

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: April 17,2024 @ 6:00 P.M.

Town Hall Meeting Room

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman/ACO
Ed Munch, Selectman
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Bonny DiTomasso-School Committee

Public Attendees: Caleb Mitchell

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

Item 2: Roll Call: Chairman Leach present, Selectman Haskins absent, Selectman Munch present
Selectman Leach called meeting to order at 6:00 and recessed at 6:00 to move the meeting to Board of Selectmen's office. Selectman Leach called meeting to order in Board of Selectmen's Office at 6:01 p.m.
Roll Call: Chairman Leach present, Selectman Munch present, Selectman Haskins absent

Item 3: State Recording status: Bonny DiTomasso

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

Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 4/1/2024 & 8/24/2023 (Finance Committee/Selectboard joint meeting):

Selectman Leach motion to approve 4/1/2024 minutes pending changes, Selectman Munch second, 2-0.
Selectman Leach motion to place 8/24/2023 Fin Com/Board of Selectmen minutes on hold, Selectman Munch second, 2-0

Item 6: Update of Departments:

Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that two steel doors at the highway garage need to be replaced. The total cost is \$2,108.88 and asked if the funds could be taken from the Building Maintenance Account. Selectman Leach motion to approve, Selectman Munch second, 2-0.

Superintendent Russell also needs a monitor and printer and questioned if there is ample funds in the IT account.

Superintendent Russell mentioned that the available funds in Chapter 90 is \$109,890.

Superintendent Russell informed the Board of Selectmen that the snow roads account will soon be in deficit, Selectman Leach motion to allow the Highway Superintendent to overspend the snow roads account, Selectman Munch second, 2-0.

Update from Departments-Summary of Comments - Bonny DiTomasso, School Committee

Bonny DiTomasso was asked to advocate for a Smith Vocational Applicant residing in Peru that applied in March. The CBRSD District office did not receive signed paperwork by the 4/1/24 deadline because the student's parent mailed the signed paperwork, which was received at the CBRSD District office on 4/2/24. Consequently, the student is now required to obtain approval from the Selectboard to possibly attend Smith Vocational in the Cosmetology Course. Bonny has confirmed with the District that the student referenced resides in Peru.

Chairman Leach asked what grade the student would be in. Bonny responded that she thought the student would be in 9th grade.

Chairman Leach stated that he had no issue with this requested as it has been done in the past. Selectman Munch had no issue with this request.

Bonny explained that her next report pertained to a previously mentioned meeting of all seven member towns coordinated by Greg Boino to discuss Vocational Transportation.

This meeting is Town Meeting not a School Committee meeting. Bonny attended with Terry at her request as Terry is not familiar with the area. Terry requested that Bonny report on this topic because Terry is in another meeting in Town Hall.

Bonny explained that the meeting was conducted at 2 pm, April 16 at the WRHS Office Conference Room, was facilitated by Greg Boino, and was attended by representatives from the 7 towns.

The discussion centered around Greg asking each town representative to talk about how each town is handling Vocational Transportation including the bus stops, the number of students transported, and the Vocational Schools involved. Some towns use a town bus with a paid driver but with drivers aging they are looking to make a change. Some towns use multiple schools, like Becket that also transports to Gateway.

Bonny indicated that there was consensus to let Greg work to identify some commonality and perhaps coordinate pricing from bus vendors on items such as cost per day vs cost per student since not all of the towns have similar transportation costs.

Bonny shared that the next meeting of this group is April 30 at 2 pm at the WRHS Office Conference Room and suggested it would be beneficial to have Terry and a Selectman attend represent Peru's interests.

Item 7: Appoint the following people to the Town Hall Building Advisory Committee: Bruce Cullett, Jay Jewell, Ruth Calaycay, Douglas Haskins, and Justin Russell: Selectman Leach motion to appoint the following: Bruce Cullett, Jay Jewell, Ruth Calaycay, Douglas Haskins and Justin Russell to the Town Hall Advisory Committee, Selectman Munch second, 2-0.

The Board of Selectmen recessed at 7:10 p.m. to wait for the Town Administrator.

The Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m.

Roll Call: Selectman Leach present, Selectman Munch present, Selectman Haskins absent.

