

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Town Meeting Room 3 EAST MAIN RD
Tuesday, January 18, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

Call to order

1. Roll Call
2. State recording status
3. Pledge Alliance to the Flag
4. Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 1-10-22
5. Update of Departments.
6. Discussion and possible vote on Fire Department Fees.
7. Discussion and Possible vote on Berkshire County Fire Chief Association / Mutual Aid Agreement.
8. 6:30 Interview with James Ferrara for Town Administrator Position.
9. 7:00 Interview with James Welch for Town Administrator Position.
10. Discussion and possible vote on contract with RRG.
11. Discussion and review Town Administrator Interviews and applicants.
12. Public Input
13. Review and Approve accounts payable, Treasury Warrant and Payroll Warrant.
14. Adjourn

The list of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Board which may be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Official posting: Peru Town website: www.townofperuma.com ; Additional Postings at Town Hall Bulletin Board, & Town Hall office.

Posted by Kim Leach, Peru Town Clerk on 1-13-22

5:40 PM

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: January 18, 2022 @ 6:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman/ACO

Doug Haskins, Selectman/Finance Committee

Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Chief of Police

Terry Walker, Administrative Assistant

Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief

Public Attendance:

James Ferrara

James Welch

Call to order: 6:00 P.M.

Item 1: Roll Call: Chairman Leach present, Selectman Haskins Present, Selectman Cullett present

Item 2: State Recording status: no

Item 3: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Led by Selectman Leach

Item 4: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 1/10/2022 Leach motion to approve minutes pending changes 1/10/2022, Cullett second, unanimous 3-0

Item 5: Updates from Departments:

Fire Chief Pelkey stated that the Fire Dept was awarded a Firefighters Safety Grant for \$10,200 to purchase 3 sets of gear for the fire fighters. Bergeron will be fitting the 3 people next Monday night. DCR grant was submitted and Chief Pelkey is waiting for a response.

Selectman Cullett- will be having a zoom meeting with Paul Mark, Thursday, at 6:30 p.m. regarding broadband issues. Also with MEMA to go over Hazard Mitigation Grant.

Selectman Haskins mentioned he need a computer.

Item 6: Discussion and possible vote on Fire Department Fees: Fire Chief would prefer everything to be a \$40.00 flat fee.

Basically- Once fees are official then BOS will sign off on Chief Pelkey's proposal.

Flat fee 40.00

Reinspection 30.00

Add dumpster fee \$40.00

Selectman Cullett mentioned that the Fire Chief should sign off on building permits prior to certificate of occupancy. All building permits are signed off by Town Clerk, Conservation Commission and Tax Collector.

Item 7: Discussion and possible vote on Berkshire County Fire Chiefs Association/Mutual Aid Agreement:

Leach motion to approve, Cullett second, motion 3-0 to approve

Item 8: 6:30 Interview with James Ferrara for Town Administrator Position:

Mr. Ferrara introduced himself mentioning he lives in Springfield, MA and received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Criminal Justice from American International College in Springfield MA. Mr. Ferrara is currently employed by Commonwealth of Massachusetts Trial Court, Springfield as a Court Service Coordinator for Hampden County. Mr. Ferrara has also served as City Council President for the City of Springfield. The following is a list of his credentials.

- Direct Supervision of over half a billion-dollar municipal budget
- Elected twice as City Council President by fellow councilors
- Reviewed and voted on all land use issues (Zoning and Special Permits)
- Annually set the local property tax rate for both commercial and residential properties
- Crafted budgets for individual municipal departments by meeting with department heads and others on a weekly basis
- Daily constituent service within a city with a population of 153,000 residents
- Drafted and passed municipal ordinances
- Established the Casino site/selection committee of the City Council, the biggest and most complex private economic development project in the city's history estimated at \$802 million
- Secured \$750,000 in grant funds from the Commonwealth under the "Green Communities Act"
- Put the City's checkbook online to provide a greater level of transparency in government
- Established a school safety committee for our nearly 50 public schools, which reviewed all security measures and formulated best practices
- Visited stricken neighborhoods to assess damages caused by the destructive 2011 tornado; lobbied and successfully secured federal and state money for relief
- Confirmed various mayoral appointments
- Implemented a strategic planning committee for all new capital construction projects to ensure on time and budget completion (New Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical Academy \$114 million project; New Science Wing Central High School \$32 million project, and the refurbishment of Forest Park Middle School \$43.4 million project)

Mr. Ferrara is knowledgeable with Mass Procurement Laws Chapter 30B and is committed to taking the 60 hours of classroom study and taking the test to become a certified Procurement Officer.

