

A MESSAGE FROM THE PELHAM BOARD OF HEALTH FOR A SAFER TOWN MEETING

1. Please bring and wear your masks or other types of face coverings as they are required.
2. Please also bring water or another beverage with you. And if you have your own bottle of sanitizer, bring that as well.
3. Anyone with a medical reason not to wear a mask will be seated in a separate area.
4. Seating will be set up so social distancing will be adhered to.
5. People should maintain a distance of 6 feet from others. (Couples and families who have practiced safer at home together do not have to social distance from each other, but need to maintain 6 feet from other participants.)
6. If you are sick, have a fever, in quarantine or recently exposed to an COVID-19-positive person should not attend the Town Meeting.

Finance Committee Report to the Town June 2020

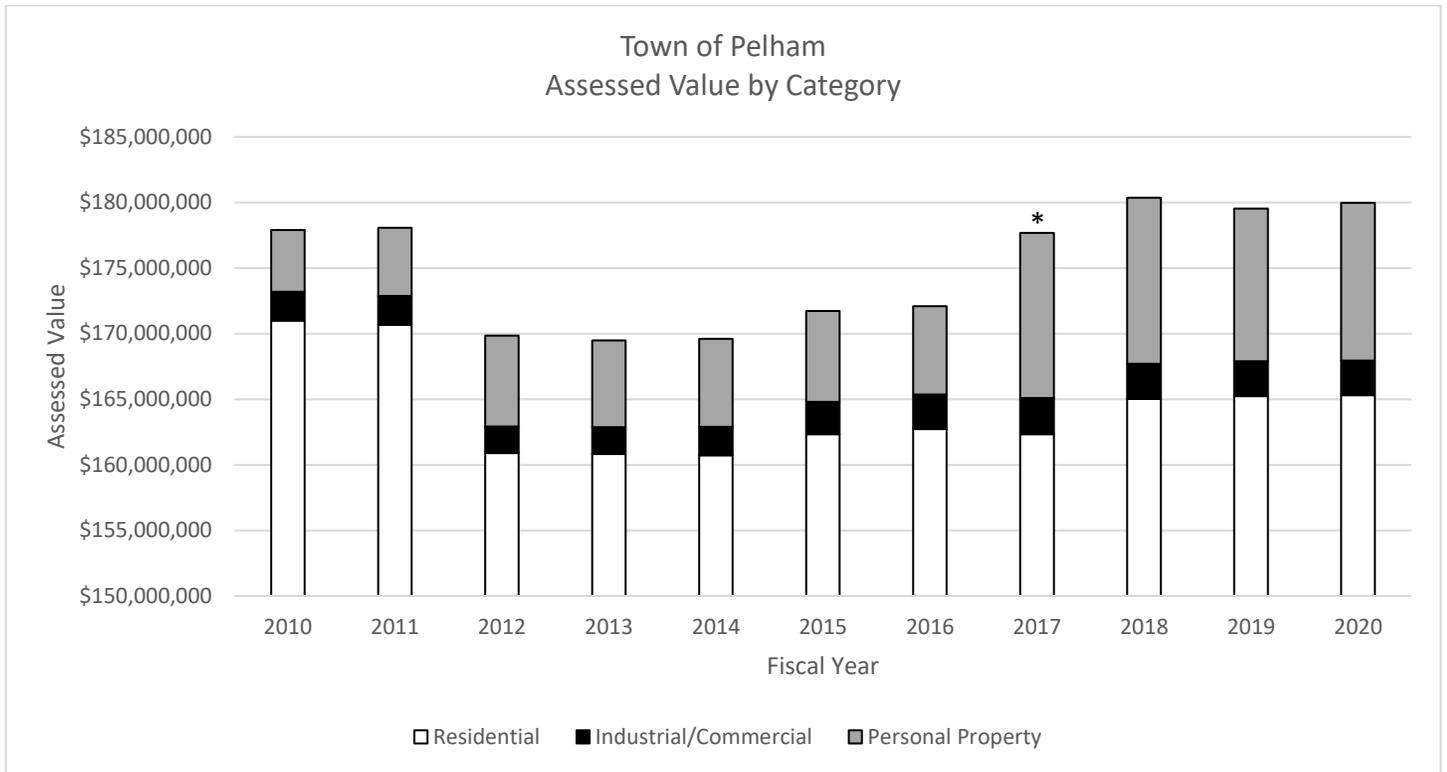
Pelham's financial picture remains steady and good. That was what I wrote back in early March as I prepared the report for a May town meeting. Now in early June I have a very different perspective and would view the picture as cautionary. The closing of the schools, colleges, universities, restaurants, retail, etc. has thrown many cities and towns, along with the State, into a financial abyss where the bottom has yet to be determined. It could be a full year before we fully understand what the new normal will be. Because Pelham's tax revenue is largely dependent on personal and residential property taxes, we are not concerned with the loss of meals and hotel taxes, parking meter revenue, and commercial property taxes as are other municipalities. The big unknown for Pelham is what will happen to our State aid. On a recent webinar sponsored by the Massachusetts Municipal Association, towns were advised to look at what they experienced during the recession beginning in 2007. At that time Pelham saw its unrestricted State aid drop from \$198,000 in 2007 down to \$124,000 by 2012. We have only recovered to \$169,000 in 2020. The Finance Committee, in an effort to be cautionary and expecting to see another drop in aid, decided to reduce the requested budget by approximately \$75,000, which would be a good safeguard in protecting the Pelham taxpayer. Subsequent to that decision, the Town of Amherst appealed to the Regional School District for relief in their share of the Region's cost due to their expected drop both in local and State revenue. The new Regional School budget reduced Pelham's share by \$24,000 compared to the previous budget.

