

TOWN OF PERU SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 1, 2024

Flag salute.

Katie motioned, Jason seconded, to table the minutes of March 25, 2024, for corrections. Vote 4-0, Pat abstained (absent on March 25).

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Dan Carrier, Jackie Child, Tom Hemenway, Brad Hutchings, Rick Vaughn, Raquel Welch.

ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire chief Dan Carrier's department has been busy with over-volume calls. New gear is trickling in; he hopes to have it all before the end of this budget year. Boots are arriving sporadically. May 18 and 19: upcoming class with Maine State Fire Institute. AAA will be here April 15 to do the fire extinguishers. Engine #12 is still at Northeast in Auburn.

Road commissioner Brad Hutchings reported that today the rental company took back the heater for the temporary shelter. Jason shared that two citizens inquired of him why Brad went out-of-town last week for wrecker service, instead of using a local wrecker company.

Finance committee chair Don Roach cancelled the April 3 committee meeting; it is rescheduled for April 9.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. The Chair reported that there has been one more RFP request for the new town garage.
- B. Vice Chair will respond to correspondence from Trident Property Insurance: trees behind the central fire station are still standing and the fire chief thinks they can be removed after mud season; also, that the town received no responses for RFPs for roofing and siding the historical society building last time we advertised, but we have re-advertised until April 22, 2024.
- C. MVHS/MS baseball/softball coach Jeff Pelletier attended to request the use of Peru's ball field this spring. The Rumford fields aren't available this season due to flooding. He asks to use our field for practices only; games can be played at other surrounding towns' fields. The board asked that he contact Scott Blaisdell about field scheduling. Arthur motioned, Katie seconded, to allow Mr. Pelletier the use of the ball field for ball practices. Vote 5-0.
- D. The tabled motion on the costs of towing two plow trucks from two separate locations on March 25, 2024, was discussed at length with the road commissioner. Brad was the operator of both trucks needing the tows. Three members of the road department got 27.5 hours of overtime each during the 3/24-25 storm. A third wrecker was at the scene of the accidents but was not necessary; Brad said he does not know if the town will be charged mileage for it, since he has no bill yet. Brad stated he contacted

a lawyer, who said Brad cannot be held accountable for paying the cost difference between Leonard's towing and a lesser quote from Adley's (Katie got the quote). Rick Vaughn asked the board for funds to buy hard hats and chaps to wear for cutting trees out of the road. Brad said he signed for four hard hats and four pairs of chaps, but Tyler was the only employee who was fitted for this equipment.

