

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: June 10,2024 @ 6:00 P.M.

Town Hall Meeting Room

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman/ACO
Ed Munch, Selectman
Doug Haskins, Selectman/Fin Com
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Bruce Cullett, Police Chief
Terry Walker, Town Administrator
James Kenney, Cemetery Commission
Nanette Mone, Board of Health
Dan Cawthron-Acting Fire Chief

Public Attendees: Sam Haupt, Bonny DiTomasso, Diane Boulerice, Michael Boulerice

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 Leach recording for personal reasons under exemption E

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

Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 5/28/2024):

Selectman Leach motion to approve 5/28/2024 minutes pending changes, Selectman Munch second, 3-0.

Item 6: Update of Departments:

Police Chief Cullett mentioned reimbursement for the EMPG Grant has been submitted.

Nanette Mone mentioned the Well Regulations was voted on and signed off by the Board of Health. The Well Regulations packet, official BOH minutes and public Hearing notice will be submitted to the Central Registry.

TA Walker

- MassWorks Grant written for one million dollars was submitted on June 5th at 1:17 p.m. This is safety improvements grant for Middlefield Road, Route 143 and Sunrise Village.
- TA Walker mentioned that she is now working on an ADA grant which will be written for paving town parking lots.
- Linda Cernik, Northern Berkshire Solid Waste, notified TA Walker that a grant is available for a Swap Shop at the transfer station. It was a unanimous vote by the BOS for Linda Cernik to pursue the grant.
- Pierce Road has been completed: paperwork and photos are being submitted to Mohawk Trails Initiative Grant for reimbursement.
- TA Walker mentioned that Susan Koziara is asking permission to attend Assessor's Conference in Plymouth, MA. Selectman Leach motion to allow Assessor Koziara to attend Assessor Conference, Selectman Munch second, 3-0.

Doug Haskins, Parks and Recreation, the sign should be finished in the fall and will be placed on the backboard in the Spring of 2025. Doug also mentioned the parking lot needs to be paved.

Highway Superintendent Russell:

- Miller Petroleum cleaned up oil spill at the highway garage and the paperwork was filed with DEP
- Millings were put on O'Brien Lane
- Peru Highway Department is working with the Middlefield Highway Department to spread material on Curtin Road.
- Pierce Road has been completed with funding from the Mohawk Trails Initiative Grant.
- Selectman Haskins questioned Superintendent Russell about potholes on Curtin Road. Superintendent Russell mentioned that he is planning to fill the potholes with ¾ inch dense grade.

Item 7: Update on mold in the Community Center: Selectman Leach mentioned that a fan was installed in the basement crawl space so the election could take place at Community Center. Selectman Leach is also waiting on an estimate from Jay Jewell to install a fan to create negative pressure in the crawl space. Selectman Leach mentioned that the public is not allowed in the Community Center because of the mold. Selectman Munch felt that Corlee Pelkey needs answers as soon as possible. This item was placed on hold.

Item 8: Discuss on care for cemeteries on private property with James Kenney of the Cemetery Commission: James Kenney quoted Mass General Law Chapter 114 Section 18 supporting Article 29 at Annual Town Meeting on June 1, 2024. "It reads any town having within its limits an abandoned or neglected burying ground may take charge of the same and keep it in good order, and may appropriate money therefore, but no property rights shall be violated, and no body shall be disinterred. No fence, tomb, monument or other structure shall be removed or destroyed, but the same may be repaired or restored." This was an issue with one person at town meeting. Sam Haupt felt that as the Moderator this article had a legal vote and passed. Selectman Haskins agreed and said she just didn't like it. The Board agreed that James Kenney can spend the appropriated funds from ATM and felt that he should speak with Kimberly Wetherell and explain that MGL allows towns to repair or restore private cemeteries.

