

*Town of*  
**Peru,**  
**Massachusetts**



April 9, 2018

Community Center, 3 E. Main Rd.

**OFFICIAL**

**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  
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent  
Irene Morrison, Selectmen's Secretary

**Residents:** Brad Torrey

**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**

Leach said there needs to be more information in the 3/26/18 minutes regarding the Budget Items and raises discussed during the meeting of 3/26/18. The Meeting Minutes of 3/26/18 will be revised and reviewed for approval at the next BOS Meeting of 4/17/18.

Item 5: **Report from Departments**

**Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership – Member, Ed Munch reporting**

Munch, reporting on behalf of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership said that the Legislature wanted to make minor changes to the wording on House Bill No. 2932 before it went through. The redraft of the House Bill No. 2932, Section 2WWWW has been amended to read, “There shall be established and set up on the books of the Commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Fund.” Munch said the changes were approved as they were. See House Redraft No. 2932 Attachment.

**Highway Dept. – Highway Superintendent Russell reporting**

Superintendent Russell said that he still has not received the Mack Truck back from Camerato’s. They changed the axles out of it, and are still having the same problems. He said that they don’t know at this point what to do with it. Mr. Russell is trying to find someone who is familiar with the older Mack Trucks for advice. Cullett asked if someone like Kenny Hall or Swail would know. Mr. Russell said that Swail might be the one to talk to about the problem. He indicated that without that truck, it puts a major strain on the smaller truck doing a lot of work that the big truck should be doing. Mr. Russell was told that Mack stopped making the parts for that truck in 2000.

Mr. Russell reports that he and Linda Cernik, Program Coordinator of NBSWD have discussed the situation with TV disposal. She said that Hinsdale is willing to take them at their pick-up box. Hinsdale would invoice the town of Peru. Anything up to 19” would be \$15.00; 19”-30” would be \$20.00; over 30” would be \$30.00. Mr. Russell said there must be at least 25 TV’s in the shed at the Transfer Station that he needs to go through. Speaking as Transfer Attendant, Leach said he’s under the impression that if you have a sticker up here, and we do not offer that, you can bring them down to Hinsdale anytime.

Mr. Russell said he received an updated truck quote today from Delurey Sales & Service. There were a couple things missed on the original quote, and some things he wanted to change. The original quote was broken down as a 4-wheel drive truck from Delurey International. The cab & chassis with a \$5,000.00 discount was \$128,289.00. The total equipment build was \$87,495.00 with 2 options added to it. One is screens that would go on top of the truck like a regular sander. Being a stainless body, they have a summer floor insert option for \$2,500.00, so when you’re loading gravel and rocks the stainless floor doesn’t get beaten. Also discussed with them was the option of adding fenders to it. The poly

fenders slow the rot from underneath the body and the frame. They had left out a strobe light that they have now added on. The updated quote with screens and floor insert added a little more than \$5,000.00, for a total of \$222,647.00. That's with a \$1300.00 discount. With the purchase of this truck, we don't have to put it out to bid, because they're part of the Greater Boston Police Counsel so we can join their procurement for \$256.00. The International comes with a Cummins Motor; has larger brakes, aluminum tanks, aluminum wheels included.

Cullett said that in the Finance Committee Meeting, they had talked about setting aside \$125,000.00 in free cash. If the truck was ordered after the Town Meeting, the delivery date would be somewhere close to February. The plan was to have free cash certified through the current fiscal year by the end of this calendar year. Assuming there would be enough cushion with the free cash, have a Special Town Meeting at that point to utilize the free cash to pay for the remainder of the truck. Also, to use some money from the "Future Equipment Account."

Munch discussed leasing options with Mr. Russell, and would like to have some numbers and more information on a lease option before a decision is made on what we're going to do.

Cullett asked Mr. Russell if he had seen anyone from Arrowhead. Mr. Russell said that they did come up. He gave Mr. Russell a rough verbal quote of what he thought would be around \$5,000.00 to replace the system that runs the floor, and \$3,500.00 for a Modine Heater. Bids have been received from St. Pierre, and Four Seasons. Roger Peltier from Pioneer wasn't convinced that a Modine Heater was needed. Cullett said that he talked to Mr. Peltier today about that, he included a separate line item to upgrade the circulators that control the thermostats. He's convinced that if we did that, we wouldn't have hardly any heat loss. Cullett said that for all the high efficiency heaters, the town would receive a \$2,500.00 rebate through Mass Save.

Mr. Russell asked if it was possible to turn the Tree Warden position into a 3-year term instead of a 1-year appointment. Cullett said that it is an elected position and would have to go to the Annual Town Meeting to change it from elected to appointed and become a three year term.

#### **Town Administrator – TA Caleb Mitchell reporting**

TA Mitchell said that he has a job description for the COA Director. He also has obtained names and addresses of several Certified Public Accountants to contact in our search for someone to do an audit.

TA Mitchell said that we have an updated bid on the phones in the Fire Dept. and Town Garage from Crocker. Crocker provided the cost for Internet for the year.

He reported that he has received complaints about the condition of the Town Hall and its cleanliness. He has provided the BOS with a list from the Town of Windsor of job duties for a Cleaning Person. Based on that list, if we could have someone come in once a week to clean the bathrooms, vacuum, etc.

Morrison said there was a complaint from someone that rented the Community Center, that they had to clean the toilet, sink and floor in the bathroom.

