

TOWN OF PERU SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 22, 2024

PRESENT: Gail Belyea (note taker), Clay Berry, Arthur Clifford, Debbie Coudrain, Jason Dolloff, Brad Hutchings, Katie Lawrence, Don Roach.

ABSENT: Patrick Houghton.

CONSENT AGENDA: Gail motioned to move the consent agenda nearer the end of the agenda, Arthur seconded. 4-0.

ELECTED OFFICIALS/BOARD/COMMITTEE REPORTS: Road commissioner **Brad** said things are quiet. Truck #33 had an oil pan leak (red six-wheeler); it is fixed. He plans to retire in June 2024, with two years left to his term. He did not talk to Rich at ATG re: inspection stickers.

Jason visited the temp shelter at 3:30 p.m. this afternoon and listened to complaints from the road department. Their heater is one issue: diesel heater froze, and air leaks around the door. They are impatient for the new town garage to be built.

Town clerk Debbie continued to answer board questions. She stated again that she is an hourly employee, not salaried. She works 1924 hours annually, going by the work hours posted on the town office door, though she said she often works after hours at the office and at home. She agreed to commence documenting all her working hours, instead of just noting "80 hours" on her bi-weekly time sheet.

She submitted FY 24-25 town clerk/treasurer budget, and revenue detail reports for CEO, LPI, and town office; plus a town checking account summary, CD statement, and monthly trust fund statements for five cemeteries.

She will order a new flagpole light on January 23.

CEO Clay Berry sent three certified letters to properties with unhealthy conditions; two of them were returned. One property owner was cooperating at first but not currently. One property has two fewer cars in the yard; this one he will contact Kingston Brown to discuss. The board asked Clay to see if an Oxford County sheriff can serve papers to junk yard owners who won't respond to the CEO.

Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, that the town office voting room be used for a public informational meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., as part of Community Energy's application process to Maine D.E.P. for a variance to site their new gas station near a sand and gravel aquifer. Vote was 4-0. Vice chair will notify the following via email: CEO, planning board, fire chief, and road commissioner.

No word from the new town garage building committee. Katie talked to Mark Thompson but he was unable to attend this meeting.

Finance committee chair **Don** cancelled the January 24 finance committee meeting, because not all FY 24-25 budgets are ready. Next meeting is February 7.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Arthur moved to pay the \$485.00 owed to O'Connor GMC from the garage fire account, Gail seconded. Vote failed 2-2.

Jason motioned to table the vote until next meeting, Katie seconded. Vote failed 2-2.

Katie forwarded the necessary information to Debbie to order the flagpole light.

Arthur received two responses for RFPs for the historical society building roofing, through MMA website posting. Board discussed that the \$20,000 budgeted for this job didn't specify "hold the balance"; it may need to appear on the June ballot.

Pat reported that Larry Lapointe made up two 30-amp plugs and one 50-amp plug; also he made two 30-amp cords, 75-feet long, and a 50-amp cord, 75-feet long. These are intended to allow the road department to run compressor, welder, and plasma if needed.

Pat will relay to the board and the road commissioner when Mike from L2 will be in Peru.

Assessor Lee-Ann Salley responded to the board that within the next couple of weeks she will begin the process of sales analysis to determine how much the assessments need to go up. Lee-Ann believes the money left in the assessing account is sufficient to cover the amount of work required of her (\$14,200.00). Vice chair will email Lee-Ann regarding her salary request for the next fiscal year.

Gail motioned, Katie seconded, to accept the draft contract for the LPI. Vote 4-0.

Board discussed a December 11, 2023, email from Trident Property Insurance regarding recent recommendations on two locations in Peru: central fire station and historical society building. Jason will contact an abutter of the central fire station regarding trimming trees. Vice chair will email Trident with the board's response to the recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS: Board discussed dollar amounts on the FY 24-25 draft budget for town officers and appointed officials, and miscellaneous.

Reviewed the AVCOG municipal dues request of \$2729.69 for FY 25-25. Arthur moved, Jason seconded, to approve. Vote 4-0.

ROUNDTABLE:

No solar ordinance update.

U.S. Census Bureau 2024 Boundary and Annexation Survey: won't participate.

Katie motioned to discontinue the consent agenda starting next week, Jason seconded. 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to approve January 15, 2024, meeting minutes. Vote 4-0.

Chair signed response letter to Community Concepts, to be mailed.

Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to appoint Dan and Colleen Bernard to the cemetery committee. Vote 4-0.

Arthur moved, Jason seconded, to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$18,392.11. Vote 3-1, Katie opposed.

Arthur moved, Jason seconded, to approve payroll in the amount of \$13,815.54. Vote 4-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

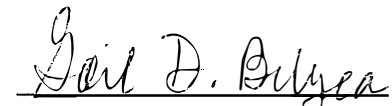
Arthur moved, Jason seconded, to enter public participation at 9:58 p.m. Vote 4-0.

Jackie wants to see a notebook with select board ledgers for public review.

Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to exit public participation at 10:04 p.m. Vote 4-0.

ADJOURN: Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to adjourn at 10:04 p.m. Vote 4-0.


Arthur Clifford, Chair


Gail Belyea, Vice Chair


Jason Dolloff

Patrick Houghton


Kathryn Lawrence