

**Town of Peru  
Municipal Office  
Select Board Meeting Minutes  
February 6, 2023**

PRESENT: Arthur Clifford, Katie Lawrence, Jason Dolloff, Patrick Houghton, Gail Belyea, Jess Carrier, Dan Carrier Jr, Brad Hutchings, Deb Coudrain, Carol Roach, Paul Landry, Jackie Child, Josh Lawrence, Cheryl Knox

1. Minutes:

a. Minutes of the January 30, 2023, Select Board Meeting:

- ***Arthur made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 30, 2023, Select Board Meeting. Katie seconded the motion. All in favor.***

2. Town Officials/Appointed Committee Members/Board Reports:

a. Paul Landry & Carol Roach, Med-Care

- Select Board had requested Paul to come to meeting, seeking clarification on why there is an \$8 subsidy increase for the 2023 budget year, with the recent contribution of ARPA funds from area towns. Paul explained at length the equipment and vehicles which need replacing or upgrading, as well as different grants which have been applied for and awarded. He clarified to the Board that ARPA funds and grant monies are used to stabilize capital improvement costs, while subsidy monies go toward operational costs; also that the subsidy rate is the last thing adjusted, after everything else has been cut as much as possible.
- Carol provided Med-Care Board of Director's Meeting Minutes from October and December, as well as budget information pertaining to subsidy rates. Cost of a new ambulance ranges anywhere between \$120,000 to \$325,000. When asked directly if the subsidy rate may come down if costs come down, Carol stated she does not see it being lowered next year and that, yes, it could go up.

b. Deb Coudrain, Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Treasurer

- Deb informed the Board that all three town office building keys made for the road crew will be stamped, and that she has not yet received invoice from Jim White.
- Deb has discussed with auditor and has set up a Fire Recovery account. That account is reflected in the general ledger, not the expense ledger that the Board sees on warrant weeks. The Board requested a copy of the general ledger.

c. Road Commissioner, Brad Hutchings

- Brad shared that the insurance company has given go-ahead to begin cleanup at the town garage site. General discussion ensued regarding the various dynamics of this, including removal of hazardous liquids and disposal of concrete.
  - ***Arthur made a motion to trust to Brad's best judgment all decisions related to the cleanup process at the town garage site. Patrick seconded the motion. All in favor.***
- Regarding vehicles, the borrowed truck from Sweden area has been returned; currently have two borrowed trucks, the one from DOT and one from the Town of Leeds. Brad has found three trucks for sale, available and ready currently: Two 10-wheelers (a 2016 with 72,000 miles and a 2014 with 74,500

miles) with purchase price for both of \$154,500; and a 2011 F350 with 104,000 miles for \$20,000. General discussion ensued regarding pros and cons of each truck, as well as short-, mid-, and long-term ideas for road department fleet.

– ***Katie made a motion to allow Brad to purchase the above-mentioned vehicles (two 10-wheelers for \$154,500 and one F350 for \$20,000) with the monies recently voted to be taken from surplus. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.***

- General discussion was had regarding the storage and security of purchased equipment.

3. Action Items:

a. Homestead Exemption – Adam Turner

- ***Patrick made a motion to approve homestead exemption for Adam Turner at 6 Dolloff Street. Gail seconded the motion. All in favor.***

4. Incoming Correspondence:

- a. The Board reviewed donation request letter received from Seniors Plus.

5. Requests from individuals/entities to meet with the board:

- a. Cheryl Knox, Rumford Seniors: Cheryl requested permission for Rumford Seniors to use town office parking lot when going on trips, only as a backup location if necessary. Cheryl shared that in the past they have left vehicle and contact information in the office, for if any issues arose during trip. General discussion was had, with points brought up including the road crew currently also using parking lot and the paving that will be done this spring.

- ***Gail made a motion to allow members of Rumford Senior Citizens to park their vehicles in the town office parking lot during trips, if needed. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.***

6. Select Board Business:

a. New Business:

- Town Garage building committee: General discussion was had regarding the logistics of having a building committee for the town garage.

– ***Gail made a motion to create a building committee for the rebuilding the town garage. Patrick seconded the motion. All in favor.***

- ACO carrying weapon: Dan Carrier Jr. shared with the Board inquiries he has made about ACOs carrying a firearm and the responses he has received. State of Maine Animal Welfare does not endorse ACOs carrying firearms, as it is not considered a law enforcement position. Dan is one of two firearm instructors in the local area; neither will qualify an ACO on firearm, unless they have prior appropriate training from the police academy. Dan also noted that ACOs can carry a badge which clearly reads Animal Control, but that badge should only be exposed when dealing with an animal control call.

– ***Katie made a motion for Animal Control Officer to be required to sign a legal waiver to not carry weapon when responding to animal control calls in Peru. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.***

- Energy Savings Contract Renewal:

– ***Gail made a motion to renew energy savings contract. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.***

7. Warrant #16, 02/06/2023
  - a. Payroll Warrant #16 in the amount of \$11,867.71.
    - **Patrick made a motion to approve Payroll Warrant #16 in the amount of \$11,867.71. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.**
  - b. Accounts Payable Warrant #16 in the amount of \$190,077.14.
    - **Patrick made a motion to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #16 in the amount of \$190,077.14. Jason seconded the motion. Vote 3-2; Gail and Katie opposed.**
  
8. Public Participation: No public present.
  
9. Adjournment
  - a. **Jason made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.**

Public Participation: The Town of Peru Ordinance "OPEN TO THE PUBLIC" Sessions enacted by the townspeople on January 19, 2013, is in full force and effect. There will be one "Open to the Public" segment near the end of the Board meeting. This segment is limited to twenty minutes, to allow for the public to ask questions, make comments or express concerns during that portion of the meeting. The Board may or may not respond at that time. Complaints or criticism regarding any Town employee should be put in writing and directed to the Department Head or Chairperson of the Board. The Board will not engage in any discussion of an employee, Town Official or Citizen without that person first having adequate knowledge and having the right to be present at such a meeting and be accurately represented. Copies of the Ordinance are available from the Secretary.

**Select Board Meeting, followed by Budget Workshop**  
**Monday, February 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**

 2-13-23  
 Gail Belyea Date  
 Chair

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 Kathryn Lawrence Date  
 Vice Chair

 2-13-23  
 Arthur Clifford Date

 2-13-23  
 Jason Dolloff Date

 2/13/23  
 Patrick Houghton Date