

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Peru Community Center

3 East Main Rd. Peru MA

Monday, October 17, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. State recording status
4. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag
5. Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes 8/29/2022, 9/26/22, 10/3/22
6. Updates of Departments
7. Discussion and possible vote to approve the State General Election Warrant.
8. Discussion and Review of Accounting Services proposals.
9. Update and discussion on Procurement Cards and Vendor Accounts.
10. Public input
11. Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrant, Payroll Warrant.
12. 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

Posted October 12, 2022 @ 4:45pm, Kim Leach, Town Clerk

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: October 17, 2022 @ 6:00 P.M.

Peru Community Center

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman/ACO
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Chief
James Welch, Town Administrator
Terry Walker, Administrative Assistant
Justin Russell, Highway superintendent

Public Attendees:

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

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

Item 3: State Recording status: Selectman Leach for personal use

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

Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 08/29/2022, 09/26/2022, 10/03/2022

Selectman Leach motion to accept 08/29/2022 minutes pending changes, Selectman Cullett second, 2-0

Selectman Leach motion to accept 9/26/2022 minutes pending changes, Selectman Cullett second, 2-0

Selectman Leach motion to put 10/03/2022 minutes on hold

Item 6: Updates of Departments: Police Chief Cullett mentioned that the Emergency Management Grant will be submitted in November. Prior Emergency Management Director, Rick Carlil was awarded various grants over the years to purchase radios, search and rescue gear, and a GPS unit. The Chief is looking for ideas from other departments to utilize the MEMA EMPG grant. The grant must be spent first and reimbursed later. A portion of the grant will be used to purchase cameras to improve security coverage for the back of highway garage, the fuel islands, plus the back of town hall. Chief Cullett also mentioned that the bi-annual firearms training will take place the end of October on a Saturday.

Highway Superintendent Russell is concerned about the condition of Cornell Lane. He distributed a property map and explained the terrible conditions of the road plus the property owners to be notified. The road cannot be plowed going up the hill because of the deplorable surface. The Board will send a letter to the residents requesting that the road be repaired. Paul Pharmer will be the point of contact to discuss repairing the road. The repairs need to be completed for the residents to have adequate emergency services, ie, Fire Department Services, Police Department patrolling the roadway and the Highway Department plowing snow. Selectmen Cullett mentioned that the repairs should be completed before it snows or set a date of November 15th. It was decided that Superintendent Russell will reach out to Paul Pharmer to begin the process. Superintendent Russell mentioned that he had the lock rekeyed at the fuel pump. There will be a fuel log and all names need to be legible, the date needs to be entered and everyone must keep track of all fuel usage. Superintendent Russell also mentioned that LP Corp finished the aprons on East Windsor Road and will be finishing the shoulders soon.

TA Welch mentioned that Assessor Davidson is retrieving documents for Patriot Properties, and everything seems to be moving forward. Also, Sandra Brusso from the state will help get the town up to speed on setting the tax rate. TA Welch mentioned that Priority Cleaning has not cleaned the town hall in nearly a month, TA Welch reached out and has not received a response since September 6th. TA also mentioned that they town may have a potential candidate for COA Director. He lives in Vermont and is moving to the Berkshires.

Town Treasurer presented the Board of Selectmen with a Municipal Auction Proposal from Sullivan & Sullivan. The Treasurer mentioned that the Auctioneer receives 6% only if there is a sale and the buyer pays the additional 6%. The buyer also pays legal fees. Selectman Leach motion to go forward with an auction Selectman Cullett is in agreement with Selectman Leach. Selectman Leach mentioned that there should be a vote and an agenda for transparency. The Board of Selectmen will meet Thursday, October 20th at 6:00 p.m. to vote on auctioning of property.

