

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: February 28, 2022 @ 6:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman/ACO
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Chief
James Welch, Town Administrator
Terry Walker, Administrative Assistant
Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief

Public Attendance: N/A

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

Item 2: Roll Call: Chairman Leach Present, Selectman Haskins absent, Selectman Cullett Present

Item 3: State Recording status: Meeting Recording by Town Administrator James Welch

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

Item 5 : Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 02/14/2022: Selectman Leach motion to put 02/14/2022 minutes on hold, Selectman Cullett second, unanimous 2-0. Minutes for 2/22/2022 reviewed and approved as amended. Selectmen Leach made motion, seconded by Selectmen Cullett, unanimous 2-0.

Item 6: Updates from Departments: Highway Department, Justin Russell gave update on status of Bids that have been sent out for the E. Windsor Road projects for paving and reclamation. Bids will be opened on 3/22/22 and 3/29/2022 at the Franklin County Regional Governments office in Greenfield. It was discussed and determined that TA Welch will attend the bid opening on 3/22/22.

Selectmen Cullett discussed the issues with the Fire Department Building regarding water overflow from recent rain. Frozen floor drains appear to be the reason for the flooding. Highway Supt. Russell and his team worked to fix the problem in the short term. Septic tank drains also have frozen. Possible recommendation about long term fix using ARPA funds was discussed.

Update was given on electrical work completed on town buildings and the payment for those services.

Town Administrator Welch gave update on department heads that have returned budget requests. Gave update on Vocational Education census going into 2022 school year.

Bonny DiTomosso who is Peru's representative to the BCRSD gave an update on the timeline for students to determine which Vocational School they will attend. Selectmen Cullett gave recap of how this number was developed in past years. It was discussed that Smith Vocational is Peru's chosen Vocational School and that any student that attends Smith Voc will have transportation paid for by the Town.

TA Welch announced that BOS/Finance Committee scheduled for 3/24/22 has been

Item 7: Discussion/ Review on FY23 Town Budget Process:

Bonny DiTomosso provided an overview of the BCRSD budget process for FY23. The budget has not been finalized but the tentative numbers for Peru are as follows: Net Capital Assessment \$110,695. Net Transportation Assessment \$39,078. Net Operating Assessment \$844,834. Total Assessment to Peru would be \$994,067.

Selectmen Cullett asked if there was a way to access and view a breakdown of expenses for the BCRSD. He then asked if the costs for the Wahconah HS project were accessible and where it could be viewed.

Ms. DiTomosso gave an update on the Commonwealth's foundation budget policy and how it affects Peru. Selectmen Cullett gave an update on the IT Budget line item and how a grant would be used to pay for upgrades and how it should be represented on the FY 23 Budget.

Selectmen Leach proposed that any discussion of wages should be put off until the entire BOS membership is present. Selectmen Cullett gave update on Marketing Study for Town of Peru to help increase tax base.

The following budget line items and recommendations were discussed.

Legal- 9000

Town Administrator-30,000

Selectmen Salary- 10,413

Selectmen Account- 2500

Continuing Ed – 6530

IT – 19000

Town Auditor- 1.00

Assessor Account- 1,000

Tax Map Maint. – 1600

Assessor Computer- 2,400

Assessor Utility - 3,500

Treasurer Account- 1,500

Admin Assistant- 9100

Bank Charges – 100

Treasurer Tax Title – 6,000

Annual Software- 12,646

Tax Taking Charges – 1,500

Tax Collector Computer- 10,351

Town Clerk Account- 2000

Asst Town Clerk- 2484

Elections and Board of Registrar-5,850

Conservation Commission- 400

BCRPC- 692

Board of Appeals- 100

Officers Mileage- 2500

USPS- 3000

Office Supplies- 2000

Police Account- 5145

Police Cruiser Maintenance – 3500

Fire Station Mortgage- 15,216

Firemen's Bldg. Maintenance- 1,500

VOL FD Insurance- 6,500

Inspection of Animals- 922

Council on Aging- 400

Cemetery Sexton- 350

Cemeteries-1,000

Interest on Loans- 1000

Partridgefield Playground- 1500

Town Report- 2000

Selectmen Leach provided an update on Peru's 250th Anniversary Celebration and suggested that the BOS meet with the Anniversary Committee. Selectmen Cullett and Selectmen Leach discussed possibilities for the celebration and how it should be organized. Selectmen Cullett raised concerns about the timing of scheduling a band for the celebration.

Item 8: Public Input: N/A

Item 11: Adjourn

Motion made by Selectmen Leach to adjourn the meeting at 8:14pm. Seconded by Selectmen Cullett. Approved unanimously 2-0

Articles used:

Minutes 02/14/2022
FY23 budget spreadsheet
FY23 Budget Requests


Respectfully Submitted,

James T. Welch
Town Administrator

Verne Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved: 3-21-2022

Received 3/22/2022 Kim Leach, Town Clerk