

TOWN OF PERU SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 29, 2024

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Clay Berry, Donna Brackett, Michael Brackett, Jacie Child, Sharon Gates, Cindy Hamanne, Paula Harting, Karen Lark, Aaron Lashua, Kelly Martin, Tyler McDonald, Bonnie McKenna, Brenda Plante, Dale Plante, Diane Shorey, David Smith, Margaret Smith, Louann Thibodeau, Michael Thibodeau,

Arthur motioned, Katie seconded, to accept the April 22, 2024, meeting minutes. The vote was 4-1, Pat abstained (absent).

Katie motioned, Jason seconded, to accept the April 15, 2024, amended meeting minutes. All in favor.

ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance committee chair Don Roach presented a CMP Account Information Summary that he prepared. He said CMP is willing to move the two streetlights currently on CMP account 3501-0883-185 Town Office/Town account 51-051-120 (town office), to CMP account 3501-6122-596, Streetlights/Town account 53-05-250 (streetlights). Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to approve. All in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The board signed the new wrecker policy.

Arthur shared that the discount application to Dick's Sporting Goods for basketball equipment is awaiting approval.

The board will contact Planning Board chair Earle Wingate regarding possible May 14 joint workshop on the solar ordinance.

Gail motioned to table the Spirit of American nomination until the next meeting, Arthur seconded. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Arthur motioned, Patrick seconded, to approve the homestead exemption for Barbara Hanson. All in favor.

Donation request from Black Mountain of Maine tabled by consensus until the FY 24-25 town budget.

Jason said his daughter Lyndsey will put the playground swings up for the board.

Lynda Hebert requested permission from the board to share information regarding the market adjustment. The board consented. There was a lengthy period of opinions from those attending, and many questions for the select board regarding how much taxes would increase after a market adjustment, especially at Worthley Pond, and how some would struggle to pay. Lynda called Mr. Salley on her cell; the group was able to question him. Mr. Salley told listeners that the board has authority to tell the assessing agent not to work on the market adjustment.

Many of those present observed that the select board did not inform citizens in a timely fashion about a possible market adjustment before the board voted on it.

Lynda asked the board to reconsider their vote on proceeding with the market adjustment. She believes it is unnecessary. The board took no action at this meeting, saying it would like to talk with the State, and to gather more information. The board thanked those present for coming to talk about their concerns.

Arthur motioned, Pat seconded, to approve Payroll Warrant #22 for \$9,032.78. The vote was 3-2, Gail and Katie opposed.

Arthur motioned, Pat seconded, to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #22 for \$45,224.42. All in favor.

Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to accept the bid from Dave Wallace for roofing and siding the historical society building at 85 Peru Center Road. All in favor. Mr. Wallace plans to complete this project before June 2024. He bid \$13,200 for the roofing, and \$10,800 for the siding. The board had budgeted \$20,000 last year for the entire job, so Katie will contact our insurance company regarding the extra expense (the siding on just the east wall needs replacing due to the town garage fire in 2023).

Dwayne Vaughn will allow the road department to use his garage until the new garage is built. There was discussion around possibly paying rent; not placing Conex boxes at Vaughn's location; and when to move the power pole from the current temp shelter location to the town garage location. Katie moved, Jason seconded, to table further discussion until the board opens bids on May 6 for building the new garage. All in favor.

Arthur will speak to the road commissioner about moving plows and other equipment away from the historical society building. Also, he will ask the road department to finish cleaning up winter debris from the town office parking lot.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Arthur motioned, Pat seconded, to enter public participation at 9:46 p.m. All in favor.

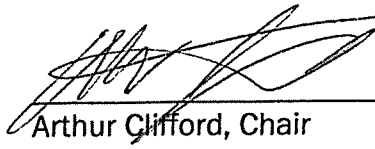
Don mentioned that the tree and the shrubs at the memorial green by central fire station need work before Memorial Day.

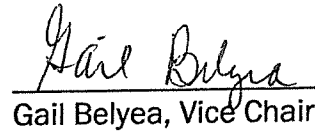
Regarding the comments from the market adjustment discussion, Don said it is the tax collector's responsibility to help make payment plans for taxpayers who request them.

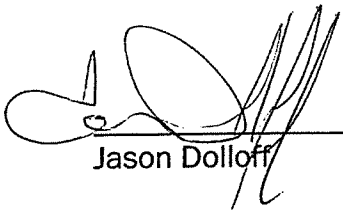
Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to exit public participation at 9:56 p.m. All in favor.


ADJOURN:


Jason motioned, everybody seconded, to adjourn at 9:57 p.m. All in favor.


Arthur Clifford, Chair 5-6-24
Date


Gail Belyea, Vice Chair 5-6-2024
Date


Jason Dolloff 5-6-24
Date


Patrick Houghton 5/6/24
Date


Kathryn Lawrence 5-6-24
Date