

PERU SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 30, 2023

PRESENT: Gail Belyea, Kaitlyn Billings, Dan Carrier, Jess Carrier, Jackie Child, Arthur Clifford, Norman DesRoche, Eric Giroux, Patrick Houghton, Kathryn Lawrence, Don Roach, Mark Thompson, Clifton Thurston, Rick Vaughn.

ABSENT: Jason Dolloff (ill), Brad Hutchings (vacation).

1. Consent Agenda. Gail motioned to accept the consent agenda as presented, and Arthur seconded the motion, which included the following:

1.1 Approve minutes of the October 23, 2023, board meeting. Vote was 3-1, Katie opposed, stating she believed wording is not what she said and wanted re-wording.

2.1 Approve 24-25 homestead exemption for Michael and Donna Brackett. 3-1, Katie opposed (she had to oppose the entire consent agenda after voting "no" to 1.1).

2. Warrant #9, 10/30/2023.

2.1 Arthur motioned to accept payroll warrant #9 for \$11,560.82. Katie seconded. All in favor.

2.2 Arthur motioned to accept accounts payable warrant #9 for \$76,313.62. Pat seconded. Vote 3-1, Katie opposed.

There was a question regarding road department mileage: town vehicles should be used, not personal vehicles. General view is for the road department to be more diligent about this.

3. Elected Officials/Board/Committee Reports.

3.1 Fire Chief Dan Carrier reported there was another incident at 577 Dickvale Road on October 28, with the fire department; conversation was had with the owner, who will contact the trespass person staying there. Owner intends to proceed with tear-down.

Fire Prevention Week with Dixfield went well.

Almost all new equipment is now on the new fire truck; waiting on a few more fixtures.

Wording for air packs for town meeting to change from Scott to Draeger.

There are a few people interested in the old fire truck; a couple plan to come view it. Dan will ask \$5000 for it.

3.2 ACO Eric Giroux says he has been busy. The State of Maine went to Stagecoach Road; warning was given regarding cows and other issues. The owners have made some progress: no loose cows lately and trash is mostly removed. There was a question as to who gets warnings at that location, since the landowner is different from the animal owners; answer was that since progress has occurred, leave as is.

There is a disgruntled citizen on Main Street regarding a neighbor's roosters. ACO reached out to the State for validation regarding no State ordinance.

Two complaints about chickens in the road on Route 108, causing hazards for vehicles. Eric will attempt to follow up.

Upcoming court date for the owner of a dog found loose on Route 108 weeks ago.

Eric mentioned that Peru pays Marsha McKenna to take dogs, but then has no place to send them if no one has claimed them after three days. He will call Marsha about the daily cost after day four. He will also contact county commissioner David Duguay on the status of a possible Oxford County-wide ACO/kennel.

3.3 Finance Committee. Chair Don Roach said he is gathering information for the next committee meeting on November 15. He requested a list of fire department insurance monies, and income versus expenses.

He is asking the board to allow sufficient time for the finance committee to review budgets before going to the ballot; would like a mid-January meeting for discussion of budgets with department heads.

3.4 Building Committee. Met at 6:00 p.m. tonight. One contractor attended: Sylvard Builders, Auburn/Greene. He will have the price by the end of this week; he could start late November, and has no preference if there's a floor or not in the new garage. He has been in business for 30 years, but has not done large buildings like the new garage; he does a lot of steel siding and steel buildings.

Clif talked to E.W. Electric; he will run electric wire before the ground freezes, and the Road Department can dig necessary ditches. Town needs to call CMP for a work order permit and give a physical address. Builder who gets the job will set frost posts.

Another meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 6, at 6:00 p.m., and two other contractors plan to be there: Jim Cole, and a Bethel/Mt. Abram builder.

The drain in the new garage floor is supposed to be poured on Tuesday, October 31. Still waiting to pour the floor until the roof is in place.

