

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: December 6, 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

Attendees:

Harold (Mickey) Finn, 1 Hickingbotham Road, Peru, MA

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: Lead by Selectman Leach

Item 4: Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for 10-20-2021, 11-1-2021, 11-8-2021, 11-15-2021, & 11-29-2021 Leach motion to review and approve minutes from 10-20-2021, minor changes Town Clerk was present, Cullett motion to approve 10-20-2021 minutes, Leach second, vote 2-0, Leach motion to approve 11-01-2021 minutes Haskins second, vote 3-0, Leach review and approve 11-8-2021 minutes, Leach motion to approve, 11-08-2021 minutes, Cullett second approve 11-8-2021 minutes 3-0, Leach motion to hold 11-15-2021. Motion to hold 11-29-2021 until next week.

Item 5: Updates of Departments: Justin Russell mentioned that he closed August Smith Road due to Mud. Closing the road is important because it prevents the road from deteriorating. New Truck is on the train and will be delivered soon. Justin reminded the Town Treasurer that the bidding process should begin for financing. He also mentioned that when the motion lights were installed Inside the salt shed there are exposed wires, and the exposed wires issue needs to be fixed. Possibility to hold payment until the exposed wires situation is corrected. Equipment will be stored in the old highway garage to keep it out of the weather.

Malcolm Doble offered assistance on LED sign.

Caleb Mitchell- TA apologized for his action at the last meeting, the following statement was read at the Select Board Meeting:

I, Caleb Mitchell, made some unnecessary remarks at the 11/29/2021 Select Board meeting, which I do regret, and I apologize to everyone who attended the meeting since it is important for me to maintain a civil respectful discussion at all times, and for that, I am sincerely sorry.

Item 6: Update from Regional Resource Group, Inc.

Harold Scheid detailed a list of tasks that have been completed so Peru can set the tax rate.

1. Completed a review of calendar year 2019 and 2020 sales and assessments
2. Investigated each transaction to determine which sales were valid arms-length transactions.
3. Completed the required interim revaluation of all properties which includes updating system land and building tables-tested values against sales

4. Prepared the DOR LA-3 sales and proposed assessment report – posted on Gateway
5. Processed land divisions and set up new tax accounts
6. Processed personal property declarations and updated value in Patriot System
7. Reviewed public utility appraisal and entered new valuation in Patriot System
8. Prepared the DOR LA-4 value tabulation report – posted to Gateway
9. Evaluate LA-15 ASR statistics report (new assessment meet DOR statistical guidelines).
10. Began developing new growth report.
11. Harold mentioned that a tax classification hearing should be set for next week

The Select Board was very happy with the work RRG has completed in such a short time.

Item 7: Discussion of Condition of Accounts: Two accounts are over budget – the Select Board will ask the Town Treasurer for clarification.

Item 8: Discussion of American Rescue Plan – The grant has specific guidelines and we need to educate ourselves on what the grant can be spent on.

Cleaning may not be a possibility although the safest category is infrastructure. This was put on hold and a list of priorities will be brought to the next meeting.

Item 9: Discussion and Possible vote to deem ACO vehicle as surplus property Leach recused himself as Animal Control Officer. Selectman Cullett stated that the vehicle has been parked for 6 months and if it isn't working it should be auctioned off. Cullett mentioned he may get a surplus vehicle for ACO. Haskins recommended bringing the vehicle to a garage for a diagnosis to see if this vehicle can be repaired for the ACO to use. The board will make a decision after they get an estimate on repairs.

Item 10. Discussion of DEP Grant – Select Board did not receive an update from Caleb Mitchell-TA. Leach recused himself because he works at the Transfer Station. Possibility of using the grant to repair the transfer station shed and the board needs to get a quotes on repairing the Transfer Station shed. We need a plan and need to order material before grant expires. Follow up next week.

Item 11. Public Input : Harold (Micky) Finn was present to file a complaint against Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent. Justin was working on Hickingbotham Road. Mr. Finn accused Justin of taking stones off his stone wall and bringing stones across road. Mr. Finn admitted to calling Justin vulgar names. Justin told Mr. Finn he did not take stones from his stone wall. Mr. Finn also accused Justin of coming toward him with heavy equipment and said he felt threatened. Justin said he was working and did not see Mr. Finn when he was swinging the boom. Justin repeated that he did not touch stones on the stone wall. In order for Justin to dig a stump he had to move stones from one side of the road to the other side. When he was finished, he returned stones where they belonged. Mr. Finn said Justin told him there was report filed against him at town hall. Justin stated that if Mr. Finn continues to harass him in his work zone, he would file a report at town hall against Mr. Finn. Justin also stated that Mr. Finn's dogs impeded the work zone. Mr. Finn was screaming, and he was asked by Justin to leave the construction site. The stones are back where they belong also the debris will be removed from site in a few days. This happened two weeks ago and Mr. Finn did not file a report. Mr. Finn plans to file a citizen's complaint against Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent with the courts and wants Justin to stay off his property. Justin said he was not on Mr. Finn's property. Cullett mentioned that Justin should have someone with him to witness interactions. It was mentioned that a Dash cam or body cam could be a possible resolution to such issues.

Item 12. Review and Approve accounts payable, Treasury Warrant, Payroll Warrant: no warrants to be signed.

Item 13: Adjourn: Leach made motion to adjourn the 12-06-2021 BOS Meeting, Cullett seconds, Vote 3-0. The 12-06-2021 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:28 P.M.

Articles used:

Letter from Caleb Mitchell, TA

Email from Harald Scheid-RRG

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
Kevin Leach
TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF PERU