

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: May 28, 2024, 6:00 P.M.

Town Hall Meeting Room

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman/ACO
Doug Haskins, Selectman/Fin Com
Ed Munch, Selectman
Terry Walker, Town Administrator
Bruce Cullett, Police Chief
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Nanette Mone, Board of Health
Caryn Wendling, Tax Collector

Public Attendees: Coralee Pelkey

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

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

Item 3: State Recording status: Selectman Verne Leach 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 5/20/2024:

Selectman Leach motion to approve 5/20/2024 minutes pending changes, Selectman Munch second, 3-0

Item 6: Update of Departments:

Police Chief Cullett mentioned that he is closing out the EMPG grant and working with Treasurer Wendling and Town Administrator Walker to show proof of payment with cancelled checks. The town's dispatching service is considered an in-kind matching payment. The reimbursement should arrive in June 2024. Also, the police detail invoice that Verizon owned the town, was paid by Verizon plus they reimbursed the Town a \$50.00 filing fee.

Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that the Pierce Road project is nearly completed. Selectman Haskins asked how the water situation is being handled on Route 143. Superintendent Russell explained that he sent photos to Boston, Mass DOT is aware of the issue and the situation will be remedied.

Nanette Mone, Board of Health, mentioned that the Board of Health passed the updated well regulations at the last meeting. The next step is to send updated well regulations to Boston although she needs to research and find out where to send it.

Town Administrator Walker:

The Public Records requested by Kim Wetherell has been submitted to Ms. Wetherell.

MassWorks grant for a million dollars is about 80% completed and is due June 5, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.

Mr. Shorey met with the TA and filled out his W9 so he could be paid for the ramp. TA Walker mentioned that his invoice for \$590.00 is on tonight's warrant. Selectman Leach mentioned that Selectman Haskins or Selectman Munch will pick up the ramp.

Selectman Leach motion to appoint TA Walker as the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority representative, Selectman Munch second, 3-0.

Doug Haskins, Parks and Recreation asked Highway Superintendent how the water could be controlled on basketball court. Mr. Haskins mentioned the court is 28' x 40'. He also wants to focus on the baseball field, get it completed as soon as possible and hopes to have a sign 2' x 4' or 2' x 3" on the back stop.

- Tax Collector Wendling asked the Board of Selectmen if they would handle questions at the Annual Town Meeting before any issues arise.
- Tax Collector Wendling read in the previous minutes that someone was asking about a cash variance.
- The cash variances issue- the Treasurer has more money than the Town Accountants. Therefore, the town does not have any money missing.
- Tax Collector Wendling is actively pursuing tax collections and putting uncollected taxes in Tax Title
- A resident has asked for a list of outstanding taxes and Tax Collector Wendling is compiling a list.
- Selectmen Munch felt that Tax Collector Wendling had all this information on hand at ATM that would be helpful.
- Selectman Leach mentioned that the Board of Selectmen cannot control what questions taxpayers will bring up.
- Selectman Munch instructed Tax Collector Wendling to be prepared and be honest with the taxpayers. Also, after the ATM the BOS, Treasurer/Collector will meet and discuss the list of outstanding taxes with names & addresses of taxpayers.
- Tax Collector Wendling mentioned she is actively reconciling books with Eric Kinsherf's accounting firm.
- Chief Cullett suggested the Board of Selectmen accept a policy on more aggressive tax collections and follow through with the policy.
- Selectman Leach does not want to set goals that cannot be met.
- Chief Cullett asked if the Board of Selectmen will do an overview of the budget at the Annual Town Meeting.
- TA Walker will calculate numbers for the ATM such as increase in school budget, increase in town budget, Free Cash remaining if all FC articles pass, plus the percentage of school vs town budget.
- Treasurer Wendling mentioned she cannot pay Fire Chief Cawthron until he submits paperwork. The fire chief's salary cannot be encumbered. If the fire chief doesn't submit his paperwork and get paid in June, then he forfeits his salary. In addition, Temporary Fire Chief Cawthron has not submitted a resume or letter of interest for the position as fire chief.

