



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

SELECT BOARD MINUTES | February 18, 2020 6:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

Present:

Verne Leach, Chairman
Ed Munch, Selectman/Historical Commission
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Sergeant
Irene Morrison, Administrative Assistant

Residents: Charles Wood

Guest(s): Peter Yetman (Interview)

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

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

Item 3: **State recording status:** Mr. Leach and Irene Morrison recording

Item 4: **Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for 2/10/20**

*Mr. Leach motions to approve the 2/10/20 BOS Meeting Minutes pending changes. Mr. Cullett seconds. All agree
VOTE 3-0

Item 5: **Report from Departments**

Historical Commission – Ed Munch, Representative

Mr. Munch said the Historical Commission is \$450.00 into a design of a new Town Logo. One thing that came up in their meeting was that possibly this could be a shared bill with multiple departments in the town if it is accepted as the Town Logo, then the town should be paying something on it too as well as the money that was in the 250th. Mr. Munch said it will be one sided, not cut out, and 3” in diameter. On the back side for no charge it will be engraved with information regarding the 250th. The first 100 medallions that are sold, we get the money back from the sales. It will be \$20.00 for a pewter medallion. Once the first 100 are sold, and we order a second order of 100, the price will be considerably different from the first group. He said the graphic designer is charging \$25.00 an hour. Mr. Cullett recommends presenting it to the BOS on a regular piece of paper for us to look at.

Police – Sargent Cullett reporting

Mr. Cullett, speaking as Police Sergeant said as previously discussed, “There’s potential of utilizing the revenue that Police Detail is bringing into the town, to use some of that revenue to set up a revolving account for paying out those Details. We’ve had a change of opinion in the Dept. to see if the town is interested in utilizing that for something else. We have an expense that’s coming up. It’s not in the current budget. It’s going to be put in as an amendment to the budget request that the Chief Henault did for a system called **Information Management Corporation (IMC)**. IMC is the system that almost all Police Depts. now utilize. Berkshire County Sheriff’s Control utilizes it on their end. It allows communication directly between departments, the Dispatch Center, Courthouse and Inter-Department. There’s an initial cost to get involved with IMC getting set up. Chief Henault will be putting that in the addendum. There is an annual upkeep; the initial set-up is the most expensive. We have been told it will eventually be a mandatory operating system for Police Departments.

Sergeant Cullett said you can't pay for it directly. Any revenue that comes into the town from this sort of thing goes into the General Funds. At the end of the fiscal year when Free Cash is Certified, you could make a correlation between that revenue & free cash and say o.k. \$10,000.00 of that Free Cash is directly from this revenue that the Police Dept. generated from the Details. That's why we want to earmark that money for this expense." He said they had a quote a few years ago, and since then it's come down substantially. The cost has come down because there are so many Depts. utilizing it. Mr. Munch asked if there were grants out there to get this system. Sergeant Cullett said there are potential grants, but whether we get it or not, it would be a Capital Expense from Free Cash. Mr. Leach said he would see what the numbers are, and get the numbers on what the Cruisers brought in. Sergeant Cullett said he believes Chief Henault has requested Anna to give him a breakdown of those numbers. Mr. Leach asked if he could get a Grant Application in before the ATM. Sergeant Cullett said, " If there's one available between now and then, yes. Many of them aren't available until the end of the year."

Item 6: **Interview with David Rhinemiller for Town of Peru Wiring Inspector**

Mr. Rhinemiller did not attend the meeting for his scheduled interview (possibly weather related)

Item 7: **Interview with Peter Yetman for Town of Peru Wiring Inspector**

Mr. Yetman said he has almost 30 years in the Electrical Trade. He has an Associate Degree for Electrical Construction & Maintenance from Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, NY. Originally from the Albany area, he was an Electrician there for about 12 years. He was in the Union for 2 years. He moved over here in 1998 and worked for Comalli Electric as a Foreman for 10 years. He opened his own shop in 2014 and has been in business for himself for 6 years this March. His background in the trade is primarily Commercial, but being in Berkshire County his company does a lot of Residential as well. He has a Mass Security Contractor License. All his background checks have been done. He has been in good standing with his Mass Journeyman License since he received it in 1998. He has an agreement for his Master's License, where a Master Electrician assigns his license over to him, and he uses it for business to allow him to hire more Journeymen and conduct business in Mass. He said you need a Master's to hire Journeymen and to teach. Mr. Cullett told Mr. Yetman that he will need to have an Alternate available if he is not, and that it would be his responsibility to contact an Alternate. Mr. Munch asked Mr. Yetman if he would have to have another Inspector do the inspection at his home. Mr. Yetman said a lot of the Alternate Inspectors are the neighboring towns Inspector. Mr. Yetman asked if there are any implications of him being the Wiring Inspector for the Town and doing work for the Town. Mr. Cullett thinks he would have to be designated as a Special Municipal Employee to satisfy the requirements of the Mass Ethics Commission. Mr. Leach told Mr. Yetman that if he were to be appointed, he will be taking the Conflict of Interest Test. Mr. Munch told Mr. Yetman that the BOS would like to see a resume' from him.

