

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Town Hall Meeting Room

3 East Main Rd. Peru MA

Monday, May 16, 2022 @ 6:30 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 5/2/22
6. Updates of Departments
7. Presentation and Discussion regarding Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership.
8. Discussion and possible vote on approval of Chapter 90 funding request.
9. Discussion and possible approval of contract with LB Corporation for E. Windsor Rd. paving project.
10. Discussion and Review of the FY '23 Budget process.
11. Approval and signing of Local Town Election Warrant
12. Discussion on application process and possible vote on appointment of Ryan Kesiak as Part- Time Police Officer.
13. Public input
14. Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrant, Payroll Warrant.
15. 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 May 11, 2022 @ 6:15pm, Kim Leach, Town Clerk

Official posting: Peru Town website: www.townofperuma.com

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: May 16, 2022: 6:30 P.M.

MEETING ROOM

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman/ACO
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Chief
Doug Haskins, Selectman/Finance Committee
James Welch, Town Administrator
Terry Walker, Administrative Assistant
Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent

Public Attendees:

Ed Munch
Mohawk Trail Woodlands Representative-Lisa Hayden

Item 1: Call to order: 6:30 P.M.

Item 2: Roll Call: Chairman Leach present, Selectman Cullett present, Selectman Haskins present

Item 3: State Recording status: N/A

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

Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes 05/02/2022: Selectman Leach motion to review and approve 05/02/2022 minutes pending changes, Selectman Haskins second, 3-0

Item 6: Updates of Departments: Highway Superintendent Russell is in search of high school students for summer jobs and would like Help Wanted ad posted to town website.

Fire Chief Pelkey mentioned that White Wolf has pumped the septic tank and it is working fine. Chief Pelkey also mentioned children participating at the May 21st drill need permission slips from their principal. Chief Pelkey also mentioned that the Fire Department received the \$3,000 DCR grant that he submitted.

Police Chief Cullett mentioned that his final exams are May 23rd and June 9th then his training is completed.

TA, Jim Welch mentioned that he finalized the FY23 budget. TA, Welch will send draft to KP Law tonight and email a draft to the Selectmen. TA, Welch is concerned about the town report and the Town Clerk may have to use a personal format to print the Annual Report. Selectman Cullett agreed that if we must do inhouse then we will do that. There isn't adequate time to send to an outside printer and get the Annual Report printed before Annual Town Meeting.

Item 7: Presentation and Discussion regarding Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership: Ed Munch and Lisa Hayden from Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership gave a summary of the Ten-Year Plan: 2022-2032.

Executive Summary:

The Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership is a unique, homegrown effort to both conserve our forests and enhance our region's rural, land-based economy across the Northern Berkshire Mountains, hill towns and riverside villages of Northwestern Massachusetts.

In 2013, a group of citizens who live and work in this corner of the state came together as leaders and representatives from about 30 entities – towns, nonprofits and academic organizations – to work cooperatively with the regional

planning agencies in Franklin and Berkshire Counties, the state, and the U.S. Forest Service to create the Woodlands Partnership and further its goals.

- Goal 1: Conserve forestland while keeping it in private ownership to protect the region's rural character and enhance the role forests play in providing clean water and air, flood control, carbon sequestration and habitat protection in New England.
- Goal 2: Increase economic development and expand employment by nurturing sustainable forest products, outdoor recreation, natural resources and tourism-base businesses.
- Goal 3: Improve the fiscal stability of municipalities.
- Goal 4: Public Education

Municipal Financial Assistance: Fund the member (among 21 eligible) Towns of MTWP to:

- Advocate for an increase in the amount and equity of payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) from the Commonwealth
- Secure sources of funding to support municipal services and tax bases while recognizing benefits to the Commonwealth and larger region provided by rural ecosystems.
- Support services related to outdoor recreation and tourism and the health and safety of residents and visitors in the region.
- Assist interested towns in receiving carbon credit payments for their town forests.

Item 8: Discussion and possible vote on Approval of Chapter 90 funding request: Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that there is around \$ 200, 000 recovery money available to be expended on roads. Russell suggested expending all grant funds first and saving Chapter 90 money because the town never loses Chapter 90 Funds.

Item 9: Discussion and possible approval of contract with LB Corporation for E. Windsor Road paving project: Board of Selectman signed contract with LB Corporation which included payment bond and insurance bond. Selectman Leach motion to sign contract, Selectman Cullett second, 3-0

Item 10: Discussion and Review of the FY23 Budget process: Fire Chief Pelkey mentioned a better vehicle for the Fire Department. He believes a newer vehicle, a 2012 Ford Expedition with 43,900 miles for \$3,800, seems to be a better purchase than the more expensive older vehicle in Belmont.

Selectmen Cullett recused himself as Selectman and Police Chief Cullett mentioned that a new cruiser will be put on hold.

FREE CASH wish list:

- New Server \$6,500
- Cemetery Flag poles and signage \$2,400
- DCR grant match- Fire Department \$,3000
- Pump House Heater \$1,700
- Parks \$5,000
- Reserve Fund \$10,000
- Mower/Glass \$15,000
- Police Education Reform \$7,500
- ADE \$5,000
- Snow Budget \$ 10,000

- 250 Celebration \$10,000
- Future Equipment \$25,000

Item 11: Approval and signing of Local Town Election Warrant: Selectman Leach motion to sign Local Town Election Warrant pending changes, Selectman Cullett second, 3-0

Item 12: Discussion on application process and possible vote on appointment of Ryan Kesiak as Part -Time Police Officer: Selectman Cullett recused himself as a Selectman, Police Chief Cullett mentioned that Ryan Kesiak was the best candidate for the job and that Ryan Kesiak has 20 years' experience as a police officer, Selectman Leach motion to hire Ryan Kesiak as part time police officer, Selectman Haskins second, 2-0, Selectman Cullett recused himself.

Item 13: Public Input: NA

Item 14: Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrants and Payroll Warrant: W22-23P

Item 15: Adjourn: Selectman Leach made motion to adjourn the 05/16/2022 BOS Meeting, Selectman Cullett second, Vote 3-0. The 05/16/2022 BOS Meeting adjourned at 8:16 P.M.

Articles used:

- Minutes-05/02/2022
- Town Election warrant
- FY23 Budget Spreadsheet
- Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership-Summary of ten-year plan
- Free Cash wish list
- LB Corp contract
- Warrant-W22-23P
- Appointment Letter – Ryan Kresiak

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Walker
Administrative Assistant

Verne Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved: _____

