

**Town of Peru  
Municipal Office  
Select Board Meeting Minutes  
March 27, 2023**

PRESENT: Jess Carrier, Jason Dolloff, Katie Lawrence, Arthur Clifford, Patrick Houghton, Brad Hutchings, Jackie Child, Tyler McDonald, Bill Hussey, Don Roach, Tammi Lyons, Joe Kerr, Lynda Hebert

ABSENT: Gail Belyea (medical)

1. Minutes:

a. Minutes of the March 20, 2023, Selectboard Meeting:

- Katie made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 20, 2023, Select Board Meeting. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.

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

a. Memo from Deb:

- Katie made a motion to reduce Demeritt Cemetery lot prices to be in line with current town prices. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.
- Katie made a motion for Deb to have an attorney review the George E Bunker Trust termination documents. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.

b. Email from Lee-Ann Salley stating that for budgetary purposes, \$18,000 is a good estimate for the 2024 commitment. Lee-Ann also discussed the possibility that, pending this year's State Valuation, our sales ratio may be out of statutory guidelines and need updating; for Lee-Ann to do all the work for this herself, the cost would be \$9,000, or \$4,000 if someone else did the manual work of math and data entry into Trio. General discussion was had regarding the same.

c. Building Committee: Brad has reached out to Caldwell Engineering regarding the recommended wall height of new garage, and the committee is waiting on response before moving forward.

d. Finance Committee: Don shared that at tonight's meeting the Finance Committee voted on all articles presented except for those currently numbered 10, 30, 34, 35; recommend *yes* on all articles, except *no* on the article (currently #5) regarding fire department paving. The Finance Committee will meet again on April 3, 2023, at 6:00 pm in the meeting room at the town office.

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

a. Bill Hussey would like to be appointed to the Finance Committee, as there is one vacancy currently. General discussion was had.

- Katie made a motion to appoint Bill Hussey to the Finance Committee. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.

4. Select Board Business:

a. New Business:

- Voting on articles for ballot:

- Katie made a motion to place on the ballot an article *to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$79,290.00 for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Treasurer Office*. Patrick seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Arthur 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 the sum of \$70,660 for Town Officers and Appointed Officials*. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Arthur 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 the sum of \$ 69,460 and to authorize the Select Board to expend any receipts as needed for Town Office Operations*. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Arthur 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 the sum of \$56,974.00 and authorize the Select Board to expend any receipts as needed for General Expenses*. Patrick seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Arthur 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 the sum of \$358,240.00 and to authorize the Select Board to expend receipts as needed for the operations of the Road Dept*. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - a. Katie made a motion to amend her prior motion to place on the ballot an article that now reads: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$358,240.00 and to authorize the Select Board to expend receipts as needed for the summer operations of the Road Dept*. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.
    - i. 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 \$10,000.00 and to authorize the Select Board to expend receipts as needed for the operations of the Garage Facility Maintenance and Operations*. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - a. 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 \$164,465.00 and to authorize the Select Board to expend receipts as needed to rebuild a section of Valley Road from Holland Road to Miller Road. This will include reclaiming the road, removal of all found boulders from the roadway, replacing old culverts including the culvert between 283 & 236 Valley Road that is collapsing, adding crushed gravel with final grading and*

*compaction, with three(3) inches of basecoat pavement. Additional costs to be covered by existing LRAP funds. Patrick seconded the motion. All in favor.*

