

## TOWN OF PERU SELECT BOARD MEETING NOTES OF MARCH 4, 2024

**SELECT BOARD PRESENT:** Gail Belyea (note-taker), Arthur Clifford, Jason Dolloff, Patrick Houghton, Kathryn Lawrence.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PRESENT:** Mike Arsenault, Lynda Hebert, Joe Kerr, Don Roach.

**OTHERS:** Debbie Coudrain, Norman DeRoche, Eric Giroux, Brad Hutchings, Mark Thompson.

Gail motioned, Katie seconded, to table the vote on meeting minutes of February 26, 2024. Vote was 3-0. Arthur and Jason abstained because they were not present on February 26.

### **ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS:**

Road commissioner Brad said his department is re-doing all grease lines on town trucks, and worked on tightening chains on 10-wheeler, red six-wheeler, and green six-wheeler. The board questioned why no work logs have been submitted since January 31, 2024; Brad responded that the employees will have to do them. He won't force them. There was discussion on returning the temp structure rental heater in April.

Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to enter executive session at 7:25 p.m., to discuss an animal issue with ACO Eric Giroux. Arthur motioned, Pat seconded, to exit executive session at 7:46 p.m. Katie motioned, Arthur seconded, to contact an attorney regarding the animal situation. 5-0 vote. The board vice chair will contact Bernstein Shur.

Brad stood in for Fire Chief Dan Carrier in requesting a special town meeting for Monday, March 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to amend Article #8 of the June 13, 2024, Referendum Warrant, to remove name brand and quantity. Arthur motioned, Gail seconded, to do so. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. The board accepted the town clerk/treasurer's FY 24-25 budget "as is", except that the \$575 for Christmas bonuses will be removed and added to the Select Board's budget.

Debbie discussed General Ledger changes and corrections. She has verified FY 22-23 and 23-24 ledgers. Katie requested more information on \$11,000 carried over in building maintenance in last year's audit.

- B. Board FY 24-25 budget updated with \$22,000 salary request from Assessor Lee-Ann Salley; and \$5000 for cemetery repairs and hold the balance (Article 38). Discussion was held on correspondence from Jacques Chartier regarding \$600 for tree-cutting behind central fire station and \$1600 to remove two oak trees in Demeritt Cemetery. The board finalized the amounts for six donation request articles on the 24-25 budget.
- C. Brad said tools in the garage-fire ledger total \$45,000.
- D. Norman DeRoche and Mark Thompson of the new-garage building committee presented their RFP; Katie will finish it prior to the board approving it for publication ASAP. Norman and Mark suggested adding a job completion timeline to the RFP.
- E. The board chair completed the traffic trailer request form to be mailed to M.D.O.T.
- F. The board tabled Ronda Palmer's abatement request, while waiting for more information from the assessor.

G. The board took no action on advertising for the vacant board secretary position.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. The board opened the sole bid for Grounds and Cemetery Maintenance. Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to award the contract to Todd Piper for \$21,000 for FY 24-25. Vote 5-0 in favor. There were no bids submitted for roofing the historical society building at 85 Peru Center Road.

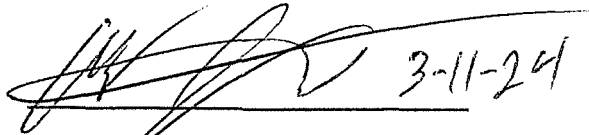
B. Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to approve the Homestead Exemption for Aaron and Christen Lashua, 72 Main Street. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

C. Pat motioned, Arthur seconded, to accept Payroll Warrant for \$11,048.26, which was approved with a vote of 4-1, Katie opposed.

D. Pat motioned, Arthur seconded, to accept Accounts Payable Warrant for \$192,151.26, which was approved by a vote of 3-2, Gail and Katie opposed.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** There was no public present.

**ADJOURN:** Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to adjourn at 10:16 p.m. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

  
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Arthur Clifford, Chair                      Date

  
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Gail Belyea, Vice Chair                      Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Dolloff                                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick Houghton                              Date

  
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Kathryn Lawrence                              Date