

**Town of
Peru, Massachusetts**

June 4, 2018

Community Center, 3 E. Main Rd.



OFFICIAL

Minutes to Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Present:

Bruce Cullett, BOS Chairman/Police Sargent
Ed Munch, Selectman/Historical Commission
Verne Leach, Selectman/ACO/Transfer Attendant
Caleb Mitchell, Town Administrator
Brian Dewkett, Fire Chief
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Irene Morrison, Selectmen's Secretary
Daryl Darby, Cemetery Sexton

Residents: Margaret Chieffo, Russell Chieffo

Item 1: **Call to order** - Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M.

Item 2: **Roll Call** - Chairman Cullett present, Selectman Leach present, Selectman Munch present

Item 3: **State recording status:** Secretary Morrison, Selectman Leach recording

Item 4: **Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for 5/21/18**

Mr. Cullett motions to approve 5/21/18 Meeting Minutes pending changes. Mr. Leach seconds. All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0.**

Item 5: **Report from Departments**

Highway Dept. – Hwy. Supt. Russell reporting

Hwy. Supt. Russell indicates that he has received 2 applications for the Truck Driver/Laborer position. One applicant has a CDL License, but would have to obtain a 2A & 4G License. The second applicant does not show a CDL License, Hoisting License or relevant construction experience on his application. The BOS and Highway Supt. Russell will interview one of the applicants, Mark Bedard, at the next BOS meeting of June 11, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.

Hwy. Supt. Russell reviewed with the BOS a preliminary plan he has for portions of South Rd. to be paved. He met with Mass DOT today to go over figures for Chapter 90 expenditures and balance monies to be used in part for the project. Part 1 and 2 of his plan for South Rd. this year is to reclaim a 4100' section between Rick Carl's house and just past W. Haskell. Part 3 of that is the top of Hickenbotham Rd. for approximately 850'. This will all be in one bid. The only thing that he thinks there may be a question about, is a 500' section on South Rd. where he would like to use MC3000 Chip Seal. Mr. Cullett said that there will be further discussion regarding this at the next BOS Meeting of 6/11/18.

Hwy. Supt. Russell reports that he hired 18 yr. old Michael Fortin as a Summer Helper. He is from Hinsdale. Since Travis has left the Hwy. Dept., Dale Weeks has been working with them every day.

Hwy. Supt. Russell said we have to start getting letters out to the homeowners living on the private roads so that they have the rest of the summer to get ready for plowing next year. They can work at getting some trees cut and getting some of the issues fixed, even if it means inviting them to a meeting so that he can explain what they need to do. He suggested that he could even meet them on their road so he could show them what they need to do, or to set something up to get a group of people from the individual roads that could represent everyone on that road. He said that whomever is going to write the letter, they should get it out soon. Mr. Cullett said that he would have to get much of the information needed from the Assessor Maps.

Hwy. Supt. Russell indicated that they are going to finish cleaning up some debris at the Hall property. He said there is approximately \$1,900.00 left in that account. Out of that account, he'd like to buy some grass seed to spread on the Hall property. He also suggested that we may have to hire someone to come after the dump truck at the Hall property to haul it away". "It may cost a few hundred dollars to haul it away, but we have to get rid of it."

Daryl Darby, Cemetery Sexton has had a request from a family member about the South Rd. Cemetery. They would like to have some of the branches trimmed along the Andersen line. With the shade from the branches, the stones are getting moss on them, and they would like to clean the moss off. He talked to Lisa Anderson, and she said that Kirchner now owns it, and she is uncomfortable having someone she doesn't know to cut them. She has no problem with having them cut the branches, but she doesn't want someone that's not insured. Mr. Darby is wondering if Hwy Supt. Russell could touch base with her. Hwy. Supt. Russell said because they are town employees, they would be covered by the towns insurance, and they could cut the branches. Mr. Darby said that they would need a pole saw.

Mr. Munch asked TA Mitchell if he was going to take care of the plates on the ACO vehicle to get registered. Hwy. Supt. Russell said the waiting time at the RMV is very long, and that he would rather not. Mr. Munch said we need to determine whose responsibility it is to get the old Police Cruiser Plates changed again to Official Plates. Hwy. Supt. Russell said that they stripped the whole Cruiser last week for Police Chief Henault, and that they took everything off of it. Mr. Mitchell said he has to contact the Insurance Company.

Fire Dept. – Fire Chief Dewkett reporting

Fire Chief Dewkett said that he has been contacted by Rick Harrington, Caretaker of Camp Danbee regarding the Yearly Inspection at the Camp that needs to be done. Fire Chief Dewkett told Mr. Harrington that he would come down a couple Tuesday nights to go through the buildings. Mr. Cullett said that Mr. Harrington basically turns in the application to the BOH where they sign off, then the Fire Chief signs off so that Camp Danbee gets an Operating License. We will put Mr. Harrington on the Agenda for the next meeting of 6/11/18. Usually, the BOS makes sure that the BOH and the Fire Chief have signed off.

TA Mitchell reporting

TA Mitchell has handed out copies of the updated posting for a Town Cleaner. Mr. Leach said that on the posting, it mentions that the Town Cleaner is to do the purchasing of their supplies. Usually, Caryn Wendling, Treasurer does that. The Cleaner should notify her when they need supplies. The position has been expanded to a part-time hourly position, 12 hours a month for \$15.00 per hour. Mr. Leach said this is a new position to be posted, but to encourage the current cleaning person to put in an application. Mr. Cullett indicated that the current cleaning person is considered to be an Independent Contractor.

