

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: December 11, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.

Town Hall Meeting Room

Vern Leach, Chairman Selectman/ACO
Doug Haskins, Selectman/Fin Com
Ed Munch, Selectman
Terry Walker, Town Administrator
Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief
Bruce Cullett, Police Chief/EMD
Paul Hickling, Finance Committee Chairman
Bonny DiTomasso, School Committee
Katie Boucher, School Committee

Public Attendees: Don Perreault

Item 1: Call to order: 6:00 P.M.

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

Item 3: State Recording status: None.

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

Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 11/27/2023:

Selectman Leach motion to approve 11/27/2023 minutes pending changes, Selectman Munch second, 3-0,

Item 6: Updates of Departments:

Police Chief Cullett: nothing currently

Finance Committee Chairman Hickling: nothing currently

Fire Chief Pelkey:

- Tanker passed inspection.
- Chief Pelkey requested using the command vehicle to deliver holiday baskets to families in need. The Board of Selectmen agreed that Chief Pelkey could use the command vehicle.
- Chief Pelkey mentioned that the Permit Eyes account was short by \$520.00. Selectman Haskins mentioned that \$13,000 was approved at ATM for two contracts. Selectman Leach mentioned that ATM vote was for all departments. Chief Pelkey was instructed to research and find out why the amount changed.

Town Administrator Walker:

- Well Regulations from KP Law with additions and modifications was emailed to the Board of Health.
- TA Walker mentioned she is working on FY25 budgets requests and forms will be distributed to all departments. Also, TA Walker is compiling reports for the Annual Town Report.
- Research is being done on a Community Development Block Grant for a new town hall.
- TA Walker is still researching the policy for floating holidays on the Town's personnel policy.

Item 7: Review and possible vote on Treasurer borrowing from Stabilization Fund: The Selectboard signed form allowing the Town Treasurer to borrow \$100,000 from the Stabilization Fund. Selectman Leach motion to allow Town Treasurer to borrow \$100,000 from the Stabilization Fund, Selectman Haskins second, unanimous vote. Also, Treasurer Wendling needs to borrow a Revenue Anticipation Note (RAN) because the tax bills have not been mailed out and the school payment is due on Friday. The lowest bid Treasurer Wendling received was from Easthampton Savings at 4.75%. This is a 3 month note and will be paid off in March 2024. Selectman Leach motion to allow Town Treasurer to borrow \$300,000 RAN, Selectman Haskins second, unanimous vote. The Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk signed off on the note.

Item 8: Discussion on complaint made by John and Beth Bigelow on road conditions of Ash Lane cul-de-sac: Hold - Bigelows nor Highway Superintendent were not present. 3-0 vote to place on hold.

Item 9: Discussion and possible vote on KP Law Professional Conduct Rule 1.7 pertaining to Central Berkshire Regional School District Agreement: Bonny DiTomasso and Katie Boucher were present and representing Central Berkshire School committee. They explained that the regional school agreement has not been updated since 1958. The new agreement has to be reviewed by Town Council and approved by a warrant article at Annual Town Meeting. Ms. DiTomasso stated that she had emailed the agreement to the BOS and TA for review. The Board of Selectmen mentioned that they had not received the email from Ms. DiTomasso. TA Walker, during the meeting, searched her email and had not received an email from Ms. DiTomasso since July 10, 2023. The BOS nor TA Walker had received the regional school agreement. Selectman Munch asked Ms. DiTomasso to please email the regional school agreement to the BOS and TA so it could be signed before January 1st.

Item 10: Review Special Town Meeting Warrant articles: It was agreed by the board that Logan Brooks would handle all the questions. Plus, Finance Committee Hickling would go into a little more detail regarding balances available in ARPA and Future Equipment accounts.

Item 11: Review and approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrant and payroll Warrant: 24-12P, V12-2024

Item 12: Public Input: Bonny DiTomasso mentioned that she had done some research on an Airbnb in town and this property is a non-profit. The BOS could not discuss the topic because this was not on the agenda. Some discussion on a \$500.00 fee for a well permit and \$100.00 for the Health Agent to be a witness. Selectman Leach mentioned the fee schedule was set in 2019. It was noted that paying the Health Agent \$100.00 for 5 minutes to witness the inspection seems extensive. Selectman Leach feels that the Board of Health and Board of Selectmen should get together to set fees.

Item 13: Adjourn: Selectman Leach motion to adjourn the 12/11/2023 BOS Meeting, Selectman Haskins second, vote 3-0. The 12/11/2023 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:31 P.M.

Articles used:

Minutes- 11/27/2023

Warrants: 24-12P, V12-2024

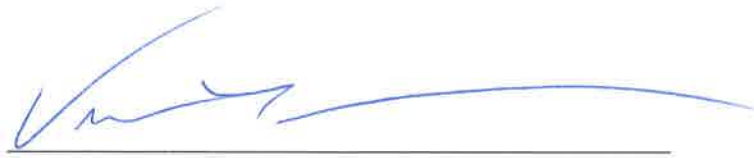
Stabilization borrowing form

Revenue Anticipation Note

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Walker
Town Administrator

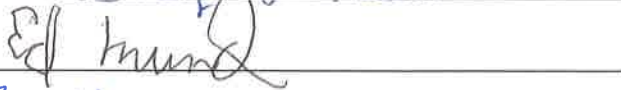
Verne Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman



Ed Munch, Selectman



Date Approved:

1-8-24

Received 1/8/2024 Kim Leach , Town Clerk