

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES | March 15, 2020 8:30 P.M.**

TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

**Present:**

Verne Leach, Chairman

Ed Munch, Selectman/Historical Commission

Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Sergeant

Item 1: **Call to order:** 8:30 P.M.

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

Item 3: **State recording status:** Mr. Leach recording

Item 4: **Discuss and possible Vote to declare a State of Emergency for the Town of Peru**

Mr. Leach said, "Governor Baker has declared that we cannot have more than 25 people at a gathering, and with the COVID-19 going through, I feel as though this is a State of Emergency."

\*Mr. Cullett motions to declare a State of Emergency. Mr. Leach seconds. All agree. **VOTE 3-0**

Mr. Leach said he has composed a letter to close the Town Hall to the Public, which would still allow the employees to come in and do their duties to keep the Town running. The letter reads:

*In order to ensure the safety of the Community, our workers and volunteers, the Town Offices will be closed to the public at least until the end of March, check the Town Website for updates. This is meant to do our part to minimize further spread of COVID-19 and in flattening the curve. If you happen to see anyone's car in the parking lot, please do not stop in. It means that someone is working and trying to minimize exposure. If you must drop off any paperwork or payments, please put them in the mail slot of the front door of the Town Hall. The Commonwealth has suspended some open meeting law restrictions to accommodate no public access. Public Body Meetings will be closed to the public. Please refer to the Town Of Peru's website at [www.townofperuma.com](http://www.townofperuma.com) for information on how to access the meetings by alternate method. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time. (See letter)*

Mr. Leach motions to pass this. Mr. Cullett seconds. All agree. **VOTE 3-0**

Mr. Cullett asked if it was necessary to have the meeting scheduled for tomorrow night with the BOH, or if the information could be disseminated by e-mail to people instead of having the Public Meeting, having the BOH, BOS, and possibly the Health Agent coming in for a meeting. He said, "It seems counterintuitive if we're closing the Town Hall down to the public to have a meeting if it's unnecessary. We've declared a State of Emergency on behalf of the town. The BOS should consider cancelling." Mr. Leach said he will cancel the BOS part of tomorrow night's meeting. He will talk to the BOH to see if they would cancel their meeting tomorrow. Mr. Munch said the only thing we should be doing is coming in to sign papers, Warrants and Payroll. Mr. Cullett said only if we have something to deal with. The BOS agreed to cancel the BOS Meeting Monday evening and that they would contact the BOH and tell them that the BOS wanted their meeting cancelled as well.

\*Mr. Leach motions to cancel the 3/16/20 Meeting with BOS/BOH. Mr. Cullett seconds. All agree **VOTE 3-0**

Item 5: **Adjourn**

\*Mr. Leach motions to adjourn the 3/15/20 Emergency BOS Meeting. Mr. Cullett seconds. All agree. **VOTE 3-0**

**BOS Meeting adjourned at 8:38 P.M.**

**Articles used:**

3/15/20 BOS Meeting Agenda  
Letter

Respectfully submitted

*Irene J. Morrison*

Administrative Assistant

Verne Leach, Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Ed Munch, Selectman \_\_\_\_\_

Bruce Cullett, Selectman \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: 4/6/2020