum lot size to 7/10 acre, 125' frontage.***

*A yes vote would implement this ordinance and allow the planning board a vehicle to preserve open space while allowing for innovative development that meets the towns needs while ensuring adequate land area for new homeowners while observing the property rights of the existing landowners.*

*A no vote will leave the town with only the “Conventional Subdivision” as a development option.*

**Article 3**

Are you in favor of Zoning Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Pelham Planning Board to clarify the allowed uses as shown in Section 307-25-3, table of allowed uses in the existing MUZD ordinance? The added language clarifies that only one single-family, duplex, or multi-family residential structure is allowed per lot and that multiple mixed-use (business and residential) structures are allowed per lot. The new language also identifies the ordinance as an innovative land use ordinance that gives the Planning Board broad approval authority to consider mixed-use projects submitted under this ordinance. (Recommended by the Planning Board)

***Article 3 Explanation:*** *The purpose of this amendment is to clarify language pertaining to the numbers of residential structures allowed in the MUZD. A yes vote will codify this clarification, alleviating questions and limiting interpretations by applicants. A no vote will result in the existing language remaining. Below, is the table listed in the warrant. (The first 2 rows are the uses in the warrant).*

Allowed Uses*	
One Single, Duplex or Multi-family Residential Structure Per Lot	Bakeries
Multiple Mixed-Use (Business and Residential) Structures Per Lot	Financial Services
Accessory Dwellings	Churches
Assisted Living Home or Group Home	Civic Institutions
Professional Offices	Family Entertainment
Book Stores	Retail (under 10K sq. ft.)
Artist Live/Work/Gallery Space	Parking
Research and Development	Health/fitness Clubs
Artisan/Craft/Antique/Consignment Shops	Spas
Educational Facilities	Banks with or without drive-thru windows and Attached or stand-alone ATMs
Museums	Banquet/function Halls

Childcare Facilities	Farm Stands
Medical Offices	<i>Existing accessory dwelling units (in-law apartments) within the MUZD may be used as market rentals without limitation to family members or caregivers, subject to demonstration of septic capacity necessary to support increased residential use.</i>
Parks	
Lodges/Clubs	
Veterinarians' Offices	
Restaurants	
Bed and Breakfasts	
<b>*ANY USES NOT LISTED ABOVE ARE PROHIBITED WITHIN THE MUZD</b>	

#### **Article 4**

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 within the warrant od as amended by cote of the first session, for the purposes set forth herein totaling Eighteen Million, One Hundred and Fifty-sic Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eighty-nine dollars (\$18,156,889)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Eighteen Million, Once Hundred and Fifteen Thousand, Three-Hundred and Thirty-six Dollars (\$18,115,336) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; of the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issues of a revised operating budget only. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

<b>Department</b>	<b>Selectmen 2021 Approved</b>	<b>BudCom 2021 Approved</b>
Assessor	\$228,722	\$228,722
Budget Committee	\$1	\$2
Cable Department	\$150,603	\$150,603
Cemetery	\$162,266	\$161,966
Conservation	\$5,989	\$5,989
Debt Service Interest	\$70,982	\$70,982
Debt Service Principal	\$540,642	\$540,642
Elections	\$16,283	\$16,283
Emergency Management	\$8,913	\$8,913
Fire Department	\$2,647,234	\$2,646,310
Health Officer	\$45,916	\$45,916
Health Services	\$73,700	\$73,700
Highway Maintenance	\$1,814,976	\$1,814,694
Human Services	\$73,820	\$73,820

Insurance	\$2,637,815	\$2,637,814
Legal	\$96,000	\$96,000
Library	\$543,000	\$547,000
Parks & Recreation	\$265,816	\$265,676
Planning Dept	\$535,804	\$535,644
Police Department	\$3,467,666	\$3,433,536
Retirement	\$2,093,332	\$2,093,332
Selectmen	\$530,324	\$530,324
Senior Center	\$161,861	\$161,165
Technology	\$171,368	\$171,368
Town Buildings	\$625,337	\$625,337
Town Celebrations	\$9,260	\$9,260
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$274,441	\$274,441
Transfer	\$922,146	\$922,050
Treasurer	\$15,249	\$15,249
Trust Funds	\$150	\$150
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,189,616</b>	<b>\$18,156,889</b>

***Article 4 Explanation:*** This is the operating budget which the Budget Committee is requesting to support all activities of Town government for 2021. Should this budget vote fail, state law allows a default budget to be established automatically rather than have no budget at all. The budget approved by the budget committee is \$18,156,889. The default budget is \$18,115,336, which is last year's budget plus the dollar amount needed to cover previously voted on warrant articles and contractual increases.