Item 9: Discussion and possible vote to appoint Dan Cawthron to the Fire Chief Position: Selectman Munch felt that the resume is very detailed, and he has all qualifications for the position. Selectman Leach mentioned that Dan has been serving as our Acting Fire Chief. Sam Haupt mentioned that the fire department fully endorses Dan Cawthron as their Fire Chief. Selectman Leach motion to appoint Dan Cawthron as the new Fire Chief, Selectman Munch second, 3-0. All three selectmen were in favor of a 3-year appointment.

Item 10: Discuss on outcome of the Annual Town Meeting (6/1/24): Selectman Leach felt that the ATM went well. Selectman Munch mentioned that there are always disagreements but felt that they accomplished everything they wanted to do. Selectman Haskins was happy with the ATM. James Kenney felt that Moderator Sam Haupt did an adequate job. Mr. Kenney felt that the moderator could have handled Kim Wetherell and Robin Wadsworth incessant comments. Mr. Kenney felt that all comments should be directed to the moderator and questioning individuals with hostility and badgering individuals should have been stopped. Mr. Kenney made a few suggestions: First suggestion, the BOS should provide available training in the parliamentary process for the Moderator. Secondly, training as a meeting facilitator for the Moderator would be a benefit. Selectman Leach mentioned that the Moderator is elected, and the Board of Selectman cannot tell the Moderator or any other elected official what to do. Selectman Leach stated the Moderator operates under Robert's Rules of Order. Bonny DiTomasso felt that the ATM was less than satisfactory. Bonny DiTomasso also read from a copy of Robert's Rules and referred to page 22. It stated that the audience may only address the Moderator, for instance asking the Moderator if the town official may answer the question, and everyone has the right to speak. Bonny felt that it was a disservice to the taxpayers that came to the ATM and most of the comments were completely out of line. Bonny also felt that the audience should have a professional approach, and if the negative comments didn't stop the Moderator could have asked the two people to leave the meeting. Selectman

Munch agrees with Sam Haupt, Bonny DiTomasso and James Kenney. Selectman Munch disagreed with the contentious arguments brought on by two individuals and Selectman Munch felt that Sam Haupt did a good job keeping the peace.

Item 11: Discussion and possible vote on a date and hearing notice for a Public Hearing for Eversource for poles on Curtin Road: TA Walker mentioned that at the last BOS meeting the public hearing was unanimously voted to accept public hearing notice with changes. The revised Public Hearing notice, including Curtin Road, was posted and notification cards were mailed to all abutters. The Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday, June 17, 2024, at 6:15 p.m.

Item 12: Review and approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrant and Payroll Warrant: V25-2024, 2024-25P

Item 13: Public Input: Bonny DiTomasso stated that she is very excited about the improvements by Doug and Parks and Rec. Bonny does have one question regarding the fire station propane tank so close to the playground. Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that there should be a report at town hall from the DEP with their recommendation on how to secure the propane tanks. The recommendation was to build a fence with a locked gate around the propane tanks because it is near the playground and the DEP recommended that the propane tanks be secured. Sam Haupt would like to discuss design and price. Selectman Haskins will discuss the fence at the next fire department meeting. Selectman Haskins asked Fire Chief Cawthron to get rid of the old fire truck. Fire Chief Cawthron has already called for someone to pick up the truck.

Selectman Munch thanked Selectman Haskins for the many years of service on the Selectboard.

Selectman Leach asked TA Walker to have IT remove data on the computers in the basement crawl space then ask Linda Cernik, NBSW, where these computers can be disposed.

Item 14: Adjourn: Selectman Leach motion to adjourn the 6/10/2024 BOS Meeting, Selectman Munch second, 3-0. The 6/10/2024 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Articles used:

- Warrant V25-2024,2024-25P
- Fire Chief Resume
- Appointment letter
- Public Hearing notice
- MGL ch 114, s 18 private cemeteries email from James Kenney
- Assessor Koziara's conference packet

