

Town of Peru SelectBoard Meeting

April 2, 2014

In attendance: Charlie Howard, Todd Williams, Grant Braddish, Chuck Black, Morgan Devlin, Robert Stelz, Karen Utiger, Stewart Beattie, Larry Daley, John Maher, Fran Steltz, Wayne Blanchard, Dick Anderson, Margaret Cobb, Barbara Petra.

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

Stewart Beattie brought to the attention of the Selectboard that he was recording this meeting.

Recommendation to approve minutes of Selectboard meeting of March 19, 2014 was made by Grant Braddish; seconded by Todd Williams, motion moved.

New Business:

Item #1: Charlie Howard recognizes that the Audit Committee has requested to speak to discuss matters in regard to the Audit Committee's report not being accepted on Town Meeting Day. Morgan Devlin then raised question as to why the report was rejected. Bob Stelz asked about which numbers were wrong. John Maher states that there is a larger issue than just the report. He pointed out that Vermont has determined the roles in local government are very well defined. John handed out a chart defining the responsibilities of the Audit Committee, Treasurer and Selectboard when handling finances. See attached. Discussion ensued and questions were raised by all parties about who is ultimately responsible for checking numbers in budget, profit and loss, and balance sheet reports. Recommendation made by Grant, by following the 10 points set forth in Vermont State Statutes parameters are already in place for the audit procedure. Chuck Black said the Vermont Legislature only allows for certain criteria in procedure; in addition detailed financial statements are to be kept.

Charlie Howard said that this discussion is good and productive. All parties need to be kept in the loop, communicate better and start the audit/budget/financials sooner. Agreement was expressed. Karen Utiger took responsibility for the unequal fund balance but also expressed the need for proofing reports by others. Any discrepancies need to be worked out before going to press.

After all discussion, attendees started to disperse. Morgan Devlin, Robert Stelz and Welthy Myers(in absentia) handed in their letters of resignations as Peru Town Auditors effective immediately.

Reports:

Item #1: Road Foreman, Wayne Blanchard, reported the paving grants were in the works. Three bids will be secured for the upcoming work to be submitted for the grant.

Item #2: Wayne Blanchard suggested changing Lovers Lane from a Class 3 road to a Class 2 road which would allow applying for grant money for maintenance of this high traffic road.

Item #3: Highway department has stockpiled 100 yards of stone which will be used in preparation of mud season by filling in large pot holes with gravel.

Old Business:

Item #1: Todd Williams reported that there is a good chance a small leach system can be the solution for a bathroom in the Town Garage/Fire Department. Ralph Michael Engineering in Ludlow and Chris Hinds Woodland in Manchester have been contacted to inform the Select Board of their feasibility findings.

Item #2: Mandatory drug and alcohol testing has been reinstated and done for all full time employees. Recommendation that the Selectboard Chair always be designated as liaison for personnel procedures. Selectboard will adopt a policy at the next meeting.

Item #3: Grant Braddish suggested adopting a local emergency plan following guidelines set forth by the Vermont Secretary of State. Chuck Black and Jon Mowry are the emergency managers for the Town of Peru. There can be 12.5 % State funding if you abide by guidelines and implement a Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Item #4: Larry Daley is waiting for a response from the State regarding 2nd Constable's duties.

Item #5: In response to Deb Hodis' concern about the speed traveled by some on South Road, there was discussion on how to address this concern. Grant Braddish made a motion to post a 35 mph speed limit sign and Share the Road, or some comparable sign be posted at both ends of South Road. Charlie Howard, seconded; all were in favor. Motion moved.

Item #6: Wayne Blanchard is outlining a plan for projects to be considered. Town is rethinking the feasibility of a salt shed. Grant money is available for some projects. Wayne and Todd will start the process in researching grant money.

Item #7: Grant made a motion to accept the weight permits submitted by United Natural Foods and Frost Wells. Second by Charlie. All in favor, motion moved.

Other Business:

Stewart Beattie questioned the letters given to the Selectboard from Town auditors. Charlie said they were letters of resignations, effective immediately, from Welthy Myers, Bob Stelz and Morgan Devlin. Another letter was from Karen Utiger resigning her position as Town Treasurer effective April 30, 2014. Larry Daley wanted to know who is going to be auditors and treasurers. Select Board will be posting the open positions the next day. Procedures for appointment, special elections, etc. were discussed.

Charlie called for an Executive Session to discuss personnel at 7:58 pm.

Out of Executive Session at 8:05 pm.

Margaret Cobb questioned the DLC's need to clarify the difference between Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 liquor licenses. Select Board reviewed and signed the liquor license for the Bromley Sun Lodge.

Invoices and Bills Reviewed:

Karen Utiger asked that the Health Equity invoice be added to the current pay order. Bills reviewed, accepted and moved.

Meeting Adjourned:

No further business and meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

Barbara A. Petra
Assistant Clerk