

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: June 28, 2021: 6:00 P.M.**

COMMUNITY CENTER

OFFICIAL

Verne Leach, BOS Chairman /ACO  
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Chief of Police  
Doug Haskins/Planning Board  
Caleb Mitchell, Town Administrator  
Kim Leach, Town Clerk/~~BOH Chair~~  
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent  
Tonya Santaniello, Administrative Assistant  
Bonny DiTomasso  
Sharon Greule, Library  
Ruth Calaycay, Library Director  
Kathleen Borden, Library

**Residents:** Jesse Pelkey, Coralie Pelkey, Harold Finn, Mrs. Dunham

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

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

Item 3: **State Recording status:** Tonya recording; Live stream on Zoom Meeting.

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

Item 5: **Discussion and Vote to reorganize the Board of Selectman:** Discussed reorganization of Board. Haskins made a motion to nominate Verne Leach as Chairman, Cullett seconds. All agree. **Vote 2-0**

Item 6: **Discussion of Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Peru and the Board of Trustees of the Peru Library:** Cullett discussed Legal Counsel concerns regarding memorandum and the time frame of the deposit. Ruth Calaycay discussed talking with Caryn Wendling about moving money. Discussed making changes recommended by Town Counsel. Continued to next meeting.

Item 7: **Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 6/1/21, 6/7/21, & 6/5/21 (Emergency Meeting directed by Town Counsel):** Meeting Minutes for 6/1/21 not available. Cullett said he has the 6/5/21 minutes for the emergency meeting but he was the only one to attend so wanted to know how they would be approved. Leach stated that Cullett could sign off on them and Haskins said to have TA Mitchel sign off on them since he was in the meeting. Discussed that Cullett and Mitchell were the only ones at the 6/7 meeting so no motion can be made to approve. Cullett said he did not see anything that needs to be changed.

Item 8: **Update of Departments:**

**Highway Dept.:** Russell discussed continued work on culverts and weed whacking has been started.

**Town Administrator:** Mitchell discussed that he is still waiting to hear about the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Grant and will follow up with someone for status update. Mitchell said he is still waiting to hear about the Mass Works Grant, and he met with someone from DCR about signs for the Peru State Forest and they looked at location for signs.

**Police Dept.:** Nothing new to report.

**BOS:** Cullett met with 2 electricians for connection of sign project and looking at electrical service upgrade along with adding additional circuits in Town Hall. Discussed with Anna to have Maintenance Funds carry over for current FY Budget into the new FY.

Item 9: **Discussion and Vote to approve student application to attend Smith Vocational Technical School:** Bonny DiTomasso discussed being requested by the district to advocate for Evan Dunham to go to Smith Vocational. Leach made a motion to approve Evan Dunham to attend Smith Vocational Technical School. Haskins seconds. All agree. **Vote 3-0.**

Item 10: **Discussion of Policy for use of the Town of Peru Community Room:** TA Mitchell stated that this item was requested to be added to the agenda by resident Coralie Pelkey. Coralie discussed the use of the Community Center for the Church. Cullett discussed the policy for use and suggested the BOS review the policy and possibly amend. Discussed separating the policy when used for non-profit organizations and for-profit organizations with a deposit. Leach made a motion to waive the deposit fee for Peru based non-profit organizations and amending policy. Haskins seconds. All agree. **Vote 3-0.**

Item 11: **Discussion and Vote to appoint Edward Munch to represent the Town of Peru on the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Board:** Cullett made a motion to reappoint Edward Munch to represent the Town of Peru on the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Board. Haskins seconds. All agree. **Vote 3-0.**

Item 12: **Discussion and vote to make the following appointments: Darryl Darby, Conservation Commission (3 yrs. Appointment), Wally Morrison, Veterans Grave Officer (1 yr. Appointment), Grahm Sturz, Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate (2 yr. Appointment), Linda Nelson, Hinsdale/Peru Cultural Council (1 yrs. Appointment), Kathy Borden, Hinsdale/Peru Cultural Council (1 yr. Appointment), George Greule, Parks and Recreation Committee (5 yr. Appointment):** Leach read all names out loud. Cullett made motion to appoint all individuals. Leach seconds. All agree. **Vote 3-0.**