Terry Walker

Town Administrator

Verne Leach, Chairman

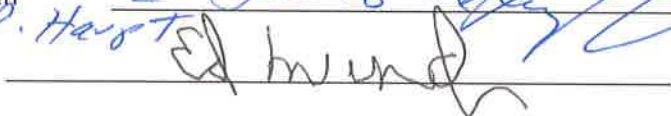


~~Doug Haskins, Selectman~~

Samuel P. Haupt



Ed Munch, Selectman



Date Approved: 6/17/24

Received June 17, 2024, Kim Leach, Town Clerk

DANNY CAWTHRON

FIRE CHIEF

P

E

A

Peru, MA 01235

W

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Proven to excel in high-pressure environments, demonstrated through effective emergency management and patient care at Action Ambulance Service Inc. Skilled in Fire Safety and Medical Response, showcasing the ability to lead and perform under stress. Achieved significant improvements in emergency response times by leveraging expertise in Hazardous Materials Handling and Incident Command.

EXPERIENCE

December 2020 - Current

White Wolf - Washington, MA – Laborer

Understood and followed verbal and written instructions to complete work correctly.

Worked alongside team to accomplish work goals according to schedule.

Loaded, unloaded, and moved material to and from storage and production areas.

Maintained organized and clean work areas at all times on job sites.

April 2019 - December 2020

Morse Brothers - Lee, MA -Laborer

Understood and followed verbal and written instructions to complete work correctly.

Worked alongside team to accomplish work goals according to schedule.

April 2016 - April 2019

Action Ambulance Service Inc. - Pittsfield, MA - EMT-Basic

Facilitated seamless handoffs to hospital staff through comprehensive documentation and verbal reports of patient care provided during transport.

Managed stressful situations calmly under pressure while maintaining composure to provide the best care possible for patients experiencing traumatic events.

EDUCATION

Monument Mt Regional High School

Great Barrington

MA

GED

KEY SKILLS

- STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING
- FIRST AID CERTIFIED
- FIRE SAFETY
- MEDICAL RESPONSE
- INCIDENT COMMAND
- PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
- FIRE SUPPRESSION
- VEHICLE EXTRICATION
- TECHNICAL RESCUE OPERATIONS
- FIRE PREVENTION
- HAZARDOUS MATERIALS HANDLING
- FIRE SUPPRESSION TOOLS OPERATIONS
- FIRE CONTAINMENT

Assisted paramedics with advanced life support interventions when necessary, acting as an integral part of the emergency response team.

Evaluated patient vital signs and status to determine care needs using pulse oximeters and electronic vital sign machines.

LEADERSHIP

ICS 100, 200, 300, 400, and 700

Captain - Otis

Lieutenant – Sandisfield

Assistant Chief – Peru

Acting Fire Chief - Peru

REFERENCES

Available upon request

- CHAINSAW OPERATION

- FIRE FIGHTER 1 & 2

AWARDS

- EMT OF THE YEAR – OTIS – 2009

- 3 LIFE SAVING AWARDS

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

jimkenney21@gmail.com

From: Select Men <selectman@townofperuma.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 2, 2024 10:00 AM
To: James Kenney
Cc: James Kenney
Subject: Re: [External Sender]Legality of putting town money on private property

I will follow up with this at our next meeting with the select board. I don't see a concern. You seem to have it covered, but just to be sure.

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From: jimkenney21@gmail.com <jimkenney21@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 2, 2024 9:08:00 AM
To: Select Men <selectman@townofperuma.com>
Cc: James Kenney <jimkenney21@gmail.com>
Subject: [External Sender]Legality of putting town money on private property

Good morning, Verne,

Thank you for passing along the inquiry after the ATM. It's important that the work done by the Cemetery Commission is in alignment with Mass General Law and equally important that the concerns expressed by residents are addressed.

If you refer to <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXVI/Chapter114/Section18>, you'll see that Section 18 reads: Any town having within its limits an abandoned or neglected burying ground may take charge of the same and keep it in good order, and may appropriate money therefor, but no property rights shall be violated and no body shall be disinterred. No fence, tomb, monument or other structure shall be removed or destroyed, but the same may be repaired or restored.

