

**Town of Peru
Municipal Office
Select Board Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2023**

PRESENT: Jess Carrier, Jason Dolloff, Katie Lawrence, Arthur Clifford, Patrick Houghton, Brad Hutchings, Dan Carrier Jr, Stephen Papierz, Katie Howard, Jackie Child, Warren MacFawn, Tammi Lyons, Joe Kerr, Donald Roach, Lynda Hebert, Bill Hussey

ABSENT: Gail Belyea (medical)

1. Minutes:

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

- Arthur made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 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 two gift cards equaling \$500 have been received as donation from Harbor Freight.
- Brad is appealing the amounts received from FEMA grants.
- The new radios Brad ordered for the trucks are in.
- Warren commended Brad and the road crew for their work on improving the potholes in front of his house.

b. Fire Chief, Dan Carrier Jr

- Fire extinguisher and SCBA trainings for this year have been completed.
- The radiator in the new truck is currently being replaced, new truck should be delivered in a few weeks.
- Any new members are on hold joining the department as there is currently no gear for them.

c. Animal Control Officer, Stephen Papierz

- Steve introduced the Board to Katie Howard, who is currently in training. He would like her appointed as Deputy ACO for Peru, stating she would be responding to Peru calls by herself once her training is completed. General discussion was had.
 - Jason made a motion to appoint Katie Howard as Deputy ACO, with the town of Peru helping to pay for her training. Arthur seconded the motion. All in favor.
- Steve asked the Board to consider switching kennel the town uses from Kozy Kennelz to Responsible Pet Care. Current contract with Kozy Kennelz is through June 30, 2023. General discussion was had, with the Board requesting Steve to ask a representative from Responsible Pet Care to come to a meeting for further discussion.
- The Board asked Steve to sign an agreement stating he would not carry a weapon when responding to animal control calls in Peru. Steve signed said agreement. General discussion was had regarding the same. Verbal agreement was made allowing Steve to carry pepper spray when responding to calls in Peru.

d. Building Committee

- Engineer has no problems with whatever wall height, current plan is for 4' walls with 16' stud framing. Sketch drawings are currently being completed and calls are being made regarding general contractors.

3. Action Items:

- a. Jason made a motion to approve the homestead exemption for Shawn Geisler at 159 Bird Farm Road. Katie seconded the motion. All in favor.

4. Incoming Correspondence:

- a. Katie read aloud a letter from Tammy Ferland resigning from the finance committee.
- b. The Board completed two ballots for AVCOG General Assembly Representatives.

5. Select Board Business:

a. New Business:

- General discussion was had regarding voting on articles for ballot:
 - Katie made a motion to place on the ballot an article *To see if the Town will charge 8% interest rate on taxes not paid by the due dates*. 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 \$20,000 to replace the roof on the Historical Society building*. 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 raise and appropriate \$50,000.00 for the 2nd payment of the new fire truck*. 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 amend her prior motion to place on the ballot an article regarding Town Office Operations and have it now read: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 74,460 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.

b. Old Business:

- Garage fire/insurance updates:
 - Katie shared that interest will remain 5.6%, regardless of loan type. General discussion was had regarding the same.
 - a. Katie made a motion to hold a special town meeting on April 18, 2023, at 6:00 pm to put to the voters decisions regarding 1) up to \$240,000 loan for a new truck, 2) up to \$600,000 loan for new town garage building, and 3) to authorize the Selectboard to spend \$180,000 of insurance monies already received to cover cost of interest on loans, as well as purchase truck and tools. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.
 - Katie shared that there is some discrepancy between what information the insurance company has and what the town actually owned prior to the fire.

- General discussion was had regarding how to proceed with the Med-Care deficit in the current budget. The Board will get clarification and revisit discussion next week.

6. Warrant #20, 04/03/2022

a. Payroll Warrant #20 in the amount of \$10,416.33.

- Arthur made a motion to approve Payroll Warrant #20 in the amount of \$10,416.33. Katie seconded the motion. All in favor.

b. Accounts Payable Warrant #20 in the amount of \$32,425.28.

- Arthur made a motion to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #20 in the amount of \$32,425.28. Jason seconded the motion. All in favor.

7. Public Participation:

a. Arthur made a motion to go into Public Participation at 8:53 p.m. Patrick seconded the motion. All in favor.

- Don asked about prior contract with CMP for street lights. General discussion was had regarding wording on June ballot as there has been lack of quorum in finance committee meetings.

b. Arthur made a motion to come out of Public Participation at 9:00 p.m. Patrick seconded the motion. All in favor.

8. Adjournment

a. Patrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 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

Monday, April 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Gail Belyea
Chair

Date

Kathryn Lawrence
Vice Chair

4/10/23
Date

Arthur Clifford

Date

Jason Dolloff

4-10-23
Date

Patrick Houghton

4/10/23
Date