Item 7: Update and possible vote to approve the State General Election Warrant: Selectman Leach motion to approve State Election Warrant, Selectman Cullett second, 2-0

Item 8: Discussion and Review of Accounting Services proposals: Selectman Leach recused himself because his daughter is one of the candidates. TA Welch presented the Board of Selectmen with Candidates 1,2 and 3 plus Firm 1 and 2. Selectman Leach mentioned that Selectman Haskins was out of town for a couple weeks and this should be put on hold.

- **Candidate #1** is out of the running. She did not contact TA Welch.
- **Candidate #3** there was a concern because the work would be done remotely from Florida.
- Selectman Cullett would like to discuss firms. Selectman Leach stated that he is not in favor of a firm. TA Welch phoned Selectman Haskins and Selectman Haskins remotely joined the Board of Selectmen's meeting at 6:30 p.m. on speaker phone.
- **Firm 1:** cost to reconcile books for FY22, balances for June 30, 2022, Free Cash and Schedule A completed is \$20,000 then \$40,000 per year going forward.
- **Firm 2:** Cost to clean up prior year and move forward is \$31,800 annually plus a new chart of Accounts to bring the accounting system to be UMAS compliant is \$5,000. Firm 1 can start in December. Selectman Cullett is confident a firm will make sure the job gets completed. Selectman Haskins agreed that the firm can get the job done faster than a person. Selectman Leach asked why the accountant was paid to do the job and why it was so a year behind. Selectman Haskins is hopeful the ARPA funds and a grant will help pay for the services. Selectman Haskins stated that a firm is a better option, and he didn't have a problem with an outside firm. Selectman Cullett motion to vote on Accounting Services, Selectman Haskins second, 3-0 vote. Selectman Cullett motion to hire Firm #2, Selectman Haskins second, vote Selectman Cullett Yes, Selectman Haskins yes, Selectman Leach oppose, vote passes 2-1 vote.

Item 9: Update and discussion on Procurement Cards and Vendor Accounts: Town Treasurer provided an email from Adams Community Bank stating that the credit card application was denied due to financials that were provided showing that the town has a \$0 net worth. There is a possibility to set up a credit card with American Express, similar to what the Town of Williamstown uses. Town Treasurer also may set up an Amazon account and add users with emails for several users. Selectman Leach questioned if the departments would be invoiced. Town Treasurer would rather mail a check rather than an ACH payment.

Item 10: Public Input: N/A

Item 11: Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrants and Payroll Warrant: 23-8P, VO9-2023,

Item 12: Adjourn: Selectman Leach made motion to adjourn the 10/17/2022 BOS Meeting, Selectman Cullett second, Vote 2-0. The 10/17/2022 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Articles used:

Minutes- 08/29/2022, 9/26/2022

Warrants-23-8P, VO9-2023

State Election Warrant

Accounting Services

- Candidate #1
- Candidate #2
- Candidate #3
- Firm #1
- Firm #2

Auctioneer Sullivan/Sullivan proposal

Email to Treasurer from Adams Community Bank Credit Card Issues

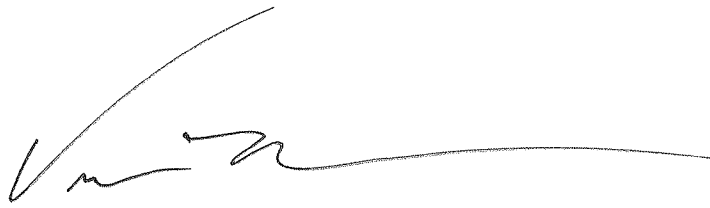
Property Map with abutters on Garnet Mountain Lane and Cornell Lane

Order of Conditions for plowing that will be submitted to landowners on Garnet Mountain Lane and Cornell Lane

Respectfully Submitted,

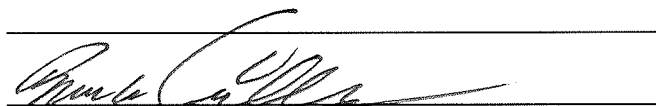
Terry Walker
Administrative Assistant

Verne Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman

Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved: 10-31-22