

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Peru Town Hall Meeting Room

3 East Main Rd. Peru MA

Tuesday, December 27, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. State recording status
4. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag
5. Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes 12/12/22 and 12/19/22.
6. Updates of Departments
7. FY 23 Tax Classification Hearing (6:15 PM)
8. Discussion and Possible Vote to select Tax Classification
9. Discussion regarding Open Meeting Law Complaint by Kimberly Wetherell
10. Discussion and possible approval regarding CDC Grant Authorization
11. Discussion and Possible Vote on Police Detail Rates.
12. Public Input
13. Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrant, Payroll Warrant.
14. Adjourn

The list of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Board which may be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Official posting: Peru Town website: www.townofperuma.com

Posted December 21, 2022 @ 5:10pm

Kim Leach , Town Clerk

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: December 27, 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 reasons under Exemption E

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

Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 12/12/2022, 12/19/2022

Selectman Leach motion to approve 12/12/2022 minutes, Selectman Leach motion to accept minutes pending changes, Selectman Haskins second, 2-0, Selectman Cullett abstain he was not at the meeting.

Selectman Leach motion to approve 12/19/2022 minutes, Selectmen Leach motion to accept minutes pending changes, Selectman Cullett second, 3-0

Item 6: Updates of Departments: Highway Superintendent Russell requested the Board of Selectmen review and sign the Form of Completion for final reimbursement for the MassWorks Grant. Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Leach/CEO signed the Form of Completion finalizing the MassWorks Grant for East Windsor Road. In addition to the MassWorks Grant, a total of \$54,737.10 was utilized for the project from Chapter 90 funds out of the original \$200,000 that was requested.. Superintendent Russell mentioned that the Mack truck has some issues but nothing major and next year one snowplow needs to be upgraded hopefully the snowplow can be purchased with Free Cash.

Police Chief no updates

Emergency Management Director no updates

TA Welch mentioned that Family Cleaning is ready to start cleaning the town hall on Friday, December 30th at 2:00 p.m. The Board is requiring tax documents and insurance documents before Family Cleaning starts cleaning the town hall. The Selectboard would like to see insurance information and a contract needs to be signed before work begins. Selectman Cullett asked TA Welch if he had received a CORI check from the cleaning company. TA Welch will forward insurance information and CORI check to Police Chief Cullett.

Item 7: FY23 Tax Classification Hearing at (6:15 P.M.) Selectman Leach opened Tax Classification Hearing at 6:15 p.m. Selectman Leach read the posting of the Tax Classification Hearing, TA Welch read the Assessors Report regarding setting a tax rates. Setting a tax rate was briefly discussed.

Item 8: Discussion and Possible vote to select Tax Classification: Selectman Cullett voted in favor of a single tax rate, Selectman Leach second, unanimous vote 3-0 in favor of a single tax rate for the Town of Peru. Tax Classification Hearing ended at 6:27 p.m.

Item 9: Discussion regarding Open Meeting Law Complaint by Kimberly Wetherell: Selectman Leach turned the meeting over to Selectman Cullett and Selectman Haskins because he was not present at the December 7, 2022, Selectmen's meeting. The complaint was dated Dec 19th and the violation was for the 12/7/2022 Selectmen's meeting. Selectman Cullett disagrees with the allegations made by Kimberly Wetherell. Selectman Cullett did not listen to the recording, but he states that the minutes are a good representation and not sugar coated. Selectman Cullett also stated that TA Welch quoted people, and nothing was manipulated. The complaint requests that the approved minutes be rescinded. Selectman Cullett mentioned that there is no intentional avoidance of transparency and all the requirements of OML have been met. OML does not require minutes be posted on town website, but the Selectmen post to the website. Selectman Cullett stated that he disagrees with the characterization of the 12/7/2022 minutes and if the Attorney General would listen to the recording the posted minutes would match. Selectman Cullett stated that the posted minutes are supported by the recording. Selectman Haskins mentioned that minutes are not verbatim. Selectman Cullett stressed the importance of accurate minutes and what took place at the 12/7/2022 meeting. Selectman Cullett felt that the action Kimberly Wetherell is requesting is unreasonable and there is no need for a public apology. Selectman Cullett reiterated that the Selectboard did not smear anyone. Furthermore, the town does not have the technology or personnel to put recordings on the town website. Selectman Haskins mentioned that the board goes above and beyond to comply. The Selectboard received the complaint on December 21st. the response will be signed on January 3rd and TA Welch will cc Attorney Generals' office with all responses.

Item 10: Discussion and possible approval regarding CDC Grant Authorization: TA Welch presented the signature page for the CDC Grant Application, Selectman Cullett motion for approval, Selectman Leach second, unanimous vote 3-0 Application was signed by Selectman Leach.

Item 11: Discussion and Possible Vote on Police Detail Rates: Police Chief Cullett and Selectmen discussed an email dated December 20th outlining detail rates in surrounding towns. Chief Cullett stated that with all construction for next year the Town of Peru needs to be competitive with detail rates. Chief Cullett recommends raising the detail rate from \$50.00 to \$55.00 per hour and the cruiser fee from \$100.00 to \$135.00 per day for maintenance and fuel costs. The Administrative Fee will be at 10%. Selectman Haskins motion to increase detail rate to \$55.00 per hour, cruiser fee to \$135.00 per day and administrative fee will remain at 10%, Selectman Leach second, 2-0. Selectman Cullett recused himself.

Item 12: Public Input: None

Item 13: Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrants and Payroll Warrant: None V14-2023 P23-13 Selectman Haskins suggested the Selectboard discuss the issue with Jesse Pelkey moving snow near his driveway at a Selectboard meeting when Jesse is in attendance. Some discussion on how the Selectboard will handle residents plowing snow into the roadways. The notice may be sent to everyone along with the annual street census or may only be mailed to the individuals plowing snow in the roadway.

Item 14: Adjourn: Selectman Leach made motion to adjourn the 12/27/2022 BOS Meeting, Selectman Cullett second, Vote 3-0. The 12/27/2022 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:33 P.M.

Articles used:


Minutes- 12/12/2022, 12/19/2022

Warrants V14-2023, P23-13
Email from Police Chief regarding hourly detail rates
Open Meeting Law complaint from Kimberly Wetherell
Tax Classification hearing posting
Letter from assessors regarding tax rate
CDC grant
Form of Completion for MassWorks Grant

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Walker
Administrative Assistant

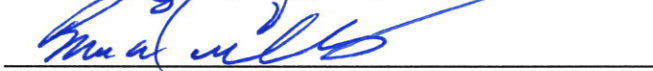
Verne Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved: 1-3-23

RECEIVED
JAN 04 2023
Kim Leach
TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF PERU