**Joint Board of Selectmen & Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

**2/27/2017, 6:30PM, Rhodes Building**

**Present:** Roy Regozin, Michael Hussin, Emily Marriot, Finance Committee members-John Trickey, Fred Vanderbeck, & Jay Leonard, Select Board members-Bill Martell, Alisa Pearson & Karen Ribeiro, Anne Hazard, Georganne Greene, Roger Conant, Pedro Levy, Town Clerk-Kathy Martell, and Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant-Susannah Carey.

**Absent**: Tara Loomis

**Open:** Selectman Martell opened the meeting at 6:30PM.

**Minutes**

On a motion by Selectman Pearson to accept the minutes from 2/13/2017 with corrections, seconded by Selectman Martell, unanimously approved.

**Budget Discussion with Finance Committee**

The Select Board viewed the budget document prepared by Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant. On a motion by Selectman Pearson to accept the budget spreadsheet for the Select Board/Town Offices, seconded by Selectman Martell, Selectman Ribeiro abstains, motion passes.

**Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion School Expansion**

The Select Board viewed several documents from ARPS Finance Director-Sean Mangano, Acting Superintendent of Amherst-Pelham Schools-Michael Morris, and Town of Amherst Board of Selectmen Chair-Alisa Brewer. The responses in all of the correspondences stated the displeasure at the recent request and included Board votes against the Charter School expansion. The Pelham Selectmen would like to draft a letter stating their disapproval of the expansion to the Board of Education in Malden, MA. On a motion by Selectman Pearson to write a letter to the Board of Education, seconded by Selectman Martell, unanimously approved. The Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant will compile a letter.

**Regional Assessment Document**

Sean Mangano sent document for Board of Selectman Chair to sign regarding a new Regional Assessment Principles Method. The Pelham Finance Committee and the Pelham School Committee support this document and direction. On a motion by Selectman Pearson to sign the Regional Assessment Principles Method, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved.

**Safe Communities Act, House Bill 3052**

Members from the Neighbor to Neighbor group in Pelham (Michael Hussin, Georganne Greene, Roger Conant) discussed adding the Safe Communities Act, formally the Sanctuaries Movement, as a warrant article for Spring Town Meeting. The group collected the required 10 signatures for the Select Board’s consideration to add to the warrant. The Act is currently pending in the State of Massachusetts. If the Select Board votes against the document regarding the Safe Communities Act, the Neighbor to Neighbor group can still obtain 100 signatures to have it added by March 9, 2017. The Board of Selectmen members agreed to add to the Spring Town Meeting warrant, but not to endorse. Once added, no edits can be made to the language on the document presented tonight. The Neighbor to Neighbor group would like to create a town-wide forum for discussion opportunities for Pelham residents. Solomon Goldstein-Rose supports this Act while Governor Baker opposes. On a motion by Selectman Pearson to add the Safe Communities Act document to the Spring Town Meeting Warrant, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved.

**New Warrant Article for Spring Town Meeting – Emily Marriott**

Resident and School Committee member, Emily Marriott, would like to change the date of the Annual Town Meeting from the 1st Saturday in May to the 2nd Saturday in May. The pride parade in Northampton happens the 1st weekend in May. Emily has gathered the required 10 signatures for the warrant article up for consideration. Selectman Martell stated that in the Code of the Town of Pelham the Annual Town Meeting already states that the meeting can be either the first or second Saturday in May. The Annual Town Meeting for 2017 will still be held the first Saturday in May-no change. If the Board of Selectmen reject the article submitted and don’t create a new one, then the Annual Town Meeting will need to be voted on every year to ensure its on the second Saturday in May. With Board/Committee members changing there is a chance that the meeting could refer back to the first Saturday of May.

On a motion by Selectman Ribeiro to reject the submitted warrant article by Emily Marriott, seconded by Selectman Pearson, unanimously approved.

A new warrant article was created for the 2017 Annual Town Meeting Warrant by the Board of Selectmen:

*“To see if the Town will vote to hold the Annual Town Meeting on the second Saturday in May, or take any other action relative thereto.”*

On a motion by Selectman Martell to use the newly created warrant article stating that Town Meeting shall be held on the second Saturday in May, seconded by Selectman Pearson, unanimously approved.

**Eversource Letter for Electric Pole at 55 Arnold Road**

The Select Board received a request from Eversource to put a new electric pole with transformer in place at 55 Arnold Road; previously discussed at meeting on 2/27/17. On a motion by Selectman Pearson to accept and sign the request from Eversource, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved.

**Pipeline Letter – Selectman Pearson**

Letter to Speaker DeLeo, Senate President Rosenberg, and Members of the Massachusetts Legislature stating to stay united on the decision made to reject the proposed “pipeline tax” during the Legislatures last session. Selectman Pearson wanted to share with the Board of Selectmen to flag the current pipeline issue facing our nation. Selectman Martell stated that the Board of Selectmen is signing and not the Town. On a motion by Selectman Pearson to sign the letter, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved.