4. Unfinished Business: Temp Shelter Set-up. Katie reported the temporary shelter should arrive in Peru on November 8, 2023, and be installed by November 10, 2023. Upon arrival, the set-up team will do a walk-around of the site. Katie will let the board know the date and time of the site visit.

Discussion ensued regarding wiring and power to the building. Katie needs to talk to the insurance about wiring. Nobody hired yet to hook up electric; E.W. Electric and Larry Lapointe would want the building set prior to completing. Road department is capable of digging a ditch for conduit. An electrician will run the lines. Talked about options for outlets and temp poles.

Pat stated that Clint Bradbury may be willing to purchase the power supply after road department use.

Discussed perhaps renting a portable heater with a direct vent outside. Could ask L2 when they do their site visit regarding heating options/electricity recommendations. L2 does have HVAC.

Temporary shelter plans needed approval for layout and service entrance (main door and man door and Chairman completed this during meeting); will daisy-chain to accommodate power supply. Recommend electric not propane heating, due to low ventilation. Sales person confirming they can do drainage to rocks (one-half floor and one-half rock).

Katie forwarded all quotes and estimates to Larry at the insurance company for review.

5. New Business. Resumes, secretary position. Kaitlyn Billings attended to share her resume and her interest. The board will meet with her in executive session on Monday, November 6, just after 6:00 p.m. One other person inquired about the job.

6. Roundtable Discussions.

6.1 Secretary. Discussion regarding the furnace boiler not functioning properly; any issues stemming from it would be on the technician working on it.

6.2 Board members. Arthur asked if the other members were satisfied with his response to last week's mass shootings in Lewiston: locking the town office doors and placing a sign on the door to please knock for entry. The board agreed his decision was warranted.

Arthur shared that all three town trucks failed inspection. The ten-wheeler needs new rear brakes. One has a hydraulic leak, and both six-wheelers need tie-rod ends. Katie stated that the board believed these trucks were purchased as road-ready and good for inspection; the Road Commissioner should contact the sales company regarding this.

Arthur stated that last week the town office main entry locked door was pulled open, and the door latch slipped past the striker plate on the door jamb. The plate just needed to be adjusted. Legere's locksmith Jim White did the adjustment.

Katie motioned that the town clerk implement and maintain the fire recovery account ledger in place of garage recovery breakdown, and keep current with warrant weeks. Pat seconded. All in favor.

7. Public Participation. Arthur motioned at 8:48 p.m. Gail seconded. All in favor.

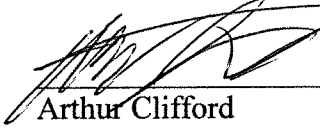
Jackie asked why the town office phone lines have no answering service. Jess will contact Spectrum to ask if this is a function we have but don't use.

Jackie stated she believed the board should have altered the meeting minutes of October 23, 2023, to reflect the changes Katie requested earlier in tonight's meeting.

Don, as finance committee chair, presented a list of budget questions for MMA. The board agreed to try to gather some answers.

Arthur motioned to exit public participation at 9:21 p.m. Gail seconded. All in favor.

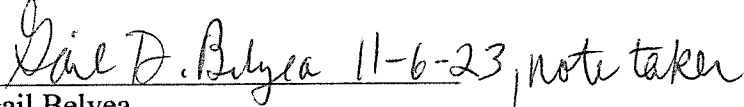
8. Adjournment. Arthur motioned at 9:22 p.m., Pat seconded. All in favor.



Arthur Clifford
Chair

11/6/23

Date



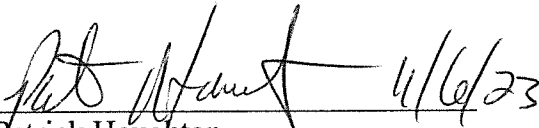
Gail Belyea
Vice Chair

11-6-23, note taken

Date

Jason Dolloff
Date

Kathryn Lawrence
Date



Patrick Houghton

4/6/23

Date