**Article 5**

Shall the Town vote to add the following two (2) parcels to the Cutler Spaulding Town Forest pursuant to the RSA 31:110-113: Map 32 Lot 2-69 totaling approximately 16.62 acres? No tax impact. (Majority Vote Required). (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Recommended by the Conservation Commission)

***Article 5 Explanation:*** This article places the following parcels of land under the management of the Forestry Committee. 2-69-3 (This parcel contains the wetlands on the east side of the class V end of Spaulding Hill Road) 2-69 (This parcel sits across the street, on the west side of the class V end of Spaulding Hill Road)

## **Article 6**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and Ninety-five Thousand Dollars (\$295,000) for the purpose of purchasing and equipping at ambulance and authorize the Selectmen to withdraw Two Hundred and Ninety-five Thousand Dollars (\$295,000) from the Ambulance Replacement Revolving Fund established by the 2006 Town Meeting and amended in 2014 by Town Meeting for this purpose. No amount will be raised through taxation. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

***Article 6 Explanation: The Fire Department is looking to replace a 2009 GMC 4500 that is no longer in production as a vehicle model. If this article passes, the Town will have its new ambulance delivered in late 2021, given the lengthy construction time. Approving this article will have no impact on the tax rate, because funds have already been appropriated through the Ambulance Fund Revolving Account, which generates its funds from past ambulance revenues, for example, the 907 calls that ambulances responded to in 2019.***

## **Article 7**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Twenty Thousand, Seven Hundred Sixty-eight Dollars (\$320,768) 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 Board of Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

***Article 7 Explanation: This is grant from the state. It is funded by state gasoline taxes. The Town uses the funds to improve town roads and to purchase and maintain highway equipment. This has no impact on local property taxes.***

## **Article 8**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) to be placed in the Compensated Absence Trust Fund for the purpose of distributing accrued time (annual earned and paid time off) to terminated employees as required by law or negotiated contracts? (Majority Vote Required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

***Article 8 Explanation: The Town is legally obligated to keep a balance of 50% of the Towns liability in the Compensated Absence Fund. The sum requested will allow the Town to replaced expended funds (due to retirements & employees who***

*have left our employment) and fund this legal standard. By appropriating this money for the Compensated Absence Fund, the Town is assured of having sufficient funds to cover its obligations.*

**Article 9**

Are you in favor of repealing, in its entirety, the provision of RSA 41:14-b, that was created by Article 21 of the 2017 Town Warrant, passed at the March 2017 Town Election, “which authorizes the Selectmen to establish and amend certain Town codes and ordinances after they hold 2 public hearings on the establishment or amendment of the ordinance or code, provided however, upon the written petitions of 50 registered voters presented to the Selectmen, prior to their vote on the establishment of amendment to the ordinance or code, or the issues shall be instead inserted as an article on the warrant at the next Town meeting. The authority to establish or amend Town ordinances or building codes, which are governed by the rules RSA 675?” a yes vote would give any and all voting rights back to the town. (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

**Article 9 Explanation:**

*We do not explain petition articles because we do not always know with accuracy what was in the mind of the petitioners. There is some risk the explanation is inaccurate or lacking in some important points the petitioners feel should be emphasized.*

Given under our hands this 25th day of January 2021

Robert Haverty, Chair

Heather Forde, Vice Chair

Hal Lynde, Selectman

Kevin Cote, Selectman

Jaie Bergeron, Selectman

# Notes

# Notes

Board of Selectmen  
6 Village Green  
Pelham, NH 03076

Standard Mail  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Pelham, NH 03076  
Permit #6

Current Resident  
Pelham, NH 03076