

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Town Hall Meeting Room

3 East Main Rd. Peru MA

Monday, May 2, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. State recording status
4. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag
5. Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 4/19/22
6. Updates of Departments
7. Discussion and possible approval of contract with LB Corporation for E. Windsor Rd. paving project.
8. Discussion and Review of the FY '23 Budget process.
9. Update on the Town of Peru 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.
10. Public input
11. Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrant, Payroll Warrant.
12. Adjourn

The list of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Board which may be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

***Posted April 28,2022 @ 4:35pm, Kim Leach, Town Clerk***

Official posting: Peru Town website: [www.townofperuma.com](http://www.townofperuma.com)

# BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Town Hall Meeting Room

3 East Main Rd. Peru MA

Monday, May 2, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman/ACO

Doug Haskins, Selectman/Finance Committee

Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Chief of Police

Jim Welch, Town Administrator

Terry Walker, Administrative Assistant

Justin Russell/Highway Superintendent

Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief

Lynn MaCavoy-Historical Committee

Item 1: Call to order: 6:00 p.m.

Item 2: Roll call: Selectman Leach present, Selectman Cullett present, Selectman Haskins present.

Item 3: State recording status: N/A

Item 4: Pledge Allegiance to the Flag: Led by Selectman Leach

Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 4/19/22: Selectman Cullett motion to approve minutes pending changes, Selectman Leach second, 2-0

Item 6: Updates of Departments: Fire Chief Pelkey reminded the Selectboard of the event which will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> and Chief Pelkey will contact White Wolf prior to the event to make sure the septic tank is pumped and inspected. Some discussion about an Emergency Management Director applying for the job without qualifications. Town residents emailed Fire Chief Pelkey about qualifications for an Emergency Management Director, it was noted that all Police Officers and Firemen are all qualified to man the base station. Police Chief Cullett recused himself as Selectman and stated that it is not unusual to have both jobs and a volunteer could be designated to man the base station.

Highway Superintendent Russell received an email from MassDOT regarding \$100,000,000 in statewide funding for the Winter Recovery Assistance Program. WRAP is a reimbursement-based program and municipalities must enter into an agreement with MassDOT before incurring any costs. The spending deadline for WRAP is June 30, 2023. Peru's WRAP funding apportionment is \$117,706.06 based on its

locally owned roads. Good news-East Windsor Road Project has more Chapter 90 funding than anticipated. Quote from Northeast Fabricators for salt shed doors is \$2,550.00

Police Chief Cullett read a memo and is requesting former Peru Police Officer Tonya Santaniello for a temporary administrator/clerical hire. Selectman Haskins motion to hire Ms. Santaniello up to 19 hours per week, Selectman Leach second, 2-0. Police Chief Cullett also proposed pay increase for Officer Kyle Nutting, and Officer Shawn Boyne. Selectman Haskins does not approve of giving raises during the year. Selectman Leach proposed to increase officers' wages by seventy-six cents, Selectman Haskins second, 2-0  
Chief Cullett mentioned that the lettering on the police trailer is all completed and will work well with the ATV. The Police Department has a snowmobile trailer that they are not using, and they are wondering if the Highway or Fire Department may have some use for it.

TA, Welch received a phone call from Dutch Colonel, and he is at the American Legion in Dalton discussing the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the plane crash to commemorate the deaths of the servicemen. He will be in Peru tomorrow and would like to visit the site with a group of people - Lynn McAvoy, Jim Kenny and Jos Groen will hike to the site.

TA, Welch mentioned that Smith Vocational school's rate is \$19,622 per student totaling \$215,842.00.

Town Hall Cleaning- Steve's Priority Cleaning- one option is every two weeks plus the gym or keep the same schedule as last year.

MIIA town insurance is \$46,000, Medicare -no number, Health Insurance - no number, Reserve Fund -no number, Free Cash-no number.

FREE CASH Update- Treasurer and Accountant tried to get necessary work completed but Free Cash is not certified. TA, Welch will touch base with Treasurer and Accountant to get an estimate on when Free Cash will be certified. RRG emailed a blanket letter to all towns with a schedule of days their staff will be in certain towns, and they will be in Peru on Fridays.

Item 7: Discussion and possible approval of contract with LB Corporation for E. Windsor Road Paving Project. Highway Superintendent Russell does not have the contract.

Item 8: Discussion and Review of the FY23 Budget Process: Town Clerk Salary was a topic of discussion. Selectman Leach recused himself. Selectman Cullett mentioned that 3-5 years ago the salary was increased by 66% plus use of a Town Clerk Assistant was expanded. Selectman Cullett stated that increasing the salary from \$8,321 to \$10,00 will be hard to justify to the taxpayers at Annual Town Meeting. He believes that this will cause unrest at the town hall if the Town Clerk salary is comparable to the Treasurer, Accountant and Tax Collector. Selectman Cullett believes the Selectman can not justify the

increase although he is not questioning how much work goes into the job. Selectman Haskins mentioned that the Town Clerk's salary is not hourly but would like to bring the salary to \$10,000 and allow the voters to lower at Annual Town Meeting. Selectman Cullett again stated that he cannot stand up and justify the increase. In addition, the increase in salary could cause potential problems at town hall. Selectman Haskins wants to go back to the Finance Committee to finalize Town Clerk Salary.

Selectman Leach motion to recess the meeting at 7:38 p.m., Selectman Cullett second, 3-0. Selectman Leach motion to call meeting back to order at 7:47 p.m. Selectman Cullett second, 3-0, Roll Call: Selectman Leach present, Selectman Cullett Present, Selectman Haskins present.

Selectman Leach wanted to know how many officers are needed for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Selectman Cullett questioned how many locations, how many people, will alcohol be served? It is estimated 2 Police Officers at a minimum and possibly 4 will be needed. Highway Superintendent Russell is working on getting a trailer to be used as a stage. Grand Marshall will be Darryl Darby and it was noted that the encampment needs the lights behind the highway garage turned off for two nights. Plaque – some discussion where it will be displayed at town hall. The plaque is 14.5 "x 43.5" and will display the Boston Post to the Oldest Citizen of Peru, the Lyons Club dinner and band will be on July 23<sup>rd</sup> with a bond fire and a free dinner to the Peru residents.

A 250<sup>th</sup> meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Item 10: Public input: N/A

Item 11: Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrant, Payroll: Warrant-22-22P

Warrant V2-2022

Item 12: Adjourn: Selectman Leach motion to adjourn the 5/2/2022 BOS meeting, Selectman Cullett second, Vote 3-0. The 5/2/2022 BOS meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Articles used:

Warrants

Minutes 4/19/2022

Photo of Boston Post Plaque

Police Chief memos regarding: Officer Boyne, Officer Nutting, and Tonya Santaniello

MassDot email regarding \$100,000,000 WRAP funding

Budget Spreadsheet FY23

Respectively submitted,

*Terry L. Walker, Administrative Assistant*

Verne Leach, Chairman *Verne Leach*

Doug Haskins, Selectman *Douglas Haskins*

Bruce Cullett, Selectman *Bruce Cullett*

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

RECEIVED  
MAY 16 2022  
*Kim Leach*  
TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF PERU