

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

1/8/2020 5:30pm Pelham Library Ramsdell Room

Present: Selectman Ribeiro, Selectman Agoglia, Fred Vanderbeck, Cara Castenson, Emily Marriott, John Trickey, Bill Martell, Rusty Rowell, Otis Rowell, June Masee, Judy Eiseman, Sarah Hall, Rosemary Agoglia, Gillian Duda, Kathy Martell, Rick Adamcek, Francois Gouin, Peter Michaels, Lieutenant Fournier, and Susannah Carey.

Open: Selectman Ribeiro opened at 5:31pm. John Trickey opened the Finance Committee meeting at 5:31pm.

FY2021 Budget Round Table Discussion with Finance Committee, Department Heads, Committee Chairs 5:30pm

COLA will be 2%-reminder to itemize step increases separately if any new employees.

New Health Insurance Opt-out program town adopted will hopefully lower that figure.

Regional Assessment far from clear-town is at bottom and will be increasing in years to come, more after 4-Towns meeting in February.

Any budget requests list separately on forms.

Budget hearings schedule to be received at end of meeting-notify FC if level funded.

BoS budget hearing will be rescheduled for 2/25/2020.

Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as written from November 20, December 4, and December 19, unanimously approved.

Public Comment

Francois Gouin, 27 Harkness Road, requested an additional print out of his tax bill. Incorrect information was printed on his current bill. June Masee, Tax Collector, reiterated that she was unable to reprint but could offer a statement balance. Only a handful of residents received tax bills this quarter with incorrect information due to the new software.

Remote Participation for Board/Committee Meetings

Request from ZBA Chair Jeff Eiseman for numerous upcoming 40B sessions/meetings. Town Clerk did not feel it was manageable for the town. Request for additional language for requiring quorums, for the person chairing the meeting, and for all board/committees in town. Language from MMA Selectmen's handbook, page 15.

Motion for Selectmen to authorize remote participation by all public bodies in town. At any meeting where one or more members participates remotely, a quorum of the board, including the person chairing the meeting, must be physically present, and the person chairing the meeting must determine and state for the record that it would be "unreasonably difficult" for the member or members who wish to participate remotely to attend the meeting because of illness, emergency, military service or distance. Telephone or internet connections are most frequently used, but any technology is acceptable if it allows the remote participants and all persons present at the meeting to hear each other clearly. All votes taken at a meeting in which any member participates remotely must be by roll call, unanimously approved.

Appointment of New Part-Time Police Officer Peter Michaels

Vacancy from Officer Jose Cabrera, who was recruited to State Police. Peter Michaels lives in Amherst and works for the DCR as a Ranger and will fill the part-time vacancy. Motion to appoint Peter Michaels as part-time officer, unanimously approved.

Future Storage Needs for Town and Appointment of Space Needs Committee

Pelham currently has inadequate storage for records, office space, etc. Selectmen want to appoint a taskforce to investigate storage options and then recommend to the Board. Town records are stored in multiple locations with poor storage conditions. Recent request from Planning Board Chair for office space in Rhodes Building where spacing is very tight. Planning Board is currently working with the Assessor's to work and scan records. Motion to appoint Space Needs Taskforce, with no more than 5 members, to investigate options for storage needs of town and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen, unanimously approved.
Motion to appoint Judy Eiseman, Rusty Rowell, Otis Rowell, and Rick Adamcek to the Space Needs Taskforce, unanimously approved.

CivicPlus Annual Service Agreement-tabled until hear back from town counsel.

Town Officials

Planning Board Chair, Judy Eiseman, is working on editing a permitting guide. Final product could be online by the end of January. Possible revisions to the Village Center zoning bylaw for annual town meeting as a warrant article. Linda Spink and Ralph Faulkingham of the Democratic Committee are working on federal census outreach and helping the Pelham community.

Board of Assessor Chair, Rusty Rowell, commented on tightening up the security for the wifi network guest connection at the Rhodes Building. Rusty will send a proposal to the Administrative Assistant.

Highway Department Superintendent, Rick Adamcek, has a new Foreman, Ethan Dickinson, who has replaced Paul Ritter. Ethan has previously worked for the Leverett DPW. The duration of recent storms have proved to be a challenge for the department. Selectman Agoglia praised DPW employees for keeping up with roads and their great condition.

Liaison Reports

Highway Department; Selectman Ribeiro; Unofficially, Pelham was awarded funds for the current round for the MVP grant, but unfortunately the award did not include the culvert repair request.

Town Offices; Selectman Agoglia; Tax bill glitch with VADAR.

Fire Department; Selectman Agoglia; Chief's wife had surgery. FD has been quiet so far this month.

Police Department; Selectman Agoglia; Chief had surgery on 1/7/2020.

Old Business

Motion to appoint Stacy McCullough as ZBA Associate Member, unanimously approved.

Next meetings: January 29 & February 26

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:33pm, unanimously approved.

Documents Examined-Remote participation page 15 MMA handbook.

Respectfully Submitted, Susannah Carey