

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: December 7, 2020: 6:00 P.M.

Town Hall Meeting Center

Ed Munch, BOS Chairman/Historical Commission
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Chief of Police
Verne Leach, Selectman/ACO
Caleb Mitchell, Town Administrator
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Nanette Mone, Board of Health Chair
Shawn Boyne, Candidate for Peru Police Officer
Tonya Santaniello, Administrative Assistant

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:** Tonya Santaniello recording; Live stream on Zoom Meeting

Item 4: **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:** Lead by Selectman Munch

Item 5: **Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for 11/30/2020:** Munch made motion to approve BOS meeting minutes as is for 11/30/2020, Leach seconds, all agree. **Vote 3-0.**

Item 6: **Update to Departments:**

Highway Department: Russell discussed spending a lot of time cutting trees on East Windsor Road in anticipation of the road project going through next year. Discussed a lot of dead ash trees near the solar fields that they will be working on. Munch asked if there were any problems with equipment while plowing and sanding during the snowstorm. Russell stated a wing cable broke on one truck and a couple minor things but nothing major.

Police: Chief Cullett requested access to the building maintenance account for Police Office renovation. Cullett would like to remove old carpet and replace with vinyl plank flooring, paint walls, and install countertop for workstation. Funds would only be for materials. Munch stated he has no problem with it, Leach asked how much it would cost. Cullett stated it would total \$750.00. Munch made a motion to accept maintenance for police office totaling \$750.00, Leach seconds. All agree. **Vote 2-0.** Cullett recused.

Town Administrator: TA Mitchell discussed conversation with IT Provider, Mitch who explained that the internet switch regarding the phone service has already been made. Mitch discussed usernames and passwords for shared computers. Discussed approval from MA DOR regarding Proforma recap submittal. Mitchel stated that the Accountant was not here tonight so there would be no invoices from her to sign.

Board of Health: Nanette discussed the suspension of elective procedures at hospitals effective 12/11/2020 due to COVID increasing. Discussed upcoming conference call will provide more information on the vaccine which could possibly be delivered in 3 weeks. Discussed stop the spread testing sites are expanding mostly in Eastern MA. Different sites will be announced online when available.

Item 7: **Discussion and Vote to appoint Shawn Boyne as a Town of Peru Police Officer effective 1/4/2021:** Chief Cullett stated he was looking to appoint Shawn after the 1st of the year. Cullett stated the reason he is asking tonight is because a few things need to happen. Shawn will need a department email to be setup with MPTC to conduct orientation and training for MA Laws since is a former out of state full time CT State Police Officer who has since retired. Cullett stated that Shawn also served as a Chief of Police in Milford, CT. Munch asked if Shawn is local. Shawn said he has property and family in Lee, MA and has plans to relocate at some point. Munch asked Shawn to talk a little bit about his background. Shawn discussed his experience since 1986. Munch asked if Leach had any questions, Leach said he sat in at the interview and asked his questions at that time. Munch asked if he was satisfied with the appointment, Leach said yes.

Munch asked if Chief Cullett was satisfied with the appointment, Chief Cullett said he was. Munch made motion to appoint Shawn Boyne as a Town of Peru Police Officer effective 1/4/2021, Leach seconds. All agree. **Vote 2-0.** Cullett recused.

Item 8: **Discussion and Possible vote to revise the Dog License Fee and Kennel Fee:** Verne Leach speaking as Animal Control Officer discussed recommendation letters from the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer to raise dog fees, leaving neutered & spayed the same, increasing unaltered animals \$1.00; multiple (4-6) dog fees from \$35 to \$50; and kennel licenses from \$115 to \$125. Discussed what surrounding towns charge. Cullett stated if the town was going to increase the fees it should fall on the pet owners that are not spaying or neutering their animals. BOS discussed kennel license fees and had additional questions that will need further information. Continued until next meeting.

Item 9: **Discussion of Letter of Interest submitted by Wallace G. Morrison Jr. to serve as a volunteer Veterans Graves Officer:** Discussion will be combined with Item 10. Leach stated he thought it came up last week and there was a discussion and approval for posting the position. TA Mitchel said he did post it. Cullett said the BOS will need to delay their decision on awarding the position until it has been open for a little while. Munch stated the BOS is not going to decide to allow more time for the posting, but he would like to read the letter out loud that was submitted. BOS all agree that Wallace G Morrison is an excellent candidate, but the position will remain open for 2 weeks. Continued for 2 weeks.

Item 10: **Discussion of Veteran Graves Officer Position:** Combined with Item 9.

Item 11: **Discussion of Funding for the Library:** BOS discussed reworking relationship between Library and Town of Peru as far as funding. Further discussion required. Continued to next meeting.

Item 12: **Discussion of legal opinion for Conservation Fund:** TA Mitchell stated that Legal Council has not provided opinion yet. Continued to next meeting.

Item 13: **Discussion of cost estimates for Business Phone Services for Town of Peru Phone System:** TA Mitchell discussed proposals provided. Email received from Josh Levin at Crocker shows price of \$292.00 per month, Valley Communications price would be \$163.15 per month. Proposals are for the same services, number of extensions, voicemail, auto attendant for other extensions and for three different buildings. Cullett proposed going with Valley Communications to replace hardware. Cullett wants to make sure the town makes the switch appropriately.

Item 14: **Discussion and Vote to award Business Phone Services for Town of Peru Phone System:** Cullett makes a motion to award to Valley Communications, Leach seconds. All agree. **Vote 3-0.** Cullett makes a motion to award Valley Communications using the second option on their quote which is an installment plan over 60 months with no upfront cost for \$217.00 per month with all new equipment assuming the town can keep same numbers. Leach seconds. All agree. **Vote 3-0.**

Item 15: **COVID-19 Updates:** Nanette discussed email regarding \$75,000 that is being earmarked for Alliance Nursing. Discussed that the Town of Peru has not run out of funds for COVID-19 items. Discussed the size of virus's being small and an Air Purifier will need to be able to handle the small size. Cullett discussed researching portable air purifying equipment and has narrowed it down to a unit that covers 1500 sq feet. Discussed it is important to remember that it needs a true HEPA filter and to stay away from one that generates a lot of ozone. Discussed the one that he would like is on Amazon and would be delivered in a week. Munch state he is for getting two machines, Leach agrees and has also brought three informational sheets from St. Pierre regarding other air scrubbers. BOS discussed options. Cullett made motion to table until next week to review further, Munch seconds. All agree. **Vote 3-0**

Item 16: **Public Input:** No public logged in to Zoom meeting. No public input.

Item 17: Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants: One Warrant reviewed and signed.

Item 15: Adjourn: Munch made motion to adjourn the 12/7/2020 BOS Meeting. Leach seconds. All agree **Vote 3-0. The 12/7/2020 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.**

Articles used:

12/7/2020 BOS Meeting Agenda

11/30/2020 BOS Meeting Minutes

Shawn Boyne Appointment Papers for Town of Peru Police Officer effective 1/4/2021

Letter of Interest submitted by Wallace G. Morrison Jr. to serve as a volunteer Veterans Graves Officer

Email proposal from Josh Levin at Crocker

Valley Communication Proposal

Email regarding increase in Dog License Fees

3 - Air Scrubber informational sheets

Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants

Respectfully Submitted

Tonya Santaniello, Administrative Assistant

Ed Munch, Chairman

Verne Leach, Selectman

Bruce Cullett, Selectman

Date Approved: 12/7/2020

