

Town of
Peru, Massachusetts



June 11, 2018

Community Center, 3 E. Main Rd.

OFFICIAL

Minutes to Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Present:

Bruce Mr. Cullett, Chairman BOS/Police Sergeant
Ed Munch, Selectman/Historical Commission
Verne Leach, Selectman/ ACO/Transfer Attendant
Caleb Mitchell, Town Administrator
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Irene Morrison, Selectmen's Secretary
Daryl Darby, Cemetery Sexton
Kim Leach, Town Clerk
Bonnie DiTomasso, Wahconah Building Committee

Residents: Margaret Chieffo, Russell Chieffo, Mary Morrison

Item 1: **Call to order** - Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M.

Item 2: **Roll Call** - Chairman Cullett present, Selectman Munch present, Selectman Leach present

Item 3: **State recording status** - Recording: Selectman Leach, Secretary Morrison

Item 4: **Review and approve Meeting Minutes for 6/11/18**

Mr. Cullett motioned to approve Meeting Minutes of 6/11/18 pending changes. Mr. Leach seconds. All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0**

Item 5: Report from Departments

Wahconah School Building Project - Bonnie DiTomasso, Wahconah School Building Committee Member reporting

Bonnie DiTomasso, Wahconah School Building Committee Member said that as part of the Wahconah Building Project, there will be four Community Forums. This will be an opportunity for people in the community to see the design choices. The information that's collected from these meetings will then be used by the Wahconah Building Project Committee to recommend the final selection to be sent to the State for approval, then, moving forward next Spring for a vote amongst all the towns as to whether or not they want to go forward. She said that it is her understanding that there will be choices of new build, renovate, and choices of basic repair.

Mr. Cullett asked if the Pre-Feasibility Study was being turned over to the School Committee. Wahconah School Building Committee Member DiTomasso said the input from the Community Forum will be shared with the Designer. The Designer will then take all that information and present it to the School Building Committee, then make a recommendation to the full School Committee about which design should be put forward. The State is looking by September 12, 2018 for the District to recommend one version of whatever is going to be done. That would go before the State for consideration in preparation for the vote next Spring 2019 as to whether to move forward with the Project. The School Committee hired a Firm to do the Feasibility Study, and then that Firm would turn over a report with the findings of that Feasibility Study. Mr. Leach said, "so they're not going to release the Feasibility Study until they get everyone's opinion." She said that the Feasibility Study was an ongoing process, so we're nearing the end of the Feasibility Study where then the School Building Committee is then going to say this is the design that will be voted on and sent to the State.

Mr. Munch questioned what information was going to be at the meetings if the Feasibility Study isn't out. "How can the people have input to something they don't even know what the plan is?" Wahconah School Building Committee Member DiTomasso responded that it's important for people to attend these meetings, and that the Community Forums have to happen as part of the Feasibility Study. She said that this will be a much more formalized design process with numbers attached for the various options. For further information regarding the Forums, see attached flyer inviting the Community to attend.

Highway Dept. - H wv. Supt. Russell reporting

Hwy. Supt. Russell said that coming up on Thursday, June 28, 2018 from 8:00 A.M. to noon at Skyline Country Club is a Hwy. Supt. meeting. They are inviting anyone to come. They will be discussing different overlays, super paved chip sealing, and different asphalt preservation applications for roads that can sometimes cost more or less money to do a road. Also, they will be discussing a form of "Super-pave", which is fairly new in the State of MA. The cost to attend is \$30.00.

Hwy. Supt. Russell said he has a count of the TV's at the Transfer Station. Linda Cernak of NBSW set it up with the Town of Hinsdale, that if we wanted to use their box to get rid of TV's, Kathy Warden, Hinsdale Administrative Assistant may be contacted. The price for up to 19" TV's is \$15.00 each. There are 4 of those. For 19-30" is \$20.00. There are 12 of those. Anything over 30" is \$30.00, in which there are 9 of those. The

cost would be \$570.00 to dispose all of them. Mr. Munch asked if we have money to do it this year before the new FY changeover. Hwy. Supt. Russell said that acct. is currently in the red. Mr. Munch said "if we go into the new FY and take it out of the Compactor account to get rid of the TV's, we're more than likely to have a "Special Town Meeting" to do the Solar Array By-law, so we'll put the total amount on that Warrant." Mr. Cullett said that there is some disposal money left over for the dumpsters at the Hall Property clean up. He will ask Finance Chairman, George Gruele about it.

