

Peru Select Board Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2016

Present: Charlie Howard, Todd Williams, Berta McGinnis, Frank Haynes, Seth Bongartz, Wayne Blanchard, Barbara Petra

Call to Order: Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

Request to Change Agenda/Public Comment: On behalf of the Select Board and the entire Town of Peru, Charlie wanted to congratulate Sophie Caldwell on her winning the World Cup Classic Sprint, Tour de Ski at Oberstdorf, Germany on January 5, 2016. Her discipline and dedication certainly paid off.

Review/Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: Charlie made a motion to approve the minutes; Todd seconded; all in favor; motion passed.

New Business

Manchester and the Mountains Chamber of Commerce Presentation: Seth Bongartz gave an overview of the process taken by the Chamber in reassessing the needs to improve the way the Chamber does business. Many meetings had taken place including the public, special interest (teachers, hotels, non-profit, etc.) groups and small business to develop a plan for this new public and private partnership. It was determined that a need to build and professionalize tourism as the base. The base of economic regional development needs to be established. The Chamber is asking for the surrounding towns to appropriate funds in their upcoming budgets to become a partner. Peru is being asked for \$2,000. that will now allow the Town to be included more comprehensively in the advertising and promotions. There was discussion and questions.

Charlie made a motion to include in the appropriations article an amount of \$2,000. to the Partnership to be voted upon at Town Meeting; Todd seconded; all in favor; motion passed.

Review of Community House Grant: Charlie reported that the Town did not receive the grant money. Charlie followed up with Caitlyn Corkins of the State of Vermont, Division of Historic Preservation for an understanding of why. She said

this grant was very focused on preservation and the committee felt that our needs were more toward safety.

Wade Masure Meeting: Charlie said that Wade would like to meet on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 regarding the insurance through PACIF.

Old Business

Town Garage: Work is progressing, sheetrock to be installed shortly. It was decided that a small space heater would be necessary to augment the heat in the new space.

Town Budget: Discussion continued on the budget. Updated figures were inserted in regard to capital improvements for garage and fire department and copier expense.

Street Light Update: Charlie has been continuing conversations with Green Mountain Power with regard to the correct cost for the street lights. It has been determined that the rate per light was never changed when the lights were converted to LEDs. There will be a retroactive credit applied to the upcoming bill.

Clean-Up of Community House Basement: Charlie asked that this matter be tabled till next meeting.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: Charlie asked that this matter be tabled till next meeting.

Road Foreman Report: Wayne reported that the road crew has been making sure the equipment is being maintained and ready for winter. All is good. A couple of additional road signs are on order.

Review Bills/Approve Payments: The Select Board reviewed and approved payment of pay order.

Adjournment: Charlie adjourned the meeting at 8:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Petra
Assistant Town Clerk
Peru, VT