

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: AUGUST 3, 2020: 6:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Ed Munch, BOS Chairman/Historical Commission
Verne Leach, Selectman/ACO
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Sergeant
Caleb Mitchell, Town Administrator
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Nanette Mone, Board of Health
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

Item 4: **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:** Lead by Selectman Cullett

Item 5: **Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for 7/13/2020, 7/20/2020, and 7/27/2020:**

Munch makes motion to approve BOS meeting minutes for 7/27/2020 pending changes, Cullett seconds, all agree. **Vote 3-0.** BOS meeting minutes for 7/13/2020 & 7/20/2020 not provided continued to next meeting.

Item 6: **Update to Departments:**

Highway Superintendent Justin Russell: They are finished putting gravel on Curtin Rd and got further past Garnet Peak. They have 3 culverts to replace on E. Windsor Rd, preparing for rain coming next week. Russell discussed having a meeting with transfer attendants. Russell received a call from an investigator from the State Ethics Board for a complaint filed about the tree cutting. Discussed contacting property owners prior to cutting to give them right of first refusal. Cullett said that when the town generates firewood from cutting it was agreed that there would be a list that people could call and get on, giving preference to seniors and veterans. Discussed second complaint filed regarding Russell cleaning up his driveway. Munch stated it has never been a question and this has been a policy in the town, maybe not written, but an understanding that the Highway Super has been able to take the truck home and clean his driveway. Leach said that we should make it a written policy.

Board of Health: Nanette Mone looking for an update on use of Herbicides for Hogweed. Legal Opinion received from Town Council that if the Hogweed is within the right of way there is no need to get permission from property owner. Mr. Fahey will go out and confirm if within right of way.

Police Dept.: Sgt. Cullett picked up large shipment of PPE from FEMA which is available for First Responders and people in town hall. EMD Rick Carl asked that we keep the PPE in the Police Station in case of future outbreaks. Surgical masks put out to be available when town hall reopens for visitors.

Town Administrator: Mitchell met with Mitch Latcher, IT Provider. Server room has been organized and the administrative assistant's computer has been setup for email and internet. Discussed updates on the A/C & Heating Unit. St. Pierre will revisit job site to take more measurements needed for the Green Community Grant.

Item 7: Discussion and Vote to appoint the following: Munch makes motion to appoint & approve all the following, Leach seconds, all agree. **Vote 3-0.** Leach states that Sam Haupt has already been appointed. Gladys Wheeler as Election Warden, Mary Scott as Election Deputy Warden/Clerk Warden, Sara Adams, Amy Davidson, Kathy Borden, Margaret Chieffo, Brenda Darby, Darryl Darby, George Greule, Sharon Greule, Linda Kellogg, Barbara Kenney, James Kenney, Cathy MacPhail, Nanette Mone, Irene Morrison, Coralie Pelkey, Amy Pharmed, Cassidy Scott, Denise Shaw, Charlene Steele, Graham Sturz, Peggy White, David Whiting, Emma Whiting as Poll Workers.

Item 8: Discussion and Vote to approve contract with Full Circle Technology through BRPC: Munch states we already agreed to sign contract last week, but it didn't have the proper wording. Cullett makes motion to approve and sign the contract, Munch seconds, all agree. **Vote 3-0.** Cullett makes motion to have Town Administrator Caleb Mitchell sign the contract, Munch seconds, all agree. **Vote 3-0.**

Item 9: Discussion and Vote to appoint Bruce Cullett to a 3-year term as Town of Peru Chief of Police: Leach makes motion to appoint Bruce Cullett as Chief of Police for 3-year term, Munch seconds, all agree. **Vote 2-0,** Bruce recused.

Item 10: Discussion and Possible executive session in accordance with Ch. 30A Sec 21(a) to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (prospective Chief of Police Bruce Cullett): Chief Cullett doesn't mind open session: Discussed contract between Town of Peru and Chief of Police. Munch made motion to agree to contract between Chief Cullett and the Town of Peru with a change to Article 7 that the automatic increase of 3% will be put to a minimum of 2% and if the town decides to increase across the board for other positions that the Chief of Police would be automatically included. Leach seconds, all agree. **Vote 2-0.** Cullett recused. Cullett stated that by agreeing to the contract they agree to Section 20D Item 15, Conflict of Interest Exemption. Munch makes motion to accept disclosure, Leach seconds, all agree. **Vote 2-0.** Cullett recused.

Item 11: Discussion and Possible vote for Transfer Station Proposal and/or other possible alternatives: Cullett had a conversation with Kathleen Casey of HRMC based in Williamsburg. Gave pricing for Worthington and Middlefield along with guidelines to join. Peru wouldn't be saving much money if joined. Hauling and tipping fees are in line with what Peru pays. Peru couldn't join this year since 6-month notices needs to be given to be able to join.

Item 12: Discussion and Possible vote to approve contract between NBSWD and Casella Waste Management, Inc.: Munch makes a motion to approve the contract between Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District and Casella Waste Management Inc. All Agree, **Vote 2-0.** Leach recused.

Item 13: Discussion of 250th Anniversary Celebration: Discussed progress on what is needed & measurements will be taken and on obtaining a 1-day insurance policy for private land. Discussion on possible postponement of Celebration and it would be best to make the decision to postpone to 2022 by mid fall.

Item 14: **COVID-19 Updates:**

Discussed the COVID-19 control plan, cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces in the building and the availability of funding to hire a professional cleaning company to come in weekly if not more until end of year. Discussed possibly hiring an additional substitute cleaner and asking current cleaner if she is available to come in more often and do more. Discussed building changes being billed under CARES ACT, Discussed stream line application project through FEMA and discussed possibility of installing intercom/camera system.

Item 15: **Review and Approve accounts payable, Treasury Warrants:**

Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants reviewed and approved. RULE OF NECESSITY: Mr. Leach said he wants to invoke the Rule of Necessity because both he and Selectman Munch are on the Fire Dept. Discussed message to finance regarding accounts for FY20.

Item 16: **Adjourn:**

Munch motions to adjourn the 8/3/2020 BOS Meeting. Leach seconds. All agree. **Vote 3-0**
The 8/3/2020 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:54 P.M.

Articles used:

8/3/2020 BOS Meeting Agenda
Full Circle Contact
Chief of Police Contract
NBSWD Contract/Casella Waste Management
COVID-19 Control Plan
Disclosure
Warrants

Respectfully Submitted
Tonya Santaniello
Administrative Assistant

Ed Munch, Chairman



Verne Leach, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Approved: 8/17/2020