

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF PEMBROKE, NH
MARCH 12, 2024**

The meeting was opened by Moderator Thomas Serafin at 11:00 am with the reading of Warrant Articles #1 and #2.

ARTICLE #1: To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year.

*Denotes elected

Town Clerk for one year:	Water Commissioner for five years:
Vote for not more than one	Vote for not more than one
James F. Goff *345	Lawrence A. Plourde *291

Moderator for 2 years:	Library Trustee for one year:
Vote for not more than one	Vote for not more than one
Thomas S. Serafin *305	Michael Levis *153
	Rebecca Hanson (write in) 140

Treasurer for one year	Library Trustee for three years:
Vote for not more than one	Vote for not more than one
Jillian McNeil *300	Shelley Fowler *288

Selectman for three years:	Trust Fund Trustee for three years:
Vote for not more than one	Vote for not more than one
Matt Miller *272	Courtney H. Eschbach *282

Sewer Commissioner for two years:	Checklist Supervisor for six years:
Vote for not more than one	Vote for not more than one
Arthur Little (write in) *14	David Plante (write in) *13
Joshua Barker (write in) 5	Safiya Wazir (write in) 9

Sewer Commissioner for three years:	
Vote for not more than one	
Paulette Malo *302	

ARTICLE 2: AMEND ZONING ORDINANCE

Are you in favor of adopting the following amendments to the existing Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Pembroke?

Amendment #1: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1, as proposed by the Planning Board, for the Pembroke Zoning Ordinance as follows: amend Article VIII, Signs to remove content-based regulations in accordance with the 2014 Supreme Court ruling on content-neutrality as it relates to the first amendment, reformat the Ordinance to be user-friendly, and amend 143-28.G. Minor Home Business, §143-29.G. Major Home Business, §143-30.1.D.(5) Office Conversion, and §143-42.F. Commercial Kennels as they relate to signs and content-

neutrality. No substantive changes are proposed to the regulations?

The purpose of Amendment #1 is to comply with a 2014 Supreme Court ruling on first amendment rights relative to the Zoning Ordinance and to improve the formatting of the Sign Ordinance. No substantive changes are included in this amendment.

YES 270 NO 45 AMENDMENT #1 PASSED

Amendment #2: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2, as proposed by the Planning Board, for the Pembroke Zoning Ordinance to amend Article VIII, Signs to allow off-premise signs in the B1, B2, and LO Districts by special exception of the Zoning Board?

The purpose of Amendment #2 is to allow off-premises signs in the B1, B2, and LO Districts by special exception where they are currently prohibited.

YES 199 NO 133 AMENDMENT #2 PASSED

Amendment #3: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #3, as proposed by the Planning Board, for the Pembroke Zoning Ordinance to amend Article VIII, Signs to allow signs to cover window sills and architectural molding?

The purpose of Amendment #3 is to allow signs to cover window sills and architectural molding, which is currently prohibited.

YES 174 NO 159 AMENDMENT #3 PASSED

Amendment #4: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #4, as proposed by the Planning Board, for the Pembroke Zoning Ordinance as follows: amend §143-8, Definitions and §143-69, Floodplain Development District as necessary to comply with requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program?

The purpose of Amendment #4 is to adopt FEMA-mandated amendments to remain in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program.

YES 296 NO 42 AMENDMENT #4 PASSED

Amendment #5: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #5, as proposed by the Planning Board, for the Pembroke Zoning Ordinance to amend the provisions regarding Manufactured Housing Parks by inserting proper references to the Table of Dimensional and Density Standards, which was updated last year?

The purpose of Amendment #5 is a clean-up item to update a reference to the Table of Dimensional and Density Standards, which was reformatted last year.

YES 285 NO 59 AMENDMENT #5 PASSED

Amendment #6: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #6, as proposed by the Planning Board, for the Pembroke Zoning Ordinance to remove from the purposes of the Wetlands Protection District the purpose of “encouraging uses that can be appropriately and safely located in wetland areas”?

The purpose of Amendment #6 is to clarify that uses in the wetlands are not encouraged, as identified in the 2020 Pembroke Master Plan.

YES 250 NO 71 AMENDMENT #6 PASSED

4638 voters on the Pembroke Checklist

357 ballots cast

7.7% voter turnout

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF PEMBROKE, NH
DELIBERATIVE SESSION
MARCH 16, 2024**

At 10:00 a.m. Moderator Thomas Serafin gives an introduction of the Budget Committee members, Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk. He then reads the results of the ballot vote taken on March 12, 2024.

Selectperson Karen Yeaton took a moment to thank all our volunteers who serve on our boards, committees and commissions, acknowledges all the time and effort they put in.