TA Mitchell said that we need to confirm our participation in Worthington 250th Anniversary. Fire Chief Dewkett said that he'll bring a Fire Truck over, but that he didn't know yet which one. He is thinking to take the big tanker. The BOS will go to the parade. They will try to get an open vehicle to ride in. Worthington will probably be doing programs soon so we'll have to try to get one.

TA Mitchell has inquired as to whether there is a By-law that will allow us to collect fees and fines that could be attached to a persons real estate tax. Currently there are certain types of fees that are essentially uncollectible.

TA Mitchell said that he would prefer that the final legal bills from KP Law for services be broken down into two rather than one, because if we get something that's reimbursable from the grant, he can send it in before the FY19.

TA Mitchell said that a letter has been received from the new DA saying, "as the new DA, I'm trying to do my best to reach out to all Community Leaders to hear what's important to them." Mr. Munch said it would be a good idea for him to come to a BOS Meeting just to sit and talk to get an idea of what his thoughts are on things. TA Mitchell said he'd have to find out if he wants to come here.

TA Mitchell said that it's not on the Agenda, but that we're moving along with the Green Community. He's waiting to get a file from National Grid for the Street Lights, and indicates that we might be able to realize another savings there. He's waiting for the detail to see what the wattage is that we're actually using for street lights. Everything helps, and we have to try to get the 20% reduction in energy use.

TA Mitchell has contacted the CPA regarding the audit. He gave them e-mail addresses and phone numbers of the Assessors, Accountant, and Tax Collector/Treasurer. They are going to try to come here with a team of people, and will be here for a couple of days. He doesn't think that is going to be done until July. They will send us a letter that we will have to sign and send back to them. That will basically encumber the funds, so that if they don't finish the audit, we will be able to encumber those funds.

Mr. Cullett requested that TA Mitchell call Eversource to have them take care of the wire that is over-hanging the old Highway Building before the Volunteer Painting of that building begins.

Item 6: **Presentation by Tracy Greene of Sun Power on the Massachusetts Smart Program**

Mr. Greene did not attend this evening's meeting.

Item 7: **Discussion, Review and possible vote to approve License and Service Agreement for Virtual Towns & Schools website**

Mr. Cullett motions to approve License and Service Agreement for Virtual Towns & Schools website. Mr. Leach seconds. All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0**

Item 8: **Discussion, Review and Possible Vote to approve Agreement between Central Berkshire Regional School District and the Town of Peru for the Joint Purchase of Health Benefits**

Mr. Cullett motions to approve the Agreement between CBRSD and the Town of Peru for Joint Purchase of Health Benefits. Mr. Munch seconds. All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0**

Item 9: **Update on Cable License Agreement between Charter/Spectrum and the Town of Peru**

Hwy. Supt. Russell said a friend of his is an Engineer with Charter, and that he indicated things are moving along.

Item 10: **Discussion, Review and possible vote on Legal Representation for the Town of Peru for the Pierce Rd. property**

On 6/1/18, Tax Collector/Treasurer Wendling e-mailed TA Mitchell, informing him that she has spoken with Joel of KP Law, asking him how she should proceed in switching from Berenson & Bloom

Legal Services and back to KP Law. He instructed her to send a letter to Berenson, letting them know that KP Law would be taking over the handling of the legalities associated with property issues in which she has been waiting for final judgement to no avail. She informed Berenson & Bloom that she was no longer using them. Her contact at KP Law is Melissa McCarthy. Tax Collector/Treasurer Wendling has forwarded associated correspondence and responses from KP Law and Berenson to TA Mitchell for his perusal. TA Mitchell has informed the BOS of the switch of Legal Representation for the Town of Peru regarding property issues including the Pierce Rd. property.

Item 11: **Review and approve accounts payable, treasury warrants, payroll warrant**

Other discussion/items not listed, but brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law:

Resident, Margaret Chieffo of Andes Rd. presented the BOS with her resume for the position of Council on Aging (COA) Director. Mr. Cullett explained that we have been trying to work with Hinsdale as much as we can, and that we want to make sure that our residents get the services that they need. He indicated to her that we need to have someone in the position in order to receive grants and things of that nature. To meet the Open Law Requirements, Mr. Cullett told Mrs. Chieffo that because we didn't have the posted COA Director position on tonight's Agenda, we would have to ask her to come to the 6/11/18 BOS Meeting for further discussion and possible Appointment. Mr. Cullett gave Mrs. Chieffo the telephone number of the last COA Director, Mary Morrison to obtain more information about the position.

Item 12: **Adjourn**

Mr. Cullett motions to adjourn the BOS Meeting. Mr. Leach seconds. All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0**

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 P.M.

Articles used at BOS Meeting of 6/4/18

Meeting Minutes of 5/21/18

Agenda of 6/4/18

Sign in sheet of 6/4/18

Town of Peru 2018 South Rd. Paving Est.

Employment Applications (2) for Highway Position – Mark Bedard, Brian Burris

Agreement between CBRSD & Town of Peru for Joint Purchase of Health Benefits

Resume from Margaret Chieffo for COA Director

KP Law letter of legal fees

Switch of Legal Representation correspondence for property issues

Letter to Berenson & Bloom

Job Posting for Town of Peru Town Offices & Town Hall Cleaner

Payroll Warrant 49P

Vendor Warrant 23V

Respectfully submitted,

Irene J. Morrison

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Selectmen Secretary

Chairman, Bruce Cullett

Selectman, Verne Leach

Selectman, Ed Munch

Approved: __6/11/18_____