

TOWN OF PERU SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 12, 2024

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Gail Belyea (note taker), Arthur Clifford, Jason Dolloff, Patrick Houghton, Kathryn Lawrence.

FINANCE COMMITTEE PRESENT: Mike Arsenault, Lynda Hebert, Joe Kerr, Tammi Lyons, Don Roach, Earle Wingate.

OTHERS PRESENT: Debbie Coudrain, Brad Hutchings, Tyler McDonald, Carol Roach.

Katie motioned to accept the February 5, 2024, meeting minutes as read; Arthur seconded her motion. Vote 5-0 to approve.

ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS: Road commissioner Brad said all roads are posted. No communication from Rich at ATG. Brad presented "letter of intent" from the town to O'Connor GMC, dated April 20, 2023, stating we would pay \$150,000 for a new truck, but the town was billed \$458 more (which has been paid). 10-wheeler had some links fixed on chains. Six-wheeler's oil leak is fixed. Brad got a full list of tools purchased from Snap-on; now the garage-fire recovery record book is complete.

Brad has given his verbal resignation as road commissioner, and the board requested a written resignation by March 18, 2024.

Town clerk Debbie Coudrain said the new light for the town's flagpole is here, and a new flag. 706 forms are being processed for mailing. She is requesting new 18-inch bookshelves be built in the town vault. Discussion: concerns regarding moisture, types of shelving. Arthur will inspect the current shelving and measure for new.

Finance committee chair Don Roach had nothing new to report.

Planning board chair Earle Wingate reported on the February 8 public informational meeting about Community Energy's site variance plan for their new store. Fire department received training from a forest ranger on February 11.

Building committee members Norman DeRoche and Clifton Thurston discussed with the board specifics of an RFP for the new town garage. The board will begin work on the RFP.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Board and finance committee had first review of the road department FY 24-25 budget. It is not much changed from FY 23-24, except for higher wage expectations. Brad has budgeted money for paving Dolloff Street and two small projects, mostly repairing dirt roads that were storm-damaged, including Packard, Tower, Holman, and Burbank Roads.

Gail motioned, Jason seconded, to approve the December 4, 2023, board minutes. Vote 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS: Board received Med-Care request by letter to post an administrative position in their organization. This will be posted in the Peru town office.

Board tabled action on MDOT speed trailer program.

Board received information on LD 646, "An Act to Fully Reimburse Municipalities for Lost Revenue under the Property Tax Stabilization Act for Senior Citizens Program."

Gail motioned to allow Jessica Carrier to assist the town's assessor Joe Salley at the town office as necessary, Arthur seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Board tabled considering an article to appoint the town road commissioner, instead of electing.

Arthur motioned to resume spending on G-1-1060-55, general fire account, to avoid accruing more late payment fees, while continuing to scrutinize ledgers. Jason seconded the motion. Vote was 3-2, Arthur and Gail opposed.

Patrick motioned to pay bills incurred on warrant #16 and to continue to scrutinize ledgers. Jason seconded the motion. Vote was 3-2, Arthur and Katie opposed.

Gail motioned to unfreeze all structure-related bills and continue to scrutinize ledgers. Arthur seconded the motion. Vote was 4-1, Katie opposed.

ROUNDTABLE: Katie distributed "Statement of Loss" for \$128,570.77 from Arch Insurance Company. The town is approved for the full cost of L2 temporary shelter, and first and second half of payments; four months heater rental; and \$400 estimate for electrical.

Gail will contact the three cemetery committee members to ask them to meet with the board regarding a budget for cemetery maintenance.

Pat will contact Jake Chartier regarding tree removal. Arthur said he and Dan Carrier may be able to pole cut trees behind the central fire station.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Arthur moved, Jason seconded, to enter at 9:35 p.m.

More discussion about the very bright light at Worthley Pond fire station needing re-positioning, so it doesn't blind drivers at night.

Lynda stated her concern with the amount of the town's surplus; she believes it is too low to allow taking \$200,00 from it to reduce the tax commitment.

Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to exit public participation at 9:53 p.m. Vote was 5-0.

ADJOURN: Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to adjourn at 9:53 p.m. Vote was 5-0.

Arthur Clifford, Chair Date

Gail Belyea 2/26/24
Gail Belyea, Vice Chair Date

Jason Dolloff Date

Pat Houghton 2/26/24
Patrick Houghton Date

Kathryn Lawrence 2/26/24
Kathryn Lawrence Date