

## TOWN OF PERU SELECTBOARD NOTES OF JUNE 24, 2024

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Randy Canwell, Dan Carrier, Arthur Clifford, Eric Giroux, Lynda Hebert, Karen Lark, Katie Lawrence, Tyler McDonald, Don Roach, Linda Tompkins.

Gail moved, Arthur seconded, to table the June 17 meeting minutes. All in favor.

### **ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Raquel asked why an FOAA request from Tyler McDonald was still uncompleted over a year later. Answer: the applicant was told at the time that the information requested is in a large binder in the selectboard's office, and there is free access to it. Copies may be made at any time.

Raquel presented her concern that the concrete slab at the new town garage is too thick for the work needing to be done. She asked when the building committee last attended a selectboard meeting with an update. It was May 13, 2024.

She inquired about the grant-funded Dickvale stream crossing work schedule. Tyler said it should begin by July 1.

- Finance committee chair Don shared CMP's Action Plan Regarding Lighting for Peru. Arthur agreed to contact CMP about facing the pole lighting at the central fire station toward the Route 108 pedestrian crossing.
- Road commissioner Tyler said he received an invoice from H.P. Fairfield for the 2015 six-wheeler, which has been in Skowhegan since the first week in April 2024. The invoice was received too late to be paid from this fiscal year's budget.

He spent all last Thursday organizing the road commissioner's office. Not done yet.

Raquel moved, Katie seconded, to allow Tyler to buy a cell phone for on-the-job use. The vote was 3-1 (Gail opposed).

When asked what the road department is doing, he responded that today it worked on Burbank Road with Dwayne Vaughn. Tomorrow gravel will be placed at the foot of Hammond Hill Road. Then ditching on Tower Road, and work on Packard Road.

- Fire Chief Dan Carrier reported that Engine #12 is still out of service at Northeast. Tuesday, June 25, Peru fire volunteers will be debriefed due to recent accidents they attended. Those not able to debrief tomorrow will be seen by Oxford County Mental Health at another time.

Recent hose and ladder tests went well.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Gail moved, Katie seconded, to approve the briefer version of the new time clock policy. The vote was 2-2: Gail and Katie in favor, Arthur and Raquel opposed. Motion

failed. The road commissioner said he refuses to use the time clock. Raquel said the town clerk refuses, also.

- Gail moved, Raquel seconded, to add a list of permit fees to the draft solar ordinance. 4-0 in favor.
- Raquel moved, Gail seconded, to hold a special town meeting July 29 at 5:30 p.m. at the town office (instead of July 8). Articles to be included on the warrant: a vote to authorize the selectboard to expend garage fire insurance monies to cover siding costs on historical society building; a vote to authorize the selectboard to take money from surplus to cover the 15% winter roads overage; and a vote on the draft solar ordinance. All in favor of the motion. Omitted was an article to revote Article 12 on the June 11 referendum, \$10,000 for Garage Facility, Maintenance, Operations.
- Katie moved, Arthur seconded, to accept the Von Plumbing estimate of \$21,275.00 for the new town garage. All in favor, Raquel under protest.
- Arthur moved, Raquel seconded, to set the road commissioner's rate of pay at \$25.90 per hour. The vote was 3-1, Gail opposed.
- Katie will contact Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown regarding the removal of shrubs on the town office front lawn.
- The board will ask the town clerk to prepare nomination papers for the vacant selectboard seat, to be available by the town informational meeting on July 15, 2024.
- The town now has a Facebook page of its own, due to Arthur's efforts: town of peru, maine official.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- The board discussed Peru's lack of an animal shelter with ACO Eric Giroux. Eric and Arthur will travel to Hartford on June 27 to visit a prospective shelter.
- Raquel moved, Arthur seconded, to accept an updated estimate from Dave Douglass of As Remembered LLC (veteran stones cleaning). All in favor.
- Raquel moved, Arthur seconded, to approve payroll warrant #26 for \$12,739.66. The vote was 3-1, Gail opposed.
- Raquel moved, Arthur seconded, to approve accounts payable warrant #26 for \$43,195.16. The vote was 3-1, Gail opposed.

#### ROUNDTABLE:

- The board signed a "thank you" letter to Clint Bradbury for the use of his property for the temporary shelter for the road department from December 2, 2023, to June 7, 2024.

- Arthur talked with Andover selectboard member Justin Thacker about possibly sharing a town manager with them in the future. Andover is forming a committee to research the town manager option.
- Summerfest was discussed; the date is tentatively changed from August 8 to September 15. Katie is the committee right now.
- The town clerk shared these numbers: \$232,354 in the town's checking account, and \$1,252,762 in savings.
- The cemetery committee did not do walk-arounds on June 22 due to rain. They will reschedule soon.

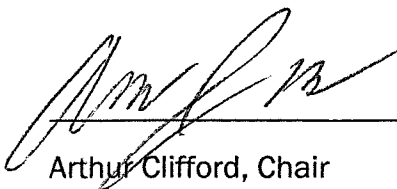
**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Arthur motioned to enter public participation at 8:55 p.m., Raquel seconded. All in favor.

- Karen asked if the town went to a town manager form of government, would Peru still have a select board. Yes.  
She asked if Arthur had been working with Debbie on finances. No.  
She mentioned several properties in town needing to clean up around them, and asked if there were updates on a couple of them. No.
- Lynda stated that the new Facebook page is administered by the select board only, and there are no public comments allowed.
- Don thinks the town needs a road committee. He gave the board a draft document he prepared on "Beginning Budget Amounts".

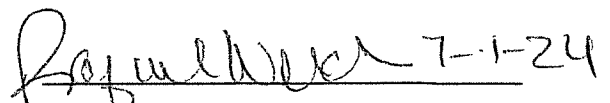
Arthur motioned, Raquel seconded, to exit public participation at 9:15 p.m. All in favor.

**ADJOURN:** Arthur motioned, Raquel seconded, to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. All in favor.

  
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 Arthur Clifford, Chair                      Date                      7-1-24

  
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 Gail Belyea, Vice Chair                      Date                      7-1-24

  
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 Kathryn Lawrence                      Date                      7-1-24

  
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 Raquel Welch-Day                      Date                      7-1-24