

PERU SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 8, 2024

BOARD PRESENT: Gail Belyea (note-taker), Arthur Clifford, Kathryn Lawrence, Raquel Welch-Day.

OTHERS PRESENT: Eric Giroux, Lynda Hebert, Joe Kerr, Karen Lark, Tyler McDonald, Don Roach.

Raquel motioned, Arthur seconded, to approve the July 1, 2024, board meeting minutes. All in favor.

ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Finance Committee Chair Don addressed the board with his concerns about the town's current lack of a state auditor due to her resignation, cautioning the board to be watchful of accounting practices.
- Road Commissioner Tyler has rented an excavator with clean-out bucket for July 15 through August 12, 2024, at a cost of \$5625.00. He will be using it on Tower and Packard Roads, among others.

Rick Vaughn and Tyler went to Limerick today; Tyler traded the road department's drag box machine toward a flail mower. After a \$1000 trade-in price, the cost of the flail mower was \$1500. The town has an old flail mower that Tyler kept for spare parts. Ryan Child rock raked Lacroix and Concord Pond Roads today while Tyler and Rick were away.

Tyler has heard nothing more on the Dickvale Road box culvert project. He said the Army Corps of Engineers has the culvert. Deadline to complete is April 2025.

No paving on Dolloff Street until after the new Community Quit Stop is built. Tyler will be considering potential sites for overlay projects.

Discussions ensued on several topics: weed whacking the grounds at 85 Peru Center Road; considering hiring a part-time road department employee rather than full-time (to fill Brad's spot); and the amount of funds available to erect the new town garage. Also, the board asked Tyler to complete a floodplain survey the town received from FEMA.

- ACO Eric Giroux said there were 7-9 cow issues in the past week, and the owners were summonsed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Katie will email the revised auditor replacement RFP to the town clerk tomorrow.
- Raquel reported that SR Concrete will contact her before he arrives at the new town garage site to do the remaining concrete work, which should be on July 10, 2024.
- Gail motioned, Arthur seconded, to hire Sandra Ackley to work one day per week, Monday, as part-time town secretary, at \$22.50 per hour. All in favor.
- Gail motioned, Katie seconded, to allow all four selectboard members to administer the town's new facebook page. Vote 2-2, Gail and Katie pro, Arthur and Raquel, anti.

- Gail motioned, Arthur seconded, to have the Chair and Vice Chair administer the town's new facebook page. Vote 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Raquel motioned, Arthur seconded, to place the vacant selectboard seat on the November 5, 2024, municipal ballot. All in favor.
- Raquel motioned, Arthur seconded, to approve payroll Warrant #1 for \$11,795.86. All in favor.
- Raquel motioned, Arthur seconded, to approve accounts payable Warrant #1 for \$288,172.03. Vote was 3-1, Katie opposed.
- Katie motioned, Gail seconded, to move street and traffic lights line to town office electricity line. All in favor.
- Raquel motioned, Arthur seconded, to "raise and appropriate monies" on the July 29, 2024, special town meeting warrant, instead of "take from surplus". Vote was 3-1, Katie opposed.
- Raquel motioned, Arthur seconded, that any town department wanting to spend over \$5000 would need to bring that request to the board. Motion failed 2-2, Raquel and Arthur pro, Gail and Katie anti.
- Gail motioned, Katie seconded, that any town department wanting to spend over \$2500 would need to bring that request to the board. Motion failed 2-2, Gail and Katie pro, Raquel and Arthur anti.
- Arthur motioned, Raquel seconded, that any town department wanting to spend over \$3500 would need to bring that request to the board. Motion failed 2-2, Arthur and Raquel pro, Gail and Katie anti.

ROUNDTABLE/REMINDERS:

- Nomination papers for the vacant select board seat will be available at the July 29 special town meeting.
- There was a discussion regarding vacant committee seats. Vice chair will contact town clerk about appointments.
- Arthur is unable to attend the July 9 Andover selectboard meeting regarding forming a committee to consider town manager governance. He plans to go to the July 16 meeting in Andover.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Gail motioned, Arthur seconded, to enter public participation at 7:58 p.m. All in favor.

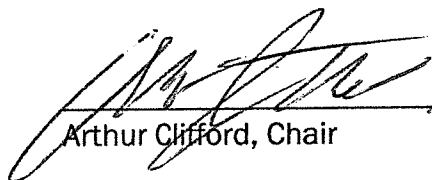
It was asked if the new road commissioner has been bonded. The application has been sent.

Don asked if annual visits to a specific property at Worthley Pond are ongoing, but board members are not up-to-date on that situation.

Karen initiated discussion on placing articles on future referendum warrants regarding appointing town clerk/treasurer/tax collector and the road commissioner.

Arthur motioned, Gail seconded, to exit public participation at 8:17 p.m. All in favor.

ADJOURN. Raquel motioned, Arthur seconded, to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. All in favor.

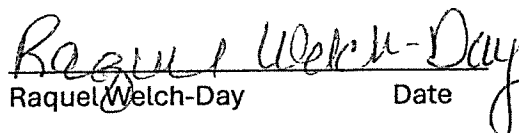
 7-15-24

Arthur Clifford, Chair Date

 7-15-24

Gail Belyea, Vice Chair Date

Kathryn Lawrence Date



Raquel Welch-Day Date