**Board of Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**7/12/17, Rhodes Building, 6:30pm**

**Present**: Select Board members Bill Martell, Karen Ribeiro, and Alisa Pearson, Finance Committee-Fred Vanderbeck, Police Chief Gary Thomann, Conservation Commission-Kevin Hartzell, Denise Allard and Mark Cappadona-Colonial Power Group, and Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant-Susannah Carey.

Meeting opened by Selectman Martell at 6:30pm.

**Community Aggregation-Mark Cappadona**

‘SMART’ Program is an incentive in the State of MA effective in 2018 to build solar fields either in Pelham or outside town on at least 6 acres of land to deliver the supply load while adding green energy. This energy would appear on resident’s bill as a 1 cent credit, which will beat the basic Eversource rate. Sufficient energy load for Pelham is 5 million/kw/hr. This project would require commitment from Pelham for a 20 year period with the solar developer, Prairie Gold Solar in New York, and the supply contract would be with whom the Town chooses (Hampshire Power-local) for 1/3/5/10 year contract.

Residents who own solar panels on their own property right now would be eligible for the SMART program. Residents who lease their solar panels would not be able to take advantage of the credit if they needed more energy from the program offered.

Town could have the option of an independent operating lease with solar developer, Prairie Gold, then after 20 years Pelham could sign with someone else.

REC II ends in March. September 1st will have direction from MA-DOER with more definitive information. Mark Cappadona did not have anything in writing today. He will ask if the discount could be 1.5 – 2 cents instead of a penny, he will get back to the town after he has asked.

Residents would be automatically enrolled in program unless they choose to opt out; postcard mailer.

Pelham would need a letter of intent to join this program pending approval of Town Meeting. If the town waits until next May to decide, the program offered may not be available since there are larger towns and cities in Eastern Massachusetts looking for more greener options.

**Planting Plan-Community Building**

Plan originally approved in February 2016 by Select Board. One of the trees planted by the generator has died and will be replaced by Town of Amherst-type of tree has not been decided. Kevin is waiting to speak with Dave Hawkins. The canopy overhang of the trees selected will not affect any solar on the Community Building. Town of Amherst will take care of the cost and maintain the plantings around the generator. Selectmen would like to see in writing from Guilford Mooring that the Town of Amherst will be paying and maintaining. Motion to approve plan as long as complete planting of trees while consulting with Rick and/or Gary for site line and safety purposes and as long as Pelham doesn’t have to pay any money, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved.

**Review Virtual Towns and Schools – Website Agreement**

Board members would like Susannah to send extra questions to Bill Letsky regarding automatic alerts, storage, calendar function, adding forms/forms that can prefill. Suggestion to contact Susan Mosher in Shutesbury about the phone call alert system they have.

Motion to accept agreement with Virtual Towns and Schools once questions are answered to Town’s satisfaction, seconded by Selectman Pearson, unanimously approved. Motion to have Selectman Martell sign once the aforementioned is completed, seconded by Selectman Pearson, unanimously approved.

**Balance End of Year Accounts**

Selectman Martell read aloud the amounts, confirmed with Accountant, that are transferred every year by July 15th to cover Fiscal Year overruns.

From 015145.111 $41.54

From 015146.111 $25.78

From 015175.700 $218.66

From 015210.700 $1,102.89

From 015423.111 $11,965.37

From 015423.700 $13,293.36

From 015543.690 $158.00

**Grand total: $26,805.60** (Town of Pelham Expense Report ending 6/30/2017)

Motion to transfer $26, 805.60 from account number 015132.780 (Reserve Fund) to cover FY2017 overruns, seconded by Selectman Pearson, unanimously approved.

**Town Officials**-Chief Thomann shared a letter from Moc Oral Boards at Westfield State that he attended and a thank you letter from Mary Henniman, Lynfield, MA that was sent to all Police Chiefs in Massachusetts.

Public Comment-none.

