



TOWN HALL | 3 EAST MAIN ROAD | PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MINUTES | JULY 23, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY CENTER

OFFICIAL

Present:

Ed Munch, Chairman/Historical Commission
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Sergeant
Verne Leach, Selectman/ACO/Transfer Attendant
Caleb Mitchell, Town Administrator/Con Com
Irene Morrison, Administrative Assistant
Brian Dewkett, Fire Chief
Nanette Mone, BOH Member

Residents: Colleen LaRoche

Guest:

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

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

Item 3: **State recording status:** Selectman Leach, Adm. Asst. Morrison

Item 4: **Review and approve Meeting Minutes for 7/16/18**

Mr. Munch motions to approve the 7/16/18 Minutes pending changes. Mr. Leach seconds. All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0**

Item 5: **Report from Departments**

Animal Control – Verne Leach, ACO reporting

ACO Leach reported that there was a dog bite in town on 7/12/18. The dog was under quarantine, and is now lifted from quarantine. The owner of the dog will have it euthanized.

Town Administrator – Caleb Mitchell reporting

TA Mitchell gave the BOS a copy of the bid with classifications from Hwy. Supt. Russell for paving South Rd. if they want to make any changes. The ad goes in the Central Register this Wednesday 7/25/18, and is also posted on the Town Bulletin Board in front of the Town Hall Building. If there are any changes to the specs, Hwy. Supt. will make any corrections tomorrow.

TA Mitchell provided the BOS with a copy of the document he has sent to Town Counsel for review of the Auditor terms and response stating that they don't have any litigations against the town. The Auditor reviewed all documents in the Town Office. We should be getting a report in the near future.

BOS

Mr. Leach asked TA Mitchell to let the Treasurer know anytime there is a change in any department. He also said that public hours for Town Offices have not been posted on the Bulletin Board as asked.

Mr. Leach indicated that he has received a communication via e-mail regarding Developing Local Cannabis Policies in Massachusetts. It will be put onto the Meeting Agenda of 8/13/18.

Mr. Cullett has requested that TA Mitchell have Department Meetings on a regular basis, which TA does have one for this Friday.

Board of Health – Nanette Mone, BOH Member reporting

Nanette Mone, BOH Member said that the BOH is looking into what they have in place to get rid of the hogweed. The State has stopped removal in the Town of Hinsdale. The BOH is going to see if they can do some public service announcements on Public Radio. Part of the public announcement is to warn people to avoid it, and to report what they've seen and it's location. Mr. Munch asked if the BOH will be in charge of keeping records of where it is, what's being done about it.

Item 6: Discussion and Vote for Issuance of one day permit to the Fire Department to sell beer for Fun Fest

Mr. Leach said he wants to invoke the Rule of Necessity for the reason that both he and Mr. Munch are on the Fire Dept.

Mr. Munch motions to issue a one day permit to the Fire Dept. to sell beer for the Fun Fest. Mr. Cullett seconds. All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0**

Item 7: Discussion, Review and possible vote to hire Mark Bedard for Highway Department Truck Driver/Laborer position

Mr. Leach stated that Mark Bedard submitted a second application in response to the revised posting for the position of Highway Department Truck Driver/Laborer. Since his application he has obtained license and has submitted his 2A as well.

Mr. Munch motions to hire Mark Bedard for Highway Dept. Truck Driver/Laborer position beginning on 8/20/18 with a probationary period of 90 days at \$17.50 per hr. Mr. Cullett seconds. All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0**

Item 8: **Discussion of Policy for Part-time Salaried Workers**

Mr. Leach indicated that in the past, the Treasurer has come to the BOS and wanted to know whether or not certain individuals should or shouldn't be paid for taking time off, depending on the reasons. There are medical reasons and/or vacation. The objective is to make up 1 policy for everybody. TA Mitchell indicated he has done a lot of research on it to define what is considered to be a part time employee. He said that it's very difficult to pin down. Both Mass and Federal Laws consider part-time to be 20 hours, and full time 37.5 hours. Most Mass. Municipal Professional Workers in most cities and towns is only 35 hours per week. The Labor Dept. looks at it in terms of anybody who works 1,000 hours or more is considered to have the same status as a full time worker. There are many variables.

Mr. Cullett said, "we define a salaried position by the number of hours worked. Positions should be hourly or salary. Part time salary positions are tough. Most salaried positions are full time positions." TA Mitchell said there's another aspect of it in terms of when they get paid, and not get paid, depending on what the policy is for how much vacation you want to allow for those positions. Mr. Munch would like to see it left just the way it is, salaried or hourly. He suggested that TA Mitchell work on 2 policies, one for 20 plus hours and one for less than 20 hours. It was agreed that TA Mitchell would write up a policy.

Item 9: **Discussion and possible vote to appoint Caleb Mitchell as a Commissioner to the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District to represent the Town of Peru**

Mr. Leach suggested that before appointing TA Mitchell as Commissioner to the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District to represent the Town of Peru, Peter Loboda, Rep. for Peru should be contacted as to what his status is on the NBSW. TA Mitchell said that Mr. Loboda was appointed for 2 years, and his term has expired. He said that he has not been going to the NBSW Meetings to represent the Town of Peru. Mr. Leach thinks the position should be posted. TA Mitchell said that NBSW wants a list of people now so they can put out information as to who represents each town. Mr. Munch said to make it a 1 week posting, and has directed TA Mitchell to post, and to call Mr. Loboda. He also wants it back on the next Meeting Agenda.

Item 10: **Discussion of Private Roads**

TA Mitchell gave the BOS a sample letter he has composed regarding the private roads. He thinks the letter should be reviewed by Town Counsel. The Assessor has generated a list of all the property owners on the private roads. There are 8 private roads in Peru. Mr. Cullett said, "there are property owners living on a private road, that is plowed in the winter by the Peru Highway Dept. Then, there are property owners on the private roads that maintain the road where we don't plow. Why aren't those people upset about the private roads that are being plowed by the town?" Mr. Cullett wants some of the wording in the first paragraph of the letter to be changed. Mr. Munch said, "send the letter with the changes to Town Counsel, and ask if we should be plowing private roads? "We need a written response from Town Counsel."

Colleen LaRochelle, resident of 41 South Rd. Ext, Peru asked if the BOS were trying to figure out if

they should be plowing the private roads or not. Mr. Leach responded, “the main concern is that the road needs attention. When they’re plowing it in the winter, they’re tearing up the town plows. What we’re trying to do is send out a letter to have them fix them in the summer so they’re not tearing up the town plows. When we send this letter to Counsel, which we have to do, he may come back and say, “you’re not supposed to be doing it at all.”

Item 11: **Review and approve accounts payable, treasury warrants, payroll warrant**

No payroll warrant this week

Item 11: **Adjourn**

Mr. Munch motions to adjourn the BOS Meeting. Mr. Leach seconds. All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0**

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

Articles used

7/16/18 Meeting Minutes

7/23/18 Agenda.

Sign in sheet

Sample Letter to Town Counsel re: Private Roads

One day Beer Permit for Fire Dept to sell beer at Fun Fest

Letter on developing Local Cannabis Policies in Massachusetts

Vendor Warrants

Resume of Mark Bedard

Respectfully submitted,

Irene J. Morrison

Administrative Assistant

Ed Munch, Chairman _____

Verne Leach, Selectman _____

Bruce Cullett, Selectman _____

Approved: _____