

Town of
Peru, Massachusetts



March 12, 2018

Community Center, 3 East Main Rd.

Minutes to Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Present:

Bruce Cullett, Chairman BOS/ Police Sergeant
Ed Munch, Selectman / Historical Commission.
Verne Leach/Selectman/ACO/Transfer Attendant
Caleb Mitchell, Town Administrator
Irene Morrison, Selectmen's Secretary
Brian Dewkett, Fire Chief

Residents:

Guest(s):

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 of 2/26/18**

Cullett made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of 2/26/18 pending changes. Munch seconded the motion.
All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0**

Item 5: **Report from Departments**

Fire Dept. – Fire Chief Brian Dewkett Reporting

Chief Dewkett reports that the Volunteer Fire Dept. has 2 new members, Luke Dodge and Steve Wall. He said that Mr. Wall has expressed interest in an EMT Course. Chief Dewkett told him that if he could find a course, that the Fire Dept. would sponsor him.

Chief Dewkett said that there are still issues with the septic system being frozen. The furnace condensate issue has been taken care of, and the bill submitted to the Accountant.

Chief Dewkett indicated that they are in the process of putting their skid tank back together for the pickup that carries forest fire gear. He is researching the cost of replacing their engine. He found 3 trucks that are comparable to what they currently have and that he would consider to be an upgrade to an enclosed cab, which they don't have now. The 3 trucks that he found are at the \$50,000 mark, and are almost 20 years old. He's still hoping to be able to go through the pump when Larry Turner has the pump testing done, and to find out what it would cost to get Pump Certification on that truck. He believes it doesn't have a certification now.

Green Energy Summit – Mohawk Trail Representative Munch reporting

Munch said as the Mohawk Trail Representative, he went to the Green Energy Summit at BCC on Monday 3/5/18, where they talked about Green Communities, Solar, Renewable Energy and the different projects that are going on around Berkshire County. One person he talked with from DOER was Jim Barry. Mr. Barry is very knowledgeable about Green Communities, and has walked other communities through the entire Green Community process. He is willing to come to one of our Selectmen Meetings to give a 15-minute presentation. Munch has asked TA Mitchell to contact Mr. Barry to arrange a date for a presentation. For further information regarding the Green Energy Summit, see Attachment "Berkshires Region 100% Renewable Energy Summit."

Highway Dept. – Selectman Cullett reporting

Cullett speaking on behalf of Highway Superintendent Russell regarding the exhaust fan installation at the Highway Garage said that Betnr has been in touch with Highway Superintendent Russell, saying that they have an opening in which they could take care of the project of the fan installation for them. Superintendent Russell has waited 3-4 months for quotes from Atlantis and one other company, but hasn't heard back from them. He wants to go ahead with Betnr. They're figure is very close to what we had budgeted. We have a budget for that work, which was already approved at the last town meeting. Leach said, "we gave the others ample time, so we should have Betnr do the work."

Town Administrator – TA Caleb Mitchell Reporting

TA Mitchell reports that he received notification via e-mail from Lieutenant Governor Polito regarding the Community Compact that we did. They want to have a signing of that document for the Community Compact. They gave a date of April 26, 2018 at 10 a.m. when the Lieutenant Governor would be here. Cullett said that we're ok with that date. TA Mitchell said, "we'll post it, and I'll ask him about the signatures." Cullett said to ask if there's an Agreement that we must sign as a Board prior to that meeting. "We authorized as a Board the Application Process. I don't know if we need any more than that. There's a bunch of terms and conditions that come along with the whole thing, and we need to edit. We need to put it on the Agenda, and approve it because we're running out of time."

TA Mitchell has spoken with other Administrators regarding situations Citizen Petitions, where all you need are 10 signatures to be put on the Annual Town Meeting. Unless the BOS votes for an end date for submission of a Citizen Petition prior to the Town Meeting, the petition could be submitted on the night of the meeting, and you'd have to vote on it. The Annual Town Meeting must be posted at least 7 days prior. Cullett said there was a time frame set up where a petition must be submitted by a certain date/time. Leach thought it was 3 weeks, because it had to be sent to Council to be approved. Cullett said it's come up previously, and maybe we set a date previously. Cullett said sometimes there's language that must be added by the Town Council for the warrant. He said it needs to be looked at further.

We received the Annual Report from the NBSW District, along with documents related to the Annual Fall Clean Up in Clarksburg. Linda Cernik, Program Coordinator for NBSW sent TA Mitchell documents that would require a signature related to bins for electronics and things like that. He said he doesn't think it would be something we'd be interested in. It's too expensive and wouldn't generate enough electronic devices that would even warrant having a bin like that. Speaking as Transfer Attendant, Leach said "right now we're using Hinsdale. They can bring their TV's, Computers etc. there. We're not big enough, and it would cost to hold a dumpster."

