

TOWN OF PERU SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 15, 2024

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE PRESENT: Tammi Lyons, Don Roach.

OTHERS: Jeff Dolloff, Matt Dyke, Brad Hutchings, Josh Lawrence, Warren MacFawn, Tyler McDonald, Bonnie McKenna, Neil McKenna, Matt Theriault, Mark Thompson, Clifton Thurston.

Arthur motioned, Patrick seconded, to accept the April 8, 2024, meeting minutes. All in favor.

ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Road Commissioner Brad Hutchings reported that roads are all swept, and the department is rock raking. He may lift spring weight restrictions on town roads by the end of this week. Worthley Pond fire station entrance has been cleared of winter debris. Brad was questioned about noon-time street sweeping at the intersection of the central fire station and Community Quik Stop, with no use of water to control the dust generated.

Finance committee chair Don Roach questioned why the board did not share the final draft of the June referendum warrant with the finance committee. The board admitted it was an oversight on its part and apologized. He mentioned Article 10 has an incorrect recommendation on it; the board is aware and will discuss during the meeting.

Katie motioned, Jason seconded, not to accept the two bids received for the new town garage. All in favor. Katie motioned, Jason seconded, to re-advertise for bids, with a May 6 deadline for submissions. All in favor. Building committee members Mark Thompson and Clif Thurston had advised the board at this meeting not to accept either of the two bids received, due to the high prices. Arthur will contact the two bidders, Doten's and Phelan Construction, by email to tell them. Don asked if the board has a dollar amount for the cost of the new garage; Katie said there are estimates and she can provide them.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Arthur motioned, Gail seconded, "no recommendation" on Article 10 (diagnostic screening apart from regular annual physicals for fire department) on the FY 24-25 budget. All in favor.

Katie read a thank you note to the board from Kim Truitt.

Don volunteered to contact Dick's Sporting Goods about prices and availability of basketball hoops for the town playground. He will report next week.

The board chose either May 30 or June 6 as potential dates for the MDOT scoping meeting with Community Quik Stop. Gail will contact MDOT.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gail motioned, Jason seconded, to nominate Andy Freeman as recipient of the 2024 Spirit of America award. All in favor.

Jason motioned, Arthur seconded, to table the draft wrecker policy to next meeting. All in favor.

Jason motioned, Arthur seconded, to table discussion on the road commissioner's pay-out, since the winter roads account is overdrawn, and the summer roads account is over 50% gone. All in favor.

Matt Theriault, general manager of Leonard's Heavy-Duty Towing of Auburn, was present to question the Board about a social media post on April 15, regarding the \$6400 bill to the town from March 25, when Leonard's pulled two town plow trucks from ditches. This post included a picture of the bill and said it would have been less expensive to "shop local". There was lengthy discussion. Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to send an apology letter to Leonard's, stating that the board did not authorize billing information to be presented on social media. The vote was 4-1, Katie opposed.

Arthur motioned, Pat seconded, to accept Accounts Payable warrant #21 for \$188,811.02. All in favor.

Arthur motioned, Pat seconded, to accept Payroll warrant #21 for \$10,490.17. The vote was 4-1, Katie opposed.

Katie will research the issue of compensatory time by road department employees, as the board has questions about its use on time sheets.

Pat will contact L2 regarding extending the contract time for the temporary shelter, and Katie will contact the town's insurance company about payment for same. The temp shelter is scheduled to be returned on June 7.

Arthur motioned, Pat seconded, to approve a quit-claim deed for Brian and Jennifer Lufkin. All in favor.

ROUNDTABLE/REMINDERS:

River Valley Community Clean-Up on April 20 was discussed. Arthur will contact Brad about parking a town truck at the town office for those participating in clean-up to throw roadside trash in.

Gail will contact members of the planning board and the fire chief for their availability to attend a workshop on the draft solar ordinance, either April 23 or 30.

Gail will contact the cemetery committee with the board's advice of "worst first" when planning work in the cemeteries. Also the board recommends waiting to see if the town approves the June referendum article for \$5000 to improve cemeteries before moving ahead.

Tyler reported that Rick Vaughn and Ryan Child, road department, both obtained chaps and helmets recently, for tree cutting as necessary.

Gail reported that the D.E.S. auditorium has been reserved for the May 16 budget informational meeting.

Discussion regarding time clocks for the road department. Matt Theriault shared his knowledge of "Pay Clock"; it's what Leonard's uses for its employees. All digital, tracks overtime, calculates pay, can manage from a desktop, can look back 4-5 weeks, GPS, etc.

Pat is not able to attend the April 22 board meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

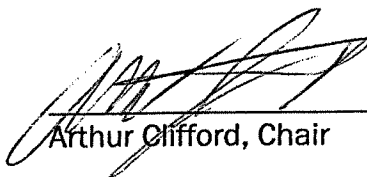
Arthur motioned, Gail seconded, to enter public participation at 8:21 p.m. All in favor.

Matt Dyke shared his opinion that Peru citizens don't become involved in town government because of incidents like the social media post featuring Leonard's towing bill. Several others present agreed with him.

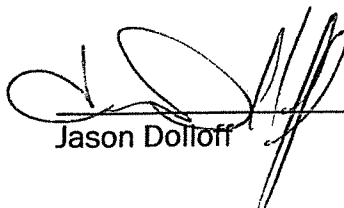
Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to exit public participation at 8:41 p.m. All in favor.


ADJOURN:

Pat motioned, Arthur seconded, to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. All in favor.


Arthur Clifford, Chair 4-29-24
Date


Gail Belyea, Vice Chair 4-29-24
Date


Jason Dollhoff 4-29-24
Date


Patrick Houghton 4/29/24
Date


Kathryn Lawrence 4-29-24
Date