

**PERU SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

**SELECT BOARD PRESENT:** Gail Belyea (scribe), Patrick Houghton, Kathryn Lawrence.

**SELECT BOARD ABSENT:** Arthur Clifford, Jason Dolloff.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PRESENT:** Lynda Hebert, Joe Kerr, Tammi Lyons, Don Roach.

Katie motioned, Patrick seconded, to accept the meeting minutes of February 12, 2024. Vote was 3-0 in favor.

**ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Andy Freeman, Recreation Committee, asked for the current recreation account balance (\$6848.51 as of 2/16/24). He discussed updating the playground basketball equipment, and maybe installing a pickleball court. He volunteered to donate paint and his time to paint the swing sets. He'd like to see the town seek grants to improve the playground area.

Cemetery Committee members Dan and Colleen Bernard have accepted the challenge of updating Demerritt Cemetery records. Also, the board asked them to consider a reasonable sum for repairs in some cemeteries, i.e. fencing, chain fencing, posts, so that an article can be included on the June 2024 referendum ballot.

Fire Chief Dan Carrier followed up with United Diagnostic Services regarding possible liability to the town if a volunteer firefighter were diagnosed by them with a serious health issue. Dan learned that Peru would have no liability in that situation; individuals' insurance would be responsible for treatment.

ACO Eric Giroux said Peru has had 50+ calls for assistance with animals since July 1, 2023. Peru has no contract with a kennel currently; Eric will continue talking with Responsible Pet Care and Kozy Kennels to try to arrange something. Katie motioned and Pat seconded, that Eric receives the second half of his FY 23-24 stipend in Warrant #18 accounts payable. The vote was 3-0 in favor. He will submit an ACO report for the town report within two weeks.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Town clerk/treasurer was not present to discuss her FY 24-25 budget.

No progress on the town garage RFP. The building committee will meet March 4, 5:30 p.m.

Gail motioned, Pat seconded, to reserve a radar speed trailer for two weeks through MDOT, when available, acknowledging that the town will have to transport it both ways. Vote was 3-0 in favor.

Gail motioned to place another ad in the newspaper for a board secretary, Pat seconded. Vote was 3-0.

Katie motioned to accept the road commissioner's verbal resignation on June 30, 2024, as noted in the board meeting minutes of February 12, 2024. The vote was 3-0 in favor. Katie said she will email the road commissioner.

Gail motioned, Pat seconded, to place an article in the June 2024 referendum warrant to make the road commissioner position appointed rather than elected, beginning on July 1, 2026. Vote was 3-0.

The LPI contract will be mailed to Dave Errington Sr. for his signature. He is unable at this time to come to the office to sign, since a recent surgery.

Katie motioned to return \$24,273.00, borrowed for tools from the truck insurance pay-out on April 18, 2023, back to the truck insurance account. Vote was 3-0.

Gail motioned to include donation requests from five organizations on the June 2024 referendum ballot. Vote was 3-0.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Gail motioned, Pat seconded, to check with the town assessor regarding Ronda Palmer's abatement request. The vote was 3-0.

Pat motioned, Katie seconded, to approve Homestead Exemption for Troy and Alice Barnett. The vote was 3-0.

**ROUNDTABLE:**

Pat agreed to "audit" spending spreadsheets Katie has produced.

Katie motioned to send the temporary shelter's heater back to the rental company on March 5, 2024, Gail seconded. The vote failed, 1-2, Katie yes, Gail and Pat opposed.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Gail motioned to enter at 9:15 p.m., Pat seconded. The vote was 3-0.

Andy asked the status of the new town garage; said lots of townsfolk are curious.

Don inquired if any board members are signatories for the town clerk/treasurer if she became ill or incapacitated. No. Question for MMA.

Lynda wants a clearer explanation of the town's surplus "running total".

Pat motioned to exit public participation at 9:34 p.m., Gail seconded. The vote was 3-0.

**ADJOURNED:** Gail motioned to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. Pat seconded. The vote was 3-0.

_____		<u>Gail Belyea</u>	3-18-24
Arthur Clifford, Chair	Date	Gail Belyea, Vice Chair	Date
_____		<u>Patrick Houghton</u>	3/18/24
Jason Dolloff	Date	Patrick Houghton	Date
		<u>Kathryn Lawrence</u>	3/18/2024
		Kathryn Lawrence	Date