



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES MAY 12, 2018

Hampshire, ss.

To one of the Constables of the Town of Pelham, in said County.

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Pelham, Massachusetts, qualified to vote in the Town affairs to meet in the Pelham Elementary School, at 45 Amherst Road, in said Pelham on Saturday the twelfth day of May, in the year A.D. 2017 at 9 a.m. for the reading of the Town Warrant and to proceed with the meeting.

Local elections will be held May 15, 2018 at the Ramsdell Room at the Library, 2 South Valley Road. Polls will open at 11:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

The 275th Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Gary Thomann. At the very start of the meeting 94 voters were in attendance but a total of 135 voters attended.

Cynthia Weigel of the Historical Society gave remarks about the History of the Town which was formed in January 1743. It was previously called New Lisbon and we still have the oldest Town Hall in continuous use, as at least one Town meeting is held there every year. She reminded everyone of the new Conkey's Tavern exhibit and that there will be a few events for the 275th Anniversary of the Town. Stan Rosenberg who was our Senator for most of 32 years with the assistance of State Representative Solomon Goldstein Rose, found the original legislation for organizing a community which meant first organizing a church and then organizing a community and then petition the State to organize as a town. The original signed by the governor was in good condition. They had the document conserved and preserved and framed a copy of it for Pelham, and they wish all the best in the future. Then John Trickey gave a Finance Committee Presentation on the Budget. The Select Board members gave comments. The School Committee gave comments and Then the Moderator gave comments. A moment of Silence was held for Janet O'Rourke, (Walter) Tony Oliviera, Kristen Moyer and Nancy Fehlker and others we have recently lost from our Pelham roles. Dan Robb spoke about Don Clark and his presence in opening and closing town meetings. He was a Constable for 20 years. Moderator Dan Robb, then introduced those present at the head table Town Clerk Kathleen Martell, Town Counsel Kathryn Lord Kline, Bill Martell, Alisa Pearson, and Karen Willard Ribeiro, then Finance Committee Members Tara Luce, John Trickey and then recognized the Fire Chief and members of the Fire Dept that were present, and the Police Chief. The Moderator Dan Robb gave an explanation of how the meeting runs based on Town Meeting Times, and the meaning and actions of some terms like call the question. He would read each article in its entirety then as for a motion and a second and then proceed with the article.

Article 1.

A motion was made and Seconded that the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Town Officers and Committees. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 2.

A motion was made and Seconded that the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the FY2019 beginning July 1, 2018, 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. **Passed Unanimously**

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote 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. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 3.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will 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. See the following table. **Passed Unanimously**

	FY2017 appropriated	FY2018 appropriated	FY2019 voted
Assessors (Chairman)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Assessors (others)	\$500	\$500	\$500
Auditor	\$0	\$0	\$0
Board of Health (Chairman)	\$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
Selectmen (each 3)	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
Town Clerk	\$18,000	\$18,270	\$18,635
Tree Warden	\$400	\$400	\$400

Article 4.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote 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. A Hold was placed on line 13 and an amendment was made to change the blanket insurance to \$40,000 due to decrease by moving the amount of 18,780 the correcting the workmen’s comp figure of \$15,360 to \$16,444 and total line 72 which passed thus changing the final General Government section to a total of \$451,640 and the Benefits and Insurance line total to \$586,443. **The vote on amendment passed unanimously.** There was an amendment to change in the Pelham Elementary School Budget increasing line 30 by \$11,102 to a new total of \$1,763,382 to restore a library para educator and change the School Administrators salary which had been cut. A question was raised on the number of Pelham Students in Pelham School which is 75 the number of school choice students in to Pelham School is 51 and there were 5 students out to charter schools as of March. **The Amendment passed unanimously.** The next hold was placed on the Full time and Part time Police officers and there was a lot of discussion including the change that was made at the Fall town meeting to not fill the vacated FT officer position and instead fill it with a Part Time officer to help the insurance budget increase at that time. Now it is going back to the needed full time officer to: learn the paperwork of the office as the LT and SGT are nearing retiremen, and the inability of the State police to respond to emergencies with their limited resources ,as well as the need to have more than one officer respond to incidents at times. A motion to call the Question was not appropriate as there was much more budget to discuss so it was rescinded. After discussion there was no change made to the Article 4 figures for protection of persons and property. The vote on Article 4 the total budget of \$4,554,760 , with the voted amendments See adjusted chart below **Article 4 Passed Unanimously**

WARRANT LINES	FY2017	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2019
Article 4		Approp.	Approp.	Requested	Voted
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
2 Selectperson Salary		\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600
Expenses		Na	Na	Na	Na
3 Town Clerk Salary		\$18,000	\$18,270	\$18,635	\$18,635
Expenses		\$5,500	\$6,000	\$6,750	\$6,750
Records/Information Clerk		\$9,200	\$12,480	\$12,480	\$12,480
18 Archivist		\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300
4 Finance Committee Expenses		\$790	\$990	\$990	\$990
5 Assessor's Salary		\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Contract Service		\$26,100	\$26,100	\$26,100	\$26,100
Expenses		\$4,250	\$4,250	\$4,250	\$4,250
6 Collector Salary		\$15,747	\$16,336	\$15,425	\$15,425
Expenses		\$9,418	\$9,702	\$9,702	\$9,702
7 Treasurer Salary		\$25,264	\$26,208	\$24,666	\$24,666
Expenses		\$7,082	\$7,082	\$7,082	\$7,082
Clerical/Consulting		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
8 Town Legal Services		\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
9 Town Meetings, Elections etc.		\$11,000	\$11,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
10 Town Reports		\$875	\$875	\$875	\$875