Item 8: Discussion on Open Meeting Law complaint made by Caleb Mitchell: Caleb Mitchell presented a second Open Meeting Law complaint at tonight's meeting. The second OML complaint will be discussed at next Monday's meeting to review the complaint as a board. Selectman Munch reported on the interaction between Selectmen Leach and Caleb Mitchell at tonight's meeting. Selectman Leach and Caleb Mitchell had a discussion regarding the first OML complaint. Caleb Mitchell felt the response should have been discussed by the entire board and Selectman Leach should not have responded from his private email. Caleb Mitchell was very upset with the BOS minutes and stated the minutes were very demeaning to his character as a town employee. Selectman Munch asked Caleb Mitchell what was necessary to get the situation taken care of. Caleb Mitchell is demanding a public apology at the Selectmen's meeting. Selectman Leach made a public apology and rescinded his statements regarding Caleb Mitchell's work history and outbursts as a Town Administrator. Caleb Mitchell accepted Selectman Leach's apology and Caleb mentioned that Selectman Leach rescinding the statements was acceptable. Caleb Mitchell's second OML Complaint will be discussed at the Selectmen's meeting on Monday, April 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Caleb Mitchell was invited to attend.

Item 9: Public Input: None

Item 10: Review and approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrant and Payroll Warrant: V21-2024, 24-21P

Item 11: Adjourn: Selectman Leach made motion to adjourn the 4/17/2024 BOS Meeting, Selectman Munch second, Vote 2-0. The 4/17/2024 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

Articles used:

Warrant: V21-2024, 24-21P

Caleb Mitchell OML Complaint

Caleb Mitchell OML Complaint #2

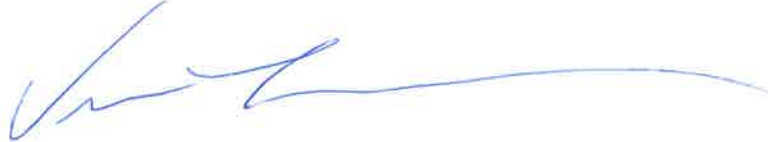
Appointment letters

Bonny DiTomasso report

Terry Walker


Town Administrator

Verne Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman

Ed Munch, Selectman



Date Approved: _____

4-22-24

Received April 22, 2024 Kim Leach Town Clerk



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT FORM

Instructions for completing the Open Meeting Law Complaint Form

The Attorney General's Division of Open Government interprets and enforces the Open Meeting Law, Chapter 30A of the Massachusetts General Laws, Sections 18-25. Below is the procedure for filing and responding to an Open Meeting Law complaint.

Instructions for filing a complaint:

- o Fill out the attached two-page form completely. Sign and date the second page. File the complaint with the public body within 30 days of the alleged violation. If the violation was not reasonably discoverable at the time it occurred, you must file the complaint within 30 days of the date the violation was reasonably discoverable. A violation that occurs during an open session of a meeting is reasonably discoverable on the date of the meeting.
- o To file the complaint:
 - o For a local or municipal public body, you must submit a copy of the complaint to the chair of the public body AND to the municipal clerk.
 - o For all other public bodies, you must submit a copy of the complaint to the chair of the public body.
 - o Complaints may be filed by mail, by email, or by hand. Please retain a copy for your records.
- o If the public body does not respond within 14 business days and does not request an extension to respond, contact the Division for further assistance.

Instructions for a public body that receives a complaint:

- o The chair must disseminate the complaint to the members of the public body.
- o The public body must meet to review the complaint within 14 business days (usually 20-22 calendar days).
- o After review, but within 14 business days, the public body must respond to the complaint in writing and must send the complainant a response and a description of any action the public body has taken to address the allegations in the complaint. At the same time, the body must send the Attorney General a copy of the complaint and a copy of the response. The public body may delegate this responsibility to an individual member of the public body, its counsel, or a staff member, but only after the public body has met to review the complaint.
- o If a public body requires more time to review the complaint and respond, it may request an extension of time for good cause by contacting the Division of Open Government.

Once the public body has responded to the complaint:

- o If you are not satisfied with the public body's response to your complaint, you may file a copy of the complaint with the Division by mail, by email, or by hand, but only once you have waited for 30 days after filing the complaint with the public body. Mail may be sent to: The Division of Open Government, Office of the Attorney General, One Ashburton Place - 20th Floor, Boston, MA 02108. Emails may be sent to: openmeeting@state.ma.us.
- o When you file your complaint with the Division, please include the complaint form and all documentation relevant to the alleged violation. You may wish to attach a cover letter explaining why the public body's response does not adequately address your complaint.
- o The Division will not review complaints filed with us more than 90 days after the violation, unless we granted an extension to the public body or you can demonstrate good cause for the delay.

If you have questions concerning the Open Meeting Law complaint process, we encourage you to contact the Division of Open Government by phone at (617) 963-2540 or by email at openmeeting@state.ma.us.



OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT FORM

Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Please note that all fields are required unless otherwise noted.

