

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: January 24, 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
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief

Call to order: 6:00 P.M.

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

Item 2: State Recording status: None

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

Item 4: Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for 01/18/2022: Leach motion to approve 01/18/2022 minutes with pending changes, Cullett second 3-0 unanimous vote.

Item 5: Updates of Departments: Highway Superintendent Russell presented BOS with Preliminary Professional Services Agreement between the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the Town of Peru for a:

- FULL DEPTH RECLAMATION AND FINISH GRADING WITH CALCIUM FOR EAST WINDSOR ROAD-MASSWORKS GRANT FUNDED WORK

Two bids will be submitted for this project to save money. BOS will place on next week's agenda to accept the contracts. The bids will need to be advertised in the newspaper with the award letter and Police Department detail rate of \$50.00 per hour. Russell mentioned that the reclaiming would take two weeks and the paving would also take two weeks. Andrea Woods from FRCOG is setting a target date for March 1, 2022, to receive bids.

2019 International Truck needed repairs and the sheer pin was a couple hundred-dollar fix.

Invoice for the Mack truck is nearly \$7,000 there were issues with the compressor, windshield wiper motor and fuel issue. The truck is now running great.

Chief Cullett, mentioned that his Police Department training will be tomorrow and Wednesday in the eastern part of the state. Officer Boyne is not working because of an injury from 2015 and he may need surgery.

Selectman Cullett, met with Paul Mark's office and Peter Larkin of MBI on Thursday, January 20, 2022, regarding broadband for the Town of Peru. Paul Mark informed Selectman Cullett that MBI and Charter will be able to find a way to complete the broadband project on Gentian Hill Road and surrounding areas at no cost to the Town of Peru. Selectman Cullett, is working on 25% in-kind contribution for the MEMA Hazard Mitigation grant. In-kind contribution will be assigning hourly rates to employee's that worked on grant plus volunteer hours.

Selectman Leach read a letter from William Galvin at the Elections Division in Boston. The letter stated: at a meeting held on September 24, 2021, the Local Election Districts Review considered the submission from the Town of Peru keeping the Town as a single precinct. The town meets the requirements of MGL chapter 54 section 6 and is otherwise consistent with law and has thus been approved by the commission.

Item 6: Discussion and Possible Vote on Fire Department Fees: The fee schedule proposed by the Fire Department is as follows:

- Smoke Alarm \$40.00
- Propane Tank (Each) \$40.00
- Oil Tank Removal \$40.00
- Oil Tank Install \$40.00
- Dumpster \$40.00
- Reinspection Fees \$30.00

Leach motion to approve fee schedule proposed by Fire Chief Pelkey, Cullett second, 3-0 unanimous vote.

Item 7: 6:30 Interview Laura Lee Bertram for Town Administrator position: Did not show up.

Item 8: Public Input: none

Item 9: Discussion and review Town Administrator interviews and applicants: Leach mentioned that Ferrera stood out in the interview, he did research on town, and was very knowledgeable. Haskins said Ferrera's qualifications, background and hours were great. Cullett mentioned that both candidates' backgrounds were excellent and Ferrera did provide scheduled hours that he would be working. Cullett said from a personal standpoint he found Welch very personable and interviewed very well. Leach felt that Ferrera interviewed equally as well. Cullett would be comfortable with either candidate, it was agreed they both interviewed very well. Leach felt Ferrera is better suited to Peru and is a better fit for small town politics. Cullett mentioned that Welch has experience at state level and connection with the legislature with an insight into how things work in Boston. Cullett mentioned that Ferrera has another full-time job plus commute time may be something to think about. Leach mentioned that Ferrera was more knowledgeable with Chapter 90 and writing grants. Cullett made a motion to appoint James Welch as Town Administrator, Haskins second, 3-0 unanimous vote.

Item 10: Review and Approve accounts payable, Treasury Warrant, payroll warrant: Haskins questioned Highway Superintendent Russell about discontinued roads. Russell presented a copy of a letter from 2019 that was sent by certified mail to all homeowners that live on these private roads. The letter stated that the town had stopped plowing discontinued private roads and the town went to great lengths to notify all homeowners. Selectman Cullett mentioned that Candidate #1 did not show up for interview for TA, Candidate #5 declined interview is no longer interested in the position.

Item 11: Adjourn: Leach made motion to adjourn the 01/24/2022 BOS meeting, Cullett second, Vote 3-0. The 01/24/2022 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

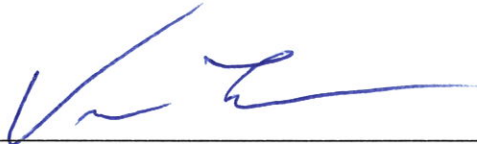
Articles used:

Minutes 01/18/2022
Warrant -W15-2022
Fire Department Fee Schedule
Agreement between FRCOG and Town of Peru, MassWorks Grant
Email from Paul Mark, State Representative
Letter from William Galvin-Elections Division
Resumes of Town Administrator Candidates
Private Roads letter/Set of Conditions

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Walker
Administrative Assistant

Verne Leach, Chairman

A blue ink signature of Verne Leach, consisting of a stylized 'V' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Doug Haskins, Selectman

A black ink signature of Doug Haskins, written in a cursive style.

Bruce Cullett, Selectman

A black ink signature of Bruce Cullett, written in a cursive style.

Date Approved: 1/31/22