TA Mitchell has given the BOS a handout from the Berkshire Town Sustainable Coordinator of BRPC. They want to try creating a position within their Agency that would be a resource for the towns that are Green Communities, and helping them along with their projects. They basically want an e-mail saying that we support the idea of having a resource person. Cullett wants to discuss this position that BRPC wants to create at the next BOS of April 17, 2018. TA Mitchell has scheduled Jim Barry to come for a presentation on April 23, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.

Item 6: **Review and approve appointment of Jessica Webber to the Board of Registrars**

TA Mitchell said, “for the record, this is a re-appointment to the Board of Registrars.”

Cullett makes a motion to re-appoint Jessica Webber to the position of Board of Registrars. Leach seconds the motion. **VOTE 3-0**

Item 7: **Discussion, Review and Possible vote to approve designation of Berkshire County as an Economic Development District through Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.**

Cullett made a motion to write a letter in support of the designation of Berkshire County as an Economic Development District through BRPC. Leach seconds the motion. **VOTE 3-0**

Item 8: **Open and review sealed bids for Vocational School Transportation at 7:00PM**

One sealed bid for Vocational School Transportation has been received from Dufour Escorted Tours. Peru to McCann Tech for 2018-2019 School Year would be \$169.25 per day. Peru to Smith Vocational would be \$184.50 per day. Cullett, on behalf of the Town will take this under advisement.

Item 9: **Open and review bids for mowing Town Green, Cemeteries, Town Hall and Fire Station**

At 7:00 P.M. on 4/9/18, 2 sealed bids were opened for 10 mowing's of the Town Green, Cemeteries, Town Hall and Fire Station in the FY18/19. There were 3 bids that were solicited for. A bid from Gary Daniels for 10 mowing's at \$6750.00. Gary Daniels also submitted a Certificate of Liability Insurance.

A bid from Always Growing at \$600.00 per mow x 10 mowing's for a total of \$6,000.00.. A Certificate of Liability Insurance would be furnished upon request. The BOS will take these under advisement, and award at the next BOS Meeting of April 17, 2018.

Item 10: **Review and vote on end date to submit Citizen Petition to include on Annual Town Meeting Warrant.**

Cullett made a motion to set the end date/time of 4/20/18 by 1:00 P.M. for submitting a Citizen Petition to include on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Munch seconds the motion. **VOTE 3-0**

Item 11: **Discussion, Review and Possible vote to move supervision of Transfer Station Attendant under Highway Department Superintendent.**

Cullett made a motion to move Supervision of the Transfer Station Attendant to the Highway Superintendent. Munch seconds the motion. Leach recused himself. **VOTE 2-0**

Item 12: **Update on Cable Television License by Charter Communications**

TA Mitchell forwarded an e-mail from Anna Lucey of Charter to Town Counsel. There has been no other communication from Charter to date. Before an Agreement can be signed, there must be a Public Hearing, and a Legal Notice in the Berkshire Eagle for 2 consecutive weeks.

Item 13: **Update on Green Community Designation**

TA Mitchell said that we're still waiting to hear from Guardian to do the Energy Audit of the Town Buildings. He has sent e-mails to them, but with no response. Munch thinks that when Jim Barry comes to the BOS Meeting on April 23, 2018 the BOS can talk to him, and he might be able to move things along. TA Mitchell said he has the article that Hinsdale used for the Stretch Code. Cullett said the BOS had talked about an Informational Meeting if possible before the Town Meeting to answer questions that people may have. He will see if he can talk to the Building Inspector to attend. Cullett said the Informational Meeting will be on May 7, 2018, the Monday before the Town Meeting.

Item 14: **Review and Discussion of Budget line items for Fiscal Year 2019 Budget**

Cullett said there are line items that still need to be discussed at the next Finance Meeting. Line items that need to be added include Generator Maintenance, Heating System Annual Maintenance, cleaning of Town Hall and Pest Control. Another item to be budgeted for are upgrades to the heating system at the Highway Garage. Mitchell said that the contract we have with Andrus for Generator Service is by the calendar year, which is taken out of utilities. We have updated numbers from Crocker, but still need the number of students for Vocational Transportation.

Also, Cullett talked with Chief Dewkett and Superintendent Russell last week about possibly making some changes to the Septic System at the Fire Station to prevent it from freezing. The BOS and Superintendent Russell continued the discussion tonight, going through different scenario's as to what could be done to fix the problem of freezing.

Item 15: **Review and approve accounts payable, treasury warrants, payroll warrant**

Item 16: **Adjourn**

Cullett made a motion to adjourn the Meeting. Leach seconds the motion. **VOTE 3-0**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:26 P.M.**

**Articles used in BOS Meeting**

- \* Agenda of April 9, 2018
- \* Sign in Sheet of April 9, 2018
- \* Meeting Minutes Draft of March 26, 2018
- \* House Redraft No. 2932 for Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership
- \* Bid from Gary Daniels Landscaping
- \* Bid from Always Growing
- \* BRPC - Berkshire Town Sustainable Coordinator handout
- \* Town of Windsor list of duties of Cleaning Person
- \* Letter of designation of Berkshire County as Economic Development District through BRPC
- \* Bond for Treasurer
- \* Bids from Crocker
- \* Bid from Dufour re: Vocational Transportation bid

Respectfully submitted,

*Irene J. Morrison*

Irene J. Morrison  
Selectmen Secretary

Chairman, Bruce Cullett \_\_\_\_\_

Selectman Verne Leach \_\_\_\_\_

Selectman Ed Munch \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_4/17/18\_\_\_\_\_