**TOWN OF PERU**

Selectboard Meeting

May 18, 2022

**Present:** Jon Mowry, Chuck Black, Todd Williams, Tom & Lisa Cronin, Ivanna Reed, Wayne Blanchard, John Murphy, Eric Hatch, Brian Campion

**Meeting Called to Order:** Jon called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

**Review/Approve Minutes:** Jon motioned the previous meeting minutes be approved as written, Chuck seconded, all in favor.

**Request to Change Agenda**: None

**Public Comment:** None

**Road Foreman Report**: Wayne has requested the use of Landgrove’s blower to further clean up the road edges of sand. He has had no response from Gurney Bros. concerning sweeping the roads. The use of the blower would negate the need for the sweeping, saving the town money AND getting the job done.

Wayne advised we need to put new warning signage up on South Road, “Sharp Curve Ahead”.

The pigeons are still a problem in the barn on South Road, even after the ends have been closed. Wayne suggests getting someone to cover the soffits with wire or mesh. Chuck volunteered to tackle this project.

Discussion on the roads in the center of town needing to be repaved and that this would entail grinding old pavement up and removing.

Discussion on Nicon doing crack filling on roads again. Wayne would like to create a yearly plan on what portions of road would be done. He will see to setting up this schedule.

**New Business**: Eric Hatch, from the SoVT CUD, Southern Vermont Communications Union District, was in attendance to bring us up to date on what the mission of this organization is and what is presently happening with the progress of this project. The CUD’s mission is to bring universal access to high-speed internet to every home in Southern Vermont. This group includes 14 towns and roughly 2,500 homes. They have partnered with Consolidated Comm. to secure Federal and State funds, 8.2 million dollars has been requested. Their plan has three phases, the first of which is underway now, building out in the Shaftsbury area. Phase Two will take place next year and will include Peru. Phase three is referred to as “The hardest 100 homes” and is just what it sounds like! The CUD will reach out to providers other than Consolidated Communications to provide the high-speed internet to these homes that are outside the “Normal” geographic areas already provided for. Thank You to Eric for taking the time to provide this information.

**ARPA Funding**: Discussion on the state of the Cheese House building and what improvements may be needed. Jon stated that there was maintenance that happened last year to the building and that there are funds allotted in the budget every year for such needs. There was concern expressed about the state of the Historical artifacts that are housed upstairs, the possibility that they could be better preserved for future generations. Improvements to the Town Green were brought up again. The hiring of a designer to assist in a long-range plan for what we would like the Green to look like. The vision we have. The vibe we are looking for.

**Londonderry Fireworks:** Jon read a letter requesting financial support for the fireworks in Londonderry. Chuck motioned that we send $200.00, Todd seconded, all in favor.

**Firefighters:** Joninformed us of that there are 6 firefighters who are currently enrolled in the NFPA 180-hour firefighter coarse. This is a very large commitment of time that is nights and weekends. This course enables our crew to employ the most up to date firefighting and safety protocols, they are such an important asset to our community. Jon motioned that we reward those who successfully completes this course financially with $500.00 above what they would normally receive at the end of the year. Todd seconded. All in favor.

**Old Business:**  Jon read the Peru Park Playground report submitted by Barbara Petra. Estimated delivery date for the 5 pieces of play equipment is Mid-late July and early August for the gym equipment. The committee will be submitting a form for reimbursement of the awarded state grant in the amount of $7.773.00. She attached an estimate to replace the swings seats from Detailed Pro for $915.00. Jon made a motion to approve this amount, Todd seconded, all in favor. Barbara also reported that she has contacted excavating companies for appointments to review work to be done at the site. The Park would also be an awesome way to utilize some of the ARPA monies to complete this addition to our community.

O**ther Business:** Wayne inquired about cost-of-living increases, Jon advises that would be addressed in July. Chuck motions to accept the pay scale as presented by Donna Williams. Todd seconded. All in favor. So moved.

**Review Bills/Approve Payments:** Bills were reviewed and approved.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Melinda M. Beebe

Town Clerk

Peru, VT