

Peru Selectboard Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2016

Present: Todd Williams, Gail Acosta, Chuck Black, Stewart Beattie, Bob Stelz, Gary Ameden, Peter Berman, Olivia Rukat, Alex Sheets, Wayne Blanchard, Margaret Cobb

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

Request to Change Agenda/ Public Comment: Bob Stelz informed the Selectboard of a pending new legislative bill, H.569 pertaining to blighted properties. The purpose of this bill is to enable a municipality to adopt an ordinance that holds a property owner responsible for the maintenance and appearance of his or her real property.

Olivia Rukat would like to repair the drainage problem in her yard and create a new driveway at her house located at 9 North Road. The dilemma arises from part of her driveway being an old Town Road (Hapgood Pond Road). The Selectboard is required to follow a course of procedure to discontinue a Town road. Todd will schedule a time with Olivia to look at the land in question.

Stewart Beattie called into question the street signs on Halstead Road and Old Manchester Road and said these roads cause a GPS problem because they are not through roads. Barbara, with help from Wayne and a representative from the 911 Board, had determined the section of Halstead Road originating on Vt Rte 11 should be called Halstead Road North. After discussing options, the Selectboard determined additional street signs indicating north and south ends and "No Outlet" signs will be purchased and installed.

Alex Sheets is taking the initiative to pursue improving internet speed in Peru. He will communicate with Fair Point Communications, Patti Komline, and the Public Service Board via letters and phone and would like support from the Selectboard. The Selectboard stated they will gladly support Alex in his efforts.

Review/ Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting: Todd made a motion to accept the minutes, Gail seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

New Business

BCRC Town Representative: Paul Myers is Peru's BCRC representative and Todd believes a second representative would be in the best interest of the Town. Todd made a motion to appoint Gail Acosta as Peru's second BCRC representative, Chuck seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

Town Financial Plan/ TA-60: Todd and Wayne will meet with Chris, regional manager from V-Trans, on Monday March 21st to discuss the Annual Financial Plan and the annual appropriation for state aid to town highways. This annual plan (TA-60) establishes a budget for the activities and projects in a municipality for the year. The discussion will include applying for additional state grant funds.

Conflict of Interest Policy: Chuck presented a Conflict of Interest Policy at the previous Selectboard meeting for review. This policy if and when adopted would apply to all public officers. Chuck would like the policy downloaded to the Peru website for public comment.

Old Business

Town Garage: It was discovered, via a door purchase, that the Town is required to complete a Construction Permit Application for the Vermont Department of Public Safety-Division of Fire Safety because the Town Garage/ Fire House is a commercial building. Kevin Felion will complete the permit and send it to the Fire Marshal.

Audit: Gail met with an auditor to discuss the annual procedure Peru follows when auditing the accounts of the local government. The auditor did not see a need to hire a certified public account and suggested the Peru Auditors continue to follow the VLCT audit checklist. She also reached out to the Londonderry Selectboard chair. Wayne said Londonderry hired a CPA firm when Kelly Pajala was elected to replace Jim Twitchell as the Town Clerk. Bob suggested the type of audit

implemented would need to be outlined in order to receive an accurate estimate of cost. Gail will continue researching.

Community House: Chuck discussed the fire inspection results for the Community House with the fire marshal and resolved the interior door leading into the Makery must be 1 hour fire rated and the enclosed stairs must be free of combustibles (books). This information will be communicated with the Peru Historical Society and Suzanne Ragone, owner of The Makery.

Update on Procedure for Changing Town Meeting Time: Gail corresponded with the VLCT and discovered that the Selectboard can change the time of the annual Town Meeting as long as it remains the first Tuesday of the month. To change the day requires the voters to vote. Gail would like to change the time and Chuck and Todd would like to hold off until they hear and discuss the implications with Town residents. Stewart suggested the Town residents contact the Town Office with suggestions and opinions. The board will continue to discuss options.

Other Business

Rutland Town Resolution Form: John LaVecchia and the Planning Commission concluded it would be to the Town's advantage to join the Rutland resolution. The resolution is an opportunity for towns to have local control over large scale wind and solar projects. To date these projects have been approved through Montpelier and the Public Service Board. Chuck made a motion to join the resolution to increase the input of Vermont municipalities regarding the siting of renewable energy projects in certificate of public good proceedings before the public service board. Todd seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

Letter of Intent: The letter of intent to return the Ricoh copier was agreed upon.

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

Liquor License: Chuck made a motion to approve and sign the Liquor Licenses for JJ Hapgood General Store and Siena Marie's, Gail seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

Road Foreman Report: Wayne said we are on the downward side of mud season. Stones were laid on a few roads, some pot holes and ruts have been repaired, and they have starting grading the roads. The diesel fuel pump at the town garage does not work when it's really cold out. New rims were purchased for the 02 International. Wayne was asked to request bids for paving South Road to the Winhall Town line. Wayne clarified with the Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns (VLCT) that a town is not liable for 911 road signs on private roads if a policy is not in place. Stewart discussed painted stop blocks of proper size. Wayne will research hiring a company to spray "stop" on roads with the appropriate size and dimensions.

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

Adjournment: Todd adjourned the meeting at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Cobb
Peru Town Clerk
Peru, VT