

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: July 19, 2021: 6:00 P.M.**

COMMUNITY CENTER

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman/ACO  
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Chief of Police  
Doug Haskins, Selectman/Finance Committee  
Caleb Mitchell, Town Administrator  
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent  
Nanette Mone, Board of Health  
Jesse Pelkey, Acting Fire Chief Peru Volunteer Fire Department/Finance Committee

Item 1: **Call to order:** 6:00 P.M. **Roll Call:** Chairman Leach present, Selectman Cullett Present, Selectman Haskins Present

Item 2: **State Recording status:** Caleb Mitchell recording; Verne Leach recording

Item 3: **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:** Lead by Selectman Leach

Item 4: **Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for 6-1-2021, & 6-28-2021:** Leach motions to approve 6-1-2021 Minutes of Meeting, Cullett seconds, all agree. **Vote 3-0.** Leach motions to approve Minutes of Meeting 6-28-2021, Cullett seconds, all agree. **Vote 3-0**

Item 5: **Update to Departments:**

**Highway Dept.:** Highway Super Russell discussed checking well level for problems. Surveyed silt build up on Route 143 by Camp Danbee. A new culvert is needed on roadway up to Solar Field. Invoice for White Wolf is covered by FY 21. Ditches hard to mow because they are wet, and Boom Mower needs part. On vacation next week.

**Town Administrator:** TA Mitchell informed Select Board members that he has been trying to get the lightning project going, and we were supposed to receive a check \$10,000 from the Green Community program as part of the Grant. Reported receiving resumes from indeed for the administrative Assistant position.

**Police Chief:** Chief Cullett reported Grant application submitted and accepted, but didn't receive any funds. Discussion of Tree Warden position whether to post. Cullett thinks that person who has already done the position should be appointed. We changed the position from elected to appointed at Tree Warden request.

Item 6: **Discussion and vote to reappoint Justin Russell as Town of Peru Highway Superintendent:** Haskins mentioned that previously the Highway Superintendent was appointed. Discussion about length of appointment. Leach motions to change appointment to 3 years, Cullett seconds, vote is unanimous. Leach motions to appoint Justin Russell for 3 years, Cullett seconds, All agree. **VOTE 3-0.**

Item 7: **Discussion and Vote to reappoint Caleb Mitchell as Town of Peru ADA Coordinator:** Leach motions to appoint, Haskins seconds, All Agree **Vote 3-0.**

Item 8: **Discussion and Review of legal opinions received from KP Law regarding process of appointing Town of Peru**

**Fire Chief:** Cullett mentions that KP law opinion hasn't changed regarding the Select Board authority to appoint Fire Chief. Cullett mentions letter received from the Fire Department with their position on the appointing of the fire chief. (See attached letter) The letter from the Fire Department requests the Select Board to appoint candidate forwarded from the Peru Volunteer Fire Department. Cullett stated that the intent of the Article on the ATM warrant was to adopt the strong chief statute, with authority to appoint fire chief to the Board of Selectmen. Discussion whether to appoint candidate from Peru Volunteer Fire Department or follow Town Policy to post the Position. Decision was to follow the Town Policy to post the position. Cullett reads Town Policy.

Item 9: **Review, Discuss and Possibly vote to approve Job Description for Town of Peru Fire Chief Position:** Select Board reviewed the draft job description and made changes to be incorporated into the existing job description and continue until next scheduled meeting to review the amended job description.

Item 10: **Discussion of 250<sup>th</sup> Town of Peru Anniversary Updates:** No updates.

Item 11: **Discussion and Vote to designate Caleb Mitchell to represent the Town of Peru on Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board:** Cullett motions to designate Caleb Mitchell to represent Town of Peru on BRTA advisory board, Haskins seconds, all agree, vote 3-0

Item 16: **Public Inputs:** None

Item 17: **Review and Approve accounts payable and Treasury Warrants:** BOS signed warrants #V27-2021 (6-30-21), #V27A-2021 (6-30-21), & #V01-2022 (7-12-21)

Item 18: **Adjourn:**

Leach made motion to adjourn the 7-19-2021 BOS Meeting, Haskins seconds. All agree **Vote 3-0. The 7-19-2021 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:18 P.M.**

**Articles used:**

7-19-2021 BOS Meeting Agenda

6-1-21, & 6-28-21 BOS Meeting Minutes

Legal Opinion from Town Counsel regarding Article 38 on ATM Warrant 2009

Drafted Town of Peru Fire Chief Job Description

Warrants #V27-2021, #V27A-2021, #V01-2022

Letter to BOS from Peru Volunteer Fire Department

Respectfully Submitted

*Caleb Mitchell, Town Administrator*

Verne Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

**RECEIVED**  
AUG 24 2021  
*Kim Leach*  
TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF PERU