

**RESULTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 8, 2021**

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Daniel Robb, at 9:01 a.m. at the grounds of the Pelham Elementary School.

The Moderator asked Town Meeting to observe a minute of silence in recognition of those Pelham residents who had passed away since the previous year.

Article 1.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

Article 2.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the FY2022 beginning July 1, 2021, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17.

Article 3.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the ensuing fiscal year.

WARRANT LINES	FY2022	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2022
		Approp.	Approp.	Requested	Recom.
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
2	Selectperson Salary	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600
	Expenses	NA	NA	NA	NA
3	Town Clerk Salary	\$18,914	\$19,292	\$19,581	\$19,581
	Expenses	\$6,850	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
	Records/Information Clerk	\$12,667	\$12,920	\$13,114	\$13,114
18	Archivist	\$1,300	\$0	\$0	\$0
4	Finance Committee Expenses	\$990	\$990	\$990	\$990
5	Assessor's Salary	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
	Assistant Assessors Salary	\$0	\$12,300	\$12,300	\$12,300
	Clerical/Consulting			\$700	\$700
	Contract Service	\$26,100	\$9,900	\$8,300	\$8,300
	Expenses	\$4,250	\$5,750	\$5,750	\$5,750
6	Collector Salary	\$16,550	\$17,212	\$17,814	\$17,814
	Expenses	\$9,702	\$9,775	\$10,264	\$10,264
7	Treasurer Salary	\$25,950	\$27,988	\$28,967	\$28,967
	Expenses	\$8,500	\$8,670	\$9,104	\$9,104
	Clerical/Consulting	\$6,000	\$6,050	\$6,353	\$6,353
8	Town Legal Services	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
9	Town Meetings, Elections etc.	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
10	Town Reports	\$875	\$875	\$875	\$875
11	Town Office Wages	\$27,699	\$28,253	\$28,677	\$28,677
	Select Board/Town Office Expenses	\$19,670	\$21,500	\$21,500	\$21,500
12	Buildings and Grounds				

Salaries	\$16,531	\$16,862	\$17,115	\$17,115
Expenses	\$62,720	\$62,720	\$62,720	\$62,720
Maintenance	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
13 Blanket Insurance	\$43,000	\$46,000	\$51,000	\$51,000
14 Town Accountant	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Town Accountant Expenses			\$200	\$200
15 Reserve Fund	\$87,000	\$87,000	\$87,000	\$87,000
16 Surety Bonds	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
17 Emergency Management	\$6,545	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
19 Hampshire County COG	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$464,413	\$472,657	\$483,924	\$483,924

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

20 Board of Appeals	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
21 Conservation Commission	\$850	\$850	\$850	\$850
Conservation Part Time Agent	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
22 Council on Aging	\$2,470	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
23 Historical Commission	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
24 Library Trustees				
Director Salary	\$26,709	\$27,770	\$30,423	\$30,423
Staff Salaries	\$15,427	\$16,132	\$16,273	\$16,273
Expenses	\$11,214	\$10,814	\$9,400	\$9,400
25 Planning Board	\$500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
26 Recreation Commission	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
28 Cemetery Commission	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
Energy Committee	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
TOTAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS	\$69,570	\$74,966	\$76,346	\$76,346

SCHOOLS

30 Pelham Elementary	\$1,785,208	\$1,826,299	\$1,874,990	\$1,874,990
31 Amherst Pelham Regional	\$911,947	\$891,934	\$923,486	\$923,486
TOTAL SCHOOLS	\$2,697,155	\$2,718,233	\$2,798,476	\$2,798,476

PUBLIC WORKS

40 Highway Fund				
Superintendent Salary	\$65,195	\$66,499	\$69,824	\$69,824
Staff Salaries	\$124,383	\$127,871	\$129,789	\$129,789
Expenses	\$121,362	\$121,362	\$121,362	\$121,362
41 School Signal Lights	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900
42 Snow Removal				
Salaries	\$14,198	\$14,582	\$14,801	\$14,801
Materials	\$68,432	\$68,432	\$68,432	\$68,432
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	\$394,470	\$399,646	\$405,108	\$405,108