Item 8: **Discussion and Vote to designate 1985 Fire Truck as Surplus Property**

Mr. Cullett said Fire Chief Dewkett said at the last meeting that he wants the truck gone from the rear parking lot. We don't have a use for it any longer. He said the surrounding Fire Depts. don't have a use for it to give it away to another municipality. It does have some value and he thinks we should get what we can out of that value. The best way is to put it out to bid. First step is to designate it as surplus property, then put out a request for bids and have a public bid opening someday down the line. We open up what comes in. It has a Detroit Diesel with only 3,000 hours, which is nothing. 33,000 miles with an Allison Automatic Transmission.

RULE OF NECESSITY

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

*Mr. Leach motions to designate the 1985 Fire Truck as Surplus Property. Mr. Munch seconds. All agree. **VOTE 3-0**

Mr. Cullett asked if the BOS could agree on what the minimum should be with the bids. Mr. Munch said we should find out what scrap is first. Mr. Leach said he doesn't want to ask for too much then get nothing, and before we put this up for bid, we set the bottom price at \$5,000.00.

*Mr. Cullett motions to use \$5,000.00 as the minimum. Mr. Leach seconds. All agree. **VOTE 3-0**

5Item 9: **Discussion and Vote on date of Annual Town Meeting**

*Mr. Leach motions to have the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) on May 30, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. at the Community Center. Mr. Cullett seconds. All agree. **VOTE 3-0**

Item 10: **Discussion of 250th Anniversary Celebration**

Mr. Cullett said he has worked on the “Request for Quotes (RFQ’s)” and they are almost ready to go to the sign company. His goal is to get them out and have bids due by mid-March so that we can give a go ahead. Mr. Cullett said we can’t start the work out front until the ground thaws. He said, “We’ll have to be quick about getting the base together, and let them know they have to be done with the work no later than June 20, 2020 to give us 10 days to have a cushion to get the invoice paid so we can be reimbursed without that window closing.” Mr. Cullett said we have to pay out of pocket for any other work for the second half of the Grant. We get \$12,500.00 once the contract is approved by Mass Office of Travel & Tourism (MOTT) With the second portion of the Grant, we have to provide paid invoices to show proof of payment to get reimbursed. **All \$25,000.00 of the Grant has to be spent and services received by the end of June 2020.** Mr. Munch said it was suggested at the Historical Committee Meeting about the 250th about a Colonial Re-enactment which is going to cost us. He said the next Historical Commission meeting will be in 2 months. It would be a good idea to have the 250th volunteer Committee, the Historical Commission and BOS meet together. Mr. Cullett said the space we’re going to need should be measured out; and figure out how we want to set things up, what we can accommodate for vendors, and what we can accommodate when we have a block dance. We want to have things in a correct order so that the vendors that are in there can serve the block dance and other functions as well.

Item 11: **Discussion of Fiscal Year 2021 Budget**

Will discuss at the next BOS Meeting of 2/24/20

Items not listed, but brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law

Charlie Wood of E. Windsor Rd. said last week when the plows were pushing back the banks, his mailbox & post got destroyed. It broke off at the ground, and the mailbox got hit. He is questioning if there is a reimbursement for that or not. Mr. Leach said that he and Mr. Wood had spoken about this matter, and Mr. Leach told him to come to the meeting. Mr. Wood’s concern is when they were pushing the snow back. Mr. Cullett said he would have to talk to Supt. Russell to see what his policies are. Mr. Munch explained to Mr. Wood that we have new people that are still learning. He told Mr. Wood that we’d have to find out what his policy is. Mr. Cullett said this is the first time we’ve heard about it in any recent history. If it’s happened in the past, it’s probably been dealt with by Supt. Russell directly. Mr. Wood said he could understand if it were in the middle of a heavy snowstorm, but it was daylight. He said he paid about \$170.00 for the whole thing, but it’s been there for about 10 years, so if you do choose to reimburse, he would like \$100.00. Mr. Cullett said we want to follow whatever policy Supt. Russell has been following, has to stay consistent. He said as a Board, we stand behind him and make sure people are treated fairly.

Item 12: **Review and approve Accounts Payable, treasury warrants**

Item 14: **Adjourn**

*Mr. Leach motions to adjourn the 2/18/20 BOS Meeting. Mr. Munch seconds. All agree. **VOTE 3-0**

BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

Articles used:

2/18/20 BOS Meeting Agenda
2/10/20 BOS Meeting Minutes
Sign in sheet
Mail from Town of Dalton
Financial Report
Vendor Warrant

Respectfully submitted

Irene J. Morrison

Administrative Assistant

Verne Leach, Chairman _____

Ed Munch, Selectman _____

Bruce Cullett, Selectman _____

Approved: 2/24/2020