

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: November 25, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.

TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman
Ed Munch/Selectman
Sam Haupt/Selectman
Terry Walker – Recording Secretary
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent

Public Attendees: Paul Bianco

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

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

Item 3: State Recording status: Town Administrator Walker, 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: Selectman Leach motion to review and approve 10/15/2024 minutes, Selectman Haupt second, 2-0. Selectman Munch abstained
Selectman Leach motion to review and approve 11/12/2024 pending changes, Selectman Munch second, 3-0.

Item 6: Update of Departments:

Highway Dept:

Superintendent Russell mentioned that he picked up the 550 from East Coast Refinishing. On the way back it had an exhaust engine code so he will bring it back to Marcotte Ford.

Superintendent Russell mentioned that he is working on pre contract paperwork for the MassWorks \$1,000,000 grant which is due by the end of January.

Highway Superintendent Russell attended a Tri County Mass Highway meeting last week. One of the topics was replacing the town trucks with electric trucks although they are not making electric plow trucks yet. The cost of an electric truck would be around \$450,000 just for the cab and chassis, plus another \$50,000-\$100,000 for a charging station. Superintendent Russell was hopeful that the state would change their policy and not mandate electric trucks. Superintendent Russell is concerned because the Mack truck is 27 years old and will need to be replaced at some point. Selectman Munch suggested meeting with Jason Page from Freightliner and discuss options. Superintendent Russell mentioned that a diesel truck would be outfitted and ready to go would cost between \$250,000-\$300,000. Selectman Munch agreed that planning ahead was a good move and the town already had an appropriation for a future equipment account which is funded. Selectman Haupt suggested speaking with Paul Mark about the electric truck mandates. The grader is a 1986 (38 years old) the turntable is not working properly and the front wheel drive does not work on the grader. Selectman Munch suggested Superintendent Russell bring his suggestions to the Finance Committee. One suggestion was to purchase a used grader and finance for 5-6 years. Selectman Munch felt that appropriating more

money into the future equipment account and utilizing some of the Stabilization funds which is around \$350,000 would be a good move.

Police Department: TA Walker received an email from Chief Cullett, and he does not have anything to report.

The 2024 Fire Department AFG grant opened on November 15th and closes on December 20th. Selectman Haupt asked TA Walker if she would assist Fire Chief Cawthron in writing and submitting a grant for a new fire engine. TA Walker agreed to help Fire Chief Cawthron.

Sam Haupt mentioned that he has a Woodlands Partnership Board of Directors meeting and will not be available to attend the Finance Committee meeting on December 2nd.

Town Administrator: TA Walker mentioned that she received the CivicPlus contract for the Town Website last week. The appropriation for the Town Website at Annual Town Meeting was \$1,930.00 although the FY25 contract is for \$3,351.29. The FY25 contract was emailed to an accounting address that has not been used for 2 years. TA Walker suggested going to the Finance Committee with the outstanding balance of \$1,421.29 for a Reserve Fund Transfer. The Selectboard agreed that the difference should be taken from the Reserve Fund.

Item 7: Discussion and Possible vote on Town Hall heat being services quotes: Only one quote was received, and this was placed on hold

Item 8: Update on Green Communities Grant: Jane Pfister, Department of Energy Resources, emailed TA Walker. The email stated that the DOER approves the use of Green Communities grant funds for the two new projects: heat pumps and weatherization the Police and DPW offices.

TA Walker received an email from Patrick Mahoney, Guardian Energy, and the email stated that Guardian is ready to go ahead and start scheduling work.

Item 9: Discussion on MIIA inspections on town buildings: Jordan Meyer did not respond to TA Walker. This was placed on hold.

Item 10: Update on Town Hall front entrance: Jay Jewell mentioned (in a prior meeting) that the gutters should be installed by the middle of December. Selectman Haupt did not reach out to Renatus regarding the keypad. This was placed on hold.

Item 11: Update on Communication to the Labor Board referring to Community Center: Selectman Haupt does not have a draft at this time. This was placed on hold.

Item 12: Public Input: Paul Bianco, 23 Bonny Lane mentioned that his neighbor has installed a fence around her horse barn. Mr. Bianco is adamant that his neighbor should be served with a cease-and-desist order. Mr. Bianco is very concerned that her 5 horses that are housed in Chester will be on a one-acre lot and will pollute his drinking water. Selectman Munch felt that a cease-and-desist order is under the prevue of the Building Inspector. Mr. Bianco is under the impression that his neighbor does not have a building permit for the horse barn. Selectman Leach will find out how many acres are needed to house each horse. Selectman Munch and Selectman Leach referred Mr. Bianco back to the Building Inspector to get some of his questions answered. The Board invited Paul Bianco to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting and Selectman Munch mentioned that they must take the right steps.

Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that he appreciated the quote that Doug Haskins presented the BOS regarding the Salt Shed Roof. Superintendent Russell mentioned that a scope of work needs to be completed, 3 quotes for the salt shed roof and pay prevailing wage. Selectman Leach asked TA Walker to contact Bob Graves in Hinsdale regarding the law on prevailing wages.

Item 13: Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrant, Payroll Warrant: V11-2025

Item 14: Adjourn: Selectman Leach made motion to adjourn the 11/25/2024 BOS Meeting, Selectman Munch second, Vote 3-0. The 11/25/2024 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:21 P.M.

Articles used:

Minutes-10/15/2024, 11/12/2024

Warrant V11-2025

Tally Sheet for quotes

Email from Jane Pfister, Green Communities

Email from Patrick Mahoney, Guardian Energy

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Walker

Recording Secretary

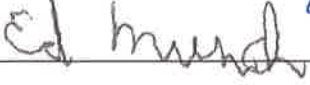
Verne Leach, Chairman



Ed Munch, Selectman



Sam Haupt, Selectman



Date Approved: 12/9/24

Received 12/10/204
Kim Leach, Town Clerk

TALLY SHEET FOR 3 PRICE QUOTES

FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF SUPPLIES OR SERVICES

\$10,000 - \$50,000 STATE/LOCAL FUNDS **\$3,000 - \$150,000** FEDERAL FUNDS

- Tally three price quotes below, and on the reverse as needed.
- Attach written documentation from each vendor. (MGL Chapter 30B, § 4(a) states: "use written purchase description to solicit written quotations from no fewer than 3 persons who customarily provide the supply or service".)
- Keep, in your records, a copy of this form and all related documentation for at least six years from the date of payment.
- Attach a copy of this form and all related documentation when requesting payment.

Project Title: _____

Vendor # 1

Company Name: _____ Price: _____
Contact Name: _____ Date: _____
Telephone: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____
Notes: _____

Vendor # 2

Company Name: _____ Price: _____
Contact Name: _____ Date: _____
Telephone: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____
Notes: _____

Vendor # 3

Company Name: _____ Price: _____
Contact Name: _____ Date: _____
Telephone: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____
Notes: _____

**Recommend
Procurement
From:** _____

Reason: _____

I certify that I have attached all backup documentation for the above procurement.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Printed Name: _____

Town Administrator

From: Pfister, Jane (ENE) <jane.pfister@mass.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 2:03 PM
To: Town Administrator
Cc: Mason, Christopher (ENE); Patrick Mahoney
Subject: [External Sender]RE: PERU, proposals for new projects?--APPROVED

Hi Terry

DOER approves the use of grant funds for the two new projects: heat pumps and weatherization at Police & DPW offices.

The town can proceed.

Regards
Jane

Jane Pfister, Grant Coordinator
Green Communities Division
Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

617-935-9158 (mobile)
jane.pfister@mass.gov

Creating a Clean, Affordable, and Resilient Energy Future for the Commonwealth

From: Patrick Mahoney <pmahoney@guardian-energy.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2024 2:09 PM
To: Pfister, Jane (ENE) <jane.pfister@mass.gov>
Cc: Mason, Christopher (ENE) <Christopher.Mason2@mass.gov>; Rabinsky, Mark (ENE) <Mark.Rabinsky@mass.gov>
Subject: RE: PERU, proposals for new projects?

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hey Jane,

I just wanted to check in with you on Peru is Guardian okay to proceed with installing the heat pumps and building envelope? If so I will reach out to Terry and the town now.

All the best,
-Patrick

Town Administrator

From: Patrick Mahoney <pmahoney@guardian-energy.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 2:05 PM
To: Pfister, Jane (ENE); Town Administrator
Cc: Mason, Christopher (ENE)
Subject: [External Sender]RE: PERU, proposals for new projects?--APPROVED

That's great news! Thanks for all your assistance,

Terry – I think that we are ready to go ahead and start scheduling work. I am going to let our operations manager know right now that these have been approved and they will be reaching out to you directly.

Best,
-Patrick

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Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

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