Hwy. Supt. Russell said that someone asked him last week if they could dismantle the dump truck at 40 E. Main Rd. and take it away on trailers. He guesses that the truck is 24-25 thousand pounds. He contacted Sayers. Sayers gave Hwy. Supt. Russell a price of \$1500.00 for scrap. Mr. Cullett said the Town can't take a chance of somebody cutting up that truck and getting hurt. Szpanik will haul it for \$300.00 - \$400.00 to haul it.

Hwy. Supt. Russell informed Transfer Attendant Leach that he left both him and Gary Sturgis a copy of what he wrote up for Transfer Attendant duties and responsibilities due to the fact that there are a few more people that could be possibly be working at the Transfer Station. Mr. Leach, speaking as Transfer Attendant said, "as far as putting stickers on the vehicles, we do not mandate that, because there are reasons for security where people park their vehicle when at work. People can put the stickers in their glove compartment or show an app. As far as putting a sticker on each bag, they don't stick. They can hand the sticker to the Attendant. As far as batteries or things that are rechargeable, they can't be put in the bags." Hwy. Supt. Russell said that the Attendant Building is overflowing, and needs to be completely gutted out. He indicated that for the past 3 years, DEP has taken pictures, and said all that stuff shouldn't be in there. Transfer Attendant Leach requests a key for Transfer Attendant Gary Sturgis to use the bathroom facility. Mr. Munch reiterates that the Attendant Building must be cleaned, and is offering to help.

Hwy. Supt. Russell indicated that he talked with Jeff Delorey at Delorey Sales about the new truck. He let them know right after the Annual Town Meeting that everything had passed through. They spec'd the Peru Hwy. truck with International to get things moving if it went through Town Meeting. Hwy. Superintendent Russell indicated that the truck could come as early as November or December. In talking to Finance Chair, George Gruele, his thought was to have a Special Town Meeting if Free Cash is certified by then, or use part of the existing money, taking half of that, then a loan for the other half of the remaining balance. Mr. Leach asked if the old truck would be scrapped. Hwy. Supt. said they are keeping that as a spare back up truck.

Hwy. Supt. Russell said that he received another application for Truck Driver/Laborer, but that the applicant does not have a CDL and lives in Richmond.

Town Clerk - Kim Leach reporting

Kim Leach, Town Clerk said that there are over 30 people to possibly re-appoint. Mr. Cullett said that ½ of the re-appointments could be done during the meeting of 6/18/18 and the other half at the meeting of 6/25/18. He said that she could prepare all the appointment papers, and give them to TA Mitchell they would be included on the Agenda. Town Clerk Leach said there are 8 people who need to be sworn in from the Election. She suggested that if we had a particular date & time, and have everyone come in on that date & time, they could all be sworn in at the same time.

Kim Leach, Town Clerk said she is frequently contacted by people wondering how they can get their deposit back from Wired West. They thought they would automatically get it back, but they haven't. Mr. Cullett said that they need to send a written request to the Wired West Office. It has to have the original name and address on the request. Town Clerk Leach suggested putting a posting up at the Town Hall and/or at the Transfer Station with the instructions on how to request their deposit back from Wired West.

Secretary Morrison said that she has had a request from a resident to e-mail the approved Minutes to them. She asked the BOS if the resident should be requesting the Minutes from her or from Records Management. Mr. Cullett indicated that the request should go to Records Management. Kim Leach, Town Clerk clarified that the person making that request wants to be put on the list that Secretary Morrison sends out with a copy of the Minutes. What Town Clerk Leach proposes is to let people sign up with their e-mail address, then the Town Clerk e-mails the Minutes after Morrison sends them to her. Mr. Cullett said "as long as they are Official Approved Minutes, that's as good as putting them on the web-site. TA Mitchell said that once the new Website is up and running, the Minutes and Agenda's will be posted there.