In anticipation of this reduction in State aid, the Finance Committee made reductions to the budget in contributions to OPEB, the Reserve fund, insurance costs, and recycling expenses among others, in addition to the \$24,000 reduction in Pelham's Regional School assessment. The total reduction was just over \$74,000. If the State reductions are not as severe as the Finance Committee has planned, we can bring additional adjustments to the Fall Town Meeting. The Finance Committee also reduced some of the expenses from Free Cash to create a reasonable buffer if the Town experiences late or delayed tax payment from Pelham residents. This will allow the town to function without concern for cash flow or the need for short term borrowing if a significant number of tax payments are delayed.

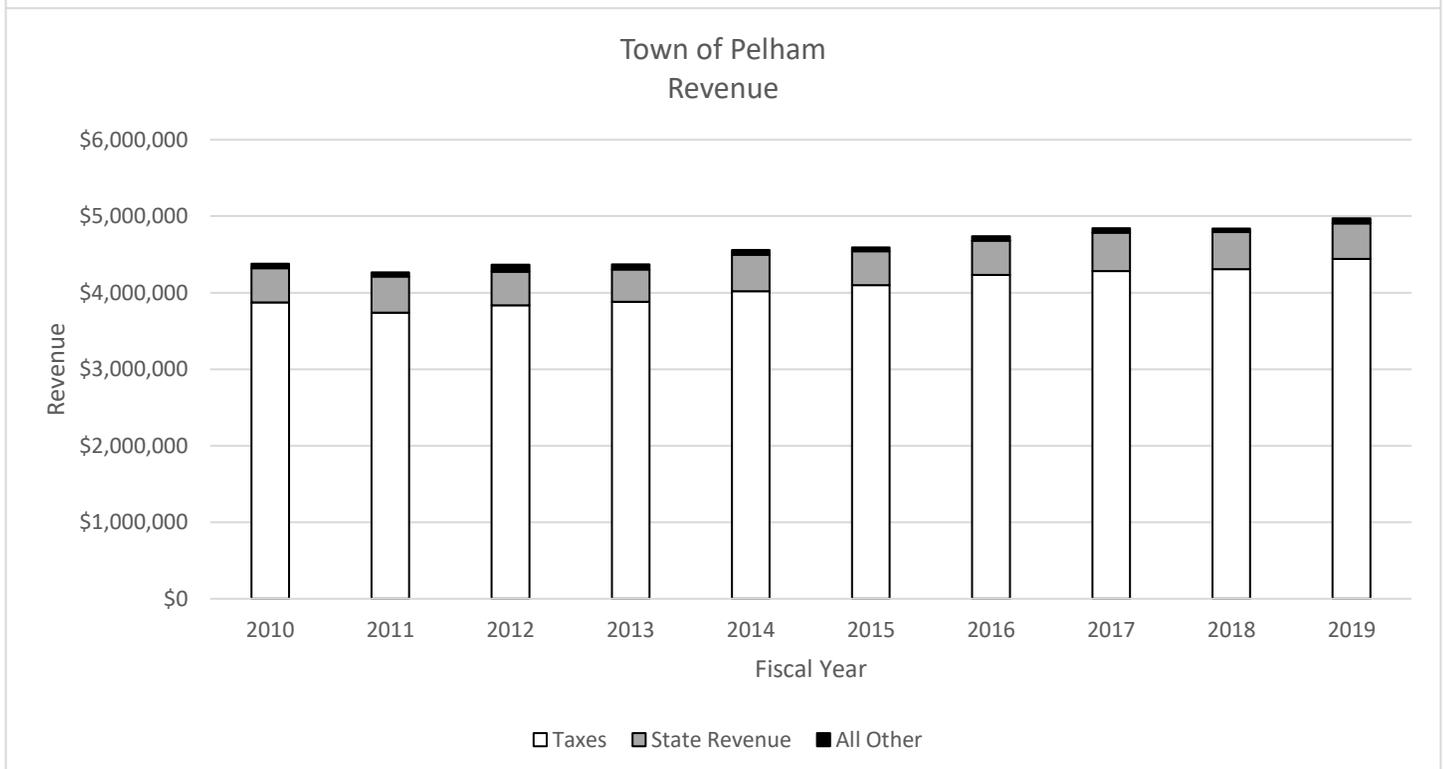
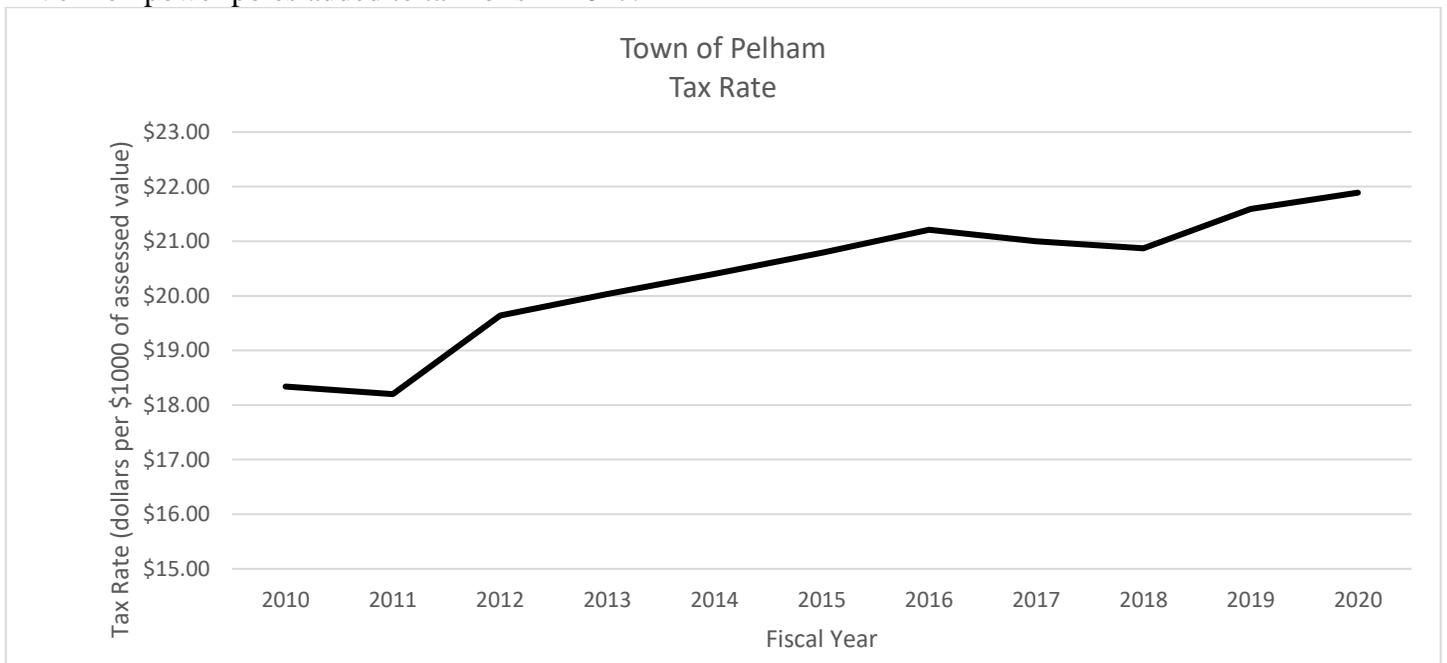
It is important that all the Pelham taxpayers understand how valuable new growth is to the Town and its future survival. Our property taxes are calculated based on the total assessed values of the Town. Briefly this means that the assessors, through approved methods, have figured out the value of every square foot of land and buildings in the Town. There are three types of values in Pelham: residential, industrial/commercial, and personal property. When Proposition 2 ½ was passed in 1980, it was assumed that a Town's value would increase at 2.5 percent or greater each year through new buildings, increased demand for existing locations, etc. For the first decade or longer, this was true, but for the last ten years there has been little new growth in Pelham. In 2010 the total assessment of all three categories was \$177,888,700. In 2020 that number was \$179,967,100 an increase of \$2,076,400 or 1.3% over the ten-year span. That increase is a far cry from 2.5% every year. Meanwhile the amount raised to run the Town was \$3,527,634 in 2010 and \$4,632,302 in 2020, an increase of 31%. You can clearly see why the tax rate keeps going up to cover the added costs of maintaining the Town and meeting the educational needs of the residents.

Without a change to its current trajectory—through new growth, increases in State aid, reductions in the operating budget, or a combination of the above—Pelham runs the risk of reaching its property tax limit within the next decade. Increasing commercial development may have the greatest potential to increase Pelham's long-term financial sustainability as it would likely have lower associated costs to the Town

compared to new housing and it maybe more achievable than decreasing Town spending or increasing State aid.



