

Town of Peru Selectboard Meeting

July 16, 2014

Present: Charlie Howard, Todd Williams, Grant Braddish, John Maher, Carl Holcomb, Bob Stelz, Wayne Blanchard, Margaret Cobb

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Charlie Howard at 6:33pm.

Request to Change Agenda: None moved.

Recommendation to Approve Minutes: Grant made a motion to approve the minutes of July 2, 2014 as posted. Todd seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

New Business

Letter from Commissioner of Taxes: Grant made a motion to accept the Education Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2015 of

Non-Residential Tax Rate \$ 1.3047

Homestead Tax Rate \$ 1.3323

Charlie seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

John Maher discussed the calculations for the municipal tax rate based on the changed total approved expenses voted at the Town Meeting and the Grand List. The municipal tax rate for 2014-2015 is \$.2526. Combining the Education Tax Rate and the Municipal Tax Rate sets the 2014 tax rate at;

Non-Residential Tax Rate \$ 1.5573

Homestead Tax Rate \$ 1.5849

Grant made a motion to approve the 2014 tax rate as proposed. Charlie seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

Clerk of Board E-mail: No comment or action required.

Pierce Road Traffic Question: Bob requested a “No Outlet” sign to be posted at the beginning of Pierce Road on the right hand side to deter traffic. Charlie made a motion to post a “No Outlet” sign on Pierce Road. Grant seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

Bob asked to clarify if the Town or the power company, Green Mountain Power, is responsible for the removal of a standing dead tree that might come down on a power line. If the tree comes down across the road the Town will remove it, otherwise the power company should be apprised of the situation. Bob will call the power company.

Treasurer Search Update: Donna Williams is interested in assuming the role of Town Treasurer from John Maher. Donna’s skills include knowledge of Quick Books and Excel. One potential problem is Donna departs town for three months in the winter (January - March). One solution is

the ability to network with Quick Books from off site locations. Another complication is signing checks and making deposits. Barbara and Margaret have the authority, along with the Treasurer, to sign checks. Some Peru Town Treasurer responsibilities include receivables, tax bills, annual W2's and 1099's, and financial statements. The method of payment would change from salary to an hourly rate of \$20.50/ hour. Chuck Black, as the Town Auditor, is reconciling the bank statements. Barbara, as the Assistant Town Clerk, is responsible for compiling pay orders. Karen Utiger would be available for training, on a call as needed basis, at \$18.00/ hour.

Grant made a motion to accept John Maher's resignation as the Peru Town Treasurer starting immediately. Charlie seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

Grant made a motion to appoint Donna Williams as the Peru Town Treasurer starting July 17, 2014. Charlie seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Charlie made a motion to designate Karen Utiger for Treasurer training on a call as needed basis at \$18.00/ hour for consulting time. Grant seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

John explained Berkshire Bank is exiting the Deposit Insurance Fund program and instead will offer a Tri-Party Security & Custodial Agreement which will allow the bank to collateralize the towns' deposits. This agreement protects the funds deposited with Berkshire Bank.

Every year by April a Vermont resident homeowner is required to file a Homestead Declaration Form HS-122 on their principal dwelling with the State. The Selectboard can charge between 3% to 8% penalty on late filers. Grant made a motion for the Town to charge a 3% penalty on homeowners that fail to file a HS-122. Charlie seconded, all in favor, motion passed. The 3% penalty will be added to the corrected tax bill.

Auditor Search Update: Still searching.

Town Center Parking Lot Usage Update: Grant asked for the usage of the Town center parking lot to host a home brew festival, social gathering, open to the public at no charge to attendees. Charlie requested information concerning liability insurance releasing the Town from responsibility. Grant will research this more.

Old Business:

Dog Licensing Update: Anyone who hasn't licensed a dog from last year should receive a notice along with the dog ordinance from Pat Salo. Barbara sent him a list of the 3 delinquent owners and informed him of the Lapan's and the renters at the Johnson's. Margaret will call Pat to determine who is responsible for writing and sending the civil complaint letter for violation of the ordinance with the imposed penalties.

Other Business: None

Road Foreman Report: Wayne said everything is great. He gave the Selectboard a proposal for building a salt shed from Gouveia Builder. The Town has been losing at least two truckloads plus time to shovel snow off the pile. Discussion of turnaround time and cost savings ensued. Charlie made a motion to move forward on the building proposal from Joseph Gouveia for a salt shed. Grant seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

Wayne discussed the 3 bids for salt.

- 1) Whites delivered from Wallingford at \$15.00/ yard
- 2) Jeff Yrsha \$15.25/ yard with more grit delivered from Rose Rd in South Londonderry.
\$10.75/ yard if Town picks up.
- 3) Hill Construction \$18.00/ yard delivered.

Wayne will go at look at the material from Yrsha before making a decision.

Wayne has been pricing out the culvert for the North Road extension.

Stump dump: Between 100-150 loads of ditching material has been hauled to the dump. L&W Williams has been pushing it back and leveling the area. They will complete the job in one day and as a contract service will bill the Town.

Charlie made a motion for L&W Williams to complete the cleanup and leveling of the Stump dump. Grant seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

Carl suggested signs specifying stump area and soil area should be posted. Wayne will purchase signs and post in appropriate location at the dump.

Carl Holcomb stated he will be resigning his position as highway employee August 31, 2014 after 28 years of service. He has ten weeks of vacation time accrued.

Review and Approve Bills & Payments: all bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm, July 16, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Cobb
Peru Town Clerk
Town of Peru, Vt