

TOWN OF PERU SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 8, 2024

PRESENT: Gail Belyea (scribe), Jackie Child, Debra Coudrain, Jason Dolloff, Brad Hutchings, Kathryn Lawrence, Norman Miele, Don Roach.

ABSENT: Patrick Houghton.

CONSENT AGENDA: Gail motioned to place the consent agenda nearer the end of the agenda. Arthur seconded. 4-0 in favor.

ELECTED OFFICIALS/BOARD/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Town clerk/Tax Collector/Treasurer Debbie attended this meeting in response to an invitation from the select board. Listed here are actions and discussions while she was present:

Gail moved, Arthur seconded, to name Debbie interim General Assistance administrator until June 30, 2024. Vote 4-0. Debbie is covered by bond for G.A. duties. She will be liaison for drug testing, also.

Discussion on garage fire ledger. Debbie said she has seen no new receipts presented for it.

Debbie said that every light on the town office grounds has been changed over to LED, except the two on the poles.

Title search was never completed, plus books and maps were never changed, on a small property purchased by Owen McMichael last year. Arthur moved, Jason seconded, to refund Owen \$326.00 he paid for it, and task Debbie and Lee-Ann Salley, assessor, to straighten out who owns the deed. Vote 4-0.

Debbie agreed to continue answering any further board questions at a later meeting.

Jason motioned, Katie seconded, to contact Kaitlynn Billings regarding possible interest in applying for the vacant board secretary position. If she indicates interest, the board asked Debbie to advertise in the usual outlets (with a slightly revised ad). Vote 4-0.

Discussion of \$485.00 additional bill for new 5500 from O'Connor GMC. This topic was tabled.

Road commissioner said it has been busy the last couple of weeks, with damage from the December 18, 2023, wind and rainstorm; says it is difficult to obtain gravel now, as most suppliers have depleted their supplies. Brad estimates costs between \$25-28,000 for that storm, excluding labor. 99% of damaged roads are repaired. Two of his team completed time sheets reflecting time spent on what locations, to aid in FEMA billing.

Town's trucks are running well, he said.

The board requested the road commissioner's time sheet reports for December; he said he would email them after the meeting.

Two citizens asked a board member to question why the road commissioner is still using his personal vehicle on town business, since the town has two utility trucks now. Brad said he has cut back on the use of his own vehicle.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Arthur moved to enter at 8:54 p.m., Jason seconded. Vote 4-0.

Norman Miele asked what happens to the temporary shelter when new town garage is built; it will be dismantled and returned to L2.

Norman asked when will the new town garage be built. The board explained difficulties in obtaining blueprints from an engineer over an extended time period. The building committee fulfilled their commitment to assist the board, but it is hard to find carpenters available who are also willing to take on a project that some consider too large, and others consider too small. Norman said we should have an overseer on the garage project; Katie said we have the building committee consisting of skilled professionals.

Norman noted that the Worthley Pond fire station's streetlight is blindingly bright for nighttime driving. Katie will talk with CMP.

Jackie asked will there ever be a notebook available to the public containing the selectmen's ledgers

Jackie noted that putting outside lights on building will attract bugs, bees, and birds. She wondered if the town purchased LEDs to replace CMP-owned lights, could they be placed on poles away from building. Don said we can't put lights on CMP poles.

Don asked when the board will contact MMA regarding a list of questions he presented last fall. Some have been answered already, but there are a handful more.

Arthur motioned to exit public participation at 9:23 p.m., Jason seconded. Vote 4-0.

Arthur motioned to return to the consent agenda at 9:24 p.m., Jason seconded. Vote 4-0.

Katie noted that the January 8, 2024, accounts payable warrant included a bill for well tiles from Gagne & Son in Lewiston dated August 29, 2023. The late receipt of the bill cost the town a \$66.00 early-payment discount. Katie will research this.


Brief discussion on town clerk time sheet: hourly or salaried employee?

Katie moved to accept the December 28, 2023, board meeting minutes, Jason seconded. 4-0.

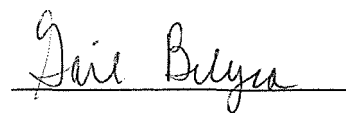
Arthur moved to accept Payroll Warrant #14 for \$11,492,85. Gail seconded. Vote 3-1, Katie opposed.

Arthur moved to accept Accounts Payable Warrant #14 for \$257,417.98. Gail seconded. Vote 3-1, Katie opposed.


Arthur motioned to adjourn at 9:55 p.m., Jason seconded. Vote 4-0.



Arthur Clifford, Chair



Gail Belyea, Vice Chair



Jason Dolloff

Patrick Houghton



Kathryn Lawrence