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

50 Police Department				
Chief Salary	\$65,417	\$66,725	\$70,140	\$70,140
Full Time Officer Salary	\$40,000	\$41,605	\$43,056	\$43,056

	Part Time Officer's Salaries	\$42,828	\$43,684	\$44,337	\$44,337
	Training and Education	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Expenses	\$25,701	\$25,701	\$25,701	\$25,701
	Expenses Fuel	\$10,475	\$10,475	\$10,475	\$10,475
	Reserve Officers	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Regional Lockup	\$1,255	\$1,255	\$1,255	\$1,255
50A	Town Road Detail	\$3,729	\$3,729	\$3,729	\$3,729
50C	Constable: Elections	\$2,275	\$2,275	\$2,275	\$2,275
51	Fire Department				
	Fire Department Administrator	\$27,329	\$27,875	\$28,293	\$28,293
	Firefighter's Salaries	\$45,352	\$46,259	\$46,952	\$46,952
	Expenses	\$23,980	\$23,980	\$23,980	\$23,980
53	Fire Hydrants	\$280	\$280	\$280	\$280
54	Tree Warden Salary	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
	Expenses	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500
57	Ambulance	\$31,750	\$32,500	\$33,300	\$33,300
58	Animal Control	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY		\$345,371	\$351,843	\$359,273	\$359,273

HEALTH AND SANITATION

60	Board of Health Salaries	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
	Expenses	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
61	Solid Waste				
	Hazardous Household Waste	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
	Recycling	\$8,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
63	Inspector of Animals	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75
65	Quabbin Health District	\$17,361	\$17,861	\$18,861	\$18,861
TOTAL HEALTH AND SANITATION		\$27,836	\$20,036	\$21,036	\$21,036

BENEFITS AND INSURANCE

70	County Retirement	\$206,000	\$226,318	\$259,719	\$259,719
71	Veteran's Agent Salary	\$5,973	\$6,369	\$6,559	\$6,559
	Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Benefits	\$49,248	\$49,248	\$49,248	\$49,248
72	Workers' Compensation	\$17,266	\$24,000	\$26,400	\$26,400
73	Unemployment Insurance	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
74	Group Health /Medicare	\$220,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000
	Health Insurance Opt Out		\$9000	\$9,000	\$9,000
75	OPEB Deposit	\$120,000	\$140,000	\$160,000	\$160,000
TOTAL BENEFITS AND INSURANCE		\$624,487	\$635,935	\$691,926	\$691,926

GRAND TOTAL	\$4,623,302	\$4,673,316	\$4,836,089	\$4,836,089
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Article 4.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to name the salaries and wages for all elected officers for the ensuing year, which payments shall not be made in advance of performance, and to determine when and how they shall be paid.

	FY2020 Appropriated	FY2021 appropriated	FY2022 Recommended
Assessors (Chair)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Assessors (others)	\$500	\$500	\$500
Auditor	\$0	\$0	\$0
Board of Health (Chair)	\$200	\$200	\$200
Board of Health (others)	\$150	\$150	\$150
Cemetery Commissioner (each 3) \$9.00hr	\$0	\$0	\$0
Library Trustees	\$0	\$0	\$0
Moderator	\$0	\$0	\$0
Planning Board	\$0	\$0	\$0
School Committee	\$0	\$0	\$0
Select Board (each 3)	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
Tree Warden	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500

Article 5.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$262,000 for expenditure as follows:

