

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: May 17, 2021: 6:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Verne Leach, Selectman/ACO
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Chief of Police
Caleb Mitchell, Town Administrator
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Nanette Mone, Board of Health Chair
Tonya Santaniello, Administrative Assistant

Item 1: **Call to order**: Selectman Leach postponed until 6:30 due to a lack of Quorum. Cullett arrived and called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

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

Item 3: **State Recording status**: Tonya Santaniello recording; Live stream on Zoom Meeting.

Item 4: **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**: Lead by Selectman Cullett

Item 5: **Possible executive session in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30a sec. 21(3) to conduct strategy with respect to Litigation**: Leach said he would like to revise the wording for this item and see more detail on what it's for. Continued to future BOS meeting.

Item 6: **Discussion of Legal Opinion on question/concept raised by Fire Chief to continue to perform duties without pay**: Leach said he can not recuse himself due to a lack a quorum because Chairman Munch is absent. Continued to future BOS meeting.

Item 7: **Discussion and possible vote to approve Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant**: Discussed changes that need to be made to the Annual Town Warrant. Cullett made a motion to approve FY2022 ATM Warrant pending changes and Town Council approval. Leach seconds. All agree. **Vote 2-0.**

Item 8: **Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for 5/3/2021**: Cullett made motion to approve BOS meeting minutes for 5/3/2021 pending changes, Leach seconds, all agree. **Vote 2-0.**

Item 9: **Update of Departments: Highway Dept.**: Russell discussed a resident on Andy's Road that has an Autistic Child bought a sign that she would like to install on the side of the road for awareness. Discussed meeting with Solar Field Rep. to discuss blacktopping the entrance area. The Representative will discuss with the company and stated they will clean up mess now. Discussed tree cutting in cemeteries. **Town Administrator**: TA Mitchell discussed submittal of Annual Town Report and will review with printers. Mitchell discussed that the state might lift most of the COVID-19 restrictions on May 29, 2021, as far as capacity and masks. Discussed contacting someone for assistance with the Duns Number and got the address corrected. Mitchell requested they contact him to confirm the number is good to go. Discussed free cash has been certified and an email was sent out. **Board of Health**: Nanette discussed that on May 29th all the COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted with masks only be advisory except for Health Care Facilities, Schools, and public transportation. Discussed that contact logs are not needed, no limit on number of people in buildings so the Annual Town Meeting will not be a problem, and restaurants can operate at full capacity.

BOS: Cullett made a motion at 7:10PM to recess until 7:30PM. Leach seconds

BOS: Cullett called the 5/17/21 meeting back to order at 7:30PM. Selectman Cullett Present, Selectman Leach Present, Chairman Munch Absent

Item 10: Discussion and vote to make the following appointments: James Kenney, Cemetery Commission (Five Year Appointment); Anna Osborn, Town Accountant (One Year Appointment); Tonya Santaniello, Administrative Assistant (One Year Appointment); Amy Davidson, Board of Assessors (Three Year Appointment): Selectman Cullett read all appointments out loud and make a motion to appointment them all. Leach seconds. All agree. **Vote 2-0.** Cullett made a motion to change the Town Accountant to a 3-year term instead of a 1-year term. Leach seconds. All agree. **Vote 2-0.**

Item 11: Discussion and Possible vote to approve agreement between the Town of Peru and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (Berkshire Alliance) for Public Health Inspectional Services: TA Mitchell stated he believes they made the changes requested by the Board of Selectman. Cullett made a motion to approve the agreement between the Town of Peru and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for Public Health Inspectional Services. Leach seconds. All agree. **Vote 2-0.**

Item 12: Discussion of Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Grant: TA Mitchell said he drafted grant today and will probably amend it further. Mitchell said he sent copies to the BOS members and Highway Super for review. Discussed possibly making improvements to Baumann Road such as a parking area to promote tourism.

Item 13: COVID-19 Updates: Discussed that on May 29, 2021, things will change. Leach said he thinks the Town Hall should be open completely. Nanette said she would need to look up to see if the social distance is still in effect. Cullett made a motion that effective June 1, 2021, the Town Hall will be open to the public with no appointments necessary unless it is a department that is not here. Leach seconds. All agree. **Vote 2-0.**

Item 14: Public Input: Cullett discussed a barn at 105 E. Main Road is structurally collapsing and would like to know if that would fall under the Board of Health or the Building Inspector. Nanette stated she thinks the Building Inspector needs to weigh in and that there is a process to go through. BOS will refer to the building inspector. Nanette said she would contact Ed Fahey and see if he has any experience with the process. Discussed departments follow their office hours since the Town Hall is re-opening 6/1/21.

Item 15: Review and Approve accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll Warrants: A/P, Treasury Warrants, and Payroll Warrants reviewed and approved.

Item 13: Adjourn: Cullett made motion to adjourn the 5/17/2021 BOS Meeting. Leach seconds. All agree **Vote 2-0.** The **5/17/2021 BOS Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.**

Articles used:

5/17/2021 BOS Meeting Agenda

5/3/2021 BOS Meeting Minutes

Appointment Paperwork for James Kenney, Anna Osborn, Tonya Santaniello, Amy Davidson

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Agreement

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants (23-2021), Payroll Warrants (21-23P)

Respectfully Submitted

Tonya Santaniello, Administrative Assistant

Ed Munch, Chairman

Verne Leach, Selectman

Bruce Cullett, Selectman

Date Approved: 6/1/2021