*Verizon power poles added to tax rolls in 2017.





ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
June 27, 2020

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 twenty seventh day of June, in the year A.D. 2020 at 9:00 a.m. for the reading of the Town Warrant and to proceed with the meeting.

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic the Annual Town meeting was held under a tent large in the Elementary School soccer field. A sound system with 4 microphones was set up and functioning properly. Microphones were sanitized between speakers. State DPH and local BOH guidelines for Social Distancing (including but not limited to seating spacing with aisles and wearing masks were followed). Hand sanitizer was available. Police and Fire Departments had staffed tents set up for any assistance that might be required.

Moderator Dan Robb Presided 84 Voters were present. Asked for a moment of silence for Pelham residents that passed away this year. He allowed brief comments by State Representative Mindy Domb. Karen Willard-Ribeiro had certificates of appreciation for all those who volunteered in town for 10 years or more, including Cleon Booth for 50 years. Bob Agoglia thanked Karen for her service to the town and then said words are not enough in relation to the Statement on Inequality regarding recent issues in our country; so, the Board of Selectmen will be creating a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Dan Robb recognized Kathy Martell as Town Clerk and Lisa Desjarlais as the Pelham School Superintendent who is moving to a new position in Gill. He said he was hopeful about the weather as storms were predicted and hoped to get the meeting completed. He welcomed newcomers to town meeting went over the rules of order/conduct for this meeting; including but not limited to: saying point of order if someone needed seating, no lines at the microphones, waiting to be called on to speak, giving name and address each time called upon to speak, point of order for questions on an article, and call the question to end debate.

He submitted a consent agenda motion asking that it be voted first and to group articles 1,2,6,7,14,15, and 16, that are routinely passed and have little or no discussion. It would need to pass unanimously or it would fail and all article would be discussed.

Consent agenda motion was Moved, Seconded and **Motion Passed Unanimously**.

Article 1.

The Town voted to accept the reports of the Town Officers and Committees. This article was included in Consent Agenda. Moved, Seconded and **Article Passed Unanimously**

Article 2.

The Town voted 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 FY2021 beginning July 1, 2020, 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.

This article was included in Consent Agenda. Moved, Seconded and **Article Passed Unanimously**

Article 3.

The Town 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.

	FY2019 Appropriated	FY2020 appropriated	FY2021 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
Selectmen (each 3)	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
Town Clerk	\$18,635	\$18,914	\$19,293
Tree Warden	\$400	\$1,500	\$1,500

Recommended by the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen. Moved and Seconded

*Then there was limited discussion on Tree Warden salary and Town Clerk salary. **Article Passed Unanimously.***

Article 4.

The Town voted 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	FY2021	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2021
Article 4		Approp.	Approp.	Requested	Recom.
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
2	Selectperson Salary	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600
	Expenses	NA	NA	\$0	
3	Town Clerk Salary	\$18,635	\$18,914	\$19,292	\$19,292
	Expenses	\$6,750	\$6,850	\$8,000	\$8,000
	Records/Information Clerk	\$12,480	\$12,667	\$12,920	\$12,920
18	Archivist	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$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	\$0	\$12,300	\$12,300
	Contract Service	\$26,100	\$26,100	\$9,900	\$9,900
	Expenses	\$4,250	\$4,250	\$5,750	\$5,750
6	Collector Salary	\$15,425	\$16,550	\$17,212	\$17,212
	Expenses	\$9,702	\$9,702	\$9,775	\$9,775
7	Treasurer Salary	\$24,666	\$25,950	\$27,988	\$27,988
	Expenses	\$7,082	\$8,500	\$8,670	\$8,670
	Clerical/Consulting	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$6,050	\$6,050
8	Town Legal Services	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
9	Town Meetings, Elections etc.	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
10	Town Reports	\$875	\$875	\$875	\$875
11	Town Office Wages	\$23,612	\$27,699	\$28,253	\$28,253
	Select Board/Town Office Expenses	\$19,670	\$19,670	\$21,500	\$21,500
12	Buildings and Grounds				
	Salaries	\$15,621	\$16,531	\$16,862	\$16,862
	Expenses	\$62,720	\$62,720	\$62,720	\$62,720
	Maintenance	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
13	Blanket Insurance	\$40,000	\$43,000	\$46,000	\$46,000
14	Town Accountant	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
15	Reserve Fund	\$87,000	\$87,000	\$87,000	\$70,000
16	Surety Bonds	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
17	Emergency Management	\$6,500	\$6,545	\$7,000	\$7,000
19	Hampshire County COG	\$662	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT		\$451,640	\$464,413	\$473,957	\$455,657
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	\$2,470	\$5,000	\$5,000
23	Historical Commission	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
24	Library Trustees				
	Director Salary	\$25,211	\$26,709	\$27,770	\$27,770
	Staff Salaries	\$15,199	\$15,427	\$16,132	\$16,132

