

Peru Select Board Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2016

Present: Todd Williams, Gail Acosta, Chuck Black, Stewart Beattie, Vickie Beattie, Fran Stelz, Bob Stelz, John Acosta, Barbara Petra.

Meeting Called to Order: Todd called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Request to Change Agenda/Public Comment: Stewart Beattie asked to discuss the topic of Fire Safety for the Community Center (old business). Fran Stelz asked to discuss the possibility of going to an Australian ballot (new business).

Review/Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting: Chuck requested the indicated attachment be provided with the pending minutes. A copy was provided. Gail made a motion to accept the minutes; Chuck seconded; all in favor; motion passed.

New Business

Elect Select Board Chair: Gail nominated Todd Williams to be chairperson; Chuck seconded; Todd recused himself; all in favor; motion passed.

Vote Select Board Chair to make Emergency Decisions: Chuck made a motion that the Select Board chair be authorized to make decisions on behalf of the Select Board if an emergency situation arises, reporting to the Select Board at the next meeting; Todd seconded; all in favor; motion passed.

Time of Town Meeting: With changing demographics, work schedules and other factors there was discussion for changing the time of town meeting. Some reasons why many people who want to attend cannot because of lost wages and teachers cannot attend because of their students. It was mentioned that changing times to after regular work hours would encourage additional participation and involvement in the community. It is not known at this time how to proceed with this request; is it necessary for a special meeting or is a petition required. Gail agreed to check into this and get direction from the VLCT. In addition, the discussion continued regarding going to Australian ballot for all voting. This would allow for absentee ballots to be sent to registered voters who may be away at school, on vacation or prevented by illness to attend. All questions regarding the possible change will be addressed by the Select Board in the near future.

Old Business

Town Garage: The bathroom is at a standstill. The difficulty with the uneven concrete has not been rectified yet and still needs an inspection. The doors for the fire department are on order.

Audit Discussion: Gail corresponded with Carl Andeer of the VLCT for recommendations of private audit companies and some guidance in contracting for an audit. The Select Board is moving forward with its research and will report back at a future meeting.

Community House: Stewart Beattie presented the board with the Vermont Department of Public Safety fire inspection results (available for review at Town Office). Money has been budgeted for capital improvements to the Community House and the Select Board is setting a priority list to address and correct the issues in the near future. Chuck will be contacting the fire marshal for clarification and direction. The Select Board next year will again apply for a historical preservation grant for the Community House.

Road Foreman: Wayne was unable to attend meeting. He reported to Todd that truck #1 had the ball joints replaced and the leaf spring repaired on truck #2.

Other Business

Resignation: Chuck Black handed in his resignation as auditor citing that it is a conflict with his position as select board member. Vacant auditor position will be posted and interested parties can contact the town clerk for further information on the position.

Liquor License: Chuck made a motion to approve and sign the liquor licenses for the Bromley Market; Gail seconded; all in favor; motion passed.

Overweight Permit: Chuck made a motion to approve and sign the overweight permits before the Select Board; Gail seconded; all in favor; motion passed.

Policy: As stated in 24 V.S.A. ss 2291(20), Chuck has provided a Conflict of Interest Policy which he would like the Select Board to review and consider adopting.

Review Bills and Approve Payments: The Select Board reviewed and approved payment of all bills.

Adjournment: Todd adjourned the meeting at 8:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Petra
Assistant Town Clerk
Peru, VT