



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

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES | 12/17/2018 at 6:00 P.M.
COMMUNITY CENTER

Present:

Ed Munch, BOS Chairman/Historical Commission
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Sergeant
Verne Leach, Selectman/ACO
Caleb Mitchell, Town Administrator/Con Com
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Kim Leach, Town Clerk
Irene Morrison, Administrative Assistant

Residents: Colleen LaRochelle, Brett MacPhail, Nelson Charter

Item 1: **Call to order:** 6:00 p.m.

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

Item 3: **State recording status:** Adm. Asst. Morrison recording

Item 4: **Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for 12/3/18 and 12/10/18**

Mr. Cullett motions to approve the 12/3/18 BOS Meeting Minutes pending changes. Mr. Munch seconds. All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0**

Mr. Munch motions to approve the 12/10/18 BOS Meeting Minutes pending changes. Mr. Leach seconds. All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0**

Item 5: **Report from Departments**

Highway Dept. – Supt. Russell reporting

Supt. Russell reports the new truck is here, but will be going back to Zwack tomorrow to have a couple minor things fixed & repaired on it. He is in hopes it will be back by the end of the week. He said it will be lettered, but he is searching his options for the lettering and pricing. He would like to have the lettering matched to the 1 ton truck.

Supt. Russell asked if the residents of Greylock Circle were sent a follow-up letter about plowing, because nothing has been done. He shared a photo taken from his phone of what happened to the 1 ton on Garnet Mtn. today. With the road conditions and no gravel, the driver was sucked into the ditch, and had to get towed out by the loader. He said there has been a lot of effort on the other end of Garnet Mtn. Ln. All the brush has been cut back, and there were a couple drain culverts that needed to be done. They hired Gary Daniels to do the work. There's still one more culvert that needs to be fixed.

Supt. Russell said the 08 is back. They went out plowing with it today, and the sander spinner fell off the truck. He said when you get a new bed, you get a new spinner assembly. They've been weaning it for the past 2 winters, and they need to think about what to do with the bed of that truck before next year.

Supt. Russell said the culvert class that he and Mark went to was great. They learned how to score culverts. He said that they could start with one road, and go out to categorize each of the culverts. He said there were some people in the same class who were from Franklin County Government who are assessing all the culverts for the Town of Heath. They told Supt. Russell that they also have partners in BCRPC that can do the same thing for our towns. He said if we were to reach out to them, they may be willing to come out and use our town as a project, or they send interns from UMASS or different other places.

Supt. Russell wanted to discuss their new phones. There is a portable phone option for those phones. He contacted Crocker, and got his phone straightened out last week. The base unit for the phone is \$40.00, and each portable is \$44.00. He would like to purchase them for the Highway Dept. so they're mobile around the garage. He said 2 portable phones with the unit would be \$128.00. Mr. Cullett said we may be able to get a credit back on the other unit, because it's new and has never been used. If they won't take the other phones back, it can be used at the Fire House. The BOS are all in agreement that he may purchase the portable phones.

Mr. Munch asked Mr. Russell if there was any chance the carved sign for the Highway Garage could be put up. Supt. Russell said if he could get someone here like Bolduc with a bucket truck. It is on his list, and he does want to get it up. He'd like to find out what the sign has on it for a final coat, in the event that they eventually had to coat it again.

Small Town Summit & Rural Commonwealth – Mr. Munch, Peru Representative reporting

Mr. Munch said a letter has been received from DLS in response to his correspondence with them regarding State-Owned Land, and the efforts of the Small Town Summit to try to get a better formula for the State-Owned Land in lieu of taxes. He said they're beginning to get pressure from the small towns, not just in Western Mass, but throughout the state. "We're working with Sen. Hines to get a better formula because at one point they wanted to roll back the reimbursement and cut ours almost in half. Sen. Hines said we'd fund it 1 more year exactly the way it was, but that's a terrible formula as well. We need to come up with a fair formula to get money back from the state." *(For further information, see DLS correspondence attached.)*

Town Administrator – TA Caleb Mitchell reporting

TA Mitchell said Mass DEP is requesting a follow-up site visit at the Highway Department and Transfer Station. He asked Supt. Russell if there was a time in January that he could schedule the visit. Supt. Russell said they want the town to register as a Hazardous Waste Generator, which they had asked to be done at their last visit. He said the Registration Application can be found on-line. He said the Registration would be for a "Small Quantities Hazardous Waste Generator". He said the removal of the oil tank is ready to go.

