

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Town Meeting Room 3 EAST MAIN RD
Monday, December 27, 2021 @ 6:00 PM

Call to order

1. Roll Call
2. State recording status
3. Pledge Alliance to the Flag
4. Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 12-13-2021, & 12-20-2021
5. Updates of Departments
6. Discussion of American Rescue Plan
7. Discussion of DEP Grant
8. Public Input
9. Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrant, payroll warrant
13. 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.

Official posting: Peru Town website: www.townofperuma.com ; Additional Postings at Town Hall Bulletin Board, & Town Hall office.

Posted by Caleb Mitchell, Town Administrator on _____

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: December 27, 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
Caleb Mitchell, Town Administrator
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief
Peggy White, BOH

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: no

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

Item 4: Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for 12/13/2021, 12/20/2021 Leach motion to approve minutes pending changes 12/13/2021, Cullett second unanimous 3-0

Leach motion to approve minutes for 12/20/2021 pending changes, Cullett second, unanimous vote 3-0

Item 5: Updates of Departments Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent, stated that the new truck has arrived and is parked until he gets it undercoated. MassWorks grant has signatures and will be submitted to Andrea at FRCOG. When the the MassWorks project is being completed, signs are needed at both ends of the project stating what grant award funded the project. Russell also wanted to give the Dalton Highway Department credit for help with sanding on gravel roads and steep hills. One sander was down and their help was very much appreciated.

Fire Chief, Pelkey: A micro grant for \$50,000 and a vehicle grant for \$325,000 was submitted. These grants will be awarded by March 2022. Another grant for \$10,000 for gear has been submitted.

Peggy White, Board of Health has distributed 90 home COVID testing kits. Since many people are testing positive, Governor Baker has issued an indoor mask advisory because of the high-risk variant. Recommendation by the Governor but Local officials need to mandate at town hall. Board of Health can mandate but Peggy wanted to bring her concerns to the BOS. Peggy stated that the variant is very contagious, and she dropped off 6 N95 masks for town employees. Leach mentioned neighboring towns have mask mandates. Cullett not in favor of mandate, Haskins felt that it was a person's choice. If a person has health issues, they should wear a mask. Peggy mentioned that many people have COVID, some are ventilated and some dying in Berkshire County. She explained how complicated the virus is and she is concerned about keeping everyone healthy. Peggy stated if the BOS, want the BOH to make a decision they need to schedule an emergency meeting. Cullett said if the BOH feels the mask mandate is necessary schedule an emergency meeting. Leach agreed and felt this was necessary with the pandemic. The Dalton Police officers and the Hinsdale Highway Department have COVID. Cullett stated if the BOH is in favor of a mandate then he will support their decisions.

TA. Mitchell called Paul Mark's office in Boston regarding broadband completion in town and asked him to attend a meeting. Paul Mark's office declined and wants a virtual meeting with one selectman. The information can be brought

back to the BOS. TA, Mitchell wants to get Hazard Mitigation Grant and Opioid settlement finalized before he leaves on December 31, 2021.

Christmas cards from 6th grade students at Nessacus School was a pleasant surprise and very uplifting for the first responders.

Selectmen Cullett mentioned that the results of the Town Hall air testing on December 16th have arrived, and the interpretation of mold results was nothing out of the ordinary.

The BOS discussed children playing basketball at town hall. Haskins mentioned at some point there needs to be changes made for the public to utilize gym. Cullett mentioned that while COVID is still an issue the gym will not be utilized for basketball practice.

Accountant-Anna mentioned that the lock on the entry door freezes, and Justin will take care of this.

Fire chief, Pelkey mentioned a military surplus camo diesel generator is missing. Pelkey will get the date when trailer was returned. His mission is to hunt for the generator and report back to the BOS.

Item 6: Discussion of American Rescue: TA mentioned areas that would qualify for the funding is Public Health expenditures, ventilation improvements to town hall which would service the entire building. Blandford installed ventilation and air purifying in the entire building for \$58,000. Funds for broadband have already been approved by Paul Mark. Cleaning the town hall- we need to get a specific interpretation on cleaning town hall. Anna-Accountant is comparing revenue for 2019, 2020, and 2021 and grant will replace loss of revenue for those years. Town can decide how they want to use funding. Cullett will invite Anna-Accountant to a meeting with the BOS to discuss the best avenue to pursue. The timeframe to expend funds is 2024.

Item 7: Discussion of DEP Grant: Leach recused himself because he works at the transfer station, TA found grant application from last year. Accountant couldn't say what was expended out of grant. Possibly use funds until expended. New grant award is \$3,850 expend funds for the improvement to shed at transfer station, walkway around recyclables. TA mentioned the BOS needs to come to an agreement on how to spend funds.

Item 8: Public Input: none

Item 9: Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll Warrant:

Andrus claims they weren't paid. August 16, 2021 \$1,425.00. Cullett mentioned that the generator for fire station was relocated and they set it up. Automatic renewal needs to be put out to bid. RRG needs a contract for January 2021. In two weeks, the BOS will begin interviewing for the Town Administrator position. Agenda all meeting minutes have been approved. Next agenda: American Rescue Plan and DEP grant.

Item 10: Adjourn: Leach made motion to adjourn the 12/27/2021 BOS Meeting, Haskins seconds, Vote 3-0. The 12/27/2021 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

Articles used:

Warrants

Minutes for 12/13/2021 and 12/20/2021

Respectfully Submitted

Terry L. Walker, Administrative Assistant

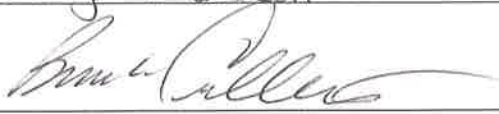
Verne Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved:

1/10/2022

RECEIVED

JAN 10 2022


TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF PERU