11	Town Office Wages	\$23,712	\$22,882	\$23,612	\$23,612
	Select Board/Town Office Expenses	\$19,670	\$19,670	\$19,670	\$19,670
12	Buildings and Grounds				
	Salaries	\$13,883	\$14,091	\$15,621	\$15,621
	Expenses	\$62,720	\$62,720	\$62,720	\$62,720
	Maintenance	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
13	<u>Blanket Insurance</u>	\$49,560	\$53,280	\$58,780	<u>\$40,000</u>
14	Town Accountant	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
15	Reserve Fund	\$85,000	\$87,000	\$87,000	\$87,000
16	Surety Bonds	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
17	Emergency Management	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500
19	Hampshire County COG	\$662	\$662	\$662	\$662

TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$450,333	\$462,998	\$470,420	<u>\$451,640</u>
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BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

20	Board of Appeals	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
21	Conservation Commission	\$850	\$850	\$850	\$850
	Conservation Part Time Agent	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
22	Council on Aging	\$2,470	\$2,470	\$2,470	\$2,470
23	Historical Commission	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
24	Library Trustees				
	Director Salary	\$22,364	\$23,706	\$25,211	\$25,211
	Staff Salaries	\$13,905	\$14,055	\$15,199	\$15,199
	Expenses	\$12,974	\$13,224	\$11,614	\$11,614
25	Planning Board	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
26	Recreation Commission	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
28	Cemetery Commission	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500

TOTAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS	\$59,963	\$61,705	\$67,744	\$67,744
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SCHOOLS

30	<u>Pelham Elementary</u>	\$1,574,152	\$1,715,205	\$1,752,280	<u>\$1,763,382</u>
31	Amherst Pelham Regional	\$1,125,782	\$1,035,183	\$947,186	\$947,186

TOTAL SCHOOLS	\$2,699,934	\$2,750,388	\$2,699,466	<u>\$2,710,568</u>
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		FY2017 Approp.	FY2018 Approp.	FY2019 Request	FY2019 Recom.
PUBLIC WORKS					
40	Highway Fund				
	Superintendent Salary	\$60,062	\$60,963	\$62,182	\$62,182
	Staff Salaries	\$106,124	\$116,124	\$118,446	\$118,446
	Expenses	\$121,362	\$121,362	\$121,362	\$121,362
41	School Signal Lights	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900
42	Snow Removal				
	Salaries	\$12,027	\$12,207	\$13,451	\$13,451
	Materials	\$68,432	\$68,432	\$68,432	\$68,432

TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	\$368,907	\$379,988	\$384,773	\$384,773
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PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

50	Police Department				
	Chief Salary	\$60,273	\$61,177	\$62,401	\$62,401
	<u>Full Time Officer Salary</u>	\$29,880	\$846	\$32,032	\$32,032
	<u>Part Time Officer's Salaries</u>	\$28,646	\$51,155	\$40,146	\$40,146
	Training and Education	\$9,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Expenses	\$25,701	\$25,701	\$25,701	\$25,701
	Expenses Fuel	\$12,475	\$12,475	\$12,475	\$12,475
	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				
	Chief Salary	\$25,018	\$25,393	\$25,901	\$25,901
	Firefighter's Salaries	\$40,019	\$40,619	\$41,431	\$41,431
	Expenses	\$23,980	\$23,980	\$23,980	\$23,980
53	Fire Hydrants	\$280	\$280	\$280	\$280
54	Tree Warden Salary	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
	Expenses	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500
57	Ambulance	\$28,000	\$30,000	\$30,750	\$30,750
58	Animal Control	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY		\$304,431	\$302,785	\$326,256	\$326,256
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	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
	Recycling	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
63	Inspector of Animals	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75
65	Quabbin Health District	\$13,841	\$14,841	\$16,861	\$16,861
TOTAL HEALTH AND SANITATION		\$24,316	\$25,316	\$27,336	\$27,336
BENEFITS AND INSURANCE					
70	County Retirement	\$190,942	\$199,376	\$189,000	\$189,000
71	Veteran's Agent Salary	\$5,095	\$5,595	\$5,751	\$5,751
	Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	<u>Benefits</u>	\$49,248	\$49,248	\$49,248	\$49,248
72	<u>Workers' Compensation</u>	\$13,860	\$15,360	\$15,360	<u>\$16,444</u>
73	Unemployment Insurance	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
74	<u>Group Health /Medicare</u>	\$172,000	\$171,000	\$220,000	\$220,000
75	OPEB Deposit	\$60,000	\$80,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
TOTAL BENEFITS AND INSURANCE		\$497,145	\$526,579	\$585,359	<u>\$586,443</u>
GRAND TOTAL		\$4,345,066	\$4,509,759	\$4,561,354	<u>\$4,554,760</u>

The Police chief made an announcement that reverse 911 calls only go to land lines and that to have your other phones/ phone numbers added you must register your cell phone on the Code Red section on the Police Department web site.

A short break was taken at 11:06 AM after Article 4.

At 11:20 the meeting resumed and a motion was made to advance the order of Articles 44 which was Not seconded but Emily Marriott suggested that it should be moved to after Article 5 because Sean Mangano and others were here to speak about Article 5. A motion was then made to move Articles 44 and 45 to after Article 5. **Vote was unanimous to continue with Article 5 and then move next to Articles 44 and 45.**

Article 5.

