

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: January 11, 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  
Ruth Calaycay, Library Director  
Sharon Greule, Library Member  
Nanette Mone, Board of Health Chair  
Jeffery Cranston, Candidate for PT Transfer Station Attendant  
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 12/28/2020:** Munch made motion to approve minutes for 12-28-2020 pending changes, Cullett seconds. All agree. **Vote 3-0.**

Item 6: **Update to Departments:**

**Police Dept:** Chief Cullett stated that Officer Paul resigned, he took a position with North Adams PD effective about 2 weeks ago. Discussed having new hire, Shawn Boyne on the range over the weekend for qualification. Cullett stated Shawn has a little bit of in-service left to complete to satisfy his out of state to in-state certification. Cullett said he would probably have him in town in the cruiser this week or early next week. Discussed that Shawn's training would be quite different than a brand-new officer, concentrating mostly on policies and procedures and getting familiar with the Town. Munch asked if Cullett would be looking for another officer. Cullett stated he would like to work from the pool of resume's that he already has and possibly getting interest from someone with experience. Cullett stated he would like to wait and see how Officer Boyne fits in and works out and go from there. Leach asked if they would be getting a letter of resignation, Cullett said he did not get one so no they will not be getting one.

**General Issues:** Cullett discussed generator issues that they are having. Discussed Eversource contacting Cullett on Friday and said they would be cutting power off at the Town Hall and Fire Station. Cullett received two different calls from Triple A because the power was out at the Town Hall, so he checked on the generator. The Town Hall Generator did not start, and the Fire Station Generator did not start. Cullett stated the power was only out for 30-45 minutes. Discussed significant issues with the current service company, Andrus, and possible solutions. Munch would like to see the doors to the generators locked, Cullett agrees that they should be secured. Discussed New Technology that should be considered which would notify someone if the generator did not fire or low temperature.

**Town Administrator:** TA Mitchell discussed receiving the revised contract with the minor changes discussed at a prior meeting from Valley Communications regarding the phone system. Munch stated he needs time to review the changes before he signs it. Discussed email from Jim Kenney regarding the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medallion Packaging Ribbon and Box. Kenney stated in his email that he has about 60 of the 250 finished but has run out of ribbon and needs more packaging material. Email states he needs 13, 5 yd rolls at \$15.00 per roll for \$285.00. Cullett asked TA Mitchell to go back to the cost spreadsheet that Jim Kenney provided and see where the discrepancy is. This will be needed when the invoice is submitted for approval. TA Mitchell discussed the need to move forward with the Hazard Mitigation Committee and discussed speaking with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission who acknowledged the person assigned to this left the agency and they are still trying to hire someone.

**BOH:** Nanette discussed the state deciding to start up food security task force to box up food for residents in need. This will possibly be done through existing food pantries. Discussed media communication plan to get the word out on COVID vaccines and that 70% of population needs to be vaccinated to have herd immunity. The state will begin making flyers, video's, and asking various members of communities to step forward for vaccination. Information is available on the [mass.gov/COVID](https://www.mass.gov/COVID) website. Discussed Mobile Health Unit coming through town on a scheduled basis, more information will be provided later. Munch stated as Chairman of the BOS he would be willing to step forward and get vaccinated as an example for the Town, Leach said he would also be interested as well.

**Item 7: Discussion and Possible Vote to hire Jeffery Cranston as Part Time Transfer Station Attendant:** Munch said he understands Jeffery is interested in the position for the PT Transfer Station Attendant. Jeffery stated yes, he is. Munch asked if he talked to Verne Leach about the job, Jeffery said correct. Munch asked if he understands that the position is "as needed". Jeffery said he understands. Jeffery stated he would enjoy working with Verne and the rest of the staff. He discussed that this is an opportunity for him to give back to the town. Jeffery discussed his background with surrounding towns. Munch made motion to hire Jeffery Cranston as the PT Transfer Station Attendant, Cullett seconds. Leach recused. All agree. **Vote 2-0.**

**Item 8: Discussion and Possible Vote for electrical bids to have fuel pumps powered off new highway garage:** Cullett stated that Highway Super Russell forwarded 3 quotes from 3 different contractors he solicited business from. One was Webster Electric, one from Performance Electrical Construction Maintenance, and one from Crosier Electric. Russell walked each contractor through a specific scope of work and the apparent low bidder is Crosier Electric for \$850.00 to do the re-wiring work connecting the fuel pumps to the service that is in the newer highway garage so in the event of a power outage the generator that covers the newer highway garage powers the pumps. Cullett makes a motion to award to Crosier Electric, Leach seconds. All agree. **Vote 3-0.**

**Item 9: Discussion of Library Funding:** Sharon Greule said she was not sure what the BOS would like to hear tonight but that Ruth has done a lot of leg work over the past weeks looking for information, trying to find bookkeepers, checking on payroll, dealing with MA Board of Library Commissioners. Discussed that they have spent hours on the phone talking about this. Ruth has some numbers and some still need to be determined. Ruth discussed speaking to the Board of Library Commissioners who have stated it is allowed for the Town to give the municipal appropriation to the library, but they are concerned about legal implications and additional costs. They said it is a must that the Library has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town to make this change. They are concerned about the additional amount of work, responsibilities and costs for payroll and bookkeeping, tax and legal requirements, and meeting MBLC requirements regarding the budget. Cullett asked if they could summarize what they learned about the cost. Ruth Discussed changes that would be required including numbers based on internet searches, information for non-profits, tax regulations and so forth. Discussed the possibility of calling local Accountant firms.

**Item 10: Discussion of legal opinion for Conservation Fund:** TA Mitchell received an opinion back from Town Council who stated that it is his opinion that the BOS can establish a Conservation Fund for the funds that the Town received from Eversource. Town Council agrees that it is different than a fee account and the money should not go into the general fund. The account can accrue interest and must be separate under the custody of the Town Treasurer. Cullett makes a motion to establish the Conservation Fund, Munch seconds. All agree. **Vote 3-0.**

**Item 11: COVID-19 Updates:** No new updates. Cullett asked TA Mitchell or the Town Clerk to contact Priority Cleaning to make sure they keep on normal schedule due to the extension of the CARES Act. Kim Leach, the Town Clerk has been in touch with Priority Cleaning.

**Item 12: Discussion and Possible vote to approve proposal for new lighting for Highway Garage and Town Hall through Green Community Program Funding:** Continued to next meeting. BOS would like Highway Super Russell to weigh in.

**Item 13: Public Input:** No public logged in to Zoom meeting. No public input.

Item 12: Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll Warrants: Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, and Payroll Warrants reviewed and approved.

Item 13: Adjourn: Munch made motion to adjourn the 1/11/2021 BOS Meeting. Cullett seconds. All agree **Vote 3-0.** The 1/11/2021 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

**Articles used:**

1/11/2021 BOS Meeting Agenda

12/28/2020 BOS Meeting Minutes

Email from Jim Kenney regarding 250<sup>th</sup> Medallion Packaging.

Email from Town Council regarding legal opinion for Conservation Fund

Crosier Electric Quote

Performance Electrical Construction Maintenance Quote

Webster Electric Quote


Eversource Quote for Highway Garage/Town Hall lighting

Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll Warrants

Respectfully Submitted

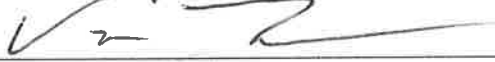
*Tonya Santaniello*, Administrative Assistant

Ed Munch, Chairman




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Verne Leach, Selectman



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Bruce Cullett, Selectman



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Date Approved: 1-25-2021