Item 7: Discussion and possible vote on a date and Hearing Notice for a Public Hearing for Eversource: The Public Hearing for Eversource has been set for June 17, 2024, at 6:15 p.m. Selectman Leach motion to hold the Public Hearing on June 17th at 6:15 p.m. plus add the poles and include Curtin Road on the Public Hearing notice, Selectman Haskins second, 3-0

Item 8: Discussion on Business License Process:

TA Walker mentioned that the only current business licenses she has on file are:

William Tatro 2019

Camp Danbee 2023

Frusciento Auto 2019

Ed Munch 2022

Selectman Leach would like to have a computer-generated form for business licenses. Also, since licenses are due on January 1st. He felt that the businesses should be charged \$50.00 for the remainder of the year.

Item 9: Discuss and possible vote to reappoint: Tim Sears-Building Inspector, Peter Yetman-Electrical Inspector, Tim Martin-Gas & Plumbing Inspector, Bruce Cullett-Emergency Management Director, Kevin Wall-Assistant Emergency

Management Director, Shawn Boyne-Police Officer, Ryan Kresiak-Police Officer, Joseph Sniesek-Police Officer and Allan Gordon-Animal Advisory Committee: Selectman Leach motion to reappoint, Selectman Munch second, 3-0.

Item 10: Discuss and possible vote to appoint Sharon Greule-Parks and Recreation and Arlette Haskins-Parks and Recreation Committee: Arlette Haskins was not interested, and Selectman Munch mentioned he will consider becoming a member of the Parks and Rec. Selectman Leach motion to appoint Sharon Greule to Parks and Recreation, Selectman Munch second, 2-0. Selectman Haskins recused himself.

Item 11: Review and approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrant and Payroll Warant: V24-2024

Item 12: Public Input: Coralee Pelkey asked the BOS for an update on using the kitchen in the Community Center. Selectman Leach mentioned that at this point the Community Center is not in use. Coralee Pelkey asked if there was anything done in the Community Center so it can be used. Selectman Leach mentioned that the mold issue in the crawl space will be sealed off and an exhaust fan will be installed in the crawl space for the local election. Coralee mentioned the October meeting for the church and was hopeful she could use the Community Center by October. Selectman Leach mentioned that anyone staying in the Community Center for more than an hour is not safe. Selectman Haskins felt that all the "stuff" downstairs is just trash and most of the items have not been used in 15 years. Selectman Leach mentioned even if the room is sealed off, he does not feel comfortable having people in the basement for long periods of time. Selectman Munch mentioned the BOS are waiting on quotes to set up a ventilation system with negative pressure. Chief Cullett mentioned he had an exhaust fan they can put in crawl space. Selectman Leach will get together with Chief Cullett to set up an exhaust fan, so the crawl space is under negative pressure. This will enable the local election to take place in the Community Center.

Item 13: Adjourn: Selectman Leach made motion to adjourn the 5/28/2024 BOS Meeting, Selectman Haskins second, Vote 3-0. The 5/28/2024 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:14 P.M.

Articles used:

- Warrant
- Eversource Public Hearing notice
- Appointment letter

Terry Walker
Town Administrator

Verne Leach

Verne Leach, Chairman

Doug Haskins, Selectman

Doug Haskins

Ed Munch, Selectman

Ed Munch

Date Approved: 6/10/24

Received June 17 , 2024 , Kim Leach , Town Clerk

Town of Peru

Peru, Massachusetts 01235



TOWN OF PERU

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Selectmen will conduct a Public Hearing on June 17, 2024, at 6:15 p.m. in the Meeting Room, at the Town Hall, 3 East Main Road, Peru, MA.

PURPOSE OF THE HEARING: To provide the public with an opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed pole relocations for Eversource.

#1: PROPOSAL: The proposal for South Road: Install pole #26/B40, Install pole #26/B39, Install pole #26/B38, and Install pole # 26/B37

The proposal for South Road Extension: Install pole # 33/10, Install pole # 33/9 and Install pole # 33/8

Reason- Overhead Reliability Project

#2: PROPOSAL: The proposal for Strong Road: Install 5 poles numbered from 29/6 thru 29/10.

Reason: To extend facilities and provide power to homeowners.

#3: PROPOSAL: The proposal for Curtin Road: Install 1 pole 3/6M

Reason: To bring wire span length to current standards and provide access to the lot at 17 Curtin Road.

All work on this project will be performed within existing right of ways, and all abutters will be notified via mail, the town website and Berkshire Eagle.

Board of Selectmen

Town of Peru