

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: February 22, 2022 @ 6:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman/ACO
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Chief
James Welch, Town Administrator
Terry Walker, Administrative Assistant
Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief

Public Attendance: N/A

Item 1: Call to order: 6:00 P.M.

Item 2: Roll Call: Chairman Leach Present, Selectman Haskins absent, Selectman Cullett Present

Item 3: State Recording status: N/A

Item 4: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Led by Selectman Leach

Item 5 : Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 02/14/2022: Selectman Leach motion to put 02/14/2022 minutes on hold, Selectman Cullett second, unanimous 2-0

Item 6: Updates from Departments: Fire Chief Pelkey reported that there are frozen drainpipes at fire house and there is water on the floor. Pelkey also mentioned that he will be completing his Hazmat Certification on March 26, 2022. Fire Chief Pelkey was approached by the Boy Scouts and they would like to use the fire station for meetings. The Boy Scout leader is a member of the Fire Department. Selectman Cullett stated that as long as Fire Chief Pelkey is comfortable he is in agreement but a member of the fire dept must be at the meetings. Selectman Leach mentioned that the Boy Scouts could use the Community Center. Selectman Leach is concerned with young kids being around equipment, but as long as Chief Pelkey is comfortable then Selectman Leach is in agreement as well. Selectman Cullett asked TA – Welch if he could work on Hazard Mitigation grant this week. TA Welch stated that he plans on working on the grant.
Some discussion about COA director position. This will be revisited.

Item 7: Discussion/ Review on FY23 Town Budget Process:

A discussion regarding joint Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee meeting. TA-Welch, Jesse Pelkey-Chairman of Finance Committee, Selectman Leach and Selectman Cullett agreed that the next joint meeting will be on March 3, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.
Highway Superintendent oversees mowing bids and gives results to Selectboard.
Selectman Leach proposed an evaluation for payroll for all town employees. He feels some people are under paid and some people are overpaid. Selectman Cullett mentioned that we are nearly in March and its too late for this year. Selectman Cullett suggested budgeting the money for FY23 to hire an evaluator for next year.
Town Clerk level funded elections account some discussion regarding the number of elections for FY23. TA Welch will reach out to Town Clerk Leach to see if appropriation is for one election or three elections.
Many departments submitted a 3% cola increase in their salary. Selectman Leach suggested doing all salaries at once. Board of Selectmen agreed that the Assessor's budget was a good breakdown and not a huge increase considering there would be one Assessor and outside contracted services.

Selectman Cullett asked TA Welch to contact both the Town Accountant and Town Treasurer about the anticipated date to have free cash certified and closing the books. TA Welch will ask the Town Accountant and Town Treasurer to expedite the process.

Treasurer Software: Selectboard wondered if the \$25,000 IT grant be part of the FY23 budget for the Treasurer converting from Statutory Accounting System software to Uniform Municipal Accounting System (UMAS) Software. Will this conversion be raise and appropriate or will IT grant cover conversion? How does IT grant fit into the budget request? Selectman Cullett once again asked TA-Welch to speak with Treasurer and Accountant as to when books will be closed and when Free Cash will be certified.

Selectman Cullett asked TA-Welch if he had received Berkshire Health Alliance Budget. TA Welch does not have invoice. Fire Dept, The Selectboard had a few questions for Fire Chief Pelkey with will be addressed at another meeting.

1. 911 signs for the town
2. Chief Pelkey will be asked to explain heaters
3. Jaws of Life
4. DCR matching grants

Selectboard mentioned to TA Welch that specific equipment should not be in the operating budget but needs to be moved to a one-time capital expense and Free Cash could be used to cover expense.

Missing budgets:

Highway

Veterans Agent

Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Disposal and Trucking.

Item 8: Discussion and Possible vote on Fire Department donation of SCBA Tanks to Montgomery Fire Department:

Selectman Cullett motion to approve the donation of SCBA Tanks to Montgomery Fire Department, Selectman Leach second. 2-0

Item 9: Public Input: N/A

Item 10: Review and Approve Accounts Payable , Treasury Warrant and Payroll Warrant: Energy Resources invoice will be paid after the wiring inspector signs off and is satisfied with their work.

TA Welch will contact Priority Cleaning Company for a quote on cleaning town hall.

Item 11: Adjourn: Selectman Leach made motion to adjourn the 02/22/2022 BOS Meeting, Selectman Cullett second, Vote 2-0. The 02/22/2022 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:38 P.M.

Articles used:

Minutes 02/14/2022

Signed agreement between Peru and Montgomery (SCBA tanks)

Warrant # W22-17P

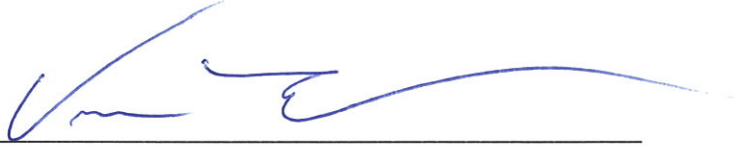
FY23 budget spreadsheet

FY23 Budget Requests

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Walker
Administrative Assistant

Verne Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman

Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved: 3-7-22