

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: March 22, 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

Karen Tonelli, Assessor

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 3/1/2021 & 3/8/2021:** Munch made motion to approve minutes for 3/1/2021 pending changes, Cullett seconds. All agree. **Vote 3-0.** Munch made motion to approve minutes for 3/8/2021 pending changes, Leach seconds. All agree. **Vote 3-0.**

Item 6: **Update to Departments:**

Highway Dept.: Russell discussed email from Mr. Finn on Hickingbotham Rd regarding a letter he received about plowing snow across the road. Chief Cullett stated that the reason for the letter was to remind residents about the bylaw. Discussed the mud in the area due to winter thawing. Discussed Curtin Road condition that is deteriorating and options to repair. Discussed updated quotes for a new pickup truck. Cullett discussed engineering plans for E. Windsor Road and spending Chapter 90 funds to have them done. Discussed the price of engineering plans and reaching out to someone from the state about the score of the Town's Grant application submitted. TA Mitchell will follow up with the state. Discussed if the propane should be included in the county bid.

Transfer Station: Leach as Transfer Attendant stated there was nothing new to report.

Police Dept.: Chief Cullett discussed working on a grant application that is due in April through the Executive Office of Public Safety for equipment for the department. Discussed possible funding for IMC software through grant application which the BOS will need to sign.

Town Administrator: Discussed Green Energy Grant and contract. Discussed that Chairman Munch will need to sign contract. Discussed items that still need to be completed which include confirming the Town will get the rebates prior to release of any funds, getting permits, and sending tax & bank information to get the funding. Discussed Mohawk Trail Grant application and that the DCR signs need to be put up. Mitchell will follow up on this. Discussed email about recycling policy that was required. Discussed that Sun Rise West LLC paid their pilot payments in full. Discussed that the excise tax bills were mailed out Friday. Discussed weekly report from IT company show zero data breaches. Discussed webinar on new Police Reform Act, Mitchell will attend. Discussed letter from Central Berkshire Regional School regarding new committee. Discussed Town Website, TA Mitchell looked at contract and the town is in the fourth year. The contract states on the fourth year the price would be \$1750 plus 5%. Leach discussed that the wording on the dealer's license for Frusciente Auto needs to be corrected, Mitchell will take care of it. Leach asked if the town would have any interest in purchasing 5 acres behind the Highway Dept. from resident Laurin R. Steele. Russell stated it is wetland and landlocked. Munch said the board would take it under consideration. Leach discussed letter requesting survey received from TPX, the company working on the phones.

Item 7: **Discussion and Vote to appoint Joann Gordon as a Board of Registrar**: Discussed appointing Joann Gordon as Board of Registrar. BOS had no issues. Munch made a motion to reappoint Joann Gordon as Board of Registrar. Leach seconds. All agree. Vote 3-0.

Item 8: **Discussion and Vote on Town Mowing Bids**: Discussed town mowing bids, Russell Provided 3 sealed bids. Gary Daniels in the amount of \$7500.00, one from LeBeaus Landscaping & Excavating for \$6650.00, and JRD Mowing for \$6350.00. Leach made motion to award the bid to JRD Mowing which includes 10 mows effective July 1, 2021, Munch seconds. All agree. Vote 3-0.

Item 9: **Discussion and Possible vote on Bulk Waste Fees**: Discussed Bulk Waste Fees from Northern Berkshire Solid Waste. Leach speaking as Transfer Attendant provided updated fees paperwork. Discussed getting answers for a few items such as Freon & Mattress fees. Tabled until more information is available.

Item 10: **Discussion and Vote on Fiscal Year 2021 Tax Classification Public Hearing 7PM**: Munch opened FY2021 Tax Classification Public Hearing at 7:00 PM. Cullett read the Public Notice out loud. Karen Tonelli discussed tax classification presentation provided and explained both options for selecting the residential factor. The BOS discussed factor 1 which is the uniform allocation and the factor less than 1 which would put the greater burden on commercial, industrial, and personal properties. Cullett made motion to accept residential factor 1. Munch seconds. All agree. Vote 3-0.

Item 11: **Discussion on reopening Town Hall**: Discussed that COVID-19 increased in Pittsfield and the state said to be cautious. Discussed pushing from April 1st to May 1st with the option to change the date if needed. Leach discussed paperwork to use once reopened. Discussed that the Board of Health should initiate sign in procedures. Cullett made motion to tentatively reopen May 1, 2021 by appointment only. Munch seconds. All agree. Vote 3-0. Leach stated he would meet with the Board of Health and discuss paperwork with them. Munch discussed the Health Van that came to Town Hall. Discussed that the nurses wanted to know how to ask residents if they need aide without being singled out. Munch discussed that there is no charge for this service.

Item 12: **Discussion of Fiscal Year 2022 Budget**: Discussed Budgets for multiple Departments. Discussed final School Budget and Website fee. Refer to FY2022 Budget Requests and FY2022 Spreadsheet for more information.

Item 13: **COVID-19 Updates**: Nothing new to report.

Item 14: **Public Input**: No public logged in to Zoom meeting. No public input.

Item 15: **Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll Warrants**: Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, and Payroll Warrants reviewed and approved.

Item 16: **Adjourn**: Munch made motion to adjourn the 3/22/2021 BOS Meeting. Cullett seconds. All agree **Vote 3-0. The 3/22/2021 BOS Meeting adjourned at 8:31 P.M.**

Articles used:

3/22/2021 BOS Meeting Agenda
3/1/2021 BOS Meeting Minutes
3/8/2021 BOS Meeting Minutes
Pickup Truck Quotes for Hwy Dept.
Email from TPX for survey on phones
Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Updated Fees
Mowing Bids from Gary Daniels Lawn Care, LeBeaus Landscaping, & JRD Mowing
Appointment Paperwork for Joann Gordon as Board of Registrar
Public Notice for Tax Classification Hearing

Town of Peru Tax Classification Presentation
MADOR Scenario Worksheet for FY2021 Tax Classification Options
Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll Warrants

Respectfully Submitted

Tonya Santaniello, Administrative Assistant

Ed Munch, Chairman



Verne Leach, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved: 3/29/2021

RECEIVED
MAY 04 2021
Kevin Leach
TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF PERU