Expenses	\$11,614	\$11,214	\$10,814	\$10,814
25 Planning Board	\$500	\$500	\$1,500	\$1,500
26 Recreation Commission	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
28 Cemetery Commission	\$6,500	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
Energy Committee	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500
TOTAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS	\$67,744	\$69,570	\$74,966	\$74,966

SCHOOLS

30 Pelham Elementary	\$1,763,380	\$1,785,208	\$1,826,299	\$1,826,299
31 Amherst Pelham Regional	\$947,186	\$911,947	\$913,077	\$891,934
TOTAL SCHOOLS	\$2,710,566	\$2,697,155	\$2,739,376	\$2,718,233

	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2021
	Approp.	Approp.	Request	Recom.
PUBLIC WORKS				
40 Highway Fund				
Superintendent Salary	\$62,182	\$65,195	\$66,499	\$66,499
Staff Salaries	\$118,446	\$124,383	\$127,871	\$127,871
Expenses	\$121,362	\$121,362	\$121,362	\$121,362
41 School Signal Lights	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900
42 Snow Removal				
Salaries	\$13,451	\$14,198	\$14,582	\$14,582
Materials	\$68,432	\$68,432	\$68,432	\$68,432
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	\$384,773	\$394,470	\$399,646	\$399,646

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

50 Police Department				
Chief Salary	\$62,401	\$65,417	\$66,725	\$66,725
Full Time Officer Salary	\$32,032	\$40,000	\$41,605	\$41,605
Part Time Officer's Salaries	\$40,146	\$42,828	\$43,684	\$43,684
Training and Education	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Expenses	\$25,701	\$25,701	\$25,701	\$25,701
Expenses Fuel	\$12,475	\$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				
Chief Salary	\$25,901	\$27,329	\$27,875	\$27,875
Firefighter's Salaries	\$41,431	\$42,352	\$46,259	\$46,259
Expenses	\$23,980	\$23,980	\$23,980	\$23,980
53 Fire Hydrants	\$280	\$280	\$280	\$280
54 Tree Warden Salary	\$400	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Expenses	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500
57 Ambulance	\$30,750	\$31,750	\$32,500	\$32,500
58 Animal Control	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$2,500
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	\$326,256	\$345,371	\$351,843	\$351,843

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	\$1,200	\$1,200
Recycling	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$7,000	\$0
63 Inspector of Animals	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75
65 Quabbin Health District	\$16,861	\$17,361	\$17,861	\$17,861
TOTAL HEALTH AND SANITATION	\$27,336	\$27,836	\$27,036	\$20,036

BENEFITS AND INSURANCE

70	County Retirement	\$189,000	\$206,000	\$226,318	\$226,318
71	Veteran's Agent Salary	\$5,751	\$5,973	\$6,369	\$6,369
	Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Benefits	\$49,248	\$49,248	\$49,248	\$49,248
72	Workers' Compensation	\$16,444	\$17,266	\$24,000	\$24,000
73	Unemployment Insurance	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
74	Group Health /Medicare	\$220,000	\$220,000	\$190,000	\$175,000
	Health Insurance Opt Out			\$12,000	\$9,000
75	OPEB Deposit	\$100,000	\$120,000	\$140,000	\$130,000
TOTAL BENEFITS AND INSURANCE		\$586,443	\$624,487	\$653,935	\$625,935
GRAND TOTAL		\$4,554,758	\$4,623,302	\$4,720,759	\$4,646,316

Recommended by the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen.

Motion made and Seconded

There were holds for discussion on the Regional School budget, as to how the amount was determined and why it went down and not up; The Police Department Budget as to the number of Officers (2 Full time and 10 part time) and types and amount of training and education our Officers receive and comments about the speed sign on Amherst Road by the school which is deemed as very effective. And lastly the Public Works Snow and Ice Budget which stays relatively the same because leftover money rolls back into the general fund and it can be overspent if necessary due to bad storms. Passed Unanimously

The Moderator took a moment to thank Registrar Sharrie Reydak for her service checking in voters and our Town Counsel Katharine Lord Kline for driving out to attend our Town Meeting

Article 5.

