

## TOWN OF PERU SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 28, 2023

Present: Gail Belyea (scribe), Dan Carrier, Jackie Childs, Arthur Clifford, Jason Dolloff, Stephanie Griffus, Patrick Houghton, Kathryn Lawrence, Don Roach. Absent: Brad Hutchings.

### Consent Agenda:

1. Approve minutes of December 4, 2023.
2. Payroll Warrant #12 for \$12,389.70.
3. Accounts Payable Warrant #12 for \$191,745.24.
4. Payroll Warrant #13 for \$14,270.76.
5. Accounts Payable Warrant #13 for \$182,440.65.
6. Tax supplemental bill for the estate of Theodore Jasud
7. Widow's tax exemption for Frances Ball
8. Homestead tax exemption for Aaron and Christina Lashua

Gail motioned to remove #1-5 from the consent agenda and discuss toward the end of the main agenda, and then to approve #6, #7, and #8. Patrick seconded. All in favor.

### Elected Officials/Boards/Committee Reports:

Arthur reported that **CEO Clay Berry** would not be present tonight. Katie responded that a Ridge Road resident with an unhealthy living situation has moved, and she is not sure how Clay will send a violation notice now. Brief comments were made regarding junk cars at 156 Valley Road.

**Fire chief Dan Carrier** shared December 18 flooding situations; he told the board that Clay and Arthur had pumped four basements in Rumford today. Prior to that, 13-15 Peru firemen worked many hours throughout the December 18 rain and windstorm, and for days afterward, pumping water from 30 basements in town. Arthur thanked Dan and fire department on behalf of the select board.

Dan applied for a FEMA grant and a National Volunteer Fire Council grant, but both were denied.

Gear: Globe had a year-end sale on helmets which saved \$2600, which will allow him to buy two more sets of gear, thereby saving ~\$30,000. Has a quote from Draegar for first-quarter 2024.

Engine #12 cross end is still on back-order. Engine #12 also needs a valve rebuild; it leaks water.

He has completed annual pump testing.

Dan acquired a SCBA training maze for free; it stands upright in the fire station.

He said there is no current account in his department budget for an Emergency Operations Command center in Peru.

Fire department Christmas party was December 17.

Dan asked status of solar moratorium ordinance; the board handed him a very rough first draft.

Dan explained that the \$3500 from the sale of the old fire truck will go back to an account toward the third payment on the new fire truck.

Patrick motioned to sell the old fire truck to Tom Pelletier for \$3500 on November 27, 2023. Jason seconded his motion. Vote was 4-0, with Katie abstaining.

**Finance Committee Chair Don Roach** is interested in knowing if the town is purchasing quality tools for the road department, rather than inexpensive ones that will not last.

Don encouraged the select board to spend the remaining \$956.00 ARPA funds soon.

The finance committee requests copies of the town's monthly financials.

**Unfinished Business:** Patrick reported that the main door is in the L2 structure; two outlets in, 30-amp plug; will order some 50-amp cables for the compressor; will do receptacles and cords. Insurance has approved E & W Electric.

Adding Clint Bradbury as a rider on town insurance costs \$0.00. It would cost \$711 to cover the temp shelter for seven months. Gail motioned, Jason seconded, to ask Pat to contact Kyes Insurance and request that Mr. Bradbury be placed on our policy as a rider, and that we pay \$711 for seven-month coverage for the L2 building. Vote 5-0.

Insurance has agreed to cover four months heater rental, equaling \$8800. The rental will be renewed monthly upon request. That way we can cancel prior if we don't like it.

Arthur motioned, Katie seconded, for Pat to order the temp shelter heater. Vote 5-0.

Katie asked how the board wanted to handle the L2 discount offer: a lump sum check now or a \$500 discount each month. Arthur motioned to accept the monthly discount, Pat seconded. Vote 5-0.

Brad asked for a fourth key for the man door.

Pat met with Jake Chartier regarding trees in Demerritt cemetery, and about a large cherry tree branch down on a headstone. They discussed cutting trees behind the central fire station, too. Awaiting quotes.

MMA will be contacted about an abatement for a non-existent property taxed for 20 years.