The Town will vote to amend Section VI of the Amherst Pelham Regional School District Agreement by adding subsection i) as follows: For Fiscal Year 2019 only, the alternative operating budget assessment shall be calculated as 20% of the estimated minimum contribution 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, Emily Marriott made an Amendment to strike the word estimated from before estimated minimum in the article. A vote was taken to Allow Sean Mangano from the Regional School to speak, which passed. The four towns need to agree on the assessment method and the other three voted on the language without the word “estimated” in it. All the towns must vote the same. A question was asked if adding 10 students into region would affect the budget and answer was that typically all towns have increases and decreases in enrollment, but it will be phased in a 5 year plan so it is not set in stone. The vote on the amendment to eliminate “estimate” **Passed Unanimously.** Vote on Article 5 as amended **Passed Unanimously.**

Before Article 44 was considered the Moderator stated that he lives in the area of the Village Center being considered. He noted that in Town Meeting Times, if the article affects more than 10% of the town he is not required to remove himself, but he is willing to do that. A motion was made to have Dan Robb remain the moderator for these articles. It was seconded. The vote on motion to keep Dan Robb as moderator for these articles **Passed Unanimously**. Alisa Pearson, a Select Board member that lives in affected zones stated she felt it would be inappropriate to engage in debate so she would step away as a Selectmen and attend as a citizen. The Planning Board had prepared a presentation with maps and power point. They asked to allow Dillon Sussman from the Pioneer Planning Commission be allowed to speak. Granted by body. Abigail (Abbie) Jenks introduced herself and the Planning Board members. She stated that it took over 30 years to get to this point and it started with a master plan in 1987 which stated that there was a need for commercial space and a need for a design for open space. There was further work in 1998 with a discussion of a commercial center and a town center at Amherst Road and North and South Valley Roads. In 2010 work to create a center to promote limited economic development increase economic diversity and customer convenience and to relieve the tax burden, maintain controlled growth and protect the rural character of the town, In 2015 a public forum introduced the idea of a center. The housing needs Study in 2014 showed the housing challenges and need for elder housing, encourage development and bring younger families into town and expand home owners' options. We now have a Housing Committee. The 2017 Pelham Land Inventory and Assessment showed that there is very little land in town that is developable only about 8% and it is restrictive with the 2 acre/200 foot frontage current regulations. The water/sewer line changed possibilities and sets the stage for a future phased process which will happen slowly. This is a flexible document that can be changes in the future. The process included working with other Boards in town and most have given their support. Future work includes setting the stage for town center to create walkways sidewalks and Storm water management. Large Maps are posted on walls on side of room and up front, but area includes Amherst road from Amherst town line up to the Water treatment plant and includes Jones Rd, Cadwell Street, South Valley Rd. The School and PD and FD and library already have access to public water supply. She described the zones in the village center and types of housing allowed. The changes that Zoning Board of Appeals presently handles in the village center area will be handled by the Planning Board in the future

Article 44. A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to amend Chapter 125 Zoning of the Town's Bylaws to enable the growth and development of a Village Center in West Pelham by establishing and revising zoning provisions, as follows.

1.

Amend **§125-3 Types of Districts**, to: add three new districts, Village Center Mixed-Use (VC-MU), Village Center Neighborhood (VC-N), and Village Center Rural Edge (VC-RE), which will be collectively known as the "Village Center Districts;" and to add purpose statements for all zoning districts in the Town of Pelham.

2.

Amend the **Zoning Map for the Town of Pelham** by replacing it with a map entitled, "2018 Zoning Map of the Town of Pelham" dated 1/25/18.

3.

Amend **§125-5 Schedule of use regulations** to: add the three new Village Center Districts to Table 1; to add new use classifications to Table 1 and to establish whether various uses are prohibited, permitted by-right, permitted by-right subject to Site Plan Approval, and/or allowed by Special Permit, and to provide whether permits will be reviewed by the Zoning Board of Appeals or the Planning Board in various zoning districts; to move Subpart B. from above Table 1 to below Table 1; to revise Subpart C. (2) to enable the Special Permit Granting Authority to issue a Special Permit for uses in the Village Center Districts that are not specifically listed in Table 1, but that meet the purpose and intent of the applicable district, and all applicable standards.

4.

Amend **§125-6. Dimensional and density regulations** to: add Dimensional and Density regulations for the Village Center Districts, including minimum building lot size, minimum frontage, minimum and maximum front setback, minimum side setback, minimum rear setback, maximum building height, and maximum impervious surface coverage; to establish special permits by which the Planning Board can modify otherwise applicable dimensional standards in various Village Center Districts under specific conditions; and to exempt lots in the Village Center Mixed Use and Village Center-Neighborhood District and lots developed through Open Space Design from the "Pelham Square Rule" found at Subpart A. (1) of §125-6; and to revise Subpart E so that it does not conflict with §125-9.3 More Than One Dwelling on a Parcel (which is to be added below).

5.

Amend **§125-8.1 Water Supply Overlay District** to: renumber this section from §125-8 to §125-8.1, which will enable further additions to Section §125-8 below; to clarify that the Water Supply Protection District is an overlay district by adding the word "Overlay" to all mentions of the term "Water Supply Protection District" so that it reads "Water Supply Protection Overlay District."

6.

Amend **§125-8.2 Village Center District Regulations** to: establish a variety of regulations to enable the development of a Village Center in West Pelham including detailed standards for Building Design, Lighting, Site Design and Landscaping, Parking, Signage, and Storm Water Management.

7.

Renumber **§125-9. Accessory Apartments** to **§125-9.1** to allow the additional sub-sections to be added to Section §125-9.

8.