Your Contact Information:

First Name: Caleb Last Name: Mitchell

Address: 97 Seymour Street

City: Pittsfield State: MA Zip Code: 01201

Phone Number: 4132048106 Ext. _____

Email: clb_mtchl@yahoo.com

Organization or Media Affiliation (if any): _____

Are you filing the complaint in your capacity as an individual, representative of an organization, or media?

(For statistical purposes only)

Individual Organization Media

Public Body that is the subject of this complaint:

City/Town County Regional/District State

Name of Public Body (including city/town, county or region, if applicable): Town of Peru Select Board

Specific person(s), if any, you allege committed the violation: Verne Leach

Date of alleged violation: March 4, 2024

Description of alleged violation:

Describe the alleged violation that this complaint is about. If you believe the alleged violation was intentional, please say so and include the reasons supporting your belief.

Note: This text field has a maximum of 3000 characters.

I applied for a job position as a member of the Board of Assessors for the Town of Peru. I previously worked there as the Town Administrator from January 2, 2017 to December 31, 2021 for a total of 5 years. I gave a 6 month notice of my leaving the position to provide enough time for the town to find a replacement. I voluntarily left the positions, I wasn't under any pressure to leave the position. I also was a member of the Conservation Commission for approximately 6 years and essentially worked pro bono for free and did most of the paperwork, which included agendas, minutes, permits, mailings, and maintaining records. I noticed that on the March 4, 2024 Select Board Agenda, (See copy of Agenda) item #10 it read, "Discussion on Assessors job applicants". When I read the agenda, it implied to me that the Select Board was going to review applicants and decide who to interview for the position. I decided it wouldn't be appropriate to attend the meeting while the Select Board reviewed applications. I contacted one of the Select Board members Ed Munch, to find out the results of the meeting, on Thursday 3-7-24, and was shocked to find out that the Select Board chair Verne Leach made a statement that he couldn't support the candidate because of outbursts at meetings. I requested a copy of the minutes of meeting after they were approved at the March 11, 2024 meeting, and the drafted minutes prior to changes being made. (please see Draft minutes of meeting 3-4-24, & approved minutes 3-4-24) What was in the draft minutes was what Verne Leach actually stated at the meeting. The approved minutes made changes to the statement made at the meeting. The statement "Selectman Leach feels that he cannot back the candidate because of his prior work history in Peru. His outbursts at meetings to the residents was not acceptable" I find this to be very disturbing for the following reasons, First, I was never notified that the Select Board were going to actually discuss my application at the meeting, since they listed applicants! on the meeting agenda, and they never did even list my name on the Agenda. I think this was intentional to make it look as though they were only considering who to interview for the position. They listed Discussion of Applicants! I think that this is a violation of the open meeting law for openly discussing a candidate for a job position without notifying person, and without even listing me on the agenda. Second, there is absolutely no evidence or none noted at the meeting to openly question my work history, and accusing me of outbursts at meetings, which I believe is making a disparaging and derogatory comment about an applicant at an open public town meeting without notifying me. In my five years as the Town Administrator, i never received a verbal warning, or written warning from the Select Board, and there were never even a discussion by the Select board of any inappropriate behavior by me. I had an impeccable work history, yet Verne Leach makes these types of remarks without my knowledge behind my back at a public meeting. I find this to be very offensive and unwarranted.

What action do you want the public body to take in response to your complaint?

Note: This text field has a maximum of 500 characters.

I believe that Verne Leach should be required to make an apology at a public meeting for making disparaging and derogatory remarks about a candidate for a job position for the Town of Peru.

Review, sign, and submit your complaint

I. Disclosure of Your Complaint.

Public Record. Under most circumstances, your complaint, and any documents submitted with your complaint, is considered a public record and will be available to any member of the public upon request.

Publication to Website. As part of the Open Data Initiative, the AGO will publish to its website certain information regarding your complaint, including your name and the name of the public body. The AGO will not publish your contact information.

II. Consulting With a Private Attorney.

The AGO cannot give you legal advice and is not able to be your private attorney, but represents the public interest. If you have any questions concerning your individual legal rights or responsibilities you should contact a private attorney.

III. Submit Your Complaint to the Public Body.

The complaint must be filed first with the public body. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Open Government by calling (617) 963-2540 or by email to openmeeting@state.ma.us.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the provisions above and certify that the information I have provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: _____

Caleb Mitchell

Date: _____

3-15-2024

For Use By Public Body

Date Received by Public Body:

For Use By AGO

Date Received by AGO:

Town Administrator

From: verne l <verne86@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2024 11:16 AM
To: clb_mtchl@yahoo.com; openmeeting@state.ma.us; Town Administrator
Subject: [External Sender]open meeting law complaint

Mr. Mitchell

The reason Discussion of applicants was on the agenda was to see if anyone else applied between the time the agenda was posted and the meeting the board could discuss them.

yes you were the only applicant that applied.

