

TOWN MEETING MINUTES
PERU, VT
MARCH 5, 2019

Peru's Moderator, Gary Ameden, called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Gary welcomed everyone to the 2019 Peru Town Meeting. Gary asked all those who are new to the community or to Town meeting to stand and introduce themselves. Emily Cowles, a representative for the Collaborative, and Joy Kitchell from the Bennington County Child Advocacy Center both stood and introduced themselves. The middle school children who were present needed prompting but finally Ryder Ouellette, Lily Birch, Dylan Poddick, and Maizie Rukat all introduced themselves. Gary asked all to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Warning: As read by Gary- The legal voters of Peru are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Peru Town Center on Tuesday March 5, 2019 at the hour of 10:00am to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers. Gary asked if there was any discussion or comments. Stewart Beattie commented that in the Selectboard minutes from January the Fire Department stated they received a donation and there was no mention of it in the Fire Department or Selectboard reports. Chuck Black explained that the donation was received 2 years ago from an estate totaling \$200,000. The check was made payable to the Peru Volunteer Fire Co. and not to the Town of Peru Fire Department. Therefore, the donation was private money and not tax payer dollars. Alex Sheets made a motion to accept the reports as written and John Maher seconded. Gary asked if those assembled were ready for the question. All in favor, motion passed.

ARTICLE 2: To elect Town Officers as the law directs.

Moderator: Todd Williams, Selectboard Chair, asked for nominations for Town Moderator. Iwanna Reed nominated Gary Ameden and Sally Ogden seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Grant Braddish and seconded by Garry Sharon all in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Moderator - 1 year Gary Ameden

Town Clerk: Barbara Petra nominated Jill Braddish and John Maher seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Chuck Black and seconded by Garry Sharon. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Town Clerk - 1 year Jill Braddish

Treasurer: Barbara Petra nominated Donna Williams and Sally Ogden seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Chuck Black and seconded by Ben Freeman. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Town Treasurer - 1 year Donna Williams

Selectboard: Lucy Maher nominated Chuck Black and Rebecca Williams seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Karen Utiger and seconded by Jay Ouellette. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Selectboard - 3 year Chuck Black

Gary explained that Gail Acosta has resigned from the Selectboard leaving a position open to complete her term. He opened up the meeting for nominations. Alex Sheets nominated Jon Mowry and Rebecca Williams seconded. Hearing no other nominations, Proposition B was moved by Jay Ouellette and seconded by Ben Freeman. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

Lister: Jack Pennypacker nominated Rebecca Williams and Grant Braddish seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Alex Sheets and seconded by Garry Sharon. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Lister - 3 year Rebecca Williams

Auditor: Karen Utiger nominated Regina Mcguire and John Maher seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Alex Sheets and seconded by Iwanna Reed. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Auditor - 3 year Regina Mcguire

Cemetery Commission: Stewart Beattie nominated Will Crandell and Iwanna Reed seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Alex Sheets and seconded by Garry Sharon. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Cemetery Commission 5 years William Crandall

First Constable: Garry Sharon nominated Stewart Beattie and Michael Bacon seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Jay Ouellette and seconded by Sally Ogden. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- First Constable - 1 year Stewart Beattie

Second Constable: Todd Williams nominated Chis Felion and Iwana Reed seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Todd Williams and seconded by Alex Sheets. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Second Constable - 1 year Chris Felion

Delinquent Tax Collector: LJ Petra nominated John Maher and Donna Williams seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Alex Sheets and seconded by Garry Sharon. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Delinquent Tax Collector - 1 year John Maher

Grand Juror: Todd Williams nominated Hope Richardson and Jay Ouellette seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Todd Williams and seconded by Jay Reichman. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Grand Juror - 1 year Hope Richardson

Town Agent: Jay Ouellette nominated Tracy Black and Barbara Petra seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Grant Braddish and seconded by John Maher. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Town Agent - 1 year Tracy Black

Trustee of Public Funds: Grant Braddish nominated Mike Gayda and Barbara Petra seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Todd Williams and seconded by Jay Ouellette. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Trustee of Public Funds - 1 year Mike Gayda

ARTICLE 3:

a) To see if the town will vote to defray the expenses of the town for the fiscal year of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as set forth in the budgets submitted in the 2018 Town Report, subject to such modifications as this meeting may vote.

