

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: December 20, 2021: 6:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman/ACO
Doug Haskins, Selectman/Finance Committee
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Chief of Police
Terry Walker, Administrative Assistant
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent

Call to order: 6:00 P.M.

Item 1: Roll Call: Chairman Leach present, Selectman Haskins Present, Selectman Cullett present

Item 2: State Recording status: Verne Leach recording

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

Item 4: Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for 12-6-2021, 12-13-2021: Leach motion to approve pending changes, 12/6/2021 Cullett second 3-0, Leach 12/13/2021 minutes on hold.

Item 5: Updates of Departments: Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent stated that new truck is all registered and ready to pick up. Justin also mentioned that there may be State funding in the vicinity of \$125,000,000 to repair numbered routes or possibly for guardrails for Route 143 follow up with MassDOT district 1 office.

Police: Chief Cullett presented the AED grant application, Office of Public Safety and Security, for \$2,500 Leach motion to sign grant, Haskins second, Cullett recused himself. 2-0. Chief Cullett also has training in the Eastern part of the state and will stay in a hotel rather than commute. The cruiser will remain in Peru. Cullett will have more information at a later time.

Town Clerk: Kim Leach was contacted about using the gym for basketball practice here at the town hall. CRA has designated places for children to play basketball that is covered under insurance. Cullett thinks there may be a safety issue with all the filing cabinets, coffee pots etc. Cullett will contact the organizer for more information. Hinsdale school is an insured school with CRA. Cullett strongly recommend using Hinsdale school which is safer and CRA insured

Advertisement for Town Administrator ran on December 16th and the intention is to let it go a few weeks. Moving forward after the beginning of the year. Two main options

- 1- Caleb Mitchell is willing to work on an hourly basis.
- 2- Cullett willing to work as TA free of charge.

Leach mentioned that there may be another avenue. And mentioned that one of the applicants fill in as an intern TA. Cullett stated that this is not a good idea. Its hard to give someone a temporary position, and that person may think it is a permanent position. Also TA will be accepting applications so we do not create a conflict. Cullett suggested interviewing all applicants and then move forward. Leach and Haskins agreed that the Selectboard would take over TA position. The second week of January BOS will start interviewing for a TA.

Item 6: Discussion and Possible Vote under G.L. Chapter 41, section 24 to allow the Board of Selectmen to appoint one Assessor to the Board of Assessors for the Town of Peru: Leach recused himself because his daughter is an assessor. Cullett motion for a single member board. The contractor will be completing day to day tasks which will allow the town to save money and an Appointed Assessor will oversee the contractor.

A single assessors will save 2/3 of the budget. Leach questioned the duties of an assessor under Mass General Law. Cullett motion to modify the members of the Board of Assessors to One on July 1st, Haskins agreed to wait until July, 1, 2022, Haskins second vote 2-0 Leach recused.

Item 7: Discussion and Possible vote for the Town of Peru to participate in the Opioid Settlement:

Cullett motion to have Chairman BOS Leach sign Settlement Participation form - J&J Settlement, Haskins second. All in favor 3-0

Cullett motion to have Chairman BOS Leach sign Subdivision Settlement Participation Form – Distributor Settlement Haskins second, all in favor 3-0

Item 8: Discussion and Vote in accordance with M.G.L. c. 40 The Peru Select Board adopts the Peru Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaption Plan:

Cullett states the town has been working on this since last winter going back and forth with MEMA and FEMA this is the last step to adopt as being complete.

Leach motion to sign A Resolution of Adopting the Peru Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaption Plan, Cullett second ,all in favor 3-0.

Item 9: Discussion of American Rescue Plan:

This is on Hold. We will ask Accountant for advice on pursuing this grant.

Item 10: Discussion of DEP Grant:

Leach recused himself because he is the transfer station attendant. TA Mitchell has not provided any information on deadline to spend last years grant nor did TA give balance left in last year's grant.

Item 11: Public Input: none

Item 12: Review and Approve accounts payable, Treasury Warrant: none

Item 13: Adjourn: Leach made motion to adjourn the 12/20/2021 BOS Meeting, Cullett second, Vote 3-0. The 12/20/2021 BOS Meeting adjourned at 6:42 P.M.

Articles used:

Hazard Mitigation Plan, Acceptance Plan, J&J Opioid Settlement, Subdivision Settlement Participation Form, AED Grant Application, Minutes of 12/6/2021 and 12/13/2021

Respectfully Submitted

Terry L. Walker-Administrative Assistant

Verne Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved: 12-27-21

RECEIVED
DEC 27 2021
Kim Leach
TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF PERU