

**Town of Peru**  
**Municipal Office**  
**Select Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 20, 2023**

PRESENT: Jess Carrier, Jason Dolloff, Katie Lawrence, Arthur Clifford, Gail Belyea, Patrick Houghton, Rick Vaughn, Brian Lufkin, Don Roach, Ellery & LeeAnn Turner, Tammi Lyons, Joe Kerr, Lynda Hebert

1. Minutes:

a. Minutes of the March 13, 2023, Selectboard Meeting:

- Gail made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 13, 2023, Select Board Meeting. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.

2. Executive Session: Pursuant to Title 1, MRSA, subsection 405(6)(A)

- a. Arthur made a motion to enter executive session at 6:00 pm to discuss private financial matters of citizens. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.
- b. Arthur made a motion to come out of executive session at 6:35 pm. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.

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

- a. Finance Committee: Don shared that at the Finance Committee meeting held earlier in the evening he had been elected as Chair and Earle had been elected as Vice, also that the Finance Committee will meet again on March 27, 2023, at 6:00 pm in the meeting room at the town office.

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

- a. Rick Vaughn shared his concerns with regard to delaying the purchase of other trucks too long. General discussion was had regarding best future scenarios with road department vehicles.

5. Action Items:

- a. Katie made a motion to approve the homestead exemption for Roderick Gordon at 55 Pleasant Street. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.
- b. Katie made a motion to approve the veteran exemption for Roderick Gordon at 55 Pleasant Street. Gail seconded the motion. All in favor.
- c. Katie made a motion to approve the homestead exemption for Wayne & Margaret Smith at 702 Green Woods Road. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.

6. Select Board Business:

a. New Business:

- Voting on articles for ballot: General discussion was had regarding each motion item.
  - Jason made a motion to not honor any donation requests this year, save for Ludden Memorial Library. Gail seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - Katie made a motion to place on the ballot an article *to see if the Town will vote to approve using the overlay account to cover abatements and refunds*. Gail seconded the motion. All in favor.

- Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.
- Katie made a motion to place on the ballot an article *to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$96,461.00 and to authorize the Select Board to expand any receipts for the maintenance and operations of the Fire Department.* Jason seconded the motion. Vote 3-1; Gail opposed, Arthur abstained.
  - Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Jason seconded the motion. Vote 3-1; Gail opposed, Arthur abstained.
- Katie made a motion to place on the ballot an article *to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$43,200.00 to purchase eight (8) sets of firefighting gear including: Boots, Pants, Suspenders, Jackets, hoods, gloves, helmets, and shields. This would only be used if the Firefighter’s Grant Program to purchase Firefighter turn-out gear was denied. A fire grant application was submitted to the Dept. of Homeland Security in February 2023 for review and consideration. Additional sets of gear are to be replaced over the next two years, spreading the cost over three total years.* Patrick seconded the motion. Vote 3-1; Gail opposed, Arthur abstained.
  - Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Jason seconded the motion. Vote 3-1; Gail opposed, Arthur abstained.
- Katie made a motion to place on the ballot an article *to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$28,325.00 to purchase four (4) SCOTT X3 PRO Air Packs and six (6) SCOTT AV3000 Masks. Additional Air Packs and Masks are to be replaced over the next three years, spreading the cost over four total years.* Gail seconded the motion. Vote 3-1; Gail opposed, Arthur abstained.
  - Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor. Vote 3-1; Gail opposed, Arthur abstained.
- Katie made a motion to place on the ballot an article *to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$14,425.00 to complete the paving at the Worthley Pond Fire Station.* Patrick seconded the motion. Vote 3-1; Gail opposed, Arthur abstained.
  - Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Jason seconded the motion. Vote 3-1; Gail opposed, Arthur abstained.
- Katie made a motion to place on the ballot an article *to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 and to authorize the Select Board to expend any receipts as needed for General Assistance.* Gail seconded the motion. Vote 4-1; Gail opposed.
  - Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Jason seconded the motion. Vote 4-1; Gail opposed.
- Gail made a motion to place on the ballot an article *to see if the Town will vote for each Selectboard member to be paid the sum of \$1,500.00 per year.* Arthur seconded the motion. Vote 2-3; Patrick, Katie, Jason opposed.
- Jason made a motion to place on the ballot an article *to see if the Town will vote for each Selectboard member to be paid the sum of \$2,000.00 per year, holding meetings every week.* Patrick seconded the motion. Vote 3-2; Gail and Arthur opposed.
  - Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Gail seconded the motion. Vote 3-2; Gail and Arthur opposed.
- Katie made a motion to place on the ballot an article *to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,500.00 for the care, repair and maintenance of Veteran Stones and the Peru*

*War Memorial (New maintenance standards Public Law 2013 c.524 amending M.R.S.A. § 1101, 1101-A, and 1101-B) and to authorize the Select Board to expend any receipts as needed holding the balance.* Jason seconded the motion. Vote 1-4; Patrick, Katie, Arthur, and Jason opposed. Motion failed.

- Katie made a motion to place on the ballot an article *to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for flags and grave markers and to authorize the Select Board to expend any receipts as needed holding the balance.* Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.
- Katie made a motion to place on the ballot an article *to see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$1,500.00 for the support of the Ludden Memorial Library in Dixfield.* Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.
- Katie shared with other Board members a letter which she wrote up to present to the road crew reiterating general support, despite current impediments to pay raise. General discussion was had regarding the same.

b. Old Business:

- Insurance updates:
  - Katie shared that \$3,595 of personal property was included in the itemized list from the road department. General discussion was had regarding reimbursement to road crew personnel.
  - Katie shared that the amount of \$283,000 noted last week is a bottom-dollar amount, the insurance company will cover replacement value for building as it was and any difference in dollar amount - for size, upgrades, etc. - needs to be voted on by the people.
- Foreclosure properties:
  - Arthur made a motion to table discussion of a date for posting foreclosure properties to May 8, 2023. Gail seconded the motion. Vote 4-1, Katie opposed.
  - Jason made a motion to accept agreement on payments for Map 11 Lots 47 & 48. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - Jason made a motion to accept agreement on payments for Map 6 Lots 17B & 17C. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.

7. Warrant # 19, 03/20/2023

- a. Payroll Warrant #19 in the amount of \$10,953.46.
  - Arthur made a motion to approve Payroll Warrant #19 in the amount of \$10,953.46. Jason seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, Katie abstained.
- b. Accounts Payable Warrant #19 in the amount of \$170,510.25.
  - Gail made a motion to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #19 in the amount of \$170,510.25. Jason seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, Katie abstained.

8. Public Participation:

- a. Gail made a motion to go into Public Participation at 9:15 p.m. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - Discussion surrounded current budget discussions, Town Garage Building Committee, and fire alarm system at new garage.
- b. Arthur made a motion to come out of Public Participation at 9:30 p.m. Patrick seconded the motion. All in favor.

9. Adjournment

- a. Patrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 p.m. Jason 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 Workshop

Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 5:00 pm

Select Board Meeting

Monday, March 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gail Belyea  
Chair

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathryn Lawrence  
Vice Chair

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arthur Clifford  
Date  
3-27-23

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Dolloff  
Date  
3-27-23

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick Houghton  
Date  
3/27/23