- A. \$2,500 to defray the cost of clerical and technical help and consultants to the Planning Board
- B. \$25,000 for road maintenance
- C. \$10,000 to be deposited in the General Stabilization account
- D. \$5,500 to the School Department for FY2021, this money representing an amount equal to that received by the Town as Medicaid reimbursements for services provided by the School Department
- E. \$25,000 for reimbursement of unanticipated special education charges, which reimbursement would require the approval of the School Committee, Finance Committee, and Select Board
- F. \$25,000 toward the Amherst Pelham Regional School District Capital needs
- G. \$5,000 to be used to correct ADA issues at the Elementary School
- H. \$4,000 to finish the interior renovations and upgrades at the Elementary School
- I. \$5,000 to complete the security upgrades at the Elementary School
- J. \$15,000 to refurbish and bring the DPW bathroom up to code and install a sink in the break room
- K. \$12,000 to purchase and equip an off the road rescue vehicle to be used by the Police and Fire Departments
- L. \$11,000 to paint the interior of the Rhodes Building
- M. \$75,000 to regrind and repave the Rhodes Building and DPW roadway and parking areas
- N. \$12,000 to reimburse the Elementary School for the gym rental income
- O. \$20,000 to be deposited in the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund
- P. \$1,000 for maintenance of the Historic Complex
- Q. \$2,500 to defray the Zoning Board of Appeals cost of consultants including legal and stenographic services
- R. \$1,000 to be used by the Cemetery Commission in making repairs to Pelham cemeteries
- S. \$500 for preservation of Town Clerk Records
- T. \$5,000 for clerical support for the Police Departments implementation of the New Police Reform Act.

Article 6.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the following sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues for Community Preservation Committee administrative expenses in FY2022 in the amount of \$3,500.00.

Article 7.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the following sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues, and to reserve for later appropriation; \$14,500.00 for Open Space; \$14,500.00 for Community Housing; and \$14,500.00 for Historic Resources; and to reserve for later appropriation \$40,200.00 to the FY2022 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve.

Article 8.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to appropriate the sum of \$275,000.00 from the Capital Plan Stabilization Fund to purchase and equip a new heavy-duty dump truck with snow fighting equipment.

Article 9.

VOTED by a declared two-thirds to appropriate the sum of \$70,000.00 from the Capital Plan Stabilization Fund to repair and paint the exterior of the Museum at the Old Town Hall Complex.

Article 10.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to amend Section VI of the Amherst Pelham Regional School District Agreement by adding subsection (j) as follows: for Fiscal Year 2022 only, the alternative operating budget assessment shall be calculated as 65% of a five-year average of minimum contributions with the remainder of the assessment allocated to the member towns in accordance with the per-pupil method found in Section VI (e) of the Amherst Pelham Regional School District Agreement. The five-year average of minimum contributions will include the five most recent years.

Article 11.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to raise and appropriate the sum of \$59,567.22 and transfer \$12,657.18 from Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Funds for the payment of the Town’s (General Fund) indebtedness.

Article 12.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to appropriate the sum of \$26,333.00 from the Regional School Capital account to pay Pelham’s share of the Regional School Capital debt.

Article 13.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to appropriate the sum of \$14,055.60 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (established by vote of the Fall 2015 Town Meeting) to be used by the Select Board for the purpose of technology services and purchases for the Town.

Article 14.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve annual spending limits for FY2022 for revolving funds established in the Town Bylaws, in accordance with G.L c.44, Section 53E1/2, with such expenditure limits to be applicable for each fiscal year until such time as Town Meeting votes, prior to July 1 in any year, to increase the same for the ensuing fiscal year; provided, however, that at the request of the entity authorized to expend such funds, the Select Board, with the approval of the Finance Committee, may increase such limit, for that fiscal year only, all as set forth below:

Revolving fund	FY spending limit
Archivist	\$2,500
Building Inspector	\$30,000
Community Garden Committee	\$5,000
Community Hall	\$7,000
Fire Department	\$7,500
Gas Inspector	\$1,500
Department of Public Works	\$7,500
Planning Board	\$15,000
Plumbing Inspector	\$1,500
Police Department	\$7,500

Wiring Inspector	\$3,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$55,000

Article 15.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to authorize the Library Trustees to expend such monies as they may receive from the sale of discarded books, gifts, and bequests, and from the State and Federal Governments.