**Liaisons**

**Highway**; Selectman Pearson; Selectman Martell spoke with Rick and he will have a better estimate of the work that needs to be completed at the Community Building within 7-10 days. Cost could be ~$50k or more. Contract for Community Building is in Selectmen’s files. Question if possible to send to Katie Klein contract or pursue contractors or architects of building. Question if funds to cover repairs could come from Capital Stabilization Fund-question for Finance Committee.

**Town Offices**; Selectman Pearson; Executive Session with Nancy set for August 1, 2017 at 6:30pm. Question if Jeff or someone else from Scanlon could be present to discuss with board members. Selectman Martell stated that the posting should be given to Nancy Grossman 48 hours before the meeting. Board discussed contacting Katie Klein at KP Law to find out whether the session should be for reason 1; discipline; or something else. Susannah will check with Kathy about posting the executive session.

Selectman Pearson would like to have 2 open session meetings; one with Department heads and Staff, the other with Boards and Committee Chairs; to discuss how everyone communicates and issues of courtesy. Motion for Select Board to meet with Department Heads, Staff, Board and Committee chairs to discuss how we communicate and issues of courtesy, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved. First meeting with Department Heads and Staff will be on 8/16/2017 at 6:30pm.

**Fire Department**; Selectman Martell; lots of medical calls recently.

**Police Department**; Selectman Martell; Discussing full-time position open and funding. Chief Thomann is away the last week of July 2017. Lieutenant Fournier will be covering until his return.

**Energy Committee**; Selectman Pearson; Selectman Ribeiro and Selectman Pearson would like clarification on who posts joint meetings. Selectman Ribeiro will be attending upcoming Energy meeting to discuss solar. It is the understanding of both Selectman Martell and Ms. Carey that the Chair of Select Board initiates decision to post as joint meeting. Going forward Susannah Carey will contact Selectman Martell if Selectman Ribeiro and Selectman Pearson are unable to contact him when requesting a joint meeting with the Select Board to be set.

**Finance Committee**; Selectman Martell; next meeting on 7/25/17 to approve transfer of funds. Select Board signed tonight and Finance Committee needs to sign once approved.

**Elementary School**; Selectman Ribeiro; School has ~$90k deficit due to 3 Pelham children choosing to choice out and attend charter schools. State will reimburse for 1st year; charter school enrollment; but no future years.

School will reduce budget by ~$30k, Town will raise and appropriate ~$30k, and Police Department budget may be cut as well. State budget still being reviewed by Governor Baker, Chinese Immersion Charter School has been reporting students by zip code and there may be some Pelham kids grouped with Amherst kids; extra cost to town; and some parents have joint custody of their children which are all factors to see how much it will cost the town. Tom Fanning is looking at STEM grants and is learning what is to be a MAGNET School. Goal is to form Committee for Regionalization. The School will need to make sure that there is no change to the State funding received. A warrant article will need to be created, with proper language, due by August 18, 2017 for both Amherst and Pelham for Fall Town Meeting.

The School Committee is still missing a 5th voting member. Possible candidate, Greta Biagi of Packardville Road.

**Library**; Selectman Ribeiro; none.

**Old Business**

Selectman Ribeiro could sense the urgency to move on proposal that Mark Cappadona shared earlier to draft a letter of intent and questioned whether or not the Town needed to draft a warrant article. The 1 cent/kw/hour savings credit was very attractive piece and includes more green energy as well. Town residents can opt out at anytime if did not want to participate. Uncertainty if rates are as good as described; development is still tied to the grid. Selectman Pearson is interested in shorter term of 1-3 years. Selectman Ribeiro will look to speaking with Energy Committee about this. Susannah will remind Cara Castenson, School Committee Chair, that warrant article should be to the Pelham Select Board by August 1, 2017 so can look at language and send to counsel for review.

**New Business**

Quote from Tech 1 for new SonicWall security protection. Price to buy is $495.00, or to upgrade current software, $200 per year. Susannah will send quote information to Selectman Pearson by email.

**Documents Examined**

Community Aggregation Bullet points, Community Building Planting Plan, Virtual Towns and Schools Website Agreement, Year-end Account Transfer Figures, Consulting Report-outside of Community Building, Sonic Wall Quote-Tech 1.

Respectfully submitted, Susannah Carey