

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: March 29, 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

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 3/22/2021:** Munch made motion to approve minutes for 3/22/2021 pending changes, Cullett seconds. All agree. **Vote 3-0.**

Item 6: **Update to Departments:**

Highway Dept.: Russell discussed letter received from a resident on Ridge Road stating that the road is not passable due to the condition. Russell stated the road is a Private Road and not owned by the Town of Peru. Discussed that the Highway Dept. makes a delivery of sand each fall for residents to use during winter for snow and ice. Discussed past deliveries of crushed stone that was discontinued due to observations of residents using it on their driveways. Cullett discussed draft letter to resident for other board members to review. Discussed mud update and condition of Curtin Road which has worsened. Discussed South Road Ext. has a portion of road with a lot of mud. Discussed options for closing the road to big trucks during Spring. Munch stated the board had a discussion regarding the new pickup truck with the Finance Committee during their Joint Meeting. Russell discussed reasons for purchasing an extended cab and the reliability of a larger truck.

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

Police Dept.: Chief Cullett stated there was nothing new to report.

Select Board: Chairman Munch discussed resignation letter received for Allan B. Gordon of the Finance Committee. Letter was read out loud. Leach discussed once it is handed to the Town Clerk it makes it official. Cullett discussed request by the Town Clerk to have the opening put on the election ballot.

Town Administrator: Discussed resume from Linda Nelson to serve on the Cultural Committee. Select Board members discussed how many current members there are and that these members can not vote due to ethical issues due to other positions held. Discussed posting opening on town website, Leach stated the opening was already on the website. Continued to next meeting. Discussed draft letter to Senator Hinds and Representative Marks regarding the Police Reform Act. Cullett speaking as Chief of Police discussed including the potential cost to the Town and the possibilities of Part Time Officers pursuing Full Time positions elsewhere once Bridge training completed. Discussed issue with Dunn & Bradstreet number and that Mitchell was finally able to set up an account online. Discussed notification to Berkshire Regional School District that Mitchell would be representing the Town for their new Committee. Mitchell discussed choosing the three items to discuss with the Committee. Leach asked if Mitchell received any information regarding the MVP Program Grant, Mitchell stated that he did, and that the Commonwealth just opened the program. Discussed what the program could provide to the Town and applying for the Grant.

Item 7: Discussion of Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Grant: Discussed Grant Application time frame is short; application needs to be submitted by 5/24/21 and everything needs to be completed by 6/30/21. Discussed the possibility of having a brochure put on the website for places to visit. Munch said this would be a good marketing tool for next year's grant.

Item 8: Discussion and Possible Vote on Bulk Waste Fees: Mitchell has not heard back from the Town Accountant regarding bulk waste fees breakdown. Continued to next meeting.

Item 9: Open and Review Sealed Bids for Vocational School Transportation 7PM: TA Mitchell stated only one sealed bid was submitted from Dufour Escorted Tours Inc. of Pittsfield for Fiscal Year 2021 & 2022. Munch opened sealed envelope, bid for Peru to and from Vocational School is \$209.50 per day which is a total of \$37,710.00 based on 180 days. Continued to next meeting to vote and award.

Item 10: Discussion of Fiscal Year 2022 Budget: Discussed numbers still needed. TA Mitchell discussed Letter from MIIA regarding Insurance cost increase of 7.5 %. Discussed why there was an increase with only a few minor claims, TA Mitchell will follow-up for explanation. Discussed if there is an update on the amount for free cash, Leach said they would possibly have an estimate by the end of the week.

Item 11: COVID-19 Updates: TA Mitchell discussed update letter from KP Law regarding revised capacity limits for Public Meetings/Hearings. Discussed update from Peggy White of the BOH regarding opening Town Hall. Discussed one page generic summary of procedures for employees to sign to acknowledge receipt.

Item 12: Public Input: No public logged in to Zoom meeting. No public input.

Item 13: Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants: No Accounts Payable or Treasury Warrants to sign

Item 14: Adjourn: Munch made motion to adjourn the 3/29/2021 BOS Meeting. Cullett seconds. All agree **Vote 3-0. The 3/29/2021 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:27 P.M.**

Articles used:

3/29/2021 BOS Meeting Agenda
3/22/2021 BOS Meeting Minutes
KP Law Update for revised Capacity Limits for Public Meetings/Hearings
Letter from Resident on Ridge Road
Draft Response for Resident on Ridge Road
Resignation Letter from Allan B. Gordon of the Finance Committee
Resume from Linda Nelson for Cultural Committee
Draft Letter to Senator Hinds & Representative Marks regarding Police Reform Act
Notice from Commonwealth of MA for MVP Action Grant

Respectfully Submitted

Tonya Santaniello, Administrative Assistant

Ed Munch, Chairman

Verne Leach, Selectman

Bruce Cullett, Selectman

Date Approved: 4/5/2021

