

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

PRESENT: Katie Lawrence, Arthur Clifford, Jason Dolloff, Gail Belyea, Jess Carrier, Brad Hutchings, Don Roach, Tammi Lyons, Cliff Thurston, Derrick Vaughn, Jackie Child

ABSENT: Patrick Houghton (personal)

1. Minutes:

a. Minutes of the February 27, 2023, Selectboard Meeting:

- ***Gail made a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 27, 2023, Select Board Meeting. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.***

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

a. Road Commissioner, Brad Hutchings

- Brad shared that town has won \$150,000 grant for stream crossing, which will go toward culvert on Dickvale Road. No news on grant for bridge on Sicotte Road.
- The company in Vermont where the two new trucks were purchased is honoring agreement – they are putting together the plow setup and then will be sending it to us.
- Vehicles at garage fire site have been mostly cleaned up, was just one left at end of workday today.
- Air compressor was delivered today.

b. Finance Committee

- Don Roach shared that the Finance Committee will be meeting on March 20, 2023, at 6:00 pm in the meeting room at the town office.

3. Action Items:

a. Homestead Exemption – Matthew Smith

- ***Katie made a motion to approve the homestead exemption for Matthew Smith at 32 Burbank Road. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.***

b. Veteran Exemption – Matthew Smith

- ***Katie made a motion to approve the veteran exemption for Matthew Smith at 32 Burbank Road. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.***

c. Homestead Exemption – Peggy Touchette

- ***Katie made a motion to approve the homestead exemption for Peggy Touchette at 24 Green Woods Road. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.***

4. Select Board Business:

a. New Business:

- General discussion was had regarding properties in foreclosure status.

– **Arthur made a motion for secretary to contact property owners and invite to the March 13, 2023, meeting and to table further discussion until that meeting. Gail seconded the motion. Vote 3-1, Katie opposed.**

- General discussion was had regarding the porta potty used for Winterfest. The porta potty is not currently being used, so Katie will contact Orr’s to have it picked up.
- General discussion was had regarding voting on the fire department budget. As Dan was not present at meeting and would like different articles presented on the warrant, and also with Patrick being absent, the consensus of the Select Board was to postpone vote.
- General discussion was had regarding two article ideas Katie presented to be placed on warrant:
 - **Katie made a motion to include an article on the June ballot to see if the Town will vote to approve creating a 457 retirement plan for town employees. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.**
 - **Katie made a motion to include an article on the June ballot to see if the Town will vote to approve decreasing the number of members on the Finance Committee from fifteen (15) to nine (9). Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.**
- General discussion was had regarding insurance buyout options for town employees.
 - **Gail made a motion to table further discussion until budget workshop. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.**

b. Old Business:

- Insurance updates:
 - Total insurance payout for vehicles is \$379,273.33; checks are expected this week.
 - Insurance has determined actual cash value for building alone is \$212,000; no further breakdown is available as of yet.
- Special town meeting: General discussion was had regarding the purpose and timing of the next special town meeting.
 - Katie made a motion to hold a special town meeting on March 27, 2023, at 6:00 pm to present to the people appropriating insurance money for replacement of equipment and moving forward with the rebuild of the town garage, as well as present to the people building options for the new garage. Jason seconded the motion. Motion was withdrawn following general discussion.
- Building Committee:
 - Cliff Thurston, Derrick Vaughn, and Norman DeRoche were present. General discussion was had regarding energy efficiency ideas and options for rebuild.
 - a. **Arthur made a motion to accept the three citizens present to the Town Garage Building Committee. Gail seconded the motion. All in favor.**
 - General discussion was had regarding pros and cons of having members of the Town Garage Building Committee be appointed. Potential conflict of interest if on committee and wanting to place bid at time of rebuild was also discussed, with the consensus of the Board being that there should be no conflict as it is the Select Board who will be responsible for monetary decisions.

- i. Katie made a motion to have Clifton Thurston appointed to the Town Garage Building Committee. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.*
- ii. Katie made a motion to have Derrick Vaughn appointed to the Town Garage Building Committee. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.*
- iii. Katie made a motion to have Norman DeRoche appointed to the Town Garage Building Committee. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.*
- iv. Arthur made a motion to have Brad Hutchings appointed to the Town Garage Building Committee. Katie seconded the motion. All in favor.*
- v. Jason made a motion to have Arthur Clifford appointed to the Town Garage Building Committee. Katie seconded the motion. Vote 3-0; Arthur abstained.*

5. Warrant #18, 03/06/2023:

- a. Payroll Warrant #18 in the amount of \$14,498.63.
 - *Arthur made a motion to approve Payroll Warrant #18 in the amount of \$14,498.63. Katie seconded the motion. Vote 3-0, Gail abstained.*
- b. Accounts Payable Warrant #18 in the amount of \$197,743.05.
 - *Katie made a motion to approve Payroll Warrant #18 in the amount of \$197,743.05. Jason seconded the motion. Vote 3-0, Gail abstained.*

6. Public Participation:

- a. Gail made a motion to enter public participation at 7:27 pm. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.*
 - Discussion surrounded prior town meeting and monies voted to be used from surplus.
- b. Gail made a motion to come out of public participation at 7:40 pm. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.*

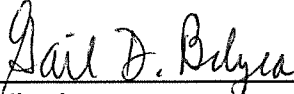
7. Adjournment:

- a. Arthur made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 pm. Gail 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

Monday, March 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

 3-13-2023

Gail Belyea Date

 3-13-2023

Arthur Clifford Date

(ABSENT 03/06/2023)

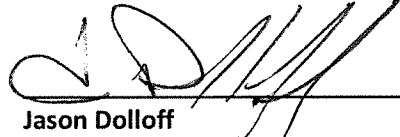
Patrick Houghton Date

Select Board Budget Workshop

Monday, March 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

 3-13-23

Kathryn Lawrence Date

 3-13-23

Jason Dolloff Date