

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: November 16, 2020: 6:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Ed Munch, BOS Chairman/Historical Commission
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Chief of Police
Verne Leach, Selectman/ACO
Caleb Mitchell, Town Administrator
Nanette Mone, Board of Health Chair
Jim Kenney, Historical Commission Chair/Cemetery Commission Chair
Caryn Wendling, Tax Collector/Treasurer
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 Town Clerk Facebook page; 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 11/02/2020:** Munch made motion to approve BOS meeting minutes for 11/02/2020 pending changes, Leach seconds, all agree. **Vote 3-0.**

Item 6: **Update to Departments: Historical Commission:** Jim Kenney discussed the possibility of conducting interviews with lifelong residents to include in the new town book and a suggestion from Ruth in the Library about putting out a box for thoughts on the new book. Kenney stated he would like to have the BOS include something in the new book as well. Kenney stated the previous two books have been scanned. Discussed the Pewter Medallion sample and would like the BOS to approve. All BOS members were in favor of the medallion sample. Munch discussed pricing of the medallion.
Cemetery Commission: Kenney discussed a MA General Law that requires a grave officer to be appointed for a period of no more than 5 yrs. and the person must be a Veteran. Discussed whoever is appointed is responsible for making sure Veteran's graves are taken care of. Kenney stated he would be happy to have it posted as an opening.

Board of Health: Nanette discussed the spike in cases and schools are going back to remote learning. Discussed clusters coming from indoor dining at restaurants & small gatherings in private homes. Discussed concerns about Thanksgiving.

Town Administrator: TA Mitchell discussed an email received confirming the representative from Guardian will be coming out. Discussion on the current dog license fees and the \$1500 that goes to the Library. Discussed a request form the Town Clerk about residents having the ability to pay online for the dog license fees. Discussed another Quarterly Report for the Care Act Expenditures was sent. Discussed the MIIA Grant application submitted and an email confirmation was received from MIIA. Discussed contacting MBI and leaving a phone message & an online message regarding the remaining portion of the Town that does not have broadband. Selectman Munch asked if TA had spoken to Hinsdale about their procedure for signing documents online when meeting through Zoom. TA will follow up with Hinsdale.

Police Dept: Chief Cullett discussed the Bi-Annual Firearms qualifications was completed Saturday, November 7, 2020.

Treasurer: Caryn Wendling discussed the BOH Payment portal has been setup through UniBank and she is waiting for a test payment to be complete to make sure it works properly.

Item 7: **Discussion and Vote to award Furnace/Boiler Service contract to St. Pierre Plumbing, Cooling & Heating Inc.:**
Cullett stated there are 3 Furnaces and no boilers. Discussed the last 3-4 years St. Pierre has been taking care of the

service for the Furnaces. Cullett discussed trying to contact several other companies with no response. Cullett make a motion to award the Furnace contract to St. Pierre, Leach seconds. All agree. **Vote 3-0.**

Item 8: **Discussion and Possible vote to establish a Conservation Trust Fund:** TA Mitchell stated that according to MA General Law Chapter 40, Sec. 8C, the establishment of a Conservation Commission states a conservation fund can be established in towns. Discussed that a conservation fund can be used for things such as printing & distribution of books, maps, charts, and plans. Selectman Leach stated he would like time to read the paperwork provided. Munch asked how the money would be raised. Mitchell discussed a check in the amount of \$2,000.00 was received by Eversource when they installed the new poles. Discussed that Eversource cleared trees as part of their project which is considered an alteration of wetland resources, so they were required to pay a mitigation fee. Munch continued to next meeting so the BOS can review the paperwork and TA Michell can follow up with Town Council for a legal opinion on where to put the funds from Eversource.

Item 9: **Discussion of cost estimates for Business and Internet services for Town of Peru Phone System:** Leach asked if the BOS is ready to move forward. Cullett stated they need to have hard numbers from Crocker to be able to compare them. TA Mitchell stated he does not have hard numbers from Crocker. Munch would like this to be resolved by the next meeting. Mitchell to follow up to get hard numbers from Crocker, Valley Communication and Spectrum.

Item 10: **COVID-19 Updates:** Nanette discussed last teleconference meetings. There are lighter restrictions for Town Governments. Discussed there will no longer be color coded maps for communities and that the state will show number of cases in smaller communities with less than 10,000 residents rather than percentage. Discussed there will be 100 million doses of vaccine but would not be available to the general population right away. Leach discussed having only essential people in the building for BOS meeting with the department heads being remote through Zoom.

Item 11: **Public Input:** No public logged in to Zoom meeting. No public input.

Item 12: **Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, and Payroll Warrants:**
Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, and Payroll Warrants reviewed and approved. **RULE OF NECESSITY** – Leach said he wants to invoke the Rule of Necessity to sign the Berkshire Health Group Insurance Plan.

Item 13: **Adjourn:** Munch made motion to adjourn the 11/16/2020 BOS Meeting. Leach seconds. All agree **Vote 3-0. The 11/16/2020 BOS Meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.**

Articles used:

- 11/16/2020 BOS Meeting Agenda
- 11/2/2020 BOS Meeting Minutes
- Andras Invoice for Service
- Letter from Central Berkshire School District
- Conservation Fund Outline
- Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, and Payroll Warrants

Respectfully Submitted
Tonya Santaniello, Administrative Assistant

Ed Munch, Chairman

Verne Leach, Selectman

Bruce Cullett, Selectman

Date Approved: 11/30/2020