Item:13: **Discussion and Vote to approve operating permit for Camp Danbee:** Haskins asked if all the inspections have been completed and signed off on. TA Mitchell said he doesn't know but will put on the next agenda. Cullett made motion to approve operating permit pending completion of inspections. Haskins seconds. All agree. **Vote 3-0.**

Item 14: **Discussion and Vote to approve Election Officials to receive \$2.50 per hour more than minimum wage:** Discussed that the \$2.50 per hour more than minimum wage is the same as prior years and is only for the Election Warden, Clerk, and Town Clerk. Cullett stated he doesn't have any issues with it. Cullett made motion to approve the Election Officials to receive \$2.50 per hour more than minimum wages. Haskins seconds. Leach recused. All agree. **Vote 2-0.**

Item 15: **Discussion of 250<sup>th</sup> Town of Peru Anniversary updates:** Discussed the date has been set for July 16, 2022, and July 17, 2022. Discussed getting organized.

Item 16: **Discussion and possible vote to appoint Jessee Pelkey as the Town of Peru Fire Chief:** Cullett discussed a concern that the policy instituted by the BOS that any open position, paid or unpaid, needs to be posted. Continued to next meeting pending Legal Opinion.

Item 17: **Discussion and possible vote to approve Chief of Police Employment Contract:** Cullett speaking as the Chief of Police discussed changes regarding comp time, sick leave carry over with cap. Leach discussed issue with #7 which is the automatic 2% increase in salary. Cullett said it was discussed and agreed upon last August. Haskins made a motion to accept contract. Leach seconds. Cullett recused. All agree. **Vote 2-0.**

Item 18: **Public Input:** Mr. Finn of Hickingbotham Road discussed his complaint about the Town Bylaw regarding leaving snow of the public way. Mr. Finn discussed complaint regarding dust on the road. Russell said he would try to put material down in front of Mr. Finn's house to keep the dust down but would not be able to do it every week. Leach discussed trees in the right of way and the Town can remove them if it will help Mr. Finn with snow plowing. Jesse

Pelkey discussed electrical upgrade and the architectural study with for the building. Pelkey stated he was concerned about putting money into the building.

Item 13: **Review and Approve accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, and Payroll Warrants:** A/P, Treasury Warrants and Payroll Warrants reviewed and approved.

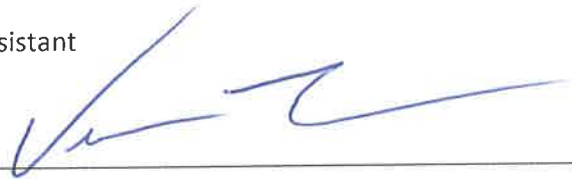
Item 14: **Adjourn:** Leach made motion to adjourn the 6/28/2021 BOS Meeting. Cullett seconds. All agree **Vote 3-0. The 6/28/2021 BOS Meeting adjourned at 8:22 P.M.**

**Articles used:**

- 6/28/2021 BOS Meeting Agenda
- 6/7/2021 BOS Meeting Minutes
- 6/5/2021 BOS Emergency Meeting Minutes
- Chief of Police Employment Contract
- A/P, Treasury Warrants (V26-2021), Payroll Warrants (21-26P)
- Town of Peru Community Room Policy
- Smith Vocational Student Application
- Town of Peru Bylaw regarding snow in roadway
- Appointment Papers: Darryl Darby, Wally Morrison, Graham Sturz, Kathy Borden, George Greule, Ed Munch
- Election Official Paperwork for raise
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Peru and the Board of Trustees of the Peru Library

Respectfully Submitted  
*Tonya Santaniello*, Administrative Assistant

Vern Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved: 7-19-21

**RECEIVED**  
JUL 25 2021  
*Kim Leach*  
TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF PERU