I had used this section as justification to request funding for materials to restore the South Thompson Burial Ground (STBG). Previous allocations of funding by the town have gone to the use of time and materials for the clean-up, restoration, repair and resetting of headstones in, not only the STBG, but also the Ford Family Cemetery on property owned by Camp Danbee and what's being referred to as the South Road Extension Cemetery where the Sarah Ferguson monument is. Of particular concern regarding the STBG is that an owner, prior to the late Lynn Stevens, established a driveway through this small cemetery and likely removed granite posts which need to be replaced. The funding appropriated at this year's ATM will allow chains to be strung between replaced posts to, hopefully, avoid that situation from occurring again.

Please let me know if my interpretation of Section 18 is consistent with the Town Attorney's opinion. I'd welcome his suggestions if other portions of MGL apply to the STBG. Please also confirm that I'm able to move forward with plans to restore the perimeter of the STBG.

If the concerns expressed at the ATM are addressed to the town's satisfaction by Section 18, please let me know if follow-up will occur with Ms. Wetherill and by whom.

Jim

Jim Kenney
46 South Road Extension

memo

Peru Board of Assessors

To: ✓ Board of Selectmen
From: Susan Koziara
CC: TWalker, CWendling
Date: 6/3/2024
Re: Assessor's Conference

Conference- I am attaching the info regarding the Massachusetts Assessors Association Summer Conference coming up in June. Since I haven't been in any assessing classes since 2007, I would like to attend to be updated on various topics they are giving and I also need to start getting credits to renew my Mass Accredited Assessor's designation. This conference provides credit towards that goal. The invoices are attached and it is my understanding that there may be money available to fund this. Any schooling I can get would be of benefit to the Town. I would only go from Tuesday through Thursday rather than Monday through Thursday to save the Town some money. Please let me know if you have any questions or problems with me attending this conference. Thank you.

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MAAO 2024 SUMMER CONFERENCE | REGISTRATION

[Attendee Info](#)

[Attendee Selections](#)

Please select one of the following (required)



MAAO 2024 Summer Conference Regularly: ~~\$500.00~~ **Your Price: \$450.00**

[Save & Finalize Registration](#)

More Actions

MAAO | PO Box 647, Shrewsbury, MA 01545 | Phone:774-249-8624 | Email: director@maao.org

Association Management Software Powered by YourMembership (<http://www.yourmembership.com/>) :: [Legal \(/ams/legal-privacy.htm\)](#)

Pro Forma Invoice

Hotel 1620 Plymouth Harbor
 180 Water St
 Plymouth MA 02360
 United States of America

Koziara, Susan
Invoice Date: 06-04-2024
Invoice Number: 46038

Arrival Date: 06-25-2024
Departure Date: 06-27-2024
Room Number:
Confirmation Number: 134546
Invoice Currency: USD

Date of Charge	Charge Description	Charge Amount	Credit Amount
06-25-2024	Room Charge	\$ 189.00	
06-25-2024	State Tax 5.7%	\$ 10.77	
06-25-2024	Town Tax 6%	\$ 11.34	
06-25-2024	Destination Fee (Incl Tax)	\$ 27.93	
06-25-2024	Destination Fee (Incl Tax)	\$ -16.76	
06-25-2024	Destination Fee (Incl Tax)	\$ -11.17	
06-26-2024	Room Charge	\$ 189.00	
06-26-2024	State Tax 5.7%	\$ 10.77	
06-26-2024	Town Tax 6%	\$ 11.34	
06-26-2024	Destination Fee (Incl Tax)	\$ 27.93	
06-26-2024	Destination Fee (Incl Tax)	\$ -16.76	
06-26-2024	Destination Fee (Incl Tax)	\$ -11.17	

Total Charge	\$ 422.22
Total Credits	\$ 0.00
Net Amount	\$ 0.00
Balance	\$ 422.22
State Tax 5.7%	\$ 21.54
Town Tax 6%	\$ 22.68
Destination Fee (Incl Tax)	\$ 0.00

MAAO 2024 Summer Conference

For Hotel Accommodations please click here [Hotel 1620 Plymouth Harbor \(http://www.hotel1620.com/\)](http://www.hotel1620.com/) and use promo code
MAAO500
Accommodations are \$189.00/night

MAAO SUMMER CONFERENCE

June 24-27 2024 22 Credits

Monday June 24th

9:00 AM Continental Breakfast

Morning Sessions

10:00 AM Lane Partridge, MAAO President, Ashlie Brown, MAAO President Elect and Patrick Alesandrini, past President of the IAAO will kick off our Summer Conference with their welcoming remarks.