Iwana Reed moved to accept the motion and Garry Sharon seconded. All in favor, motion passed by voice vote.

b) To authorize the selectmen to set the rate on the 2019 Grand List to meet the budgets voted. Jay Ouellette made a motion to move the article and Grant Braddish seconded. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

c) To establish the date of payment of such taxes. Previous years dates July 1-September 30. Iwana Reed made a motion to move the article and Sally Ogden seconded. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions made by law for payment of taxes to the Town Treasurer. Jay Ouellette made a motion to move the article and Karen Utiger seconded. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters vote a sum of money to the following organizations which serve the community

Bennington County Child Advocacy Ctr.(petition)	\$ 500.00
Project Against Violent Encounters	\$ 150.00
Mountain Valley Medical Center	\$3,000.00
Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad	\$4,000.00
Visiting Nurse Assn. of VT/NH	\$2,700.00
Bennington County Conservation District	\$ 300.00
BROC	\$ 200.00
VT Center for Independent Living	\$ 140.00
SW Vermont Council on Aging	\$ 200.00
Center for Restorative Justice	\$ 300.00
Neighborhood Connections	\$1,000.00
Green Up Vermont	\$ 50.00
The Collaborative	\$ 750.00
Flood Brook Athletic Association	\$1,000.00
Peru Cemetery Commission	\$4,500.00
Green Mtn. Club-Bromley lookout	\$1,000.00
Rural Fire Protection Task Force	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
Total	\$19,890.00

Gary asked if there were any comments or discussion. Peter Berman asked on behalf of the South Londonderry Library that the Town reinstate their yearly contribution in the amount of \$1000.00 as the request was received too late to be

included in the Town report. Gary, as Chairman, ruled this as an inappropriate amendment. Jay Ouellette made a motion to overrule the Chairs decision and Peter Berman seconded. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote. Peter Berman made a motion to amend article 5 to include \$1000.00 for South Londonderry Library with an appropriations total of \$20,890.00 and Stewart Beattie seconded. All in favor of opposed amendment; motion passed with a voice vote.

John Birch questioned the funding of the Cemetery Commission. Stewart explained that the Cemetery Commission can only use the interest earned from the perpetual care fund and the Commission asks the Town to defray the maintenance costs.

Gary asked for a vote on the article as amended. All in favor; motion passed with a voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Iwanna Reed inquired about changing the Clerk and Treasurer's terms from 1 to 3 years for continuity. Barbara Petra replied that there has been continuity regardless of the 1 year term.

Sally Ogden thanked the road crew for a fabulous job and stated the bumpy roads are not their fault.

Alex Sheets thanked Gail Acosta for her years of service on the Selectboard.

Jay Reichman questioned last year's minutes. He inquired if article 7 was passed as there was no mention of it in the minutes. The general consensus was that it had passed.

Jim Potter raised his concern regarding the traffic speed through town and is adamant that this issue needs to be addressed before someone is hurt. Jim suggested a crosswalk in the center of town and more signage. Todd explained that the Selectboard is trying to be proactive on the issue. Todd has spoken with the DMV officer to show more of a presence in town and has reached out to the DOT engineer to change approaches coming in and out of town. Jim Jordan expressed his concern as well and added that traffic coming in the direction of Hapgood Pond Road is a big part of the problem. Jon Mowry suggested that the Selectboard also look into changing that approach into Town as well. Ben Freeman pointed out that

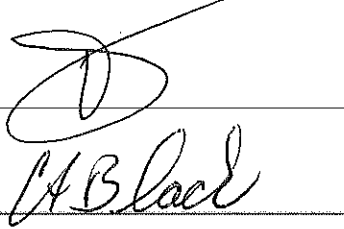
the fast driving is not happening by the people in this room and we should not bicker between each other but collectively find a solution.

Jennie Freeman read the mission statement of the Kelton Family Fund and informed those present that there is money available if anyone is interested in spearheading a project. Curious parties should come into the office and inquire about grant guidelines.

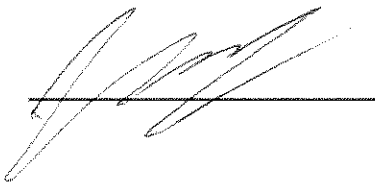
Bob Stelz suggested that the Selectboard consider the need for an independent auditor.

Alex Sheets made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jay Ouellette seconded the motion. All in favor; Gary Adjourned the meeting at 10:58am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Braddish
Peru Town Clerk
Dated March 6, 2019



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J Braddish", is written above a horizontal line.



A second handwritten signature in cursive script is written above a horizontal line. The signature is more stylized and less legible than the one above.