The Town voted to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$141,559 for expenditure as follows:

- A. \$2,000 to defray the cost of clerical and technical help and consultants to the Planning Board
- B. \$10,000 for road maintenance
- C. \$10,000 to repair and or replace the heating system at the Community Building
- D. \$8,339 to the School Department for FY2020, 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 Board of Selectmen
- F. \$20,000 toward the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Capital needs
- G. \$10,000 to be used to correct ADA issues at the Elementary School
- H. \$10,000 to fix the oil supply to the elementary school boiler
- I. \$2,200 to install a hood vent over the welding area in the Town garage
- J. \$5,200 to install garage door openers in the Town garages
- K. \$1,120 to cover the cost of an expired Police Department Safety Grant
- L. \$3,200 to acquire a fixed solar-powered speed sign for Amherst Road
- M. \$6,000 to replace the server at the Pelham Elementary School
- N. \$5,000 for a computer server and handheld GPS to locate boundaries
- O. \$10,000 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 some of the Pelham cemeteries
- S. \$500 for preservation of Town Clerk Records
- T. \$3,500 to cover two months of recycling costs

Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Motion Made and Seconded

*Discussion included costs for recycling changes response was the old company was bought out and new company has different services but over \$20,000 more to voters to keep which is too costly and Costs for Computer server and GPS which was that we no longer have the contracted services from the town of Amherst and we also have boundaries that are not correct. **Article Passed Unanimously***

Article 6.

To see if 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 2021, 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. This article was included in Consent Agenda. Moved, Seconded and **Article Passed Unanimously**

Article 7.

The Town voted 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 2021 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.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

This article was included in Consent Agenda. Moved, Seconded and **Article Passed Unanimously**

A Motion made to move the last article Article 29 to be heard next (before Article 8) and was seconded, Discussion included that Article 10 was essential to be taken up as all four towns in the Regionals School district must vote approve this to fund the Regional School Budget for FY 21. Discussion included that that the town has not had a chance to experience having an Appointed Town Clerk, a lot of time was spent on this article last year and we are pressed for time to get this town meeting completed before the predicted bad weather begins Motion amended to amend motion to move Article 29 to after article 10. **Amendment Passed and Vote to move Article 29 to after Motion 10 passed 36 in favor to 33 opposed.**

Article 8.

The Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$41,300 from the Capital Stabilization account to purchase and install seven new replacement windows for, and to wash, repair, scrape, caulk, and paint the exterior of the Highway Garage.

Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

This needs a 2/3 majority vote A motion was made and seconded. **Article Passed Unanimously**

Article 9.

The Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$5,600 from the Capital Stabilization account to wash, repair, scrape, caulk, and paint the exterior of the Community Hall.

Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

A motion was made and Seconded **Article Passed Unanimously.**

Article 10.

The Town voted to amend Section VI of the Amherst Pelham Regional School District Agreement by adding subsection (j) as follows: For Fiscal Year 2021 only, the alternative operating budget assessment shall be calculated as 45% 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.

Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

A motion was made and seconded. There was a lot of discussion about how the funding for the Regional School is done. This is a complicated process. One method is the Per pupil rate where budget is divided by number of pupils and each town is assessed amount of per pupil multiplied by the number of pupils in their town and the other method is the statutory rate which is a state formula which takes into consideration the income level of each town's residents and number of pupils in each town. The whole School Committee groups have spent three years trying to come up with a plan to make it better. The Pelham School Committee and the Regional School Committee have agreed with the three other towns to slowly moving from the per pupil rate to the statutory rate which is the fall back plan, and is being done incrementally. This year it is figured using a formula based on 45% statutory and 55% on a 5 year rolling average of incomes. **Article Passed Unanimously.**

Article 29.

Citizen's Petition

To see if the Town will vote to rescind Article 7 of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting changing the position of Town Clerk from Elected to Appointed and return it to an Elected position with a 3 year term as previously in the Town Of Pelham bylaws and the Town of Pelham will authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation changing the office of Town Clerk from Appointed to Elected , as set forth above; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve amendments within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition. Upon effective date of this act, the current appointed Town Clerk shall hold the position until such time as a special election to fill the position is held if it is more than 3 months before the next Annual Local Election; or otherwise until the next Annual Local Election and the Elected Town Clerk is Qualified. Proposed amended article submitted with changes recommended by town counsel.

Proposed new wording of Article 29

I move that the Town vote to rescind the vote taken under Article 7 of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting and authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation repealing Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2020 and change the office of Town Clerk from Appointed to Elected, with a three year term as Previously in the Town of Pelham bylaws, and providing that upon the effective date of the act the current appointed clerk shall hold the position until such time as a special election is held if it is more than 3 months before the next Annual Local Election and the Elected Town Clerk is qualified; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment, and to authorize the Select Board to approve amendments within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition. This wording was moved and seconded and passed unanimously. Discussion included that this was voted on before and not about the person and look at the number of empty and unopposed people running on the election ballot this year, the current job search for the appointed clerk only yielded four applicants and one will be appointed Monday after this town meeting. Motion was made to call the question and vote was 61 to 12 to end debate. Vote on amended article count was started but was determined by the Moderator that the majority was not in favor so this **Article Failed to Pass.**

Article 11.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$62,229.72 and transfer \$12,657.78 from Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Funds for the payment of the Town's (General Fund).

Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Motion made and seconded and had no discussion. Article Passed Unanimously.

Article 12.

The Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$27,540 from the Regional School Capital account to pay Pelham's share of the Regional School Capital debt.

Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Motion made and seconded There was no discussion Article Passed Unanimously

Article 13.

The Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$10,771.68 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.

Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Motion made and seconded no discussion Article passed Unanimously

Article 14.

The Town voted 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.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

This article was included in Consent Agenda. Moved, Seconded and Passed Unanimously

Article 15.

The Town voted 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.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

This article was included in Consent Agenda. Moved, Seconded and Passed Unanimously

Article 16.

The Town voted 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.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

This article was included in Consent Agenda. Moved, Seconded and Passed Unanimously

Article 17.

The Town voted to amend the General Bylaws of the Town to rename the Board of Selectmen as the Select Board, by striking out, in every instance in which they appear, the words "Board of Selectmen" and inserting in place thereof the words "Select Board"; and by striking out, in every instance in which they appear, the word "Selectman" and "Selectmen" and inserting in place thereof the words "Select Board Member" or "Select Board Members"; and further to authorize the Town Clerk to prepare and publish a version of the General Bylaws which conforms to such change in title; and, further, to amend Chapter 1 of the General Bylaws by inserting the following new Article therein, with the remaining sections to be renumbered accordingly, or take any action other relative thereto.

CHAPTER 1. General Provisions

Article I: Adoption of Code

Article II: Select Board

For the purposes of these Bylaws and otherwise, the Board of Selectmen shall be referred to as the Select Board and members of the Board shall be referred to as "Select Board Members." The Select Board shall have all the

powers and duties of a board of selectmen under the General Laws and any special laws applicable to the Town of Pelham, as well as such other powers and duties as are provided in the Town's Bylaws.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This needs a 2/3 vote.

Motion made and seconded **Article Passed Unanimously**

Article 18.

The Town voted to amend the Zoning Bylaws of the Town to rename the Board of Selectmen as the Select Board, by striking out, in every instance in which they appear, the words "Board of Selectmen" and inserting in place thereof the words "Select Board"; and by striking out, in every instance in which they appear, the word "Selectman" and "Selectmen" and inserting in place thereof the words "Select Board Member" or "Select Board Members"; and further to authorize the Town Clerk to prepare and publish a version of the Zoning Bylaw which conforms to such change in title.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This needs a 2/3 vote

A motion was made and seconded **Article Passed Unanimously**

Article 19.

The Town voted pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, Section 53E1/2, to establish a new revolving fund to authorize the Planning Board to use application and consultation fees collected for administrative, consulting and other costs in order to carry out its application review responsibilities, and further to amend the Pelham General Bylaws, Chapter Revolving Funds by inserting a new row in the Table of authorized revolving funds as follows, and to set the FY 2021 spending limit at \$15,000.

Revolving Fund	Authorization to Spend	Revenue Source	Use of Fund
Planning Board	Planning Board	Application and consultation fees	Application review responsibilities

Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen

A motion was made and seconded **Article Passed Unanimously**

Article 20.

The Town voted to approve annual spending limits for FY 2021 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 Board of Selectmen, 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	\$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
Planning Board	\$15,000
Plumbing Inspector	\$1,500
Police Department	\$7,500
Wiring Inspector	\$3,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$55,000

Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

A motion was made and seconded. Discussion was about the Community Hall Fund answered money must be raised by rentals etc, before it can be spent **Article passed Unanimously**

Article 21.

The Town voted to accept, for hearings held by the Zoning Board of Appeals, Section 23D of Chapter 39 of the General Laws, which allows a member of a municipal board holding adjudicatory hearings who has missed no more than one session of the hearing to vote on the matter provided that, before the vote, they have certified in writing that they have examined all evidence received at the missed session (which shall include an audio or video recording or a transcript of the missed session).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

A motion was made and seconded Discussion included that with the 40B hearing that can last up to 6 months, if a member missed a meeting, could not vote at subsequent meetings or hearings related to this project. This allows for members to miss one meeting/hearing. **Article passed Unanimously**

Article 22.

The Town voted to amend the Community Choice Energy resolution adopted at the 2018 Annual Town Meeting, which is set forth below, to authorize the Board of Selectmen, rather than Town Meeting, to approve the plan developed by the inter-municipal task force for an inter-municipal Community Choice Energy organization..

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

2018 Resolution Passed

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 the 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 form an inter-municipal task force to develop a plan to be approved by Town Meeting 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.

An amendment submitted by Judy Eiseman to insert the phrase “provided that prior to such approval, the Board of Selectmen consults with a committee comprised of the Finance Committee, Energy Committee, Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Pelham’s member of the inter-municipal task force and holds a public hearing with two weeks notice to present the elements of the proposed plan to the public.”