E. FY 24-25 budget work on the June warrant was completed as follows:

- Gail motioned, Jason seconded, for no wage increases for the road department for 24-25. Vote was 3-2, Arthur and Pat opposed.
- During this meeting, Katie provided a spreadsheet showing dollar amounts for insurance increases of 20%, 25%, and 28%. The board voted 4-1, Katie opposed, to work with a 25% increase (vehicle, liability, building).
- Article 1, approving using overlay account for abatements and refunds. Katie moved, Jason seconded, to approve, vote 5-0. Jason moved, Pat seconded, to recommend "yes", vote 5-0.
- Article 2, to raise and appropriate \$76,948.00 for Town Office Operations. Katie moved, Arthur seconded, to approve, vote 5-0. Katie moved, Arthur seconded, to recommend "yes", vote 5-0.
- Article 3, to raise and appropriate \$59,103.00 for General Expenses. Pat moved, Jason seconded, to approve, vote 5-0. Pat moved, Jason seconded, to recommend "yes", vote 5-0.
- Article 4, to raise and appropriate \$63,895.00 for Town Officials and Appointed Officials. Arthur moved, Jason seconded, to approve, vote 5-0. Arthur moved, Jason seconded, to recommend "yes", vote 5-0.
- Article 5, to raise and appropriate \$81,895.00 for Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and Treasurer. Arthur moved, Katie seconded, to approve, vote 5-0. Arthur moved, Katie seconded, to recommend "yes", vote 5-0.
- Article 6, to raise and appropriate \$115,395.00 for operations and maintenance of the Fire Department. Pat moved, Katie seconded to approve, vote 4-0 (Arthur abstained). Pat moved, Katie seconded, to recommend "yes", vote 4-0 (Arthur abstained).
- Article 9, to raise and appropriate \$27,663.00 for final payment on 2005 fire truck. Katie moved, Pat seconded, to approve, vote was 5-0. Katie moved, Pat seconded, to recommend "yes", vote was 5-0.
- Article 10, to raise and appropriate \$6500.00 for diagnostic testing of fire department members who wish to participate. Katie moved, Pat seconded, to approve, vote 4-0 (Arthur abstained). Katie moved, Pat seconded, to recommend "yes", vote 4-0 (Arthur abstained).
- Article 11, to raise and appropriate \$354,056.00 for Summer Roads (changed from \$414,065.00, and includes 160 OT hours). Arthur moved, Jason seconded, to approve, vote 3-2 (Pat and Arthur opposed). Arthur moved, Jason seconded to recommend "yes", vote 3-2 (Pat and Arthur opposed).
- Article 12, to raise and appropriate \$22,000.00 for Garage Facility Maintenance and Operations (lowered from \$31,500.00). Katie moved, Arthur seconded to approve, vote was 3-2 (Gail and Jason opposed). Katie moved, Pat seconded, to recommend "no", vote was 4-1 (Gail opposed).
- Article 13, to raise and appropriate \$260,705.00 for Winter Roads. Arthur moved to approve, Jason seconded, 5-0 opposed. Katie moved, Pat

seconded, to raise and appropriate \$260,219.00, and lower overtime hours from 700 to 600 hours, vote 3-2 (Pat and Arthur opposed). Katie moved, Pat seconded, to recommend "yes", vote 3-2 in favor (Pat and Arthur opposed).

- Article 14, to raise and appropriate \$37,103.00 and take \$24,273.00 from tool insurance money for second payment on 2024 six-wheeler. Katie moved, Arthur seconded, to approve, vote 5-0. Katie moved, Arthur, seconded, to recommend "yes", vote 5-0.
- Article 18, \$85,000.00 toward overlay of town roads. Katie moved, Gail seconded, to approve, vote 4-1 (Arthur opposed). Katie moved, Gail seconded, to recommend "no".
- Article 19, \$75,000.00 to purchase a used pavement compactor/roller for the road department. Katie moved, Gail seconded, to not place the article on the June referendum ballot, vote 5-0 in favor of the motion.
- Article 26, to vote to take \$1500 from boat excise tax to defray costs of Worthley Pond water testing and boat inspections. Arthur moved, Gail seconded, to approve as written, vote 5-0. Arthur moved, Gail seconded, to recommend "yes", vote 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Homestead exemption was approved for Noah Gagnon. Pat motioned, Katie seconded, vote 5-0.
- B. Tabled correspondence from Northern Light.
- C. New date the board chose for rescheduled public meeting for Quik Stop Traffic Movement Permit is April 11, 2024. The vice chair will contact Tim Soucie, MDOT.
- D. Patrick motioned, Arthur seconded, to accept Payroll warrant #20 for \$12,571.69. The vote was 3-2, Gail and Katie opposed.
- E. Patrick motioned, Jason seconded, to accept Accounts Payable warrant #20 for \$51,826.26. The vote was 3-2, Gail and Katie opposed.

ROUNDTABLE:

- A. Arthur is still trying to contact Dick's Sporting Goods regarding basketball equipment.
- B. Board agreed to allow Dirigo Middle School eighth grade to place Gammon's trailer at the town office to receive returnable bottles for their class trip.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Gail motioned, Arthur seconded, to enter public participation at 11:37 p.m. Vote 5-0. None.
Jason motioned, Arthur seconded, to exit public participation at 11:38 p.m. Vote 5-0.

ADJOURN:

Arthur motioned, Pat seconded, to adjourn at 11:45 p.m. The vote was 5-0.



Arthur Clifford, Chair Date

 4-8-24

Gail Belyea, Vice Chair Date