(<https://maao.org/TextEditor2.aspx?ae=1&ib=1&group=&mtid=#>)

10:30 AM **Valuation and Assessment of Battery Storage Facilities**

Speaker: *George E. Sansoucy, Sansoucy Associates*

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Lunch on your own

Afternoon Sessions

1:30 PM **Vertical Equity App**

Vertical equity in property tax assessment requires that assessment levels remain consistent over the range of real estate values, with high-value and low-value properties exhibiting the same ratio of assessment to market value, Ron will provide an overview of the Lincoln Institute's Vertical Equity App.

Speaker: *Ron Rakow, Fellow, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy*

3:15 PM **MAAO Annual Meeting**

Annual Meeting including annual committee reports and awards.

Moderator: *Lane Partridge, M.A.A. Norwell MA Principal Assessor, President - MAAO*

Welcome reception immediately following the Annual Meeting

Tuesday June 25, 2024

8:00 AM Continental Breakfast

Morning Sessions

8:30 AM Leadership

Speaker: *Patrick Alesandrini, IAAO*

10:30 AM Leadership in the Assessment Office

Speaker: *Edye McCarthy, Town of Greenburgh, NY, IAAO certified Instructor*

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Lunch will be provided

Afternoon Sessions

1:00 PM Performance Management/Discipline

Speaker: *Mary Flanders Acardi, Collins Center*

2:30 PM **Make your Own Ice Cream Sundae Break**

3:00 PM **Sales Chasing**

Explore the multifaceted concept of sales chasing and its implications on property valuation and modeling. An overview on how to identify, prevent, and rectify sales chasing practices, ultimately enhancing understanding and equitability in assessment rolls.

Speaker: *Edye McCarthy, Town of Greenburgh, NY, IAAO certified Instructor*

3rd Annual Ed Childs Memorial Scholarship Fundraising Event (After hours event)
"Personal Property Inspection Field Trip/poker run" June 25, 2024

Wednesday June 26th

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Sponsored Breakfast

Morning Sessions

8:00 AM **Vendor Day**

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Lunch on your own

Afternoon Sessions

1:00 PM **The Latest from Local Services**

What's New at The Division of Local Services in 2024

Speakers: *Chris Wilcock, Chief, Bureau of Local Assessments;*
Gene Voskov, Bureau Chief, Data Analytics & Resources Bureau, DLS

2:00 PM **Municipal Law Presentation: DLS Law**

Speaker: *Ken Woodland, Bureau Chief, Municipal Finance Law Bureau, DLS*

3:15 PM **Understanding Land Residuals**

Mike will walk us through what a Land Residual is, why it is important and how it is calculated.

Speaker: *Mike Tarello, MAI, Vision Government Solutions*

5:30 PM **Location: East Bay Grill**

Installation of Officers Ceremony followed by Vision Cocktail Reception

Thursday June 27, 2024

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM **Breakfast provided**

Morning Session

9:30 AM **Strategic Negotiation Taking A Purposeful and Strategic Approach to Negotiation**

Speaker: *Joshua Weiss, PhD*

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM Closing Remarks

Speaker: *Ashlie Brown*

If you are a vendor and wish to register for the conference, please click:

<https://maao.org/store/ListProducts.aspx?catid=743494&p=1> (<https://maao.org/store/ListProducts.aspx?catid=743494&p=1>)

Cancellation Policy: *must notify MAAO via email to director@maao.org or assistant@maao.org by June 17th in order to receive a refund.*