

## JULY 1, 2024, PERU SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dan Carrier, Mike Day, Eric Giroux, Karen Lark, Tyler McDonald, Don Roach, Clifton Thurston.

### ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS/COMMITTEE REPORTS.

- Fire Chief Dan Carrier said the June 25 volunteer firefighter debriefings went well. Engine #12 is still at Northeast in Auburn: a bad ground in a corroded power supply; jake brake still not working; electronics still not responding.
- Dan and Tyler are advocating for a second communications tower, to supplement the first one installed on Tower Road. The price for tower #2 is \$43,000. Dan has a \$20,530 grant, which expires in August 2024, and he is asking for \$25,000 from town surplus funds toward the purchase price. Dan wants to place the new tower on the town office grounds. Raquel motioned to place an article on the July 29 special town meeting for \$25,000 for this tower, and Katie seconded. The vote was 3-1 in favor, Gail opposed.
- Road Commissioner Tyler McDonald said ditching is completed on Stagecoach Road. He is working on FEMA documents. Rick Vaughn is on vacation. Ryan Child is rock raking this week. Katie asked Tyler if trimming around stop signs could be accomplished soon, as some signs are barely visible behind trees and bushes. Tyler will be renting an excavator for more ditching on Tower Road and Packard Hill. When asked, Tyler shared that he has not yet learned when the Corps of Engineers box culvert project on Dickvale Road will begin. Tyler wants to travel to Limerick to consider buying a flail mower for the town; he thinks he can trade in another piece of machinery toward the flail mower.
- Finance Committee Chair Don Roach said the town's CMP contact is April Stevens. He agreed to moderate the July 29 special town meeting.
- Building Committee Chair Clif Thurston asked when SR Concrete will complete the remaining concrete at the new town garage, because he plans to begin work within the next three weeks. Trusses will arrive by early August.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Animal Control Officer Eric Giroux said Responsible Pet Care would cost the town between \$800 to \$900 per year. Katie motioned to take \$1100 from surplus for a kennel budget, and Arthur seconded. 4-0 in favor. Raquel motioned, Arthur seconded, for Eric's stipend to be \$2000 for FY 24-25: \$1000 immediately and \$1000 later in the fiscal year. 4-0 in favor.

- Arthur motioned, Katie seconded, to appoint Julie Carlow to the vacant seat on the RSU 56 school board. The vote was 3-1, Raquel opposed.
- Raquel will contact SR Concrete regarding finishing their work at the new town garage.
- Katie has trimmed the overgrown shrubs on the town office front lawn and reported also that the big yellow Adirondack chair has some rotten boards in the seat. Katie was thanked for mowing the historical society building's front lawn.
- Arthur thanked Tyler for his assistance in removing the two old basketball hoops in the playground and then installing the culverts/homemade sauna tubes for the new basketball hoops.
- Gail moved, Raquel seconded, to approve a homestead exemption for Joshua Lawrence. The vote was unanimous.
- Katie motioned, Gail seconded, to approve the E&W electrical estimate for the new town garage. The vote was 3-1, Raquel opposed.
- Gail motioned, Arthur seconded, to approve the 906 Order Request for the town clerk. The vote was unanimous.
- Raquel moved, Arthur seconded, to put out RFPs to obtain another auditor for the town, as the current auditor resigned. The vote was unanimous. Katie will re-work a sample RFP from Roxbury and submit it to the town clerk.
- Arthur motioned, Gail seconded, to place an article on the July 29 special town meeting to vote on accepting and dispersing ATV grant funds received recently. The vote was unanimous.
- Raquel motioned, Arthur seconded, to let Tyler contact E & W Electric regarding placement of electrical outlets in the new town garage. The vote was unanimous.
- Katie motioned, Gail seconded, to raise and appropriate \$18,000 for failed Article 12 on the June 2024 referendum ballot (Garage Maintenance and Operations). Motion failed, 1-3, Katie in favor.
- Raquel motioned, Arthur seconded, to raise and appropriate \$22,000 for failed Article 12 on the June 2024 referendum ballot (Garage Maintenance and Operations). Motion failed, 2-2. Raquel and Arthur in favor, Gail and Katie opposed.
- Katie motioned, Arthur seconded, to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for failed Article 12 on the June 2024 referendum ballot (Garage Maintenance and Operations). Motion failed. Katie in favor, Arthur, Gail and Raquel opposed.

- Arthur motioned, Raquel seconded, to raise and appropriate \$20,000 for failed Article 12 on the June 2024 referendum ballot (Garage Maintenance and Operations). Motion failed 2-2. Arthur and Raquel in favor, Gail and Katie opposed.
- Raquel motioned, Arthur seconded, to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for failed Article 12 on the June 2024 referendum ballot (Garage Maintenance and Operations). Motion failed 2-2. Raquel and Arthur in favor, Gail and Katie opposed.
- Katie moved, Raquel seconded, to raise and appropriate \$12,000 for failed Article 12 on the June 2024 referendum ballot (Garage Maintenance and Operations). Motion passed 3-1, Gail opposed.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Arthur moved, Raquel seconded, to enter public participation at 8:46 p.m. All in favor.


Karen Lark asked about the cow situation in Dickvale. She was told the State of Maine is involved now, and they can control what happens.

Don Roach asked if any trees behind the central fire station, and at the memorial stone across from it, would be taken down. The response was that the fire chief and the chair of the select board are discussing it.

Arthur moved, Raquel seconded, to exit public participation at 8:51 p.m. All in favor.

**ADJOURN.**

Arthur motioned, Gail seconded, to adjourn at 8:51 p.m. All in favor.

  
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 Arthur Clifford, Chair                      Date

  
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 Gail Belyea, Vice Chair                      Date

  
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 Kathryn Lawrence

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 Raquel Welch-Day                      Date