There was a lot of discussion surrounding this amendment. Some items include an open review after the task force finishes, Board of Selectmen has not done it before because the trust factor not there, Authority granted to Board of Selectmen and town can potentially save some money, discussed a couple years ago, but process was too complicated to understand and two years later we are still in the same position, this is allowing the Select Board to consider a plan, statute requires a public review process, Select Board meetings are open to public, so if interested can go to Select Board meeting. A motion was made to call the question on the amendment. Vote on the Amendment yes 32 no 37 **Amendment Failed** Vote on **Article 22 Passed with a few Nay votes**

Article 23.

The Town voted to accept the recommendations of the Historic Commission and the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate from the Community Preservation Historic Fund the sum of \$70,000 for the exterior repainting of the old Town Hall.

Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Motion made and Seconded **Article Passed Unanimously**

Article 24.

The Town voted to accept the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee and the School Committee to appropriate from the Community Preservation Open Space and Recreation Fund the sum of \$11,500 for the design of a new track and field complex at the Amherst/Pelham Regional High School.

Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen

Motion made and seconded Discussion included: Is this necessary at this time? Is this appropriate use of CPC funds? The track is really in bad shape. This is a study to see what the design will be and what the cost will be, and then make plans for a new track. **Article passed with one Nay**

Article 25.

The Town voted 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 FY2021 in the amount of \$3,500.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Moved and Seconded **Passed Unanimously**

Article 26.

The Town voted 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 for Open Space; \$14,500 for Community Housing; and \$14,500 for Historic Resources; and to reserve for later appropriation \$40,200 to the FY2021 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Discussion this is the routine division of the funds for accounting. **Article Passed Unanimously**

Article 27.

The Town voted to accept G.L. c. 53, §9A, Nomination Papers, which provides as follows:

The final date for obtaining blank nomination papers for nomination to city or town office shall be forty-eight week day hours prior to the hour on which nomination papers are required to be submitted to the registrars of voters for certification.

Each candidate shall file with the city or town clerk, prior to obtaining blank nomination papers, a statement containing his name and address, and the city or town office for which he intends to be a candidate.

No candidate for city or town office shall receive more blank nomination papers than will contain the number of signatures required to place his name in nomination, multiplied by five.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Discussion Why do we need this? This is part of our election process followed by the Town Clerk, and we do not have a bylaw that we need to follow for this process. The state Elections division said we follow this, but never accepted the statute. It would be better if we accepted the statute and filed the acceptance with the state. Town Counsel did not have a comment on this. **Motion to call the question Passed Unanimously and Article passed Unanimously**

Article 28.

Town of Pelham Pollinator Protection Resolution

A non-binding resolution endorsing the protection of pollinators and enhancement of pollinator habitat

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators are a crucial component of a healthy ecosystem and a vital link in our food system, providing the pollination responsible for over three quarters of the world’s plant species, and for one out of every three bites of food that we eat; and

WHEREAS, pollinator populations are in sharp decline due to human land use practices that are causing ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation, the expansion of pesticide use by consumers and professionals, the spread of pathogens and parasites, and global climate change; and

WHEREAS, extensive research has documented that neonicotinoids and other systemic pesticides have been shown to cause illness and death to honey bees, native bees, butterflies, moths, other insect pollinators, and beneficial insects; and

WHEREAS, guidelines for land management best practices are available that allow residents, businesses, farms, towns, and land trusts to manage their land in ways that increase pollinator forage and nest sites while decreasing maintenance costs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Select Board that the Town of Pelham is hereby declared a Pollinator-Friendly Community and that the town encourages the adoption of policies and practices that support pollinator health by minimizing the use of insecticides;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Pelham will set an example by adopting the pollinator friendly practices below and encourage property owners, residents, town departments, business owners, and land trusts to adopt pollinator-friendly practices including:

- * Planting more pollinator-supporting forage on their property, emphasizing native plant species, and adopting organic or chemical-free lawn and landscaping practices;
- * Avoiding the planting of flowering plants that are treated with systemic insecticides and avoiding the use of seeds coated with systemic neonicotinoids;
- * Avoiding the use of insecticides, including systemic insecticides, on their property.

The Town Clerk is requested to send copies of this resolution to Governor Charlie Baker, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner John Lebeaux, State Senator Josephine Comerford, and State Representative Mindy Domb.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Motion was made and seconded **Article Passed Unanimously**
Motion to Adjourn at 12:14 pm Passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted
Kathleen Martell
Pelham Town Clerk

Signatures of Select Board and Constable as posted on warrant.

Karen Willard-Ribeiro, Chair Karen Willard Ribeiro

Robert Agoglia, Vice-Chair Robert Agoglia

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Date signed: 6-9-2020

Constable Carlson

Date posted: 6/11/2020 Fire/Police Station and Rhodes Building