

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: January 31, 2022: 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
Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent

Public Attendees:
James Welch

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

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

Item 3: State Recording status: No

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

Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 01/24/2022: Leach motion to approve 01/24/2022 minutes pending changes, Cullett second, 3-0 vote

Item 6: Updates of Departments: Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief, mentioned that the Tanker is fixed and mandatory training for Fire Chief-ICS 400 level on MEMA website will be completed next week. May 8, 2022, Chief has hazmat training. Mass casualty drill on May 21, 2022, public notice will be sent to everyone in town.

Justin Russell- Highway Superintendent- mentioned that a Mass DOT bridge report was sent to Highway Superintendent stating that the Bridge on Pierce Road is unsafe for pedestrian access. The bridge is not passable, and access needs to be blocked off.

James Welch mentioned that an invoice for the Town of Peru from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) in the amount of \$676.08 is due.

Selectman Cullett, met with Jim Welch Friday and introduced Jim to several employees, today Jim was given passwords to access his computer and keys to the building. Mr. Welch is ready to fill his role as Town Administrator. Selectman Cullett mentioned that Jim Welch is off to a good start.

Item 7: Discussion and Possible vote on FY22 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant.

Selectman Cullett motion to approve FY22 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant, Leach recuse, Haskins second, vote 2-0

Item 8: Discussion and Possible Vote on FRCOG procurement agreement MassWorks for paving East Windsor Road

Selectman Cullett asked Justin Russell about going over budget with MassWorks Project. Russell stated that he would ask for supplemental funds ie: Chapter 90. Cullett motion to approve FRCOG procurement agreement, Leach second, 3-0 vote. Russell mentioned that everything is itemized on the procurement agreement and target date for bid opening March 22, 2022.

Item 9: Discussion and Possible Vote on employment agreement and appointment of James Welch as Town Administrator. Cullett motion to appoint James Welch as Town Administrator, Leach second, 3-0 all in favor. A contract will include, benefits, salary, mutual end relationship, time off, holidays, sick time will all be part of the policy and put in the contract. Jim will be working a full day on Mondays, Leach mentioned that Thursday Jim needs to be here for agendas and Friday is a good day to organize and have monthly staff meetings. RRG offered to supply a person every Monday night from the Assessors office. Jim needs to meet with the financial staff which is the key people to closing the books and joint meetings with Finance Committee on Thursday nights. Welch, TA mentioned that he would like to be flexible for a few weeks. Cullett suggested that TA position be on the website with hours plus by appointment. Leach put on hold.

Item 10: Discussion and Possible Vote on ARPA funds for payment on the Highway Department F350 pickup. Accountant mentioned that ARPA funds can be used for the new highway truck rather than finance the vehicle. The wording on the Annual Town Meeting warrant was not specific for borrowing. By using ARPA funds, the truck will not be financed for 3 years. It was agreed by the BOS to pay Marcotte Ford with ARPA funds for the truck, undercoating the truck, plus a new sander. The \$16,000 from ATM will not be used and will go back into the General Fund- (Free Cash). Leach motion to use ARPA funds for truck, Cullett second, vote 3-0 all in favor.

Item 11: Discussion and Possible Vote to deem Highway Department's 2004 F250 and ACO Explorer as surplus property. Cullett mentioned that the estimate to fix the ACO Explorer to make it road worthy is \$3,278.00 in addition, the vehicle has rust issues. BOS are deciding whether to fix or send it to auction. Haskins is considering putting the 1994 International on the website to auction off. Leach motion to auction off ACO Explorer and 2004 F250, Haskins second, Leach recuse from ACO vehicle, vote 2-0 Next week Highway Superintendent Russell will get specs and a list of all equipment that will be auctioned off will be given to TA, Welch.

Item 12: Public Input-N/A

Item 13: Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrant: N/A

Item 14: Adjourn: Leach made motion to adjourn the 01/31/2022 BOS Meeting, Cullett second, Vote 3-0. The 01/31/2022 BOS Meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Articles used:

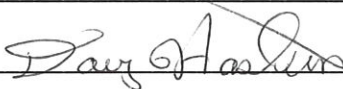
- Minutes-1/24/2022
- FY22 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant
- FRCOG procurement agreement for MassWorks Grant
- Employment Agreement for James Welch

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Walker
Administrative Assistant
Verne Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman

Date Approved: 2-7-22