Amend **§125-9.1 Accessory Apartments** to: revise the definition of Accessory Apartment, and establish new definitions of Attached Accessory Apartment and Detached Accessory Apartment; to establish provisions for detached accessory apartments (which, per proposed changes to Table 1, will be allowed by Site Plan Approval by the Planning Board in the Village Center Districts, and prohibited in the Residential or Limited Business Districts); and to enable Accessory Apartments to be allowed by-right in the Village Center Districts (as per proposed changes to Table 1); and to clarify selected language throughout the section.

9.

Add **§125-9.2 Two-Family and Multi-Family Dwellings** to establish provisions for two-family and multi-family dwellings, including: adding new definitions; adding standards for building design, garages, entrances, parking, lighting, site design and landscaping; adding application and review procedures for these uses. [Note: this warrant article does not allow Two-Family or Multi-Family Dwellings in the Rural or Limited Business Districts. A separate warrant article below asks the Town to vote on whether to allow Two-Family Dwellings in the Rural and Limited Business Districts by Special Permit with Site Plan Approval]

10.

Add **§125-9.3 More Than One Dwelling on a Parcel** to allow more than one primary dwelling on a parcel, if the development is approved using the procedures established by §125-18.3 Open Space Design, and subject to the permitting procedures established by Table 1 Schedule of Use Regulations. [Note: per Table 1, More Than One Dwelling on a Parcel would be subject to a Special Permit by the Planning Board in the Village Center Districts and prohibited in the Residential and Limited Business Districts].

11.

Move and renumber **§125-22 Elderly Congregate Housing** to **§125-9.4** so that housing-related sections of the Zoning Bylaw are grouped together. No other changes are proposed for this section.

12.

Amend **§125-10 Signs** to: clarify language; to add a new Subpart B. (5) (d) that reads: "Said Ground Sign may not interfere with sight distances or present a safety hazard"; and to renumber the following two subparts.

13.

Amend **§125-12 Home Occupations** to establish standards for Home Occupations consistent with proposed changes to Table 1 Schedule of Use Regulations, which allows Home Occupations by-right in the Village Center Districts; and to establish Site Plan Review by the Planning Board for site and building alterations associated with a Home Occupation in the Village Center Districts.

14.

Amend **§125-12.1 Major Home Occupations** to strike the word "special" from all mentions of "special permit granting authority" so that it reads "permit granting authority." This change will bring this section into consistency with proposed changes to Table 1 Schedule of Use Regulations which allow Major Home Occupations by Site Plan Approval in the Village Center Districts.

15.

Amend **§125-13. Common access driveways** to: clarify that Common Access Driveways can be allowed by Site Plan Review consistent with proposed changes to Table 1 Schedule of Use Regulations, which allow common access driveways by Site Plan Approval by the Planning Board in the Village Center Districts; to allow common access driveways to serve up to 5 primary dwelling units in the Village Center Districts; to exempt lots using a common driveway in an Open Space Design from the requirement that lots have adequate legal frontage on a public way; to reduce the required minimum width of a common driveway from 18 feet to 16 feet; and to add provisions related to drainage, sight lines and emergency access for common driveways.

16.

Amend **§ 125-18. Parking and driveway regulations** to: clarify that Special Permits related to parking and driveways may be issued by boards other than the Zoning Board of Appeals, so as to be consistent with

additions to the Bylaw elsewhere in this Warrant Article; to clarify language throughout the section including in Subpart B. (3) (e), Subpart B. (4) (e), and Subpart D.; to establish a standard for drainage resulting from construction of a driveway; to establish driveway and parking standards for the Village Center Districts; to establish minimum parking space requirements for new uses added elsewhere in this Warrant Article, including Two-Family Dwellings, Multi-Family Dwellings, Child-Care and educational uses, Retail/Office/Personal Service use, and Restaurant/Bar/Entertainment use; to establish that on street parking could be allowed in the Village Center Districts if the Town adopts a general bylaw to that effect.

17.
Add **125-18.3 Open Space Design in the Village Centers** to establish definitions, standards, and procedures related to Open Space Design, including but not limited to, allowing Open Space Design by Site Plan Approval in the Village Center Districts, and requiring that all subdivisions in the VC-RE district comply with Open Space Design provisions unless the Planning Board issues a Special Permit that allows deviation from the provisions thereof.

18.
Amend **§125-24 Enforcement Officials; certificates, permits and orders** so that language related to site plan approval and reviewing board is consistent with changes proposed elsewhere in this Warrant Article.

19.
Amend **§125-25 Special Permits** to revise language so that it is consistent with changes proposed elsewhere in this Warrant Article; to specify that the Planning Board is the default Special Permit Granting Authority in the Village Center Districts, and the Zoning Board of Appeals is the default Special Permit Granting Authority in the Residential and Limited Business Districts; to revise provisions related to special permit application procedures, expiration, review procedures, conditions safeguards and limitations, and discontinuance/abandonment.

20.
Amend **§125-26 Site Plan Approval** to: revise the list of projects that require Site Plan Approval; to establish provisions for “standalone site plan approval” (site plan approval that is not associated with a special permit, variance, or finding); to revise language throughout the section to clarify that not all site plans are reviewed by a Special Permit Granting Authority; to revise application procedures for site plan approval; to revise required site plan contents; to establish Major Development Performance Standards for commercial uses, mixed-uses, multi-family uses, and uses with more than four dwelling units on a parcel; to establish waiver provision for required site plan contents and Major Development Performance Standards; to revise the possible final actions of a site plan approval granting authority; to establish an appeal process for Site Plan Approval.

