

PERU SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Present: Gail Belyea, Jackie Child, Arthur Clifford, Patrick Houghton, Brad Hutchings, Kathryn Lawrence, Don Roach, Mark Thompson.

Absent: Dan Carrier, Jason Dolloff.

6:00 p.m. flag salute.

- Consent Agenda
 1. Approve minutes of November 6, 2023
 2. Payroll warrant #10 in the amount of \$9,465.50
 3. Accounts payable warrant #10 in the amount of \$213,395.90

Arthur motioned, Gail seconded, to remove accounts payable warrant #10 from consent agenda for discussion later in the meeting. 4-0 in favor.

Arthur motioned, Katie seconded, to approve minutes of November 6 and payroll warrant #10 as presented. 4-0 in favor.

- Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. s.s. 405(6)(A), personnel matter

Arthur motioned, Gail seconded, to enter executive session at 6:08 p.m. 4-0 in favor.

Arthur motioned, Gail seconded, to exit executive session at 6:24 p.m. 4-0 in favor.

Gail motioned to hire a new select board secretary, Patrick seconded. 4-0 in favor. Arthur will contact another applicant and the town clerk regarding this decision.

- Elected Officials/Board/Committee Reports

Road commissioner Brad Hutchings reported that the new Chevy is at Howard P. Fairfield, Skowhegan; is going to the build shop for electric. The new Freightliner will be in Peru tomorrow, November 14.

Road department is working on front springs of the ten-wheeler at Von's garage. Green truck: Stan Waleik is finishing plow. Waiting on cylinders for body tip on green truck. Oil pan leak on the six-wheeler, so would not pass inspection.

Brad said he never expressed that the trucks bought from Advantage Truck in Vermont would be already inspected. The green truck was less needy than the other two, and his opinion is that the town overpaid for one red truck. Has over \$6000 put into the red truck thus far. Katie said she will contact Advantage Truck to seek compensation for the two six-wheelers not being sticker-ready on arrival in Peru.

When asked, Brad said he believes there is perhaps a potential buyer for the town's old fire truck.

Katie asked about payment to SR Construction for footings and walls at the new town garage. Brad said they are paid for. He will check the contract, but he believes SR will be paid in three installments, two of which have been paid, and the third payment will be for the most expensive third, the floor.

Discussion ensued regarding payment for tool box from Harbor Freight not entered into the garage fire account.

Brad keeps track of each road department's clothing allowance expenditures.

Brad is nearly finished with the application for FEMA dollars for early May 2023 storms.

Finance committee chair Don Roach presented a proposed timeline for budget deliberations for 2024-25. He hopes for final budgets to be presented to the board by mid-January 2024.

He plans to be in the board office tomorrow to check totals on the last three years' warrants, if the select board is agreeable. They are.

He asks the board to purchase a flag pole light (price is \$149) for night-time illumination.

Building committee member Mark Thompson met with Michael Magner of Berkshire Hathaway to discuss new town garage drawings; they said the board needs to choose colors for steel and doors (colors are more expensive). This gentleman cannot begin building until February-ish; he is working on a house now so is unable to start in December. Clif Thurston will hear from him with a proposal for a big roof first, then the carport. There was no word tonight from either the other prospective builder or from Jim Cole.

Town clerk/treasurer/tax collector Debbie Coudrain sent a memo to the board with monthly financial information as of today.

Checking account has \$183,798.00. Savings account has \$2,199,273.00. Total: \$2,383,071.00.

Two CDs total \$104,000.00 (not included above).

Motor vehicle excise to date is # \$114,000.00.

Real estate taxes collected: \$586,627.00.

A paper shredding company will be in the town office on Thursday, November 16, and will use the voting room for their work.

- Unfinished Business

Temporary Shelter Updates. The L2 set-up crew arrived in Peru on November 12. They will be here this week erecting the temporary shelter. Pat called United Rentals regarding diesel heaters for this building; he will follow up tomorrow with other dealers to see what ideas and information they offer for heating. Larry Lapointe will have materials delivered on Thursday to do electrical work. Katie said she will research how many gallons of fuel were used last year to heat the old town garage.

