

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: January 25, 2021: 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
Jim Kenney, Historical Commission Chair/Cemetery Commission Chair
Ruth Calaycay, Library Director
Sharon Greule, Library Member
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 1/11/2021:** Munch made motion to approve minutes for 1-11-2021 pending changes, Leach seconds. All agree. **Vote 3-0.**

Item 6: **Update to Departments:**

Town Administrator: TA Mitchell discussed budget request forms that were sent out to all departments and included last year's appropriation so there would not be any questions about what was in their budget. Mitchell said he also asked for a copy of their Annual Town Report. Munch asked if Mitchell spoke to Anna Osborn, the Town Accountant regarding her email about the budget request. Mitchell said he told her she was right that it is up to the BOS what someone is going to be paid and he asked for her recommendation on the expense account and computer support. Discussed leaving a message for the owner at Andrus explaining the situation with the generator not starting and about the repair invoice. Mitchell said the owner returned his phone call, but he has not had a chance to call him back. Mitchell will follow up. Cullett stated if Mitchell was considering doing bid requests for proposals the generator maintenance should be added to the list, including the current company but also include two others. Discussed other accounts that will need to be put out to bid. Mitchell discussed email from Eversource regarding a new Transmission Construction Project. Eversource wants to start scheduling meetings with Town's to discuss and get feedback. Discussed meeting with MIIA Representative, Michael Girard regarding updated auto fleet list which was received. Discussed complaint from the Peru Fire Chief about Eversource Trucks parked at the Fire Department. Cullett said just for the record the Fire Chief was complaining that the Eversource Trucks were parked in front of the apparatus bay doors over the past couple of months. Included for the record in case anyone does not know the complaint made it sound like they were parking and leaving their vehicles there, the drivers never left their vehicles unattended, they were with their vehicles the whole time. In fact, one of the Pittsfield Eversource crew members is a member of the Fire Dept. Cullett said he did not realize it was a problem or a concern of the Fire Dept. but will keep an eye on it and relay the message on. Leach asked the status of internet for the unserved portion of the town. Mitchell stated he did inquire about it with MBI and did not get a response, then he contacted Paul Mark's office and one of his representatives sent an email and stated they did pass the legislation for the capital bond, but the money has not been released yet.

Police Dept: Chief Cullett stated he had nothing new to report.

****Cullett speaking as Select Board member did have a couple things relating to the Annual Town Report. Discussed in past years the town published quite a bit more information in the annual report, including a listing of all the parcels in**

town and their associated assessed values; a list of delinquent taxes published and things of that nature. Discussed possibly consider something like that in the future. Munch discussed a notation of the total acreage of the state-owned land and what they pay.

Cemetery Commission: Jim Kenny stated he would like to suggest reminding emails go out to all departments regarding the Annual Town Report. Kenny discussed supplies for the Medallion are coming in, 57 of the 250 are packaged and ready to go. Discussion on how sales will be done.

Highway Department: Russell stated he had nothing new to report.

Item 7: **Discussion of Library Funding:** Sharon Greule discussed copy of Library Budget request draft that was forwarded to the BOS in the preliminary amount of \$14,391.00. Sharon said they are still looking for a bookkeeper, but they are approximating \$750.00 per year which is not reflected in the budget draft. Discussion on budget items. Cullett asked if utilities were included in the budget figures and Sharon said they were. Ruth Calaycay discussed going over the Municipal budget by about 20%.

Item 8: **COVID-19 Updates:** Leach discussed installation of the air scrubber in the main area of the Town Hall which is approximately 720 sq. ft. and both units cover 500 sq ft. Discussed the power supply required, Leach said very minimal. Discussed possibly putting smaller air scrubbers in offices and leaving the larger one in the main area. Discussed in-house policy of turning them off when leaving the building.

Item 9: **Discussion and Possible vote to approve proposal for new lighting for Highway Garage and Town Hall through Green Community Program Funding:** Highway Super Russell said he had not seen the Guardian Quote with the breakdown and would like to review. Cullett said there should be three numbers, one for the Town Hall, one for the Highway Garage, and Salt Shed. The bottom-line numbers from Guardian for the Town Hall lighting are \$15,414.00. The bottom-line for the Garage and Salt Shed combined is \$8,317.00. Continued to next meeting.

Item 10: **Public Input:** No public logged in to Zoom meeting. No public input.

Item 11: **Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll Warrants:** Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, and Payroll Warrants reviewed and approved.

Item 12: **Adjourn:** Munch made motion to adjourn the 1/25/2021 BOS Meeting. Leach seconds. All agree **Vote 3-0. The 1/25/2021 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.**

Articles used:

1/25/2021 BOS Meeting Agenda
1/11/2021 BOS Meeting Minutes
Library Budget Request Draft
MIIA Updated Auto Fleet List
Eversource email regarding Transmission Construction Project
Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll Warrants

Respectfully Submitted

Tonya Santaniello, Administrative Assistant

Ed Munch, Chairman



Verne Leach, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved: 2/8/2021