Hinsdale COA Board Meeting – Irene Morrison and Verne Leach Reporting.

Morrison reported that the COA Board Meeting she and Leach attended last Monday went very well. The COA Board were receptive in having Peru join them. They asked for the number of residents in Peru that are 60 years of age or older. TA Mitchell said that Town Clerk Leach gave him that listing. Morrison reports that the only way we'd be able to get a grant for Peru COA, is to have a Director of COA in the Town of Peru. Cullett said we'd have to appoint someone. Hinsdale COA said they wouldn't be using any of our grant money, but if there was a trip, we would give them the money for the # of people that are going from Peru for their tickets, or if they were holding their Christmas Party, we'd have to give them the money for that. They don't want the money to use for their own purposes. Leach said they thought it was a good idea, because if this works out very well with Peru, they talked about talking to other surrounding towns. Morrison said they run their meeting with a Board. The Board then plans a curriculum. They have groups like the Knitting Group, Quilting Group and others that you can join through their COA. Leach said the difference is that they have well over 100 participants, where we have 6-8. Cullett said it would expand what has been done historically. Hinsdale COA will be researching the legal aspects of the two towns joining together. Cullett said we must post the COA Director job. "We need a Director or Representative. Someone to sign for the grants, and be a member of the Hinsdale group as a Representative of the town."

Other reports

Mitchell said he asked Morrison to put a notice on the town website for Home Improvement from the Hilltown CDC. Mitchell said we haven't had anyone take advantage of that program. Morrison said "the whole thing is that we're putting it on our website, but families are not getting this in their mail. People are not informed enough." Munch suggests we have a poster down at the compactor. "That is the best thing." Cullett said "why not have them down at the Transfer Station and hand them out? Morrison will make copies for the Transfer Attendant to hand out on Saturday.

Munch said people want more information on how they can go about getting solar. They don't know how to do it. Through the different organizations in the state or the towns, so anytime we can get information out to people. Munch said Mass Save is the first place you should start. They want everyone to apply for an energy audit from

Mass Save. There's also state programs out there.

Item 6: Update on Cable Television License Agreement by Charter Communication

Cullett said that he sent an email to Anna Lucey of Charter with all the comments and changes we had from Town Council right after the last meeting. Anna Lucey replied that she has referred to her Legal Counsel. Cullett said that they anticipated the design being complete by the end of this month. Mitchell said she replied, but they're still working out agreements between what the state and the owners of the infrastructure i.e. Verizon, etc. want. They're working with the Governor to try and expedite the whole thing. So, currently she can't give us an end date. Mitchell said "the only thing we can do is expedite the Agreement and sign the contract with them. Then it's up to them at that point. We must have the public meeting before we sign the Agreement. The public meeting must be advertised in the newspaper for 2 wks.

Item 7: Update on Green Community Designation

TA Mitchell said review of the energy data has been completed by Guardian Energy, and that we now need to schedule the energy audit. Munch asked if the Stretch Code would be an article to put on the Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting. Cullett said "if there's going to be a need for it, but prior to the Town Meeting, we may want to schedule an information session for people on exactly what the Stretch Energy Code is so that they understand it coming to the town meeting, and that they realize that it's not something that's going to cost the town any more money.

Item 8: Review and Discussion of Budget line items for Fiscal Year 2019 Budget

The BOS and Town Administrator reviewed and discussed FY 2019 Budget items/requisitions in preparation for the Finance Committee/Selectman Meeting discussion to be held on Thursday, March 16, 2018 at 6:30 P.M. Solicitation for bids on Vocational School Transportation, Computer System Maintenance/Storage, File Back-up, Crocker, mowing, were discussed as things to be done. Questions or concerns regarding any changes or additions to the budget will be addressed during the Finance/Selectman Meeting.

Item 9: Review and approve accounts payable, treasury warrants, payroll warrant

Item 10: Adjourn

Cullett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Leach seconded the motion. All in agreement **VOTE 3-0**

Meeting adjourned at: 9:19 P.M.

Articles used in meeting

Meeting Minutes of 2/26/18
Agenda of 2/26/18
Agenda 3/12/18
Sign-in Sheet from 2/26/18
“Berkshires Region 100% Renewable Energy Summit.”
Vendor Warrants 18V2018
Payroll Warrants 37P2018

Respectfully submitted,

Irene J. Morrison

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Selectmen Secretary

Chairman, Bruce Cullett

Selectman Verne Leach

Selectman Ed Munch

Approved: ____3/26/18_____