On 11/29/21 you were told if you can't control yourself in the meeting you should leave the meeting, which you did.

On 12/6/21 you read an apology to the board and the residents.

Your application was looked at and i stated i could not back this applicant because i feel His outbursts at meetings to the residents was not acceptable.

There for i do not understand this to be a Open Meeting Violation because i stated why i did not want to back you and the information is in the prior minutes (11/29/21 &12/6/21).

Thank you
Verne Leach
Selectboard Chair

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: November 29, 2021: 6:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman/ACO
Doug Haskins, Selectman/Finance Committee
Caleb Mitchell, Town Administrator
Jesse Pelkey, Acting Fire Chief
Terry Walker, Administrative Assistant
Caryn Wendling, Treasurer/Tax Collector

Public Attendees

Kim Wetherell

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: Caleb Mitchell recording; Kim Wetherell recording

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

Item 4: Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for 10-4-2021, 10-20-2021, 11-1-2021, 11-8-2021, & 11-15-2021; Leach motions to approve minutes of meeting for 10-04--2021 pending changes, Cullett seconds, Vote 3-0. 10/20/2021 on hold. 11/1/2021 hold,11/08/2021 hold. 11/15/2021 hold

Item 5: Updates of Departments

Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief, Last week training in Stow,VT for FEMA grants, over four hundred million dollars available for Micro grants under 50,000, which are due December 17 radios for trucks is a possibility no cost to the town. Vehicle grants with a 5% match by the town. This could be possibly to replace brush truck with a storage unit, EMS equipment and jaws. The truck would cost around \$325,000 to \$350,000 and cost to the town would be less than \$20,000. Truck would have storage, more versatile, jaws and medical supplies. Grants are not awarded on call volume but on the age of vehicle you are replacing. The plan is to go with a gas engine and a Ford or Dodge is recommended. All vehicle inspections are completed for the year and all vehicles passed. FEMA gives you two years to expend grant and there will be enough time to go to ATM for town match.

TA-Caleb Mitchell: Grant award for recycling grant \$3,850 has been received from Mass DEP.

TA is researching last year's DEP grant – when is deadline to spend remaining funds.

MIIA grant was awarded-did not get safety zone equipment, but received forestry related communication equipment Email CMRK textile and homeware collection inquiring whether town want to participate in program. TA will check into how much the town will be paid by the pound. Town will receive quarterly checks.

Update on DUNS number - notarized letter was sent with application, TA called and requested notification when the DUNS number is registered, updated and the expiration date. DUNS number is good till the end of the year.

Regional Resource Group, RRG was able to access assessors' computer and will begin getting the tax rate set. First thing is classification hearing, then set tax rate and lastly, getting tax bills out.

American Rescue Plan eligible expenses. -- Personal Protective equipment, sanitizing supplies and equipment. Question is can we pay a cleaning company. Ventilation upgrades units to purify air Central Ventilation Equipment is a possibility . Also if the funding may be spent on IT expenses such as a new server.

Revenue losses in terms of growth 3 fiscal years preceding COVID pandemic funds can be used for General government services not Stabilization fund not for debt. Treasurer will run a report to assist with funding.

Sign- temperature may be causing issues with the sign. Town Clerk has software and passwords to turn on. The sensor is not working because of possibly temperature related issue. We need an experienced person to fix sign.

Jesse Pelkey, submitted a grant yesterday for \$10,500 for which will be used for 3 sets of gear.

Kim Wetherell asked if sign is under warranty. Cullett mentioned that sign was purchased by the town and we set it up. RFP went to local sign companies and all declined to submit a bid. The sign was purchased from a California company and it is up to town to manage sign. Software installed but another component needs to be installed. No instructions included and we need someone with experience to set this up. Manufacturer will not give assistance. Haskins will contact a company in Holbrook, MA that fixes signs.

Police Chief: Chief Cullett will be bringing Ford Explorer to Marcotte Ford tomorrow for 2 recalls

Selectmen: Selectman Cullett informs BOS that lighting project has been completed with LED lights in highway garage, town hall and salt shed. Salt shed lights are motion activated.