Small Town Summit- Mr. Munch reporting

Mr. Munch said that Senator Hines has been working hard trying to push things through. Currently, they are trying to push the EMT Bill through so that we can have a better response from the Hinsdale Ambulance. They're working on the Rural School issue with reimbursement, which is another issue.

Mr. Munch said he is thinking about setting up an appointment with John Gould, who is working for the State with Senator Hines so that we can get information directly regarding reimbursement to the small towns. One of the biggest complaints is that all the Committees that are being set up to work on the studies are being set up in Boston. They're putting professional people on these Committees, but no one from the Hill towns who know what the problems are.

Town Administrator - TA Mitchell reporting

TA Mitchell said he sent an e-mail to the appropriate staff to coordinate a time when the Auditor is ready to come here. He said that the Treasurer/Tax Collector, Accountant, Assessor and himself need to be present during the Audit. He said he gave Mr. Cullett a copy of a document called an "Engagement Letter" from the Auditor. TA Mitchell informed Mr. Cullett that it was several pages long, and will need to be signed before the Audit can be started.

Item 6: Interview for Town of Peru Council on Aging Director Position

Mr. Cullett introduced Margaret Chieffo, who has expressed interest in the COA Position. She talked a little about herself, her family, and some things that she has done. She has extensive experience in teaching at a number of Schools. She has had experience in taking care of a relative who has Alzheimer's. When seeing the posting of the COA Director Position, she thought it would be something she would have an interest in. She feels that older people respond when they know you are caring and that you have their best interest in mind. She has also had experience in coordinating speakers to come in, planning trips and activities. She said that she

realizes there are a lot of different needs, and that she is very adaptable to that. Both Mr. Cullett and Mr. Munch shared with her that she may be the only person the older people have to rely on. They may not have family close by, or a network of friends that they can call upon. Mr. Cullett said that she will eventually have the resources and contacts to point those in need in the right direction.

Former COA Director Mary Morrison said she has information in which she has heard that we are planning on merging with the Hinsdale COA. She has called COA in Boston, and they highly recommend we don't do that. All the funding for the Peru COA would cease if we did that. Mr. Leach said that he has been talking with the Assistant Administrator from Hinsdale, and there is a meeting coming up about how we could work with them and still keep all our Grant Monies. He invited Mrs. Chieffo to attend that meeting. Mr. Cullett told her about the CDC, and how they operate the Hilltown Elder Network Program, which would be a good resource.

Bonnie DiTomasso said that the Farmers Market is very popular with the Seniors, and that the coupons will be ready sometime in July. She said that there are 10 coupons per person worth \$25.00. They are available to people who are income and age eligible, meaning they have to be over the age of 60 to qualify. The coupons can be used until the end of October.

Mr. Cullett explained to Mrs. Chieffo that we had her on this weeks Agenda for an interview. Next week, it will be on the Agenda to discuss and possible Vote and Appoint as the COA Director.

Item 7: **Interview for Town of Peru Highway Dept. Truck Driver/Laborer Position**

Mr. Cullett introduced Mark Bedard who is a resident of Dalton, and has worked for Crescent Creamery for 15 years. Mr. Leach asked what size truck he drives. He indicated 33,000 gross vehicle weight. He also said that he does not have a Class A License, but that he has carried a Class B License for the past 14 years. Mr. Leach asked if he has any experience plowing. He does not. Currently, he is waiting to sit for the 1C3A. Mr. Cullett told Mr. Bedard that we require a 2A License. When asked how mechanically inclined he was, he responded that he hasn't gotten into any engine work. However, he did say that he picks things up quickly, and is willing to learn. Hwy. Supt. Russell explained that the job entails more labor than anything, and that during the summer, it's really labor intensive. Mr. Cullett asked when he takes his 1C3A. Mr. Bedard responded it would be 2 wks. from tomorrow, which would be

June 26, 2018. Hwy. Supt. Russell told Mr. Bedard that he would be reimbursed by the Town for any of the exams required to obtain a license. Mr. Bedard said that he is looking for good hours for the bulk of the year, and that's what this position offers. The benefit package was explained to Mr. Bedard. Mr. Cullett told him that uniforms are provided, along with cleaning service. TA Mitchell said that the Town expends a lot of money on training and licenses, and that we're looking for a firm commitment. Mr. Bedard said he's been with Crescent Creamery for a very long time, and he's not leaving lightly. He's looking for the next right move for himself.