Before the Moderator opens the meeting, Charles Connor is honored as the Town of Pembroke's Outstanding Citizen.

A more extensive description of the presentation will be printed in the 2024 Pembroke Town Report.

The Moderator then asks Police Chief Gary Gaskell and Lt. Dawn Shea to lead everyone in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance and then opens the meeting at 10:00 am.

There was a motion made to dispense with the reading of the full warrant and go straight to Article #3.

MOVED: Gerard Fleury

SECONDED: Sandy Goulet

VOTE: YES

MOTION PASSED

ARTICLE 3: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$152,000 (gross budget) to defray the cost for the purpose of performing a stormwater infrastructure project for Memorial Park drainage improvements phase 2 and associated MS 4 requirements, and to

authorize the issuance of not more than \$152,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and, to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to offset a portion of said appropriation by applying for and expending Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF) loan funds. Repayment of the loan funds will include up to 100% forgiveness of loan principal in an amount up to \$110,400. (3/5 ballot vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0

MOVED: Sandy Goulet

SECONDED: Richard Frederickson

After much discussion on Article #3, there was a motion made to proceed with the voting.

MOVED: Susan Seidner

SECONDED: Christopher Larochelle

VOTE: YES

MOTION PASSED

Moderator Serafin then opens the polls for ballot voting on Article #3 at 11:00 a.m. Marked ballots to be deposited into a dedicated box used only for Article #3.

After all voters in attendance who wished to vote on Article #3 had done so and the polls were open for more than one hour, the polls were closed at 12:10 p.m. The ballots were counted and the results are as follows:

Results: YES 220 NO 47

ARTICLE #3 PASSED

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$730,402 to purchase a new EV refuse truck with accessories and to further authorize the transfer of a sum not to exceed \$100,000 from the Town Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to cover the Town's cost of 5%. The Town of Pembroke has applied for a grant through the State of NH DES which will provide approximately 95% reimbursement of the total cost. These funds are being made available as part of a grant that was obtained by the State from the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund/Granite State Clean Fleets. This warrant article is contingent upon receiving the funding from the State.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0

MOVED: Sandy Goulet

SECONDED: Richard Frederickson

There was a motion made to change the amount now reads \$730,402 to \$765,431.

MOVED: Gerard Fleury

SECONDED: Karen Yeaton

There were questions on the specifics of the vehicle. Public Works Director VJ Ranfos

stated that the vehicle is fully electric, it has a 7 year warranty on the battery pack and a battery life expectancy of 10 plus years. The manufacturing company is Battle Motors, the dealer is in Concord NH and it is manufactured in Ohio. The vehicle that is will replace is 25 years old and will only last about another 2 to 3 years. If we replace with a vehicle not covered under the Volkswagen Enviromental Mitigation Trust Fund, it will cost approximately a half a million dollars.

After much discussion on amendment, there was a motion made to proceed with the voting.

MOVED: Christopher Larochelle SECONDED: Michael Rodney

VOTE ON THE MOTION: YES

VOTE ON ARTICLE #4 AS AMENDED: YES

ARTICLE #4 PASSED AS AMENDED

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Pembroke EMS Ambulance Fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h I (b) to continue providing ambulance services for the Town of Pembroke. The money received from fees and charges for EMS/Ambulance services, shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year and shall not be part of the Town's General Fund unreserved fund balances. All expenditures related to this fund shall be for payroll and operational expenses associated with continuing to provide an ambulance service to the community. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon the order of the Board of Selectmen, and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. This fund will replace the Tri Town EMS Intermunicipal fund that was created in March 17, 2012 which will be dissolved due to the Town of Allenstown cancelling the intermunicipal agreement/contract for joint ambulance services with Pembroke which is effective July 1, 2024. Any funds remaining in the previously established fund from 2012 will not be transferred to either Town until the dissolution is complete and the financial records have been audited by a certified public accounting firm.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

MOVED: Andrew Camidge SECONDED: Richard Frederickson

Town Administrator David Jodoin gave a history of what prompted this article.

After much discussion on Article #5, there was a motion made to proceed with the voting.

MOVED: Gabre Winters SECONDED: Sandy Goulet

VOTE ON THE MOTION: YES

VOTE ON ARTICLE #5: YES

ARTICLE #5 PASSED

ARTICLE 6: Shall the town Vote to Modify Chapter 138, Article IV of the Pembroke Town Code, entitled Elderly Exemptions under the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in Pembroke, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 74 years, \$47,250; for a person 75 years of age up to 79 years, \$87,750; for a person 80 years of age or older \$168,750. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least the last 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least the last 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$28,407 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$40,667; and own net assets not in excess of \$45,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0

MOVED: Sandy Goulet

SECONDED: Richard Fredrickson

After much discussion on Article #6, there was a motion made to proceed with the voting.

