

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: August 19, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.

Town Hall Meeting Room

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman/ACO
Ed Munch, Selectman
Sam Haupt, Selectman/Fin Com
Bruce Cullett, Police Chief
Terry Walker, Town Administrator
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Tim Sears, Building Inspector

Public Attendees:

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

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

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

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

Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 8/5/2024 and 8/12/2024:

Selectman Leach motion to approve 8/5/2024 minutes as written, Selectman Munch second, 3-0.

Selectmen Leach motion to approve 8/12/2024 minutes pending changes, Selectman Munch second, 3-0.

Item 6: Update of Departments:

Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that he would prefer to stay with O'Connell for diesel fuel and reject the county bid. Since Mirabito Energy Products won the county bid for diesel fuel, Superintendent Russell was not able to reject Mirabito's bid and use O'Connell. Superintendent Russell agreed to use Mirabito providing they leave a ticket upon delivery, and automatic deliveries. Mirabito deliveries have not been consistent in the past and the Highway Superintendent does not want to run out of diesel fuel. The first delivery was last week, and they did not leave a delivery ticket.

The plasma cutter was delivered to the Highway Department.

Superintendent Russell mentioned a culvert washed out on South Road. A rock wall may have to be constructed to stop the road from eroding.

Dense grade will be delivered on September 3rd and paving on Curtin Road and August Smith Road will begin on September 9th.

Selectman Leach asked Superintendent Russell to move the bulk dumpster because it is too close to the recycling dumpster. Superintendent Russell agreed to move the bulk dumpster.

Tim Sears, Building Inspector, mentioned a \$1,500 upgrade to Permiteyes is available. Selectman Leach placed on hold until the new Permiteyes software is up and running.

Emergency Management Director Cullett mentioned that the EMPG grant application deadline has been moved to October. The quote with the best fit for the UTV is a Bobcat Polaris and this is being purchased with a grant from the Woodlands Partnership Implementation Grant. Some discussion on storing the UTV- the UTV may be stored in the police trailer or at the fire house. Chief Cullett mentioned that the UTV would be easier to deploy if stored in the police trailer.

Since there is a vacancy in the police department, Chief Cullett will email the part time police officer position to the Town Clerk for posting.

Town Administrator:

TA Walker mentioned that she had received a FY24 invoice from the Fire Department from Allegiance totaling \$240.18. Since it was a prior year bill, she suggested using ARPA funds. Sam Haupt requested the invoice and stated that the Peru Volunteer Fire Association, Inc will take care of the invoice.

The BOS discussed posting the Administrative Assistant position. Please see attached posting for this position that will be advertised in the Berkshire Eagle and on the town website.

Selectman Munch asked TA Walker to have an update from Guardian by the next BOS meeting.

Item 7: Discussion and possible vote on the Town Hall front lock: Selectman Leach motion to accept bid from Locksmith, Selectman Haupt second, 3-0.

Item 8: Update on Community Center mold issue: Selectman Haupt would like to invite Jay Jewells to the next BOS meeting to explain his estimate on the entrance to the town hall. Chief Cullett asked when his air filtration system would be returned to him since it has been running in the Community Center crawl space for 3 months. Selectman Munch felt that since Chief Cullett has not been reimbursed for his air filtration system that the town should pay to service the air filtration system, and the town should also pay to replace the HEPA filter. The Board agreed to purchase a HEPA filter for Bruce Cullett. Selectman Haupt will call Pete Yetman, Electrical inspector regarding an electrical permit for the town hall.

Item 9: Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrant and Payroll Warrant: V4-2025A, V4-2025,

Item 10: Public Input: Selectman Munch motion to approve the usage of the Community Center for the State Election on September 3rd and notifying Coralee Pelkey that she can use the Community Center for her fundraiser in October. Selectman Munch stated that the State inspectors gave a verbal statement mentioning that the mold threshold was within air quality standards. Selectman Haupt second, 3-0.

Item 11: Adjourn: Selectman Haupt made motion to adjourn the 8/19/2024 BOS Meeting, Selectman Munch second, Vote 3-0. The 8/19/2024 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:07 P.M.

Articles used:

V4-2025, V4-2025A

Job posting for Administrative Assistant

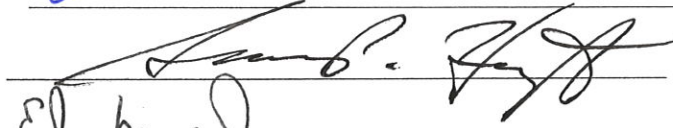
Jay Jewell's estimate

Terry Walker
Town Administrator

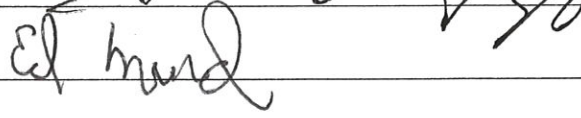
Verne Leach, Chairman



Sam Haupt, Selectman



Ed Munch, Selectman



Date Approved: 9/3/24

Received 9-3-2024 ~ Kim Leach, Town Clerk