- a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Arthur 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 the sum of \$260,705.00 and to authorize the Select Board to expend any receipts as needed for Snow Removal and Sanding.* Patrick seconded the motion. All in favor.
    - a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Arthur 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 the Road Department to salvage all scrap metal resulting from repairs to town equipment. The proceeds will be received and receipted by the Clerk's office and will be used to replace broken tools or to purchase tools needed for the Road Department at the discretion of the Road Commissioner.* Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.
    - a. 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 authorize the Select Board to expend the Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP) funds for road reconstruction or rehabilitation.* Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.
    - a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Arthur 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 \$50,927.00 for Med-Care Ambulance Service.* Patrick seconded the motion. All in favor.
    - a. 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 \$129,378.00 for Northern Oxford Regional Solid Waste operations.* Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.
    - a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Arthur 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 \$140,057.00 for Oxford County's tax.* Patrick seconded the motion. All in favor.
    - a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Arthur 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 \$1,000.00 for the maintenance/operations of the Worthley Pond Spring.* Jason seconded the motion.
    - a. Katie made a motion to amend her prior motion to place on the ballot an article that now reads: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for the maintenance/operations of the Worthley Pond Spring.* Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.

- i. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Arthur 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 take \$1,500.00 from Boat Excise Tax to help The Worthley Pond Association defray the costs associated with Worthley Pond Water testing and Courtesy Boat Inspections.* Patrick seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Arthur 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 \$2,000.00 to support Recreational Opportunities for the citizens of the town, hold the balance.* Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Patrick 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 take up to \$300,000.00 from excise tax and \$200,000.00 from surplus to reduce the 2023/24 commitment.* Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Arthur 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 \$4,000.00 to continue the preservation of Town record books, holding the balance.* Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Arthur 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 authorize the Select Board on behalf of the Town to sell, dispose of, or lease by bid, any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon and to execute quit-claim deeds for such property. Except that Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. §943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).* Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Patrick seconded the motion. All in favor.
- Katie made a motion to place on the ballot an article *to say Shall the Town set the due dates for taxes to be Friday, September 22, 2023, and Friday, February 16, 2024, and authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes pursuant to Title 36, Article 506?* Patrick seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Patrick 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 accept receipts/revenues from the Dept of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and disperse those monies to the Peru Snowmobile Club.* Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Patrick seconded the motion.

- Katie made a motion to place on the ballot an article *to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept a donation or donations to supplement a specific appropriation already made, to reduce the tax assessment, or to reduce the permanent debt.* Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Jason seconded the motion.
  
- Katie made a motion to place on the ballot an article *to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100,000.00 towards a Town wide property revaluation, holding the balance.* Patrick seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - a. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Jason seconded the motion.
  
- Katie made a motion to place on the ballot an article *to see if the Town will vote to reduce the finance committee from Fifteen(15) to Nine(9) members and to allow only one member per household.* Jason seconded the motion.
  - a. Katie made a motion to amend her prior motion to place on the ballot an article that now reads: *To see if the Town will vote to reduce the finance committee from Fifteen(15) to Nine(9) members.* Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.
    - i. Katie made a motion for the Selectboard to recommend yes on this article. Patrick seconded the motion.
  
- General discussion was had regarding the personnel policy which has been updated to include adjustments to comp time and info on pre-taxed 457 retirement plan.
  - Katie made a motion to withdraw her previous motion made on March 6, 2023, to place an article on the ballot regarding retirement plan for town employees. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - Katie made a motion to accept the updated personnel policy with the above-stated revisions. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.
  
- b. Old Business:
  - Garage fire/insurance updates:
    - Katie is still working with Dan Noonan at insurance company. The itemized list of tools which the road department provided needs to be broken down further as there are two separate policies, i.e., one for property and one for marine tools. Katie will inquire if insurance policy will cover the cost of repairs and/or parts for borrowed trucks.
    - A lengthy discussion was had regarding the expected cost of new town garage building and what vehicles still need to be purchased in order for the road department fleet to be back to where it was prior to the fire, as well as the expected cost of replacing necessary tools and interim storage for the same. General discussion was had regarding the best use of insurance money versus loan money, i.e., interest rate, amount, and length of loan for vehicles versus building construction. Katie will get more information from bank about interest rates and loan types.
      - a. Katie made a motion to hold a special town meeting on April 13, 2023, to put to the voters decisions regarding the rebuilding of the town garage and replacing the 2021 truck, as well as authorizing the Select Board to spend the insurance money received thus far; with motion to