21.
Amend **§125-34 Definitions** to revise the definitions of Accessory Apartment, and Common Access Driveway, and to add various new definitions.

After a long discussion on multiple parts of Article 44 including the different zones and tables with lot sizes and frontages and types of housing, as well as businesses; a motion was made to call the question which was seconded. A 2/3 vote needed, was counted. The count was 74 yeas and 31 opposed. **The vote to end debate passed.** Vote on Article 44 **Passed with 6 opposed.**

Article 45.
The Town will vote to amend the Town’s Zoning Bylaw, §125-5 Schedule of use regulations to allow Two-Family Dwellings in the Rural District and Limited Business Districts subject to a Special Permit with Site Plan Approval by the Zoning Board of Appeals, per the underlined additions to Table 1 below:

Table 1 Schedule of Use Regulations [Amended 5-9-1998 ATM, Art. 28; 10-25-2006 STM, Art. 11; 5-5-2012 ATM, Art. 37]						
	Zoning District					
Land Use Classification	Residential	Limited Business	Village Center Mixed-Use	Village Center Neighborhood	Village Center Rural Edge	Standards and Conditions
Two-family dwelling	<u>SP/SPA/ZB</u> <u>A</u>	<u>SP/SPA/Z</u> <u>BA</u>	SPA/P B	SPA/PB	SPA/PB	See § 125-9.2

Article 45 was supported by the Board of Health, Housing Committee and Community Preservation and the Conservation Commission Article 45 **Passed Unanimously**

Article 6.

A motion was made and Seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$45,000.00 from the Capital Stabilization account to purchase and equip a new four wheel drive vehicle, replacing the 2012 Ford Expedition, Discussion included: the plan by Capital Stabilization Board which includes Dept Chairs including Police, Fire, Board of Selectmen and other boards to make a plan to pay for these large purchases from an account set up for that purpose. The major reason vehicles are kept for shorter time is the increased maintenance costs when they are kept longer. Sedan style cars are no longer being built which would accommodate needs of equipment etc. **Article 4 passed with 4 nays.**

Article 7.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$67,457.22 and transfer \$12,657.78 from Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Funds for the payment of the Town's (General Fund) indebtedness. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 8.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$9,172.00 from Free Cash to the School Department for FY2019, this money representing an amount equal to that received by the Town as Medicaid reimbursements for services provided by the School Department. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 9.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,500.00 from Free Cash to replace the sign at the Elementary School. Discussion included type of sign, sign in poor condition "on its 1st legs"; granite uprights to hold the sign due to its weight, discussion of community support or fundraising unsuccessful; noted that already cutting school budget. An amendment was made to change the amount to \$2,500 and after discussion a motion was made to end debate which **Passed Unanimously** and vote on amendment ended in a 32 yeas and 32 opposed tie so the moderator voted not to amend the amount so final was 33 yeas and 32 opposed to limit the amount. The amount remains \$5,500. A motion to end debate on the article **Passed Unanimously.** Vote on Article 9 **Passed with 9 Opposed.**

Article 10.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$15,309.60 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (established by vote of the Fall 2015 Town Meeting) to be used by the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of Technology services and purchases for the Town. **Passed with one opposed.**

Article 11.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$23,255.00 from the Capital and Maintenance Stabilization Account to pay Pelham's share to the Regional School Capital indebtedness. Discussion included John Trickey Finance Committee Chair, stating that this was to pay back part of the Capital Improvement Bond at the Regional School. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 12.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 from Free Cash to be deposited in the General Stabilization Account. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 13.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 from Free Cash to be deposited in the Other Post Retirement Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 14.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$22,000.00 to cover the Health Insurance surcharge to the Elementary School. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 15.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the following sum of money from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues for Community Preservation Committee administrative expenses in FY 2019, in the amount of \$3,500.00. Blair Bigelow said the idea of the expenses budget is to pay for public meetings, printing, clerical expertise, Town Counsel fees and money not used goes back into CPA Fund. **Passed Unanimously**

Dan Robb thanked those holding carrying the microphones around the room to those persons wishing to speak.

Article 16.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote 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; \$14,500.00 for Historic Resources; and \$40,200.00 to the FY2019 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve. Discussion included that the Finance Committee doesn't manage those funds, the 3% surcharge on tax bill to use in the listed accounts and use it voted by town meeting vote, already used for housing study and possibly for a first time homeowners program to be brought to 2018 Fall Town meeting. Total budget approximately \$700,000 at present. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 17.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to purchase two (2) new portable radios for the Police Department. Gary Thomann stated old radios are about 10 years old one of which was purchased from an Emergency Management grant. Plan to replace 2 radios per year. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 18.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and/or apply for any State or Federal funds or grants that may become available during the Fiscal Year 2019 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 Board of Selectmen 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. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 19.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into contracts with the Massachusetts Highway Department for construction and/or maintenance of public highways for the Fiscal Year 2019, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen 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 Board of Selectmen 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. A question was asked how this relates to new zoning, answered it does not. Noted that both Article 18 and 19 have public hearing requirements in widening roads because the Board of Selectmen decided in the 1960's to widen Shutesbury Road. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 20.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote pursuant to G.L. c.44, ss. 53E1/2, as most recently amended, to (1) authorize revolving funds for certain Town Departments for FY2019, (2) and further, to amend the Town bylaws by inserting a new bylaw entitled, "Revolving Funds", and to establish fiscal year spending limits; all as set forth below.

