

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES | June 29, 2020 | 6:30 P.M.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Verne Leach, BOS Chairman / ACO
Ed Munch, Selectman / Historical Commission
Bruce Cullett, Selectman / Police Sergeant
Caleb Mitchell, Town Administrator
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Karen Tonelli, Assistant Assessor
Irene Morrison, Administrative Assistant

Item 1: **Call to order:** 6:30 P.M.

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

Item 3: **State recording status:** Mr. Leach & Irene Morrison recording; Live stream on Town Clerk Facebook page

Item 4: **Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for 6/22/20**

Mr. Leach motions to approve 6/22/20 BOS Meeting Minutes pending changes. Mr. Munch seconds. All agree.

VOTE 3-0

Item 5: **Update of Departments**

Highway – Justin Russell, Superintendent reporting

Supt. Russell said he spoke with Dick Harris from Eversource. He said there's going to be a lot of work coming up on Rt. 143, replacing all the poles. In addition, they'll be adding power lines as far as the Worthington line. They are planning on replacing the poles with bigger ones now that they have fiber on them. Supt. Russell requested they get moved further back off the road. He said they didn't seem to have a problem with that. They are going to put them 10 ft. back from where they are now.

Supt. Russell said he's waiting for parts for both mowers and that the Highway Workers have been doing weed whacking. The summer help will be starting tomorrow.

Supt. Russell said he has ordered an emergency 24-inch culvert replacement for East Windsor Rd. He said he had some money left in one of his accounts and ordered it because the price of the culverts will be going up after 7/1/20. He said he put a lock on the breaker box at the pavilion. He has the code for it. He also said he picked up the Goshen Stone. Once the cap stone is done, he'll pick that up.

Supt. Russell informed the BOS that he'll be out of town for the 2nd week in July. He said the Highway Workers will be taking the extra day afforded to them on Thursday.

Police – Sergeant Cullett reporting

Sergeant Cullett informed the BOS that Officer Horne will be officially leaving. He is going to the Pittsfield Police Dept. His last day here will be 8/16/20. His position has been posted, and Sergeant Cullett said he's received a handful of applicants so far. Mr. Leach request that Sergeant Cullett contact him when he interviews.

TA Mitchell said you have to submit an official Application for Public Assistance with FEMA to get reimbursed for the facility modifications. You have to list all of the modifications and give a description. Rick Carl and Sam Haupt are already listed on the site. He knows it was accepted and that he is recorded on the site. He's waiting to hear back to see if there's any other information he has to provide to them. There would have been no way for us to submit any kind of reimbursement for that type of equipment without making that request on the FEMA site. Mr. Cullett asked if the \$73,000.00 of the CARES ACT wouldn't apply to any of those modifications? TA Mitchell said, "Evidently not". He said we had to do a modification of the actual Application. We had to re-submit the certification with Attachment B that Mr. Leach had signed. We had to re-submit with the modified amount of \$37,775.00. The original Application said \$58,100.00. We had to change that on the original Application. Evidently, they don't cover those costs. That's what triggered the whole FEMA Application. So, you're basically going through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through MEMA. Mr. Munch asked what was taken off of that to change it by \$20,000.00? Mr. Cullett said all the engineering controls, shields, dividers, any kind of equipment to modify the facility. TA Mitchell is waiting to here back from them if they're going to actually approve those items. He's not sure that we want to spend those funds.

TA Mitchell said some of the other things we need to clean up is we're missing a check for reimbursement of the video camera from Bug Busters. Mr. Cullett said we paid for it. Town Accountant Osborn just has to provide proof of payment to MIIA. TA Mitchell said there's the 250th Anniversary Grant. Town Accountant Osborn does up all the invoices. She'll be submitting that also. We have the invoice and still have to have the checks that were issued by the Treasurer for the gravel.

Item 6: Discussion and possible Vote to hire David Strzepa for part time Transfer Station Attendant position

Mr. Cullett said a number of years ago, we had set up a job posting for temporary help at the Transfer Station. He wants to make sure we're doing everything in accordance with the policy that we came up with a number of years ago about all vacant positions. He said we should post the position and leave it open.

Mr. Munch motions to hire David Strzepa for part-time Transfer Station Attendant. Mr. Cullett seconds. Mr. Leach recused. **VOTE 2-0**

Mr. Munch said we need the policy posted on the wall in a permanent position so that anyone down there, they can just look at it. It should be in a plastic sleeve.