Arthur explained that because Peru has no dangerous buildings ordinance, he as health officer cannot act on them. He will contact state-level health officer.

**Advantage Truck Group:** Board discussed that it would be more practical for Road Commissioner to handle the reimbursement for the failed inspection on the two six-wheelers, where he knows the items and issues. Katie will forward all documents back to Road Commissioner and let him know our discussion.

Katie moved to table the Emergency Operation Command issue until next meeting, Gail seconded. Vote 5-0.

**New Business:** Arthur motioned to table until January 8 further discussion on the price increase of \$485.00 on the 2023 Chevy 5500. Jason seconded. Vote 5-0.

Jason mentioned that two taxpayers have questioned him why the road commissioner is still using his personal vehicle for town business.

**ACO Eric Giroux** stated via email that his training is current through 2024.

Don shared that the streetlights at the intersection of Route 108 and North Main Street have been re-positioned away from the intersection and directly toward the fire station. He asked if the board knew why, and none did, nor had noticed.

Don said town office outside lights need to be changed to LED, and he believes CMP has not changed over all town streetlights to LED. He will give the board a spreadsheet showing all streetlights town-wide.

Heat pumps in the town office would be a great idea, Don said. The installer of his home heat pumps is confident they could be installed here.

Payroll Warrant #12 for \$12,389.70. Arthur motioned, Jason seconded to approve. Vote 5-0.

Accounts Payable Warrant #12 for \$191,745.24. Arthur moved, Jason seconded to approve. 5-0.

Payroll Warrant #13 for \$14,270.76. Arthur motioned, Pat seconded, to approve, 4-1, Jason abstained. Gail questioned the secretary's time sheet.

Arthur moved to accept the December 4, 2023, meeting mill minutes as amended at Gail's request. Patrick seconded. Vote was 4-1, Jason abstained.

Katie will ask the town clerk/treasurer regarding outstanding loans.

**Roundtable:** No update on historical society building bids; secretary is working on a draft.

Secretary's phone has a new cord. Gail asked her if the phone is working well now, after a call last week when Stephanie said she couldn't hear her. She said it is.

Secretary asked that her desk be off-limits to others.

Gail will email Lee-Ann Salley to ask if perhaps TRIO can place two names on town tax bills, i.e., Mr. and Mrs. John Doe, instead of just Mr. Doe or Mrs. Doe.

The board agreed by consensus that Katie can keep the garage-fire accounts notebook at home.

Gail motioned, Katie seconded, to suspend garage-fire account spending until the ledger is updated, reviewed and corrected. Vote 5-0.

Gail motioned, Katie seconded, to meet with the secretary on January 15, 2024, as she is now halfway through her probationary period. Vote 5-0.

**Public Participation:** Arthur moved to enter at 9:00 p.m., Jason seconded. 5-0.

Don asked how much money does the town have dedicated to building the new town garage? What are the credit card limits? He requests the tax collector's report and treasurer's report for the finance committee.

Jackie challenged the board for changing the December 4 meeting minutes at Gail's request, when last fall Katie asked to have minutes changed and the board voted to leave them as they were.

Jackie thinks selectmen's ledger should be available to the public in a book in the secretary's office as a checks and balances measure. She believes there is no accountability for anything in the town budget, and town books need to be audited now.

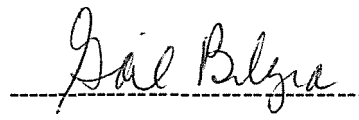
Don said please don't spend the \$885,000 in the fire recovery account.

Public participation exited at 9:26 p.m. Arthur motioned, Jason seconded. Vote 5-0.

**Adjourn:** Arthur motioned, Jason seconded at 9:26 p.m. Vote 5-0.




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Arthur Clifford, Chair

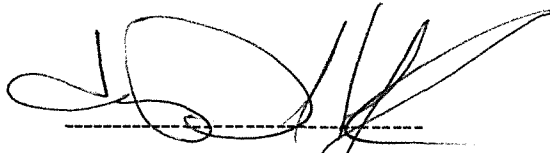


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Gail Belyea, Vice Chair

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Patrick Houghton



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Kathryn Lawrence



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Jason Dolloff