Chapter Revolving Funds

1. Purpose. This bylaw establishes and authorizes revolving funds for use by the Town Departments, Boards, Committees, Agencies or Officers in connection with the operation of programs or activities that generate fees, charges or other receipts to support all or some of the expenses of those programs or activities. These revolving funds are established under and governed by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½.
2. Expenditure Limitations. A Department or Agency head, Board, Committee or Officer may incur liabilities against and spend monies from a revolving fund established and authorized by this bylaw without appropriation subject to the following limitations:
 - A. Fringe benefits of full-time employees whose salaries or wages are paid from the fund, except for those employed as school bus drivers.
 - B. No liability shall be incurred in excess of the available balance of the fund.
 - C. The total amount spent during a fiscal year shall be subject to the limitation established by Town Meeting or any increase therein as may be authorized in accordance with G.L. c.44, ss.53E ½.
 - D. Interest. Interest earned on monies credited to a revolving fund established by this bylaw shall be credited to the general fund.
3. The following is a list of the authorized revolving funds setting forth the name of the fund, the entity authorized to expend such funds, the revenue source and the use of such fund.
See table on next page. **Passed Unanimously**

Revolving fund	Authorization to spend fund	Revenue source	Use of fund
Archivist	Town Clerk	Archivist and genealogy fees	Research and miscellaneous research fees
Building Inspector	Building Inspector	Building inspection fees	Inspections, supplies, & required professional courses
Community Garden Committee	Garden Committee	Plot use donations & any other donations	Fertilizer, general garden equipment, & soil testing
Community Hall	Community Hall Committee Chair	rental fees	Repairs, improvements, and purchases
Fire Department	Fire Chief	Fire inspection permit fees & fines	Inspections, supplies, & required professional courses
Gas Inspector	Gas Inspector	Gas inspection fees	Inspections, supplies, & required professional courses
Department of Public Works	DPW Superintendent	Permit Fees (Trench, driveway, curb cut)	Equipment, supplies, & required professional courses
Plumbing Inspector	Plumbing Inspector	Plumbing inspection fees	Inspections, supplies, & required professional courses
Police Department	Police Chief	Pistol permits and report requests	Equipment
Wiring Inspector	Wiring Inspector	Wiring inspection fees	Inspections, supplies, & required professional courses
Zoning Board of Appeals	Zoning Board of Appeals	Application & consultation fees	Administrative costs, including mailings & supplies

And to set Fiscal Year spending limits as follows:

Revolving fund	FY spending limit
Archivist	\$2,500
Building Inspector	\$18,227
Community Garden Committee	\$5,000
Community Hall	\$7,000
Fire Department	\$7,500
Gas Inspector	\$1,500
Department of Public Works	\$7,500
Plumbing Inspector	\$1,500
Police Department	\$7,500
Wiring Inspector	\$3,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$1,000

Article 21.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate from Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$22,000.00 to purchase and install a new 1500 gallon double wall diesel fuel tank with leak monitoring system, and a key guard system. Discussion included need to have double wall tanks now by law, we now have 2 small single wall tanks, and expanded capacity helps because supply was almost wiped out in two storms back to back. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 22.A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate from Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$23,000.00 to purchase and install a new power broom with dust control to be mounted onto the CAT backhoe, with a quick hitch system. Discussion included that current broom goes on back of

tractor over 20 years old and there is no protection for driver from cloud of dust. It has a dust control water spray feature. This will not replace the old one just make the sweeping go easier with less issues. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 23.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000.00 to make additional road repairs. Last year \$15,000 patched several roads this year need to concentrate on Boyden Road as it becomes nearly impassable from mud. This will possibly fix the surface and help with erosion. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 24.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate from Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$122,000.00 to repair, wash, caulk, and paint the exterior of the Community Center. This is a major repair with lots of caulking and trim work if not fixed will cost even more. Last years' work took out the bulge and put barrier between the first and second floor meet. If this is done correctly with two coats of paint could last 15 years or more. **Passed Unanimously.**

Article 25.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000.00 to repair and or replace plumbing for the HVAC System as needed at the Community Center and to investigate possible replacement of the HVAC System. Discussion included that old system has glycol in it that wrecks the pipes so last year had over \$6,000 in repairs. Eventually need to replace or change things, probably the whole system, so this will help save, and have money available for an emergency repair. **Passed Unanimously**

A motion was made and seconded to move Article 35 which is a related article to be next to be considered

Article 35.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$20,000.00 to pay for an engineering study necessary to replace the aging heating and cooling systems in the Community Center with a more efficient and reduced greenhouse gas emitting system, evaluate the potential for incorporating the Elementary School in a combined system, and address the moisture issues on the Community Center ground floor. This is related because when the roof was sealed to save heat, but allows moisture to come into the building. There needs to be an A/C system on ground floor to deal with moisture due in part from spring underneath the building. It is a combination of condensation and water coming into the building. Probably need to replace all the competing systems and look for the next generation of systems that will solve the problems and possible include the school as well. Currently the AC system in the school is working, but will need repalacing. The Energy Committee is looking for green community grants to help with this..A question was asked about buildings being capable of supporting solar installations and answered they cannot. Dan Robb clarified that Article 25 would deal with immediately need repairs and 35 was looking at fixing for the future. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 26.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$35,000.00 to hire a consultant to investigate and install a handicap bathroom at the Rhodes School building, and to abate/remove asbestos from the Rhodes School building. Discussion included taking remaining cash articles and vote as one article, not allowed by moderator; where asbestos is in the building,(in basement) and if putting in new bathroom may disturb it (yes); a motion to if needed to get grants to do this work and not spend without trying, but motion withdrawn. **Passed with one opposed**

Article 27.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 from Free Cash to be used by the Cemetery Commission in making repairs to the Pelham cemeteries. No discussion **Passed Unanimously**

Article 28.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 from Free Cash for reimbursement of unanticipated special education charges, which reimbursement would require the approval of the School Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Selectmen. Discussion that this is a standard article and the money was only used one year. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 29.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to continue membership in the Hampshire Council of Governments for Fiscal Year 2019 with an annual dues assessment of \$661.69. Discussion are we currently a member (yes) and funding source is in Article 4 this is just a vote for membership. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 30.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$6,500.00 from Free Cash to cover the balance of an early retirement incentive for the Pelham Elementary School. Discussion that Finance Committee recommended to cover from Free Cash and not add it to the school budget.

