

## Town of Peru

### Minutes of the May 20, 2019 Select Board Meeting

**Present:** Raquel Welch, Lynda Hebert, Larry Snowman, Carol Roach, Martha Witherell, Thomas Hemingway, Debbie Hemingway, Anna Touchette, Judith Errington, Mark Irish, Gail Belyea, Wendy Henderson, Karen Lark, Harold Rowley, Nancy Rowley, Tammi Lyons, Yvette Umbro, Beth Davis, Lee Davis, Tammi Ferland, Ed Ferland, Heidit Thibeault, Audrey Garneau, Sharon Porter, Randy Porter, Peggy Farrington, Dan Grant, Jackie Child, Gary Child, Mike Arsenault, Mary Pulsifer, Jim Pulsifer, John Lawrence, Katie Lawrence, Rick Porter, Peter Thibeault, Edward Patenaude, Fred Wilser, Andy Freeman, Dainel Bernard, Isabelle Child, Edwin Child, Olga Richardson, Shirley Turner, Wayne Puttnam, Dwayne Childs, Mark Vaughn, Barb Vaughn, Donna Errington, Rodney Errington, Rick Childs, Mary Childs, Pat Gaudin, Joe Kerr, Brad Hutchings, Bill Hussey, Kim Boivin, Neil Sorenson

At 6:00 p.m. Raquel Welch opened the meeting.

---

1. Pledge of Allegiance:

2. Requests from Individuals/Entities to Meet with the Board:

- Citizen Petition by Jackie Child and Daniel Bernard:

Due to the large number of citizens present in the Select Board's office (sitting, standing and overflow crowd in the hall), and therefore safety concerns, Raquel took this citizen request out of order. She then called for the petition.

Dan Bernard presented Raquel with the petition. She stated that the signatures on the petition had been validated by the Clerk. Dan asked to make a statement. Raquel refused. She then asked Dan Bernard to read the paragraph at the bottom of the petition. After he read the attestation, she brought up the point that a post on Facebook stated that the petition was hung on a porch and raised concerns that signatures obtained that way were not being witnessed. Dan Bernard asked whether any signatures had been obtained that way. Raquel stated that she did not know. She further stated that if ever it was done again every signature had to be witnessed.

Jackie Child responded stating that she had hung the petition on her porch, if anyone had come to her porch, she would have greeted them at the door, had the discussion, and witnessed their signature and that she had witnessed each signature on the petition she signed as circulator.

After being recognized, a citizen expressed a little disappointment with the board for jumping on this issue without evidence and that taking up this issue at this time was inappropriate.

Raquel stated that she would not take any further comments as that might result in the board being there all night.

Raquel read the petition aloud: "The undersigned Peru voters attest to their desire to see the Peru Select Board place a hold on the demolition of the Old Peru Elementary School until the building's eligibility for Historical Preservation can be determined by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission." She asked each board member whether he or she had seen the petition. Each answered affirmatively.

- Carol moved that the petition be sent to MMA and/or the town's attorney for review prior to taking action on the petition itself. Larry seconded the motion. Raquel stated that she had already sent Amanda (Meader, the town's attorney,) the petition and had a discussion with her. Raquel told the board that they had no legal binding to accept it, that she had an email from Amanda and that Carol could call her if she wanted to. A vote was taken. The motion failed.
- Raquel moved to refuse to accept the petition. Seconded by Larry. Lynda asked what Amanda had given as justification for refusing the petition. Raquel stated that enough is enough and that the board should have stopped this 5 petitions ago - that this ping/pong back and forth would continue until the board stopped it. A vote was taken. The motion was carried.

### 3. Minutes:

- Lynda moved approval of the minutes of the May 13, 2019 meeting as written. Larry seconded the motion. All in favor.

### 4. Warrant #24 (dated 5/20/19):

- Raquel moved approval of Accounts Payable Warrant #24 in the amount of \$22,416.55. Motion seconded by Larry Snowman. All in favor.

- Carol moved approval of Payroll Warrant #24 in the amount of \$6,535.57. Larry Snowman seconded the motion. All in favor.