Item 7: Discussion of NBSWD Contract and other possible alternatives

Supt. Russell said he spoke with Valley last week, and they are working on getting a proposal together. He told them we'd like to see something by 7/1/20 and that the Town Administrator would reach out to them. The BOS suggested inviting them to come to the next BOS Meeting on Monday, 7/6/20. Supt. Russell talked to him about the light bulb shed. They can arrange having the bulbs picked up. They can also have it set up so that residents who have electronics to get rid of, they can go to their facility in Lenoxdale without a Valley Permit. There are fees, but you wouldn't have to have a Valley Permit.

Item 8: Discussion and Vote for Right of First Refusal for property located on 0 North Road (Map 32, Lot 35)

Mr. Cullett explained that this individual has property that's under contract currently and in order for him to satisfy the requirements of Chapter 61, the town has the right to first refusal and some other things that landowner has. It's one of the rights he signs over when they put it into Chapter 61. As a town if we wanted to purchase this parcel for the purchase price outlined which is \$55,000.00 we could.

Assistant Assessor Tonelli joined in the Meeting to explain it's still under Chapter 94 from when the father owned it. It's now 2 brothers. They've owned it since 1959. She said when we calculate roll back or penalty taxes, we take what

the value would have been if they weren't under the Chapter and minus it from the value that we did assess them in 1961. We look back to 5 years and then add 5% interest compounded. They have to pay back for 5 years what they would have paid had they not been in Chapter.

Mr. Cullett motions to waive our right of first refusal. Mr. Leach seconds. Mr. Munch abstains. **VOTE 2-0**
(See Contract)

Item 9: Discussion to install mini-split climate control system for Server Room, Police Station and Highway Department utilizing the Green Community Grant

Mr. Cullett said he wrote the Scope of Work for the project and forwarded it to St. Pierre and to Pioneer along with the prevailing wage rates asking them to reply by the end of business today. He said he solicited from 4 and got 2 responses. The procurement requirement has been met. He received an e-mail response from St. Pierre with a proposal, which he will bring to the next BOS Meeting of 7/6/20. Pioneer replied that they will not be submitting a revised bid, that they are too busy for the project.

Mr. Leach motions to vote to rescind the bid award. Mr. Cullett seconds. All agree. **VOTE 3-0**

Item 10: Discussion and Vote to hire IT Consultant for Town of Peru IT Services

The BOS discussed some of the issues we've had with the current IT Provider. Mr. Munch said the Server Room is the worst mess he's seen for wiring, and the whole room the way it's set up and not having ventilation. He said it is the responsibility of the person for that room and they should have said something about the ventilation system.

RENATUS SOLUTIONS IT

Mr. Leach motions to hire ~~Renatus IT~~ Consultant for Town of Peru IT Services. Mr. Munch seconds. All agree.
VOTE 3-0

Item 11: COVID-19 Updates

TA Mitchell reiterated from his Town Administrator report that he signed up for Public Assistance from FEMA. He's working on the re-opening plan of Town Hall. He said he will provide the BOS and the BOH with the Plan and they can review it for anything they want added or left out that we need to include. They can comment on it then we'll have it on the Agenda for the next meeting, vote on and approve it. Mr. Cullett said the access and engineering controls have to be in place first. He said the funding portion of the project needs a definitive answer before we go through these motions. TA Mitchell said the funding to re-open is tied up with FEMA. The question is "Are we going to be reimbursed." He said any of this funding whether it's the Administration & Finance or MEMA or FEMA, Accountant Osborn pointed out these are "Special Revenue Accounts" that are kept completely separate from our Fiscal Year Budget.

Mr. Leach informed the BOS that the Town Park is back open. Supt. Russell wants to know where the fencing is that was taken down. It belongs to the Highway Dept.

Item 12: Discussion of 250th Grant Application reimbursements

The Grant Application Reimbursements have been discussed in a previous Item. Item 12 will be continued at the next BOS Meeting of 7/6/20.

Item 13: Discussion and Review of job applications for the Administrative Assistant position

The BOS reviewed and discussed the Applications received for the Administrative Assistant position. Some of the Applicants were eliminated due to no pertinent experience or a long travel distance from Peru. Some will be scheduled for an interview as a possible candidate. Mr. Cullett said he would like to keep the position open for a little longer.

Item 14: Review and Approve accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll Warrants

Item 15: Adjourn

Mr. Leach motions to adjourn the 6/29/20 BOS Meeting. Mr. Munch seconds. All agree. VOTE 3-0

The 6/29/20 BOS Meeting adjourned at 8:14 P.M

Articles used:

6/29/20 BOS Meeting Agenda
Contract
Employment Applications
Warrants

Respectfully submitted

Irene J. Morrison

Administrative Assistant

Verne Leach, Chairman



Ed Munch, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Approved: 7/7/20

Date