

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: December 19, 2022 @ 6:00 P.M.

Peru Town Hall Meeting Room

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman/ACO
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Chief
Doug Haskins, Selectman / Fin Com
James Welch, Town Administrator
Terry Walker, Administrative Assistant
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent

Public Attendees:

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

Item 2: Roll Call: Chairman Leach present, Selectman Cullett present, Selectman Haskins present

Item 3: State Recording status: Selectman Leach for personal under Exemption E

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

Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 12/7/2022, 12/12/2022

Selectman Leach motion to approve 12/7/2022 minutes, Selectman Cullett motion to accept minutes pending changes, Selectman Haskins second, Selectman Leach recused himself he was not present. 2-0.
Selectman Leach placed 12/12/2022 minutes on hold

Item 6: Updates of Departments: Highway Superintendent Russell has submitted a MassWorks reimbursement for \$924,450.00. Once the reimbursement is approved in Boston the town will receive the balance of the MassWorks Grant. Highway Superintendent Russell updated the Selectboard with the cutting plan at the state forest. Jericho Valley Land and Timber LLC from Stephentown, NY will hire Tonlino & Sons to spread gravel on Curtain Road. The total for timber sale is \$30,800 which will be used for gravel to improve the road between Middlefield and Peru this will be completed next spring or summer.

Highway Superintendent Russell reported that he has completed the Hot Works course and he has received his Hot Works certificate. Superintendent Russell also mentioned that Fire Chief Pelkey will be reviewing area where Hot Works will be performed and will also inspect storage of combustible containers. Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that homeowners and snow plowing contractors are plowing snow in the roadway and across the roadway. Highway Superintendent asked the Selectboard to notify the residents regarding fines for plowing snow in the roadway. The snowplow by -law needs to be enforced to avoid future issues with hazardous conditions caused by snow being left in the roadways. Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that 3 lots on Lafayette Drive did not notify Highway Superintendent about driveway permits. These driveways do not have an apron cut just a gravel driveway. Superintendent Russell mentioned the importance of enforcing driveway permits. Selectman Leach asked if Highway Superintendent is on the building permits. Selectman Cullett mentioned that the town accepted the road and if the driveways were part of the subdivision, they may not need permit. The Building Inspector was asked to let Highway Superintendent know when driveway permits are needed. Selectman Leach asked Superintendent Russell if he can keep the blue drop box shoveled out at town hall. Highway Superintendent Russell said he is so busy keeping the roads plowed during a storm and he feels that other employees could help out and shovel the blue drop box at town hall. Superintendent Russell was under the impression that the Blue Mailbox was for ballots and the election was over.

Police Chief Cullett no updates.

TA Welch requested a Condition of Accounts from the accountant and will forward to the Finance Committee. TA Welch has not heard from Priority Cleaning and the last paycheck has been withheld until town hall keys are returned. Berkshire Family Cleaning is excited to provide cleaning services to Peru. Berkshire Family Cleaning will perform a deep cleaning and then two times per month. Selectman Cullett motion to hire Berkshire Family Cleaning, Selectman Haskins second, all in favor, 3-0.

The Building Inspector was asked by the Selectboard if building permits are forwarded to the Highway Superintendent. There was some confusion regarding driveway permits. The Selectboard mentioned that the Highway Superintendent needs to be notified when building permits require a driveway permit. Plus, the Highway superintendent needs to sign off on the CO. It was noted that Highway Superintendent can be called weekdays between 6:00 am and 2:30 p.m., voicemail or email. The Building Inspector will then pull permit unless it is signed off by Highway Superintendent. Building permits will be conditional until all departments sign off on CO. The Building Inspector does not have an answer from Permittees. He did mention that the BRPC module will include all department except the Fire Department.

TA Welch mentioned that the accountant needs more information in order to have a classification hearing. Selectman Leach motion to postpone classification hearing, Selectman Cullett second, all in favor, 3-0.

The Selectboard discussed meetings for next week and TA Welch will post agenda for Assessors. Tuesday, December 27th-Selectmen's Meeting at 6:00 p.m., Assessors' meeting and Classification Hearing need to be posted.

Town Treasurer made a request to borrow \$100,000 from the Stabilization Fund. Selectman Leach motion to sign form allowing Town Treasurer to borrow \$100,000 from Stabilization Fund, Selectman Cullett second, 3-0. Town Treasurer mentioned once she receives the credit card statement, she will print the statement and give to each department. The department heads need to hold their receipts until Town Treasurer receives statement. Town Treasurer also mentioned that two people came in to pay for auctioned properties. KP Law will assist with disclosure and recording the sales at the registry.

Item 7: Public Input: None

Item 8: Discussion regarding Open Meeting Law Correspondence: Selectman Cullett motion to approve letter pending changes, Selectman Leach second, all in favor, 3-0

Selectman Leach motion to recess meeting at 6:18 p.m. for 15 minutes, Selectman Cullett second, unanimous 3-0
Selectman Leach called the Board of Selectmen's meeting back to order at 6:33 p.m. Roll call-all present.

Item 9: Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrants and Payroll Warrant: None
Chairman Leach moved to speak to Treasurer/Tax Collector under Updates from Departments. (see above)

Item 10: Adjourn: Selectman Leach made motion to adjourn the 12/19/2022 BOS Meeting, Selectman Cullett second, Vote 3-0. The 12/19/2022 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Articles used:

Minutes- 12/7/2022

Treasurer's Request to borrow from Stabilization Fund

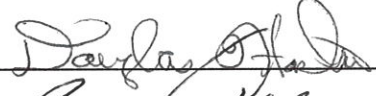
Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Walker
Administrative Assistant

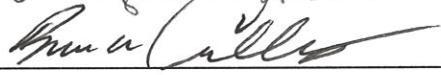
Verne Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved: 12-27-2022