



TOWN HALL | 3 EAST MAIN ROAD | PERU, MA 01235

**SELECT BOARD MINUTES | JULY 30, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.**

COMMUNITY CENTER

**OFFICIAL**

**Present:**

Ed Munch, Chairman/Historical Commission  
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Sergeant  
Verne Leach, Selectman/ACO/Transfer Attendant  
Caleb Mitchell, Town Administrator/Con Com  
Brian Dewkett, Fire Chief  
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent  
Caryn Wendling, Treasurer/Tax Collector  
Evelyn Torrey, Accountant  
Irene Morrison, Administrative Assistant

**Residents:** Michael Dewkett

**Guests:** Jim Barry, Dept. of Energy Resources  
Dalton Kimball, Guardian Energy Solutions  
Lauren Gaherty, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Item 1: **Call to order** - Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M.

Item 2: **Roll Call** – Chairman Munch, Selectman Leach, Selectman Cullett present

Item 3: **State recording status:** Adm. Asst. Morrison

Item 4: **Review and approve Meeting Minutes for 7/23/18**

Mr. Munch motions to approve the 7/23/18 Minutes pending changes. Mr. Cullett seconds. All in agreement.

**VOTE 3-0**

Item 5: **Report from Departments**

**Fire Dept. – Chief Dewkett reporting**

Chief Dewkett reports that the Peru Festival was moderately successful.

Chief Dewkett said that he will be purchasing a couple more pagers and portables. They've had 4 new members join the Department. A 5<sup>th</sup> person came on Saturday showing interest. Chief Dewkett informed the BOS that he is purchasing a couple sets of gear from the Globe Turnout Gear supplier. Mr. Munch asked if the old gear is expired, or if it's a good habit to get new. Chief Dewkett said that the NFPA standard is anything over 10 years is not supposed to be used.

Chief Dewkett indicated that he has received an e-mail correspondence from Margaret Carnevale, DCR. The old rusty truck is posted on the auction website, and she asked him to leave the keys in it so she can pick it up.

#### **Highway Dept. – Highway Supt. Russell reporting**

Supt. Russell said that he has had more bidders so far that have picked up their packages. TA Mitchell indicates that other people have asked for more information on it, but not necessarily to make a bid.

TA Mitchell informed Supt. Russell that Mark Bedard has accepted the position of Highway Worker/Laborer, and that he has contacted the Treasurer. He said that he had informed Mark Bedard of his start date, what his pay would be and other basic information.

#### **Town Administrator – TA Mitchell reporting**

TA Mitchell announced that he had a staff meeting with Treasurer/Tax Collector Wendling and Assistant Assessor Tonelli. Accountant Torrey was away, but he met with her briefly today to go over some of the things discussed at the meeting. Assistant Assessor Tonelli asked that the Tax Classification Hearing be scheduled and put on the Agenda for Monday, 8/27/18 at 7:00 P.M. Some basic concerns that were discussed are about setting the tax rates, certifying Free Cash, closing the books for FY18, and starting the new budget. Assistant Assessor Tonelli thought the tax rate would be about the same. They also discussed the importance of communicating and working together to get things done.

TA Mitchell said that he has received the Financial Report from the Auditor just before the meeting, so he hasn't had the opportunity to look through it.

TA Mitchell said he has talked with Treasurer/Tax Collector Wendling regarding the Pierce Rd. property after he received an e-mail from the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. It's been dragging on for at least 1 ½ years. He asked her to contact the Attorney. She received a response that the Attorney was going to look into it with the Land Court and find out what the hold up is on it.

TA Mitchell received a call from the Dept. of Labor saying that they want to investigate the eye injury that happened to a highway employee back in April, and plans on being here at 8:45 A.M. tomorrow. Supt. Russell said that they won't be there tomorrow morning. He said it's a short notice and he has a work plan for tomorrow. He said it would be better for sometime next week. TA Mitchell will contact them and let them know that the visit will have to be re-scheduled.

TA Mitchell indicated that the phones from Crocker have been received.

#### **BOS**

Mr. Leach said that Department public hours that are supposed to be posted on the board are not there. He asked TA Mitchell about the by-law fees. TA Mitchell said he still hasn't heard back from KP Law, but that he would try to contact them again. He indicated that the last time he talked to Joel Bard of KP Law about the General By-law for attaching fees and fines, he had assigned Jeff Blake who is the Attorney who attended the Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Leach asked about the policy for vacation time. Mr. Munch indicated that TA Mitchell was working on that.

Mr. Leach said that Sam Haupt sent him an e-mail asking if the BOS wanted him to be a representative for BRPC.

Mr. Cullett asked if we need to look at any position or employees that need to be designated as Special Municipal Employees. TA Mitchell said he would look into it.

Mr. Cullett announced that because we have a new Chairman, Rick Carl will have to update the Emergency Management Plan.

Mr. Cullett asked TA Mitchell if he worked with Treasurer/Tax Collector Wendling to get a reimbursement for the Town Counsel invoice that we sent for attending the Town Meeting. Mr. Cullett indicated that we got it last week.

**Treasurer** – Caryn Wendling reporting

Treasurer Wendling said she doesn't know how she's going to pay the Town Cleaner, because it's a new account and it hasn't yet been set up. She said that there are several new accounts that still need to be set up. The system won't allow her to cut out a check without it linked to an account number. She also indicated that the FY19 Accounts to date haven't been set up. Town Accountant Torrey came down and Treasurer Wendling explained what would need to be done. Mr. Munch said to pay the Town Cleaner out of the Selectmen's Expense for now.

