

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Peru Town Hall Meeting Room

3 East Main Rd. Peru MA

Monday January 9, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. State recording status
4. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag
5. Review and approve minutes from 1/3/23.
6. Updates from Departments.
7. Discussion regarding Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by Kimberly Wetherell on 1/2/23.
8. Discussion regarding Snow Removal in Right of Ways.
9. Public input
10. Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrant, Payroll Warrant.
11. Adjourn

The list of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Board which may be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Official posting: Peru Town website: www.townofperuma.com

Posted January 4, 2023 @ 4:45pm

Kim Leach, Town Clerk

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: January 9, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.

Peru Town Hall Meeting Room

Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Chief
Doug Haskins, Selectman / Fin Com
James Welch, Town Administrator
Terry Walker, Administrative Assistant
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief

Public Attendees: Bonnie DeTomasso

Item 1: Call to order: 6:00 P.M.

Item 2: Roll Call: Chairman Leach absent, Selectman Cullett present, Selectman Haskins present

Item 3: State Recording status: none

Item 4: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Led by Selectman Cullett

Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 01/03/2023

Selectman Cullett motion to approve 01/03/2023 minutes pending changes, Selectman Haskins second, 2-0,

Item 6: Updates of Departments:

Highway Superintendent Russell asked if the paperwork for the \$3,800.00 recycling grant had been submitted. TA Welch confirmed that the paperwork has been completed, and contract has been signed. It was noted that the transfer Station grant has around \$8,000 to be utilized. Superintendent Russell suggested making a list of items to utilize the grant funds. Superintendent Russell also mentioned that Eric Crofton has passed test for his hoisting license and received his hoisting license. Selectman Cullett motion to increase his salary by 50 cents per hour as promised when he was hired, Selectman Haskins second, 2-0.

Bonnie DeTomasso -School Committee member – thanked the Board of Selectman for supporting the high school track project. Bonnie also mentioned that budget season starts on January 12th, a public hearing will be held on February 10th and the towns should have the final figures by March 9th.

Bonnie DeTomasso-Local Shrine Counselor-mentioned that under the Council of Aging program she was able to save the seniors \$22,101 for drug plans. She also assisted the residents with fuel assistance and met with residents in person. Fire Chief Jesse Pelkey and Heather will take their test on Saturday to be nationally certified and by the end of the week certified in Massachusetts as EMTs. Chief Pelkey also mentioned that Rescue 2 is out of service. Chief Pelkey was instructed by the Selectboard to get an estimate to have pitman arm fixed. Selectman Haskins mentioned that he looked over the vehicle, he feels that Chief Pelkey should get an inspection sticker on vehicle and the Selectboard, at this time, has no idea what they are going to do with the vehicle.

TA Welch has not received a response from Attorney Mensing regarding meeting with the Selectboard to discuss aspiring cannabis businesses in Massachusetts. TA Welch also mentioned that he needs to put account numbers on invoices to make the process go more smoothly with the new accounting firm. He feels the new accounting firm is working remarkably well.

Item 7: Discussion Regarding Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by Kimberly Wetherell on 1/2/2023: Selectman Cullett read the complaint from Kimberly Wetherell dated 1/2/2023 during last week's meeting. The Selectboard

discussed formulating a response based on what the board discussed last week. TA Welch asked the Selectboard to review his response regarding \$100,000 transfer. It was decided to refer to the form "Advance of Funds in Lieu of Borrowing Report". TA Welch was instructed to make changes and the letter will be sent to Kimberly Wetherell and also the Attorney General's office.

Item 8: Discussion regarding snow removal in Right of Ways: Selectboard discussed mailing letters to notify all property owners or possibly just certain people that have been plowing snow in roadway. Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that he felt that only the few people in violation should be notified. Selectman Cullett mentioned that he would reach out to Town Clerk Leach and possibly send a letter to notify the residents along with the annual street census. Jesse Pelkey was asked by the Selectboard to stop plowing the 50-foot snowbank in front of his house. Jesse didn't see any by law permitting him from plowing snowbanks on his property. Selectman Haskins mentioned that the Highway Department uses the banks as a guideline when plowing at night. Jesse will be allowed to plow the banks for 5 or 6 feet in front of his house. Selectman Haskins reiterated that this is an issue for Jesse to be in the right of way with his tractor. Selectman Haskins instructed Jesse to leave some snow for a guide.

Item 9: Public Input: None

Item 10: Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrants and Payroll Warrant: V15-2023, 23-14P

The Selectboard asked the Town Treasurer to clarify borrowing from the Stabilization Fund. The Treasurer was anticipating borrowing from the Stabilization Fund because tax bills had not been mailed out. The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously and signed the Advance of Funds in Lieu of Borrowing Report on December 19, 2022. The Town Treasurer had concerns regarding cash flow and discussed under Updates from Departments. The Town Treasurer ultimately did not need to borrow from the Stabilization Fund.

Item 11: Adjourn: Selectman Cullett made motion to adjourn the 01/09/2023 BOS Meeting, Selectman Haskins second, Vote 2-0. The 01/09/2023 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:19 P.M.

Articles used:

Minutes- 01/03/2023

Warrants – V15-2023, 23-14P

Letter to Kimberly Wetherell and Attorney General

Open Meeting Law complaint from Kimberly Wetherell 1/2/2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Walker

Administrative Assistant

Verne Leach, Chairman

Doug Haskins, Selectman

Bruce Cullett, Selectman

Date Approved: 1-30-2023



