

## TOWN OF PERU MARCH 25, 2024, SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**SELECT BOARD PRESENT:** Gail Belyea (scribe), Arthur Clifford, Jason Dolloff, Kathryn Lawrence.

**SELECT BOARD ABSENT:** Patrick Houghton.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PRESENT:** Mike Arsenault, Joe Kerr, Tammi Lyons, Don Roach, Earle Wingate.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Clay Berry, Dan Carrier, Josh Lawrence, Tyler McDonald, Chelsea McLain, Carol Roach, Kim Truitt, John Wilson.

### SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, 6:00 P.M.

Warrant Article 1. Don Roach was elected meeting moderator.

Warrant Article 2. Amended wording: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$28,325.00 to purchase air packs and masks. Additional air packs and masks are to be replaced over the next three years, spreading the cost over four years total.

Carol Roach motioned to accept Article 2 as written, Earle Wingate seconded. Vote by show of hands, and it was voted to accept by a large majority.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. s.s.405(6)(A), PERSONNEL MATTER.**

Arthur motioned, Jason seconded to enter at 6:10 p.m. Vote 4-0. Arthur motioned, Jason seconded to exit at 6:26 p.m. Vote 4-0. The board will contact applicant with its decision.

Arthur motioned, Jason seconded to accept the minutes of the March 18, 2024, board meeting. Vote 4-0.

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

Fire Chief Dan Carrier said 98% of the lights in the central fire station are now LED. Engine #12 is at Northeast in Auburn today and will be there for a week or two, to address electrical issues and have a front-end alignment.

Gail motioned, Jason seconded to accept the fire department's stand-alone article for United Diagnostics Services LLC, which will appear on the June 2024 referendum ballot. Vote 3-1, Arthur abstained as a fire department member.

Jason motioned, Katie seconded, to make "no recommendation" on the article for Diagnostics Services LLC, for \$6500.00. Vote 3-1, Arthur abstained as a firefighter.

Road Commissioner Brad Hutchings said there was no damage to the two six-wheeler plow trucks which tipped over into ditches during the 24-inch snowstorm on Saturday, March 23; Brad was the driver of both trucks. One truck went off Knox Road, the other truck went off Tower Road. Brad waited until Monday to have Leonard's towing of Auburn arrive to pull out

the trucks. Leonard's brought three wreckers Monday morning and spent three hours retrieving the trucks from the accident sites. He said there was no need to contact the town's insurance company since he claims the trucks were not damaged.

Katie motioned, Jason seconded, to make the road commissioner responsible for additional costs incurred in hiring Leonard's towing over a quote from Adley's towing of Rumford. Vote was Katie in favor, Arthur opposed, Gail and Jason abstained.

Jason motioned to table discussion until the next meeting or when the full board is present, and the total incurred cost amount is known. The vote was 3-1, Arthur opposed.

The four-person road department will be paid 27.5 hours overtime each for March 23, 2024.

The board asked Brad to have the rental heater ready to be returned on March 28.

Katie is waiting for tool lists from Brad, but he has not finished them. He said the total tool purchases are now \$50,000.

Jason mentioned the road department work logs again; Brad said he will bring in his own. When asked by the board, Tyler said he will not complete work logs because the board sees all material purchases and should be able to figure out ourselves what work is occurring.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Arthur said there have been several requests for RFPs for the new town garage, one for the historical society building, and no responses to the ad for the vacant secretary position.

The board will meet with Brad at the April 1 board meeting to attempt finishing the road department 24-25 budget.

Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to amend the amount from \$150 to \$100 for Article #29 in the June warrant (Chamber of Commerce). Vote 4-0. Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to recommend "no recommendation" for Article 29. Vote 4-0.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The road commissioner signed papers for Chelsea McLain's request to M.D.O.T to place two directional signs on Route 108. These signs are to advertise her business, Jimmies.

Arthur will contact MVHS/MS coach Jeff Pelletier to ask him to visit the board and discuss his request to use the town's ball field for spring practices.

The select board declined the invitation to the River Valley Chamber of Commerce annual dinner and awards program.

The board chair signed the AVCOG board of directors' slate of officers. Vice Chair will mail.

Arthur motioned, Jason seconded to accept the draft breakdown of Articles 3 and 4 created by Katie. Vote 4-0.

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Katie removed Article 12, Retirement, from the current Town of Peru Personnel Policy. Katie motioned to accept the amended policy; Jason seconded. Vote 4-0.

Katie will create a spreadsheet showing increases of 20%, 25%, and 28% for town insurances, before we decide on amounts for the 24-25 budgets.

Brad gave Arthur three new articles for the June 2024 budget referendum.

**ROUNDTABLE:**

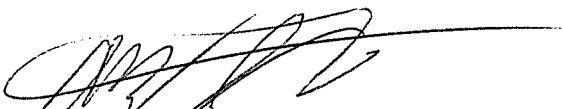
No movement on the solar ordinance.

No dates yet for fire station visits by selectboard.

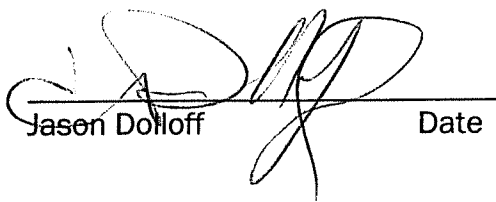
Vice Chair contacted Jess Carrier regarding updating the town web site. Jess said she will consider this and let the board know.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.


**ADJOURN:** Arthur motioned, Jason seconded, to adjourn at 9:29 p.m. All 4 in favor.

  
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Arthur Clifford, Chair                      Date

 4-8-24  
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Gail Belyea, Vice Chair                      Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Dolloff                                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick Houghton                              Date

 4/8/24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathryn Lawrence                              Date