Passed Unanimously

Article 31.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$750.00 from Free Cash to defray the cost of consultants to the Planning Board. No Discussion **Passed Unanimously**

Article 32.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 from Free Cash for maintenance of the Historic Complex. Comment that Tom Lederle would be proud. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 33.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$500.00 from Free Cash for preservation of Town Clerk Records. Discussion that records are digitalized but that can change and degrade. Paper records well stored are permanent. **Passed with 2 opposed.**

Article 34.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$500.00 from Free Cash to defray the cost of consultants to the Zoning board of Appeals. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 36.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to accept the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate from the Fund Balance of the Community Preservation Fund the sum of \$38,107 to preserve and digitize selected historic Town Record Books that are under the care of the Town Clerk. Discussion possibility of grants for preservation and CPC is committed to this project and Historic Commission supports the article. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 37.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to accept the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund balance the sum of \$45,000.00 for the construction of a handicap access ramp, and accessibility renovations of the exterior door and bathroom. Discussion that at one event they had to lift w/c person into building, building is quite useful to a number of groups and there are limited meeting spaces in town, lots of work done previously by volunteers and craftsmen and separate fundraising since 2007, and some work has been done by town as well but building closed due to handicapped access. Motion to call the question passed, Vote on article **Passed Unanimously**

Article 38.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to accept the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund balance the sum of \$25,000.00 for the construction of a pavilion and the purchase of movable soccer goals. A lot of discussion including location in an area that would block potential for addition to school, funding source CPC as part of open space and recreation for people to spend time together and a focal part of community area, conservation commission may want to weigh in on discussion, probable size 20x20 or 20 x 30 Amendment to article to add the words located for best solar exposure and designed and constructed to hold the largest number of photo-voltaic panels that the chosen size allows after the words “ for the construction of a pavilion” Discussion on amendment to make it structurally sound and may change roof style. Motion to call the question on amendment **Passed Unanimously** discussion on article asked who has final say on placement answered Planning Board **Vote on article Passed with 2 opposed**

Article 39.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to adopt M.G.L. c.41 section 110A Office Hours on Saturday.

Section 110A. Any public office in any city or town may remain closed on any or all Saturdays as may be determined from time to time, in a city by the city council, subject to the provisions of the city charter, or, in a town, by vote of the town at a special or regular town meeting, and the provisions of section nine of chapter four shall apply in the case of such closing of any such office on any Saturday to the same extent as if such Saturday were a legal holiday. Discussion that without this vote Town Clerk had to open office on Saturday from 2-4pm and 7-8 pm for voter registration **Passed Unanimously**

Article 40.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 59, §5C1/2, inserted by Section 14 of Chapter 62 of the Acts of 2014, for the purpose of increasing the real estate tax exemptions up to 100 percent for taxpayers qualifying for exemptions under Clauses 17C, 22, 37 or 41C of G.L. c. 59, §5. Same exemptions offered for Veterans and Disabled every year. **Passed Unanimously**

Article 41.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote 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. No Discussion **Passed Unanimously**

Article 42.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to authorize the Pelham Cultural Council to expend such monies as it may receive from the State and Federal Governments, and from gifts and bequest. No Discussion

Passed Unanimously

Article 43.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town of Pelham will vote to appropriate from Free Cash up to \$6,000.00, or no more than 50% of the cost to cover connecting high speed internet service to the only two households in Pelham not included in the Town's cable/internet system, and further to direct the Select Board to enter into negotiations with Comcast, Massachusetts Broadband Institute, and/or the Town of Shutesbury for this purpose. A motion was made and seconded to Amend Article 43 to change the wording to read, To see if the Town of Pelham will vote to appropriate the amount of \$6,00 from PEG funds or Free Cash to Shutesbury MLP to help cover the cost if connecting high speed internet service to the only two households in Pelham not included in the town's cable/internet system. Discussion included: that they are currently the only two houses excluded from connecting to Broadband , houses being ½ mile away and would cost \$82,000 to connect , town received money for build-out, but no additional funding from MBI, as last mile is fulfilled to the 96% to 98.6%. Other towns are doing own systems because 100% of town not covered. There are any other ways to get phone and internet connection and lots of people had to pay more money because their houses far off the road, There was concern over using tax payer money from free cash, Town Counsel previously said not Peg funds as no precedent for this on state level for in kind contributions. Motion to vote on amendment, point of order asked so amendment re-read by moderator, but no further debate allowed **Vote on Amendment Passed with 2 opposed** Continued Discussion included Are there other places in town this could occur in the opinion of Planning Board member (yes) Motion to call the question Vote **Passed Unanimously** **Vote on Article 43 Passes with 26 yeas and 19 opposed.**

Article 46.

