

Town of Peru Selectboard Meeting

May 7, 2014

Present: Todd Williams, Charlie Howard, Grant Braddish, John Maher, Wayne Blanchard and Barbara Petra

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Charlie Howard at 6:30 pm.

Recommendation to approve minutes: Grant Braddish made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 16, 2014 Selectboard meeting. Charlie Howard seconded. Motion passed.

New Business:

Item #1: John Maher advised Board that a plan sponsor was needed to be appointed to deal with Health Equity health care reimbursement. John said he filled out the forms and would act as the sponsor but needed the Selectboard to sign off on the paperwork.

Item #2: Unclaimed Property. John Maher reported that the unclaimed funds, even if they are a penny, cannot be sent to the state without attempting to contact the people due this money. Discussion was held on how to return the unclaimed funds. The question was raised that some of the funds were no more than a few cents. Grant made a motion that letters be sent to all persons saying that there are unclaimed funds due to them from the Town of Peru and they must contact the town within 30 days. At that time, they would be advised of the amount owed. They may choose to have the money sent to them or gift the money to the Town. If after exhausting these efforts and getting no response, these monies will be sent to the State of Vermont. Charlie seconded. Motion passed.

John advised that he believed that there an unclaimed fund in excess of \$4,000. He and Karen Utiger had done some investigation and have not determined if in fact this money is part of unclaimed property. John will go back and see if this might be an outstanding item which the Auditors had flagged at one time. John with also go back to the bank statements for that time period.

Item #3: Treasurer's salary. Charlie thought that the Treasurers position should have an increase in salary. Grant said that there was a \$500. increase last

year. Grant made a motion to increase the Treasurer's salary to \$10,500. for the current year. Barbara Petra said that Karen Utiger was still owed for 45 days of employment before her date of resignation of April 15, 2014. Selectboard were in agreement.

Item #4: John advised the Selectboard that he was meeting with Chuck Black at 2:50 pm on May 8, 2014 to discuss auditing procedures. Financial statements will be reviewed. Charlie asked John if he thought an outside auditor should be hired to audit our financials. John said this would not be necessary. He explained that the Town of Peru works on a cash basis, has virtually no accounts receivable, payroll for 4 employees on a regular basis, a small number of account payables and municipal billing is not negotiable. He believed that an independent auditor could not render an opinion because we do not follow generally accepted accounting procedure. John also said the cost of an independent audit firm was prohibitive.

Item #5: Dr. Roger Fox was appointed as Health Officer. Motion made to accept; motion passed.

Item#6: Tracy Black has requested use of the Town meeting room/lower level room for Yoga Dance and Yoga for 4 consecutive Thursday evenings May 15, 22, 29 & June 4. A fee will be charged for participants.

In addition, Felicity Hasselton asked if she could use the Town meeting room to conduct Belly Fit for on-going instruction on Wednesdays, noon- 1 pm. A fee will be charged for participants.

The Selectboard reviewed the facilities use policy and determined that since Ms. Hasselton was not a resident of Peru, they could not permit the class to take place. Ms. Black's request was approved. They Town will receive \$25. per class as a facility fee.

Item #7: Jim Daley expressed his desire to be reappointed Road Commissioner for one year to Charlie Howard prior to this evenings meeting. Discussion on what responsibilities Road Commissioner has, could it be 1 or 2 people, should it be a standing Selectboard member, etc. This issue was tabled until further information could be gathered from the VCLT.

Reports:

Item #1: Road Foreman, Wayne Blanchard was going to get at least 3 bids on mowing the road sides in August. Wayne said that the Town has a mower in

the town garage that was in excellent condition and hardly used. He wondered if maybe renting a tractor which the mower would attach to and doing it in house would be an option. Recommendation made that if the mower is of no use to town, consider selling.

Item #2: Charlie Howard has asked the Vermont DMV for the license history (3 years) so as to comply with the Town's newly adopted drug and alcohol policy for the Highway Department.

Item #3: Wayne is still getting information on construction of a salt shed. He had received an estimate on replacement of guard rails on Hapgood Pond Road. Wayne believes that this can be done in house. He also spoke about the paving to be done on Lovers Lane and changing the class of the road. Will be getting at least 3 bids on the work.

Item #4: Wayne asked if we had policies on private road signs. Grant said no there were no policies just precedence. The Town has replaced signs on private roads. Wayne said that there are some missing and will do the research as to the requirements for replacement.

Old Business:

Item #1: Hazard mitigation paperwork was completed and submitted.

Item #2: Todd will be meeting with companies to discuss the viability and cost of a septic system.

Invoices and bills reviewed:

Pay order was reviewed, motion was made to approve, seconded, motion passed.

Other business:

None

Meeting Adjourned: Charlie Howard adjourned meeting at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Petra, Assistant Town Clerk

May 15, 2014