

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Peru Town Hall Meeting Room

3 East Main Rd. Peru MA

Monday February 6, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. State recording status
4. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag
5. Review and approve minutes from 1/23/23 and 1/30/23.
6. Updates from Departments.
7. Discussion and Possible Vote on Funding Options and Purchase for New Police Cruiser.
8. Discussion of FY '24 Budget.
9. Public input
10. Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrant, Payroll Warrant.
11. 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.

Posted February 1, 2023 @ 8:10pm, *Kim Leach, Town Clerk*

Official posting: Peru Town website: www.townofperuma.com

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: February 6, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.

Peru Town Hall Meeting Room

Vern Leach-Selectman/ACO

Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Chief

Doug Haskins, Selectman / Fin Com

Terry Walker, Administrative Assistant

Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent

Public Attendees: Bonnie DiTomasso

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

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

Item 3: State Recording status: Selectman Leach recording for personal use under Exemption E

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

Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 01/23/2023 and 1/30/2023.

Selectman Leach motion to approve 01/23/2023 minutes, Selectman Cullett second, 3-0

Selectman Leach motion to approve 01/30/2023 minutes pending changes, Selectman Haskins second, 3-0

Item 6: Updates of Departments: Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that the town would be receiving the Recycle and Dividends Grant for \$3,800.00. The Board of Selectmen are reviewing a list of items that can be purchased with the grant.

Superintendent Russell noted that he has been very busy maintaining winter roads and trees that have fallen during storms. He intends to begin chipping brush soon.

Bonnie DiTomasso-School Committee member mentioned that on Thursday the tentative vote on the school budget will take place. Bonnie also mentioned that the state contributions will be determined after March 1st. The foundation budget has been released but may change on March 9th when the final budget is voted on. The Foundation budget is based on per capita income along with the average real estate value. The state may increase the Town of Peru's FY24 Tentative Maintenance and Operating Budget Town Assessment by \$72,807. This is based on a 5-year average with 86 students per year. Also, the Tentative Capital Budget and Apportionment for the FY2024 budget will be decreased by \$8,290.00 for The Town of Peru.

Police Chief: N/A

Item 7: Discussion and Possible Vote on Funding Options and Purchase for New Police Cruiser: Police Chief Cullett has received municipal quotes from a facility in Shrewsbury, MA. One quote was for a leftover 2022 Ford Explorer and the second quote was for a 2023 Tahoe. Both vehicles are outfitted, both have gas engines and very similar to the existing police cruiser. Police Chief Cullett mentioned that if they wait until July 2023, the delivery date for a new cruiser may take up to two years. Selectman Leach asked if there had been any updates on available ARPA funds. Selectman Haskins felt that ARPA funding would be better than using Free Cash otherwise a Special Town Meeting would be necessary. Police Chief Cullett reiterated that the in order purchase a cruiser during the summer, it will be necessary to use ARPA funds. Selectman Haskins would like to meet with the Finance Committee and keep everyone updated on the

possible purchase of a cruiser. Selectman Haskins is in favor of using ARPA funds and he feels the Finance Committee should be involved. Police Chief Cullett will submit quotes to the Finance Committee and will be in attendance at the next Finance Committee meeting. Selectman Leach is in favor of using ARPA Funds, Selectman Haskins is in favor of using ARPA Funds and both Selectmen are in favor of the 2022 Ford Explorer. It was mentioned that the current Police Cruiser (Expedition) may be used by the Animal Control Officer-more discussion to follow.

Item 8: Discussion of FY24 Budget: After reviewing the Chart of Accounts, the Board determined that two accounts were overdrawn.

- Police Chief Cullett- mentioned he has a one-time expense for sidearms for \$2,000. Selectman Leach mentioned if this is a onetime capital expense it should be a separate appropriation. The Selectmen felt that the sidearms could be funded by ARPA or Free Cash. Police Chief Cullett uses these firearms as a training instructor where 4,000 rounds are expelled. Six sidearms will be purchased and six sidearms will be traded in.
- Superintendent Russell is in need of replacing one plow which is 14 years old, plus the tracks on the excavator need to be replaced which will cost between \$4,000-\$5,000. Superintendent Russell does not have a quote on the plow at this time and will check with Zwack on getting a quote for the plow.
- Selectman Cullett will speak with TA Welch on getting transportation bids for the FY24 budget.

Item 9: Public Input:

- Bonnie DiTomasso asked the Board to consider having Annual Town Meeting in May rather than June. She mentioned that high school graduation and Annual Town meeting are always the same day. Selectman Leach mentioned that the Annual Town Meeting is held in June because it is the end of the financial year warrant. The Selectboard tried having ATM in May, but it was changed back to June.
- Bonnie DiTomasso, Shine Counselor, mentioned that residents may qualify for additional benefits under Medicare Part B. This program is with Mass Health, and this does not affect owning your home. The amount is in the vicinity of \$165.00 and it helps your Council on Aging as well.
- Some discussion with the length of Annual Town Meeting. A possibility to shorten the ATM is to release the budget ahead of time and to combine some of the appropriations. Combining appropriations would allow the Selectboard the flexibility to move money within departmental budgets.
- A brief discussion regarding salaries for town employees. The Selectboard is responsible for setting salaries and it is then up to town residents to vote on appropriations for salaries. The Board does not want employees to be singled out at ATM and their salaries cut for no reason. Further discussion regarding shortening ATM and approval of each warrant article by Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen at a future meeting.

Item 10: Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrants and Payroll Warrant: N/A

Item 11: Adjourn: Selectman Leach motion to adjourn the 02/06/2023 BOS Meeting, Selectman Cullett second, Vote 3-0. The 02/06/2023 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

Articles used:

Minutes-01/23/2023, 01/30/2023

Tentative School Budgets spreadsheet (maintenance, operating and capital)

Quotes for new police cruiser-McGovern Municipal

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Walker

Administrative Assistant

Verne Leach, Chairman

Doug Haskins, Selectman

Bruce Cullett, Selectman

Date Approved: 2-13-23

RECEIVED
FEB 14 2023
Kevin Leach
TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF PERU