MOVED: Lisa Gilbert

SECONDED: Christopher Larochelle

VOTE ON THE MOTION: YES

VOTE ON ARTICLE #6: YES

ARTICLE #6 PASSED

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of \$11,624,396 for the 2024 municipal operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0

MOVED: Sandy Goulet

SECONDED: Richard Frederickson

There was discussion on the larger increases within the budget and much of it centered around the ambulance service and whether it should be privatized relying on other communities.

There was a motion made to vote on the article.

MOVED: Sarah Smith

SECONDED: Christopher Larochelle

VOTE: YES

VOTE ON ARTICLE #7: YES

ARTICLE #7 PASSED

There was a motion made to restrict reconsideration on Article #7 as per RSA 40:10.

MOVED: Andrew Camidge

SECONDED: Kevin Foss

VOTE: YES

MOTION PASSED

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$845,500 to be deposited into the following Capital Reserve Funds established as indicated below:

Town Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$275,000
Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 65,000
Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 75,000
Fire Major Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$162,000
Fire Small Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 40,000
Roadway and Infrastructure Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 50,000
Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 30,000
Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 10,000
Ambulance Repl./Equip. Cap. Res. Fund.	\$121,000
Recreation Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 10,000
Town Clock Fund	\$ 7,500
	<hr/>
	\$845,500

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-2

MOVED: Robert Farley

SECONDED: Brian Lemoine

There was a motion made to reduce the bottom line to \$500,000.

MOVED: Cathy Cruson

Budget Committee Vice Chair Gerard Fleury explained that you could not reduce the bottom line without being specific to the amounts in each capital reserve.

There was a motion made to cut all the capital reserves with the exception of leaving the \$121,000 in the Ambulance Repl/Equip. Cap. Res. Fund.

MOVED: Anthony Michniewicz

SECONDED: Kevin Foss

After much discussion, there was a motion made to vote on the amendment.

MOVED: Matthew Petersons

SECONDED: Kevin Foss

VOTE: YES

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE #8: NO AMENDMENT FAILED

There was a motion made "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$413,000. To be deposited into the following Capital Reserve Funds established as indicated below:

Town Equipment Capital Reserve Fund \$100,000. Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund \$30,000.- Ambulance Repl./Equip. Cap. Reserve Fund \$121,000.- Fire major Equipment Capitol Reserve Fund \$162,000.

\$413,000.-"

MOVED: Rosemarie Michaud

SECONDED: Kathy Cruson

There was a motion made to vote on the amendment.

MOVED: Christopher Larochelle

SECONDED: Jesse Hall

VOTE: YES

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE #8: YES

VOTE ON ARTICLE #8 AS AMENDED: YES

ARTICLE #8 PASSED AS AMENDED

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,250 to purchase a new Hot Patcher and accessories for the Public Works Department which is used to patch pot holes and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of a sum not to exceed \$60,250 from the Town Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0

MOVED: Eric Paulsen

SECONDED: Brian Lemoine

VOTE: YES

ARTICLE #9 PASSED

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,850 to purchase a new Police Cruiser and accessories and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of a sum not to exceed \$54,850 from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-1

MOVED: Robert Farley

SECONDED: Eric Paulsen

VOTE: YES

ARTICLE #10 PASSED

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to purchase a video surveillance System for Memorial Park and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of a sum not to exceed \$5,000 from the Recreation Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0

MOVED: Richard Frederickson

SECONDED: Mark Cioffi

VOTE: YES

ARTICLE #11 PASSED

ARTICLE 12: To accept the reports of all boards, committees, auditors and commissions as printed in the 2023 Town report and to transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

MOVED: Lonnie Meloon

SECONDED: Stephanie Baldwin

VOTE: YES

ARTICLE #12 PASSED

There was a motion made to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED: James Parker

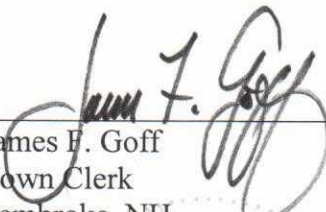
SECONDED: Stephanie Baldwin

VOTE: YES

The Pembroke Town meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

After the meeting adjourned, Moderator Serafin swore in all officials that were elected on the 2024 Town Meeting ballot.

Respectfully submitted:



James F. Goff
Town Clerk
Pembroke, NH

March 18th, 2024

TOWN SEAL