Article 16.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to authorize the Pelham Cultural Council to expend such monies as it may receive from the State and Federal Governments, and from gifts and bequests.

Article 17.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to authorize the Select Board to enter into contracts with the Massachusetts Highway Department for construction and/or maintenance of public highways for the Fiscal Year 2022, and further to authorize the Select Board on behalf of the Town to accept and expend any money from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for highway construction and/or maintenance, provided that no funds shall be expended to widen, or enter into a contract to widen, any Town road unless the Select Board has held a public hearing advertised at least fourteen (14) days in advance, with any proposed contract and/or plans for such road improvements being posted for public viewing prior to the public hearing, and further provided that such policy is consistent with State requirements.

Article 18.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to authorize the Select Board to accept and/or apply for any State or Federal funds or grants that may become available during the Fiscal Year 2022 and to expend such funds in accordance with the terms and conditions thereof, provided that no funds shall be expended to widen, or to enter into a contract to widen, any Town road unless the Select Board has held a public hearing advertised at least fourteen (14) days in advance, with any proposed contract and/or plans for such road improvements being posted for public viewing prior to the public hearing, and further provided that such policy is consistent with State requirements.

Article 19.

Citizen Petition

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to WITHDRAW

[To see if the Town will amend the Code of the Town of Pelham bylaws Chapter 5, Article II Dog Control (adopted 5/11/2019 ATM, Art. 22) by adding the provision underlined below:

Section 5-3 Purpose

The Town requires that all dog owners keep their dogs under control at all times for the purpose of protecting people and animals from injury, protecting property from damage and preventing dog-related nuisances. Furthermore, dogs must be under the owners/guardian's or keeper's leash control at all times from 10:00 AM until dark on town property and private property that allows public use. The town further requires any dog for which one formal complaint has been filed be kept under the owners/guardian's or keeper's leash control at all times on town property and private property that allows public use.]

After hearing discussion on the article the petitioners advised the Moderator that they were satisfied the Town had heard their concerns leading to the placement of the article on the warrant, and that this matter was to be taken up by the Conservation Commission who would hold public hearings, a motion was made by Georgeanne Greene on behalf of the petitioners to withdraw the article.

Article 20.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to pass the following resolution.

Resolution Opposing the Palmer/Springfield Biomass Power Plant

WHEREAS:

- Rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide have created a global climate emergency
- Wood-fired power plants emit more carbon dioxide per kilowatt hour of electricity generation than coal (2012 Manomet Study)
- More than 60 years are necessary to regenerate a forest to the prior level of carbon dioxide sequestration
- Wood-fired power plants emit far more respirable particulates than coal, causing serious health hazards
- Particulate and gaseous pollution from the planned Palmer/Springfield power plant would increase hazardous pollution throughout the Pioneer Valley
- The planned Palmer/Springfield woody biomass power plant would be sited in a low-income area of Springfield, exacerbating an already serious environmental justice situation
- The DOER Renewable Portfolio Standards are poised to define wood-burning power plants as “non-carbon emitting”, allowing the millions of dollars in rebates that would make the Palmer/Springfield power plant profitable

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Town of Pelham strongly opposes the Palmer Renewable Energy wood-burning power plant and the irreparable harm it would cause to the environment and human health,

The Town of Pelham protests the use of state subsidies or other incentives to support large-scale woody biomass power plants,

The Town of Pelham calls on Gov. Baker, the Legislature's Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee, and the DOER to reject the inaccurate definition of large-scale woody biomass burning as “carbon neutral” and to strike any inclusion of woody biomass from the update to the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards,

The Town of Pelham urges our State Legislators to pass legislation rapidly in 2021 that will permanently ban large-scale woody biomass power plants in the Commonwealth and any state subsidies for such use.

The business of the warrant having been completed, the meeting voted to dissolve at 11:42 a.m. on Saturday, May 8, 2021. 98 voters were checked in.

Attest:

Sandra J. Burgess
Town Clerk