.Item 6: Public Input:

Kim Wetherell requested minutes and recordings last week and she wants public records request fulfilled tonight. Wetherell public records request response is due December 2, 2021. Wetherell wanted to download from the town's tape recorder and TA Mitchell states that is impossible. The software to download from the tape recorder is approximately \$600.00 according to Renatus Solutions, The Town's IT service provider. TA will not let tape recorder out of building. Kim asked what happens if she challenges the minutes and then the BOS would then have to answer to the AG's office. Wetherell wanted to know why Terry Walker was typing the minutes for November 15th when she hadn't been hired. TA stated that Terry Walker could take his notes and recording to type minutes. Wetherell asked for a draft of 11/15/2021 minutes. Wetherell is informed that the draft of the November 15th minutes are not completed. Leach mentioned that Terry Walker would finish 11/15/2021 minutes before she went home tonight. Wetherell requests that recording not be deleted and demands a copy of the recording. TA mentioned that the Town Clerk said she was not quite sure anyone can have the recording. Selectman Cullett states that the public records request will be answered by the Town Clerk Kim Wetherell by 12/02/2021.

Item 7: Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll Warrant:

While the BOS was reviewing accounts payable warrants, TA Mitchell asked Kim Wetherell to leave meeting due to her holding a conversation with Chief Pelkey while meeting was in progress. An exchange took place between Wetherell and TA Mitchell and TA Mitchell left the meeting. Wetherell asked if she could get approved minutes but there were no minutes signed tonight the 10/20/21 were approved pending changes.

Treasurer Wendling wants to know why Terry Walker's end date is TBD on appointment paper and asks what pay rate will be. Treasurer states that she will need to borrow a Revenue Anticipation Note to pay school tuition. Truck loan will be a 3 year state house note.

Items mentioned for next meeting agenda: Set a Classification hearing date. Reserve fund transfers. Accountant will be asked for financial report for next meeting. Selectman Cullett stated that the BOS should schedule a visit to Buckland to view a pellet boiler which is part of Green Community Grant for a new heating system.

Item 8: Adjourn: Leach made motion to adjourn the 11/29/2021 BOS Meeting, Cullett seconds. Vote 3-0. The 11/29/2021 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

Articles used:

Warrant

Appointment paper, Terry Walker

KP Law Summary of American Rescue Plan

Respectfully Submitted

Terry L. Walker

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

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

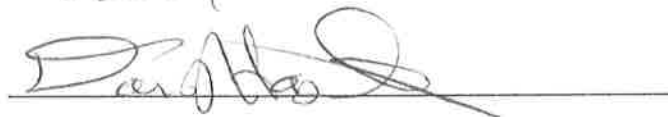
Verne Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved: 12-27-21

RECEIVED
Kim Leach
TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF PERU

Board of Selectmen meeting April 17, 2024

Update from Departments-Summary of Comments - Bonny DiTomasso, School Committee

Bonny DiTomasso was asked to advocate for a Smith Vocational Applicant residing in Peru that applied in March. The CBRSD District office did not receive signed paperwork by the 4/1/24 deadline because the student's parent mailed the signed paperwork, which was received at the CBRSD District office on 4/2/24. Consequently, the student is now required to obtain approval from the Selectboard to possibly attend Smith Vocational in the Cosmetology Course. Bonny has confirmed with the District that the student referenced resides in Peru.

Chairman Leach asked what grade the student would be in. Bonny responded that she thought the student would be in 9th grade.

(Please note: Bonny has since confirmed that the student would be in 11th grade.)

Chairman Leach stated that he had no issue with this requested as it has been done in the past. Selectman Munch had no issue with this request.

Bonny explained that her next report pertained to a previously mentioned meeting of all seven member towns coordinated by Greg Boino to discuss Vocational Transportation. This meeting is Town Meeting not a School Committee meeting. Bonny attended with Terry at her request as Terry is not familiar with the area. Terry requested that Bonny report on this topic because Terry is in another meeting in Town Hall.

Bonny explained that the meeting was conducted at 2 pm, April 16 at the WRHS Office Conference Room, was facilitated by Greg Boino, and was attended by representatives from the 7 towns.

The discussion centered around Greg asking each town representative to talk about how each town is handling Vocational Transportation including the bus stops, the number of students transported, and the Vocational Schools involved. Some towns use a town bus with a paid driver but with drivers aging they are looking to make a change. Some towns use multiple schools, like Becket that also transports to Gateway.

Bonny indicated that there was consensus to let Greg work to identify some commonality and perhaps coordinate pricing from bus vendors on items such as cost per day vs cost per student since not all of the towns have similar transportation costs.

Bonny shared that the next meeting of this group is April 30 at 2 pm at the WRHS Office Conference Room and suggested it would be beneficial to have Terry and a Selectman attend represent Peru's interests.