**Joint School Committee & Board of Selectmen meeting minutes**

**10/24/2016, 6:00pm, Rhodes Building**

**Present:** School Committee members Tara Luce, Trevor Baptiste, Emily Marriott, and Cara Castenson, Fred Vanderbeck-Finance Committee, Gwen Hubler and Rusty Rowell-Board of Assessors, David Burgess-Town of Amherst Assessor, Select Board members Alisa Pearson and Bill Martell, Town Clerk-Kathy Martell, Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant-Susannah Carey.

**Absent:** Chairman, Jim Doubleday.

**Open**

Bill Martell opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

**Tax Classification Hearing**

Every year David Burgess meets with the Pelham Board of Selectmen to discuss and vote on the tax rate for the next year. Pelham has always chosen a single tax rate since 91% of our town is residential with 7% commercial.

Current tax rate is $21.21. The new tax rate will be sent by David Burgess to the Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant.

On a motion by Selectman Pearson to have a single tax rate in Pelham, seconded by Selectman Martell, motion passes. The Board signed the form from David.

**Minutes**

On a motion by Selectman Pearson to approve the minutes from 8/29/2016, seconded by Selectman Martell, motion passes.

**Appointment of School Committee member – 6:15pm**

Tara Luce called the School Committee to order at 6:15pm. The vacancy on the School Committee has been posted to the Town’s website for 2 weeks, governed by the Code of Pelham, and has been posted 1 week by the School Committee. Mass General Law states that the meeting is to be held jointly between the School and Board of Selectmen and to make any appointments legally by roll call majority vote at that meeting. Tonight the vote to fill the vacant position can legally be held. The Board of Selectmen can discuss applying the same policy for postings as the School Committee; 1 week; but this doesn’t have to be decided tonight and the policy will be reaffirmed at a future Select Board meeting. One person has expressed interest in the vacancy on the School Committee; Ron Mannino.

On a motion by Selectman Pearson, Aye, to appoint Ron Mannino to fill the vacancy on the School Committee until the next Annual Election in Town, seconded by Selectman Martell, Aye, motion passes.

On a motion by Tara Luce to appoint Ron Mannino to the vacant position, seconded by Trevor Baptiste, unanimously approved by all 4 current members.

Once Mr. Mannino is sworn in he is a legal member on the School Committee and will need to complete his online ethics test. Trevor Baptiste stated that the School Committee Course training is recommended but not required.

**Minutes**

On a motion by Selectman Pearson to approve the minutes from 9/26/2016, seconded by Selectman Martell, unanimously approved.

**Election Warrant for November 8, 2016**

On a motion by Selectman Pearson to sign the Election Warrant for 11/8/2016, seconded by Selectman Martell, unanimously approved. 5 copies signed and given to Town Clerk.

**Town Officials-**none.

**Public Comment**-Town Clerk stated that there were 22 people in the 1st Early Voting day on Monday 10/24/2016.

**Liaison Reports**-

Library; Selectman Pearson stated the Library Trustees will need to reschedule their meeting since there weren’t enough people for a quorum to vote on the vacant position.

School; Selectman Pearson stated the School is overbudget and sick leave was higher than anticipated. Also discussed was if there was a need for a shared Superintendent between Pelham and Amherst and should there be Legal counsel for the School Committee. More discussion to follow at next meeting on November 7th.

Fire; Selectman Martell updated that the Chief has his new vehicle.

Police; Selectman Martell said there was nothing new.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Selectman Pearson to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Martell, unanimously approved at 6:46pm.

**Documents examined**

Minutes from 8/29/2016 and 9/26/2016, Election Warrant for 11/8/2016.

Respectfully Submitted, Susannah Carey