5. Elected Officials/ Appointed Committee Members/ Board Reports:

-Road Commissioner, Brad Hutchings:

- Brad reported that the balance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant award totaling approximately \$224,804.00 for storm repairs and debris cleanup of East Shore Road and LaCroix Road could be expected to be received within the next 10 days to two weeks. The town's local match was \$21,453.06.
- East Shore Road Account - F/Y 2018-2019 appropriation \$65,000, as of 5/6/2019 a total of \$91,721.04 had been expended for a deficit of \$26,414. The overage is associated all or in part with purchase of gravel and patch. Brad said he would deduct the overage from his '18/'19 Summer budget.
- Brad reported that the town crew would sweep and clean the boat ramp next week.
- Gravel, stones, and sand will need to be purchased - Brad will put out bid requests.
- Requests for Bids for paving will be posted on the MMA website and mailed to those companies that bid last year.

-Fire Chief, Bill Hussey

- Bill reported that Engine 11 estimated repair costs could be up to \$15,000 - the good news is that once repairs are made the mechanic estimates the truck has 15 to 20 years of life left.
- On May 17, 2019 Bill submitted a grant application to Homeland Security in the amount of \$6,100 for the purchase of a generator for the Worthley Pond Fire Station. This grant does not require a municipal dollar match. Notification of award will be made sometime in November, 2019.
- No word yet on the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application.

-Tax Collector/ Town Clerk/ Treasurer-

- Supplemental bills were mailed to CMP on May 17, 2019.

-Secretary-

-Assessor-

-CEO-

-Planning Board

- A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at the town office. There are six permits pending, none are Shoreland Zoning permits.

6. Action Items:

- Raquel asked Carol to follow-up and respond to Sally's (Attorney Tom Carey's office) 5/16/19 telephone inquiry regarding Bayroot, LLC, 2018 property (M11 L28) taxes.

7. Requests from individuals/ entities to meet with the board:

- Jackie Child and Daniel Bernard - Citizen Petition - see #2. above.

8. Incoming Correspondence:

- Raquel asked Martha Witherell to give John Witherell, Town of Peru's Representative to NORSW, the letter from the State of Maine, Dept of Environmental Protection RE: How to submit your Municipal Annual Solid Waste Management and Recycling Report and to ask him to respond to the inquiry by the due date, 7/31/2019.
- Received Application for Abatement of Property Taxes from Jacquelynn Child dated 5/14/2019, received May 17, 2019
- Raquel asked Carol to schedule interviews with the candidates who had submitted cover letters and applications for Secretary to the Board.

9. Selectboard Business:

-Old Business-

- Carol reported that the town's riding lawn mower was fixed and that Lynda would contact a potentially interested individual to mow and weed whack the town complex.

- Carol stated that the next step in the eviction process would need to be taken by the town's attorney who would file the proper court petitions/papers.
- Carol reported that the Town of Peru Annual Report for Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 was being printed in house and would be available on Election Day, June 11th.
- Carol reported that an asbestos inspection was tentatively scheduled for July 1 and 2 pending funding and authorization of the proposal submitted by Eastern Skies Environmental Services, Auburn, Maine.

-New Business- None

Public Participation:

Raquel opened the public at 7:10 P.M.

- A request was made for a copy of the posted Warrant announcing the June 21 Special Town Meeting. A copy was provided.
- Clarification was requested regarding the number and terms of office of the Select Board positions that would be on the June 11th ballot. Two seats are open: a one-year term to fill Kevin Taylor's term; and, Raquel's three year term. Raquel submitted nomination papers to run for reelection, and Tammi Lyons submitted nomination papers to run for the unexpired term.
- A question relating to who uploads minutes and agendas was asked. It is the board's secretary who has that responsibility. Currently the position is vacant and board members have not learned how to do this upload.
- Those attending were reminded by a citizen to vote "No" on the school budget and "Yes" on the second question relating to whether citizens wish to continue to vote on the school budget by secret ballot at the June election or to vote in person at the annual RSU 56 Budget Meeting.
- A question was asked regarding the relocation of the fire alarm system. It was clarified that due to the age of the existing motherboard and lack of available replacement equipment a new motherboard would be purchased and installed in the Town office.

Larry moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Motion seconded by Lynda. All in Favor.

Raquel Welch

Raquel Welch, Chair

Carol Roach

Carol Roach - Vice Chair

Larry Snowman

Larry Snowman

Lynda Hebert

Lynda Hebert

6/16/2019

Date