**Town Officials**

Town Clerk, Kathy Martell, mentioned that she and the Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant applied for Pelham to become a part of the Community Compact Cabinet Best Practice Program offered by the State. This is the first step in being able to apply for other grant money related to website upgrade and/or digitization of records. The Lieutenant Governor’s office will prepare the signing and will come out to Pelham to officially award the Town, once the DLS (Division of Local Services) is notified to move Pelham’s application forward. Pelham would in turn be eligible to apply for either the IT Grant program and/or Efficiency & Regionalization Grant program. IT Grant program applications accepted between March 1, 2017 and April 1, 2017. The conference call discussed what kind of grants/money Pelham was looking for; website & record digitizing program; and recommendations as well as suggestions when applying. The recommendation would be for Pelham to receive a 1 time cost to get the website started. The amount of funding available ranges from $5-$7k and possible vendors would be recommended for the Town to choose what works best. The Laserfiche program to digitize records did not receive as much enthusiasm for awarded funds but the application process is through the IT Grant Program. Microfiche was recommended as an alternate program to use, which is less expensive but the information is stored on disks versus Laserfiche which is stored in cloud.

Currently the franchise fee account has around $22k. Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant is waiting for quote for new computers for Town Clerk and Collector/Treasurer from Tech 1. Selectmen would like a list with prices for what the RAO position needs; computer, desk, printer, etc; for next meeting so the Town Clerk can begin purchasing.

**Public Comment**

Roy Regozin, 116 Harkness Road, presented the Select Board with a warrant article for Spring Annual Town Meeting. The article had the required 10 signatures needed for consideration by the Board. The document was a Resolution in support of Congressional Investigation regarding Impeachment of President Donald J. Trump. The Select Board agreed that it would be important to have input on the issue at Town Meeting. Town of Amherst and Leverett have similar resolutions. On a motion by Selectman Ribeiro to add the resolution to the Spring Town Meeting warrant, seconded by Selectman Pearson, unanimously approved.

**Liaison Reports**

Highway-Selectman Martell; none.

Town Offices-none.

Fire Department-Selectman Martell; nothing new.

Police Department-Selectman Martell; none.

Energy Committee-Selectman Pearson; Final Green Communities Grant Report accepted, remaining funds will be disbursed.

Finance Committee-Selectman Martell; budget meetings continuing tonight.

Library-Selectman Pearson; Library received Stem grant for $150.00. Working on budget.

Elementary School-Selectman Pearson; more info after upcoming School Committee meeting on Wednesday.

Regional School-nothing new.

**Old Business**

Selectman Ribeiro wanted to discuss the Community Choice Aggregation. She has spoken with Sinead Connor at HCOG and she mentioned that all municipalities work through brokers like Colonial Power or Good Energy rather than directly with HCOG. Selectman Ribeiro would like to look into getting rates directly from HCOG; seems to be a shorter term offered through HCOG; and to shorten the contract with Colonial Power. Having a broker and say in how power is generated for Pelham would have a huge impact on residents in Pelham. She is interested in promoting 100% renewable energy, as the rate right now is lower than the basic Eversource rate. Selectman Pearson stated that the Energy Committee will likely be hosting Paul Fenn of Local power to educate residents about types and costs of products; electric, gas, solar; which interests Selectman Ribeiro. She will be contacting Ms. Connor at HCOG for more information. Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant will forward Attorney Doneski’s comments on contract to Selectman Ribeiro once an email has been established for Selectman Ribeiro. The Aggregation will be added as an agenda item for meeting in March 15, 2017.

**New Business**

Board of Selectmen voted to reorganize positions. On a motion by Selectman Pearson to have Bill Martell as Chair, Alisa Pearson as Vice-Chair, and Karen Ribeiro as Clerk, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved.

Board of Selectmen voted to reorganize liaisons.

On a motion by Selectman Pearson to reorganize liaisons (listed below), seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved.

Police & Fire-Selectman Martell

Town Offices & Highway-Selectman Pearson

Schools & Library-Selectman Pearson

Next Regular Selectmen’s meeting: Selectman Ribeiro has conflict with Monday evenings and Selectmen Martell suggested Wednesdays.

Wednesday March 15, 2017 at 6PM

-Agenda will include Executive Session to bring Selectman Ribeiro up to speed.

Wednesday March 29, 2017 at 6PM

-Agenda will include Executive Session at 6:30PM with Collector/Treasurer. Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant will ask what time is good for Ms. Grossman.

Monday April 3, 2017 at 6PM-meeting with Moderator to finalize ATM warrant

Wednesday April 19, 2017 at 6PM

Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant would like to compare Town’s health insurance to that offered by her spouse’s current insurance. She would like insurance through town if less expensive. Select Board approved the request and Ms. Carey will speak with John Trickey-Finance Committee, and Collector/Treasurer about budget figures.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Selectman Pearson to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Martell, unanimously approved at 9:12PM.

**Documents Examined**

Minutes 2/13/2017, Board of Selectmen/Town Office budget spreadsheet, PVCICS Expansion correspondences, Regional Assessment Principles Document, Safe Communities Act warrant article, Eversource Request for Electric Pole, Pipeline Letter, Resolution for Support of Congressional Investigation regarding Impeachment of President Donald J. Trump.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susannah Carey