**Item 6: Review of Proposals for Highway Dept. Heating System.**

Supt. Russell reviewed and discussed with the BOS the quotes that he has received from Pioneer, Four Seasons and St. Pierre Plumbing for the Highway Garage Heating System.

Mr. Cullett motions to award bid proposal for Highway Garage Heating System to St. Pierre Plumbing. Mr. Leach seconds. All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0**

**Item 7: Presentation/Discussion of Town of Peru Energy Reduction Plan by Guardian Energy for Green Community Designation**

Jim Barry, Dept. of Energy Resources gave an overview of his presentation of 4/23/18 of the 5 criteria we have to get through to become a Green Community. In particular, criteria #3 is to figure out how much energy is being used currently, and what we might do on a list of things to reduce our energy by 20%.

Dalton Kimball of Guardian Energy discussed the criteria #3 plan. He said that an energy audit has been done on all the town buildings here, and that they have come up with a 20% reduction plan. "There are very good projects. Once the town becomes a Green Community, then Guardian will implement all the projects that they have planned, and the State will give a certain amount of money. It has to be decided which projects make the most sense. All projects are done in house except for weatherization projects." Mr. Barry explained there is Chapter 25A which speaks specifically to energy efficiency projects or reusable energy projects. If you have a utility sponsored vendor do the work, and if the project is less than \$100,000.00, you can hire the utility vendor to do that. So, that would take care of the bidding process that they've done. (see attached Town of Peru Energy Reduction Project Summary)

Mr. Cullett asked if it was like other public work where prevailing wages are required or is it funded separately through the grant. Mr. Kimball said that prevailing wages are required. He said that Guardian Energy will handle the full analysis and pretty much everything down to the last dollar. In the designation application you have to have projects listed to get to at least 15% of real numbers. A narrative of things that you're going to do that will give you the other 5% of things. Lauren Gaherty of Berk. Reg. Planning will help write the Energy Reduction Plan (ERP) information.

Mr. Cullett asked if the severity of a winter get factored in? Mr. Barry said they don't do that. He said, "eventually, you're going to have the BOS officially adopt the 5 yr. energy plan." Mr. Munch asked if that plan can be adopted in a regular BOS Meeting. Mr. Barry said "yes." He said "all applications have to be in October.

**Item 8: Discussion and possible vote to appoint a Commissioner to the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District to represent the Town of Peru**

Mr. Leach indicated that he read some of the NBSWD Agenda's, saw that they have training for the Transfer Attendant, and he wouldn't mind doing that. Mr. Munch said he was informed that Mr. Leach could not take any more positions due to ethics. Mr. Leach said he doesn't believe it's a position for the town. Mr. Cullett said, "it's a volunteer thing, but if you go as Transfer Attendant, would you be compensated for going to the meetings?" Mr. Munch asked if he would go as Transfer Attendant or would he go as a representative. Mr. Leach indicated that a lot of things are for the Transfer Attendant. Mr. Munch said "there's a conflict because you would be a Commissioner over your own position. As you're going as an Attendant you're in a position to be paid." TA Mitchell said the only reason he was going to volunteer, was because he's gone to several meetings when there was nobody else to represent the town. "The only reason why I thought I was in a good position to do this is that I write the grant application for DEP, was involved with the inspection for the Transfer Station with DEP. I'm involved with compliance of the Transfer Station to DEP. I've been involved with the agreements and the paperwork, paying the bills, every aspect of a lot of what goes on with the Transfer Station. I represent the town as the professional designee." Mr. Munch said there are 2 issues here. "It's about ethics and this is a town position. You're an hourly employee of the town for that particular position. Mr. Cullett said, "you're going there as Transfer Attendant as an hourly employee."

The BOS decided that Item 8 will be tabled until the next meeting of 8/13/18. TA Mitchell will contact the Ethics Commission.

**Item 9: Update on Draft Letter to Residents/Property Owners on Private Roads**

TA Mitchell sent a copy of a draft letter to Town Counsel. He asked specifically what the legal ramifications would be for sending a letter like this to residents property owners on private roads. He asked if they had a standard letter that is legally appropriate. "Basically, we're looking for legal recommendation from him." The BOS decided that Item 9 will be tabled until the next meeting of 8/13/18.

**Item 10: Review and approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll Warrants**

**Item 11: Adjourn**

Mr. Munch motions to adjourn the BOS Meeting. Mr. Leach seconds. All in agreement. **VOTE 3-0**

**Meeting adjourned at: 8:15 P.M.**

**Articles used**

7/23/18 Meeting Minutes

7/30/18 Agenda.

Sign in sheet

Sample Letter to Town Counsel re: Private Roads

Letter on developing Local Cannabis Policies in Massachusetts

E-mail from Sam Haupt re: BRPC

Information on Energy Audit

Report from Auditor

Quotes from Pioneer, Four Seasons and St. Pierre Plumbing for Heating System in Hwy. Garage

Vendor Warrants #4V

Payroll Warrants #2P

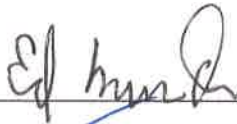
Resume of Mark Bedard

Respectfully submitted,

*Irene J. Morrison*

Administrative Assistant

Ed Munch, Chairman

  
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Verne Leach, Selectman

  
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Bruce Cullett, Selectman

  
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Approved: 8/13/18