Accounts payable discussion occurred around the amount of money spent to feed poll workers on election days; and an apparent double payment to Complete Hydraulics. Arthur motioned to accept accounts payable warrant #10, excluding check #26351 in the amount of \$3636.21 for invoice #R102423TOP; Gail seconded. 4-0 in favor.

- New Business

Med-Care subsidy and insurance increases for 2023-24 were discussed: per capita cost will change from \$38 to \$40. Health insurance for Med-Care employees will increase 7.5%.

- Roundtable Discussions

November 28 Elected Officials Workshop (MMA-sponsored). Katie is considering attending.

Katie created and shared a draft selectmen's ledger spreadsheet that might be easier to understand. She moved to ask the town clerk to implement line-item details on the selectboard ledger, Gail seconded. Motion failed 2-2, Katie and Gail in favor; Arthur and Patrick opposed.

Arthur motioned to ask the town clerk to attend a workshop with the select board, date to be determined later, to discuss the select board ledger with her; Patrick seconded. Vote was 3-1, Gail opposed.

Katie questioned the need for the television in the select board office. There is confusion regarding who purchased it and why. Arthur said he will talk to fire chief/emergency management director Dan Carrier.

ACO Eric Giroux contacted Arthur to share that Responsible Pet Care will draw up a contract for Peru.

Gail contacted Spectrum regarding no voice mail on town phones, and learned that the voice mail function is free and included to Spectrum customers. It needs to be coded; a tech could do it for a charge of \$149. Don said he is willing to try adding voice mail if the board agrees. Board agreed.

There was a brief discussion about including internet phone services in the 2024-25 town budget.

Conference call on November 7 with insurers Donna and Larry did not happen, Katie said; they didn't call.

Gail shared a phone call she received last week concerning unfenced junk yards. The caller related that a few years ago she and her husband had a few pieces of old metal in their yard, and the town made them erect a fence. Now she sees several yards full of junk metal and no fences. The other call was regarding a selectman whose name was in the newspaper.

- Public Participation

Patrick motioned to enter public participation at 9:41 p.m., Arthur seconded. 4-0 in favor.

Jackie asked that a new coil between the phone and the handset on the secretary's phone be replaced. Arthur said he will take care of that.

Jackie asked if a person who thought he was buying a piece of land on Route 108 would be refunded his money because it has since been discovered that the property is non-existent. The board will place this issue on its next agenda.

Jackie would like to see an additional clock placed behind the select board's seats, in the event meetings are video-d. That way the board could not be accused of cropping videos.

She is still hoping to have board agendas available to the public by Friday before Monday meetings.

Jackie: asked if the ad for the secretary's position needs to be removed from the newspaper now.

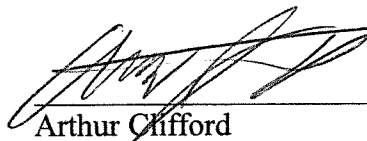
Don asked the board to verify that campground acreage is being taxed to owners.

Don noted that in the town report only one of the names shows on taxpayer lists when a property is owned by a husband and wife. He thinks this may be a Trio issue, and perhaps further training on Trio should be considered for the town clerk/treasurer/tax collector. He also said there should be a back-up for her if she should be unable to work.

Arthur motioned to exit public participation at 10:06 p.m., Gail seconded. 4-0 in favor.

- Adjourn


Gail motioned to adjourn at 10:08 p.m., Arthur seconded. 4-0 in favor.



Arthur Clifford
Chair

11/20/23

Date



Gail Belyea
Vice Chair

11-20-23

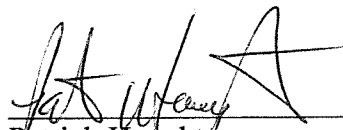
Date

Jason Dolloff

Date

Kathryn Lawrence

Date



Patrick Houghton

11/20/23

Date