After the interview and his departure, the BOS discussed his qualifications, and took into consideration the length of time he has been with his current employer, his willingness to learn, and initiative to obtain further training and to get the required licenses for the job. Kim Leach, Town Clerk suggested that if Mr. Bedard were to be hired, Dale Weeks could help out with the training.

Item 8: Discussion, Review and Possible vote to approve the use of Chapter 90 funds for the South Rd. Paving Project

Hwy. Supt. Russell said that he has updated some of the figures he used on the South Rd. Paving Project Estimate. He had left out the line painting on the Chip Seal figures. He also added an extra 500 Ton of ¾ dense grade. Mr. Munch asked if better signage could be put up on the roadways. He emphasized that he would like to see 143 signs at the end of E. Windsor Rd. pointing up & down. Hwy. Supt. Russell said that he just ordered some new signs.

Mr. Cullett motions to approve the use of Chapter 90 funds and to move forward with getting the South Rd. Paving Project out to bid. Mr. Munch seconds. All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0**

Hwy. Supt. Russell presented the BOS with the Environmental Punch List that has been signed by the Conservation Commission. The BOS have signed it tonight 6/11/18. They also had to sign paperwork to confirm that they have approved the Chapter 90 funds to be used for paving of Hickenbotham and South Rd. The Accountant will also have to sign the same paperwork. Hwy. Supt. Russell said that once everything is signed, he will send the paperwork to the State for approval. Once it is approved, they will send it back to him and he can send it out to bid.

Item 9: Update on Cable License Agreement between Charter/Spectrum and the Town of Peru

TA Mitchell gave the BOS a copy of the e-mail exchange between Town Council and himself, and also a copy of the Agreement that has been revised from the conversations between Town Council and Charter. Town Council said with the document revised in its usual form, in his opinion is something that he's comfortable with the BOS signing. TA Mitchell believes that Town Council will get a final copy before the BOS signs it. He said that he requests that the Library be included as a fourth site, with a free basic subscriber fee. He said he e-mailed Anna Lucey, and that she already approved it so we can have the Library included. TA Mitchell pointed out to Town Council that we still need a Public Hearing, and that we need to legally advertise it 2 different weeks before we can hold the Public Hearing.

Mr. Leach motions to have a Public Hearing to move forward with the Licensing Agreement. Mr. Cullett seconds. All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0**

The BOS discussed the details required and dates in running the advertisement in which they decided July 9, 2018 or July 16, 2018. TA Mitchell said that he would call the State Telecommunications Office to get guidance on the ad.

Not on the Agenda, but brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law

Mr. Leach stated if the Berkshire County Selectmen's Asso. Membership was something the BOS normally joined. Mr. Cullett indicated that they have in the past. Mr. Leach said that this last years meeting was at

Mazzeo's Restaurant. TA Mitchell said if the BOS wanted to join, the Application would have to be put in with the invoices for the Warrant for next week because it's due by July 1, 2018.

Item 10: Adjourn

Mr. Cullett motions to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Leach seconds. All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0**

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 P.M.

Articles used in BO Meeting

- * Meeting Minutes Draft of June 4, 2018
- * Agenda of June 11, 2018
- * Sign in sheet for June 11, 2018Rd
- * Resume from Margaret Chieffo for COA Director Position
- * Application for employment for Truck Driver/Laborer Position - Mark Bedard
- * Transfer Attendant Duties & Responsibilities
- * Wahconah School Building Project Forum Flyer
- * South Rd. Paving Project Estimate
- * Berkshire County Selectmen's Asso. Membership

Respectfully submitted,

Irene J. Morrison

Irene J. Morrison
Selectmen Secretary

Chairman, Bruce Collett



Selectman, Verne Leach



Selectman, Ed Munch



Approved: _____ 6/18/18 _____