TA Mitchell said he has notified BRPC regarding the ADA Grant. He said they would provide an Agreement Document for the scope of services provided for the Self-Evaluation & Planning Grant. Once he receives that Agreement, he will review it with the BOS for approval and signatures.

Mr. Leach brought a document tonight to present to the BOS for signatures to notify Officials that the Town's Website is the official method of posting Public Notices. Town Clerk Leach will send a letter to inform the Attorney General that the Town of Peru Website is the official site for posting Public Notices.
(See Document to adopt Town Website)

TA Mitchell said he has received a letter from Mass DEP regarding reimbursement for the invoice from NBSWD. He said it has to be signed by the Chair of the BOS.

TA Mitchell said he has to send a copy of the Town Budget to send with the letter to MEMA for the request of assistance for the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

TA Mitchell said there are 2 invoices from KP Law for legal services relating to Charter and the MBI Grant. That will be reviewed tonight by the BOS for submission to MBI for reimbursement. He doesn't foresee any more invoices from KP Law in relation to telecommunications. Mr. Leach said it depends on what Charter comes back with for a price to finish the rest of the houses. Mr. Munch said we'd have to go back to MBI to see if they're going to cover that. TA Mitchell said we've gotten another 6 month extension from MBI, which makes 3 extensions to date. The BOS said it wouldn't hurt to put in for another extension. Mr. Cullett said we don't have the cable system in place yet. TA Mitchell said he will make the case.

TA Mitchell said he reviewed the Financial Statement Report on Accounts with the Town Accountant. Mr. Munch said once the Town Accountant makes all the corrections, the BOS will review it again. He said they will then finalize if all corrections have been made, or there may be something else that they find. TA Mitchell said the Town Accountant has questioned when her training will resume with Anna Osborne. He said at the beginning of the New Year, they can get together and start working on Schedule A and closing out the previous year accounts.

TA Mitchell said with the Technical Assistance letter we received from BRPC, we'll probably have to apply for some of those funds, because we want them to assist us with the Solar Array By-Law.

BOS – Bruce Cullett reporting

Mr. Cullett said that Wednesday of this week, St. Pierre will be here to service the furnaces. Also, Howard from Bug Busters will be here to run the network cables in the TA Office.

Mr. Cullett informed TA Mitchell that Fire Chief Dewkett doesn't use the e-mail account that he sent to Crocker. The correct e-mail address is PVFD2@verizon.net

Mr. Cullett indicated that both the Fire Dept. & Police Dept. is having issues with Berkshire Sheriff's Control. He discussed the possibility of changing the dispatch services for the next fiscal year. Most recently there was a call on Saturday, in which he saw a Mass State Police cruiser go by, and then a 2nd one. He followed where they were going. He called dispatch afterwards to find out where they were going. "Peru Police/Fire Dept. was never called. They only dispatched Mass State Police. This is the 2nd time in 1 ½ months this has happened. It jeopardizes response time." Mr. Munch said the Fire Dept. didn't get paged until long after the fact. Mr. Cullett said there's no reason why we're paying almost \$10,000.00 a year for Berkshire Sheriff's Control, when they're going against what our Standard Operating Procedures are. He said the last time he looked into it in Dalton, to have proper coverage in town, we would need a repeater at the tower. At that time, the cost of that was about \$15,000.00. Dalton, at that time said that dispatch services would be about \$2,000.00 per year. Mr. Leach said Rick Carl of Emergency Management may know of a grant that would be available for a repeater. Mr. Cullett said that in Dalton, they handle Windsor, Hinsdale & Dalton. The primary mutual aid is Hinsdale for both Police & Fire.

Item 6: Interview Bret MacPhail for Highway Driver/Laborer position 6:30 p.m.