Resolution to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Using Municipal Electric Aggregation, also known as Community Choice Energy, to Improve Energy Efficiency and Develop Local Renewable Energy Generation

Whereas the Fall 1998 Pelham Town Meeting, pursuant to MGL Chapter 164 Section 134, voted to grant the Board of Selectmen authority to develop and participate in a contract, or contracts, for power supply and other related services, independently, or in joint action with other towns, and;

Whereas the Town of Pelham has been invited by the City of Northampton to explore forming a joint Community Choice Energy organization initially comprising Northampton, Amherst, and Pelham, and;

Whereas residents of the Town of Pelham have a substantial environmental and social interest in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the generation of electricity, and;

Whereas residential electricity customers in the Town of Pelham are interested in the possibility of reducing and stabilizing electric bills and in expanding energy services;

Be it therefore resolved, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164, § 134, that the Town Meeting of Pelham authorizes the Board of Selectmen to act in partnership with other municipalities to develop a plan to be approved by the Board of Selectmen for an inter-municipal Community Choice Energy organization that will:

- Contract for and develop electric supply and other related services for Pelham electricity consumers. Individual consumers would retain the option not to participate and to choose an alternate service.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive energy plan to:
 - Provide energy efficiency services

- Develop local renewable and other distributed energy resources
- Deliver other energy services
- Reduce or stabilize customer electric bills

Be it further resolved that a primary Community Choice Energy organization objective will be to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the purchase of electricity from green renewable sources, provision of energy efficiency services, and the development of local renewable distributed energy resources.

A motion was made and seconded that the Town of Pelham accepts this resolution.

Motion made and seconded for Article 46 *But amendment was made to strike the words Approved by the (Board of) Selectmen in paragraph 5 and substitute Approved by Town Meeting.* Discussion that this would be cumbersome for town meeting to vote on, it involves other towns as well, there is no money currently involved if there is could bring to town meeting, town should vote before this is a done deal, overhead costs not listed so prior to agreement should know this, Finance Committee wants a better idea of the framework and long term costs before supporting so supports amendment, it will be self funding but will needs start up costs and it is a municipality owned business. **Vote on amendment passes with count of 20 yes and 16 opposed** Vote on Article 46 as amended **Passed Unanimously**

Article 47.

Citizen Petition for a Bylaw:

A motion was made and seconded that the Town of Pelham approve a Bylaw as follows:

Whereas the Town of Pelham seeks to assure equal, just and fair treatment of all persons who live in and visit the town;

Whereas effective police work requires relationships of trust between the Police Department and the communities of the town;

Whereas enforcement of immigration laws is a federal, not local, responsibility; and that the burden of incarceration, detention, and care for detained people falls upon the budget of local law enforcement and upon the Town of Pelham ;

Whereas the non-criminal immigration detainer (Form I-247 Request) is not an arrest warrant, nor does it provide probable cause for an arrest

Therefore, to the extent permissible by law, it will be the on going policy of the Town of Pelham, MA. that;

-Municipal employees of the Town of Pelham, including law enforcement employees, shall not monitor, stop, detain, question, interrogate, or search a person for the purpose of determining that individual's immigration status.

-Officers shall not inquire about the immigration status of any crime victim, witness, or suspect, unless such information is directly relevant to the investigation, nor shall they refer such information to federal immigration enforcement authorities unless that information is directly relevant. The use of a criminal investigation or arrest shall not be used as a basis to ascertain information about an individual's immigration status unless directly relevant to the offenses charged.

-to the extent permissible by law, the Pelham Police Department will not honor or enforce any detainer requests from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) that are non-criminal in nature and not subject to a judicially issued warrant, nor will the Pelham Police department hold people past the point when they would ordinarily be released. Michael Hussin spoke that it was to try this on a state level, but put into committee and not voted on so now looking for municipal support. No questions posed **Passed Unanimously**

Article 48.

Resolution Supporting State and Federal Legislation to Provide Greater Transparency in Political Donations and Limit the Influence of Money in Politics

WHEREAS, recent changes in funding and disclosure rules for national, state and local political elections have degraded the goals of the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, a recent decision by the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) now allows an infusion of previously prohibited out-of-state money to influence local and state elections, new legislation is now required to prohibit such funding from circumventing Massachusetts state law; and

WHEREAS, a legislative reform bill known as the "American Anti-Corruption Act" (The Act) targets bribery by preventing lobbyists from donating to politicians and influencing policymaking; ends secret money by mandating full transparency; enables citizens to fund elections; closes the revolving door between Congress and lobbying firms; and enhances the power of the Federal Election Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the citizens of the Town of Pelham, Massachusetts that we support tough new anti-corruption laws to close loopholes in Massachusetts’ campaign finance regulations that currently allows unregulated out-of-state money to infiltrate state and local elections; and we support the goals outlined in the American Anti-Corruption Act to remove the corrupting influence of money on our political system. The Act prohibits politicians from taking campaign money from special interest groups including private industries and unions; increases transparency for campaign funding; empowers all voters through a tax rebate voucher to contribute to the candidates they support; prohibits representatives and senior staff from all lobbying activity for five years once they leave office; and places limits on superPACs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the citizens of the Town of Pelham implores our elected representatives in Boston, State Senator Stan Rosenberg and Rep. Solomon Goldstein-Rose, and in Washington, Sen. Edward Markey and Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Rep. James McGovern (or their successors) to lead this effort to enact these initiatives in Massachusetts and in the U.S. Congress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Town of Pelham is hereby directed to give notice to the above representatives by sending a certified copy of this resolution to each of them. A motion was made and seconded that the Town of Pelham Accepts this resolution. **Passed Unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted

Kathleen Martell
Pelham Town Clerk