He reassured the BOS that he would bring all supporting document to the BOS meetings so they could make informed decisions so their meeting would run smoothly. He also stated that he is educated on OML, agendas, executive sessions and does have experience with ZBA regulations. Mr. Ferrara mentioned he loves nature and at some point, may move to the Berkshires. If Mr. Ferrara is chosen, he can start his new position as Town Administrator immediately.

Item 9: 7:00 Interview with James Welch for Town Administrator Position:

Mr. Welch introduced himself mentioning he lives in West Springfield, MA, and received a Bachelor of Science: Business Management Degree from Westfield State University in Westfield, MA. Mr. Welch was a State Senator, Chair of Financial Services Committee and Chair of Health Care Finance Committee. He also served as a State Representative. The following is a list of his credentials:

- Elected to serve the 160K residents and communities of the Hampden District
- Focused on quality and performance of Massachusetts Health Connector by arranging and conducting oversight hearings
- Handled banking and insurance matters and gained understanding of insurance industry while serving as Chair of the Financial Service Committee and Health Care Financing Committee; appointed by Senate president
- Enhanced Productivity and morale of staff by managing a staff of six members
- Developed and managed constituent services program to address requests and provide accurate information regarding government functions and services
- Drafted, accomplished and advocated significant policy initiatives to achieve predefined mission

- Optimized health care policy by collaborating with key stakeholders
- Attained best possible outcomes by negotiating and controlling flow of legislative matters in health care
- Investigated legislative matters regarding banking, insurance and financial services to reduce the risk and grow economy
- Participated in industry specific and district events as well as communicated with attendees for expanding networking
- Supported people to address and understand appropriate information while facilitating as an advocate on behalf of constituents
- Promoted policy and legislation to meet needs and challenges of low income and marginalized children in the Springfield area

Mr. Welch also served as Town Councilor-District 4 for the Town of West Springfield, MA and the following is a list of his credentials:

- Elected to represent District 4 (Precincts 7 & 8)
- Appointed to Budget Finance Committee
- Served as member of Traffic and Safety Committee
- Reviewed and made recommendations to full council regarding financial matters
- Conducted public meetings and hearings on budget recommendations
- Advocated for resources to be allocated in District 4 and town -wide

Mr. Welch plans to become a certified Procurement Officer, research grants and hopes to advocate for more Chapter 90 funding for the Berkshires. If Mr. Welch is chosen, he can start his new position as Town Administrator immediately.

Item 10: Discussion and possible vote on contract with RRG:

Reviewed contract proposal and it is in line with what was anticipated going from a 3-member board and dividing assistant salary. Going forward the proposal is on target. Leach motion to accept contract with RRG to finish fiscal year, Cullet second, unanimous 3-0 vote. Contract was signed by BOS.

Item 11: Discussion and review Town Administrator Interviews and applicants: Hours available for both candidates were satisfactory, and the BOS was impressed with both candidates, Leach mentioned to hold any decisions until next week and review other applicants next week. The BOS discussed obtaining references from Candidate 2 and Candidate 6. It was decided that Candidate # 1 and # 5 will be interviewed on January 24, 2022.

Item 12: Public Input: N/A

Item 13: Review and Approve accounts payable Treasury Warrant and Payroll Warrant None

Item 14: Adjourn: Leach made motion to adjourn the 1/18/2022 BOS Meeting, Cullett seconds, Vote 3-0. The 1/18/2022 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Articles used:

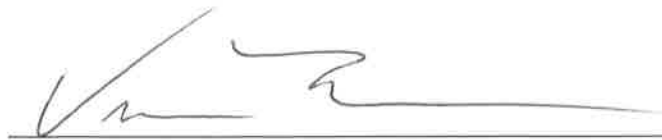
Berkshire County Fire Chiefs Assoc / Mutual Aid Agreement
Town Administrator Resumes
RRG contract
Minutes

Respectfully Submitted

Terry L. Walker

Administrative Assistant

Verne Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved: 1-24-22