Supt. Russell asked Mr. MacPhail to tell a little about himself. Mr. MacPhail said he has lived in Peru for 9-10 years. He worked for the Town of Savoy for a summer. He has used a loader. He currently is driving School Bus for DuFour. He has a Class A License. He does not have a hydraulic license, but is willing to take the test. He said he has used hand tools, power tools, and is mechanically inclined. When asked if he's ever adjusted brakes on his

own, he said he's never done that. He has done some plowing with a 1 ton. He has done some blacktopping spread while working in Savoy. Supt. Russell said that in the winter there is mandatory overtime, and in the summer the work is mostly labor intensive. He said that there is weed whacking every day for 2-4 weeks or until it's done. The other part is mowing with the boom mower, in which he'd have to get a 4G License, and a 2A License to cover the backhoe, loader, and excavator. Supt. Russell reviewed the probationary period, and some of the benefits, vacation time, holidays, insurance, uniforms, etc.

Item 7: Discussion of the Special Town Meeting Warrant for December 20, 2018

Mr. Cullett said this item is for discussion in preparation to having the answers to any questions that may be asked at the Special Town Meeting. He said there should be a copy of the invoice from Zwack at the Special Town Meeting, so that they can say what the amount of the truck is, and the additional amount for installation of the radio, and lettering on the truck. TA Mitchell said that Town Counsel has approved the warrant.

Item 8: Discussion and Review of Financial Statement of Accounts

TA Mitchell said there were several corrections to be made on the Financial Statement Report by the Town Accountant. He provided the BOS with a copy of the Financial Statement Report marked with the corrections that he went over with the Town Accountant. Mr. Munch said once the corrections have been made, and a new printout is done, it can be put on the Agenda for review and discussion. Supt. Russell said at the Annual Town Meeting, an extra \$10,000.00 for Acct. 40200.00 - Maintain Hard Surface Roads, and an extra \$6,000.00 for Acct. 40204.00 - Gravel Roads was appropriated out of Free Cash, but it's not on his ledger or the Financial Statement Report.

Item 9: Discussion, Review, and possible vote to hire Highway Driver/Laborer Position

Mr. Munch asked Supt. Russell for his input on the interview with Bret MacPhail. Supt. Russell said Mr. MacPhail has a lot of truck driving experience. He believes he worked for Galais driving tractor trailer. He said he would definitely have to get the licenses. Mr. Munch said Mr. MacPhail lives in town. He's been at his current job for a long time. His attitude is very good. Mr. Cullett said he doesn't know Mr. MacPhail that well. "He has worked at his current job for about 2 years. In his other job history it seems he's moved around a bit. It might be worth checking references." Supt. Russell said, "we paid for an ad to run for another couple weeks, and he thinks we should wait until it expires to see who else might come in."

Item 10: Discussion, Review, and possible vote to issue Used Auto Dealership License to Edward Munch Jr. at 44 West Main Road

Mr. Munch has recused himself from this discussion. TA Mitchell said that the applicant has given a copy of a 1995 decision that was made by the Zoning Board of Appeals to grant a Special Permit for essentially the same permit he is asking for tonight.

Mr. Leach motions to grant Edward Munch Jr. of 44 West Main Road, the Used Auto Dealership License. Mr. Cullett seconds. Mr. Munch recused. Both Mr. Leach and Mr. Cullett are in agreement. **VOTE 2-0**

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

Item 12: Adjourn

Mr. Munch motions to adjourn the 12/17/18 BOS Meeting. Mr. Leach seconds. All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0**
The BOS Meeting adjourned at 8:19 P.M.

Articles used:

BOS Meeting Minutes of 12/3/18
BOS Meeting Minutes of 12/10/18
Agenda of 12/17/18
Sign-in sheet
DLS Correspondence dated 11/28/18
Financial Statement Report
Document to notify Officials that the Town Website will be the official method of posting Public Notices
Application for Employment – Bret MacPhail
Special Town Meeting Warrant of 12/20/18
Copy of ZBA Special Permit (1995) for Edward Munch Jr.
Permit for used cars issued to Edward Munch
Vendor Warrant
Payroll Warrant

Respectfully submitted,

Irene J. Morrison

Administrative Assistant

Ed Munch, Chairman _____

Verne Leach, Selectman _____

Bruce Cullett, Selectman _____

Approved: 01/02/2019