

**Town of Peru  
Municipal Office  
Select Board Meeting Minutes**

**September 16, 2019**

**Present:** Raquel Welch, Carol Roach, Larry Snowman, Tammi Lyons, Sandy Wingate, Joe Kerr, Jackie Child, Karen Lark, Wendy Henderson, Mark Irish, Ed Patenaude, Gail Belyea, Akieva Selleck, Gary Child, Don Roach

**Raquel opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.**

**1. Pledge of Allegiance:**

**2. Minutes:**

- Minutes of the September 9, 2019 Select Board Meeting
  - ❖ **Tammi made a motion to accept the minutes of September 9, 2019 as presented. Larry seconded motion. All in favor.**

**3. Town Officials / Appointed Committee Members / Board Reports:**

- Tax Collector / Town Clerk / Treasurer, Deb Coudrain
  - Memo:
    - The Select Board discussed the Budget for the old Peru Elementary School. After removal of asbestos and hazardous materials it leaves approximately \$25,000.00 left in the budget for the removal of the building.
    - The Select Board discussed the Surplus amount that Carol had figured for an average of the surplus from the last few years and came up with about 846,000., it is only an estimate, not actuality.
    - The Select Board discussed a tax anticipation note and what amount of money that note will be. The process to get the note and what was entailed to get the note was also discussed.
    - The Select Board discussed the different banks that the Town can go to for a tax anticipation note.
    - Carol mentioned the bill to the Oxford County Clerk bill and that it would be paid on time, not delayed.
    - Carol explained what she had learned from the Auditor, Mindy Cyr, regarding the CD's. The matured CD would stay in the Checking account and the other two CD's, \$50,000.00 each, will be cashed as needed.
    - The draft audit report from the audit, which was performed last week, will not be available until mid to late October. Mindy can meet with the Select Board and any interested Residents to go over the draft report at that time.
- Road Commissioner, Brad Hutchings
  - Nothing new reported
- Code Enforcement Officer, John Evans
  - Nothing new reported
- School Board, William Hine
  - Voting tomorrow – September 17, 2019 at the town office from 12:00 Noon to 7:00 p.m.
- Fire Chief, Bill Hussey
  - Bill brought in a copy of the new signs for the Fire Department.
  - Fryberg Fire Fighters Federation. Raffles were sold Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Raffles are still being sold the drawing is September 24, 2019.
- Secretary, Sandy Wingate
  - Sandy reported that she had signed up for the General Assistance class with Maine Municipal Association to be held on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Freeport, ME.
  - Sandy stated that she had printed the newsletter on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, and she brought them to the Post Office in Peru, for the Post Office Boxes, and to the Post Office in Rumford for the rural route in Peru.

- Sandy discussed the FOAA forms with the Select Board. Sandy was reminded of the M.R.S.A. § 402: definition is: (“any written, printed or graphic matter or any mechanical or electronic data compilation form which information can be obtained, directly or after translation into a form susceptible of visual or aural comprehension, that is in the possession or custody of an agency or public official of this State or any of its political subdivisions.” – There are exceptions to the general rule that all records made or held by the municipality are public records.) The Select Board discussed the FOAA forms and that they need to be filled out when people request the documents. The request needs to be answered within 5 business days.
- The amount of money to pay for copies, per page, was discussed by Sandy and the Select Board.
  - ❖ **Raquel made a motion that any information that is asked for from the public, Under FOAA, will be charged a dollar a page. Larry seconded the motion. All in Favor.**
  - ❖ **Raquel is creating a policy for the charges for copying of documents the public request.**

- Assessor, Lee-Ann Salley
  - Nothing new reported.
- Animal Control Officer, Roni-Sue Vachon
  - Nothing new reported
- Committee Reports
  - Nothing new reported
- Planning Board Reports:
  - Nothing new reported

#### 4. Action Items:

- None to report

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

- None to report

#### 6. Select Board Business:

- Old Business:
  - The Select Board discussed the General Contractor bid – Building demolition, Removal of all debris & Site Restoration. Raquel reported talking to both companies that had come in at the lower bids. Both companies were explained of the Town of Peru’s current revenue issues. Doug Jones from Cross Excavation had informed Raquel that Cross Excavation would hold the bid for 30 days. Scott Ferland from Almighty Waste informed Raquel that Almighty Waste would be willing to work with the Town of Peru and agreed to having a down payment, with the rest of the owed money to be paid when the Town had the cash flow again. Scott also suggested that Almighty Waste could work with Atlantic Environmental Contractors, Inc. Almighty Waste can remove all the roof themselves to save the Town \$5,000.00. Raquel reported that she had checked the references of Cross Excavation and Almighty Waste and both companies had good reviews. The Select Board discussed the cement from the old Peru Elementary School being ground and buried or to have it hauled away. The awarded company would have to receive a permit from DEP before they would be able to move forward with grounding the cement to bury it. The Select Board discussed DEP and how they are very careful in issuing the permits that the awarded company would have to receive from DEP. After much consideration the Select Board decided to award the General Contractor Bid. Cross Excavation and Almighty Waste were both presented with the current revenue issue and Almighty Waste had given more suggestions to help the Town of Peru. Cross Excavation had informed Raquel, verbally, that Cross Excavation was willing to hold their Bid for 30 days. Almighty Waste was willing to hold off on the full payment of the bid that they had submitted by taking a down payment and then being paid the balance when the Town of Peru had the cash flow coming in again. Almighty Waste had the lowest responsive bid based on recognition of our financial challenges.
  - ❖ **Larry made a motion to award the General Contractor Bid to Almighty Waste as the most responsive bidder. Tammi Seconded the motion. All in Favor.**

- The Select Board discussed the possibility of having the contractors postpone part of their work to wait for the cash flow to start again. After discussion the Select Board decided that postponing the work by the contractors was not in the best interest of the Town of Peru. It was decided that Larry would call Frank from Atlantic Environmental Contractors, Inc. and have his start day be the 26<sup>th</sup> instead of the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Select Board discussed the amount of money needed to complete the removal of the old Peru Elementary School would be \$82,822.00

– New Business:

- The Select Board discussed the indemnity issue of having a key to the Town clerk/Tax collector/Treasurer's office. Carol reported to have inquired about the issue with the Auditor, Mindy Cyr. Mindy informed Carol that the two people in question did not need to be bonded. The Town clerk/Tax collector/Treasurer's office and safe were locked and could not be accessed those without a key. The issue of keys would be discussed later.
- Bond for Sandra Wingate was discussed, and the application is to be filled out signed and sent to the Insurance company for approval.
- Medicare's assessment will increase from \$28.00 to \$49.00 per capita effective January 1, 2020. Carol shared some reasons for the significant increase including a reduction of Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements, health insurance deductibles, unpaid patient self-pay, ambulance services provided to uninsured patients, an increase in operations costs including the minimum wage increase factored across all job classifications, and the addition of a capital equipment replacement fund. Carol reported that a letter of explanation is forthcoming and that Medicare President Bob Chase and one or more of the members of the Board will make themselves available to explain the budget and assessment increase to Select Boards and citizens at public informational meetings. The Town on Peru's 2020 assessment will be \$76,440 (\$49 x 1560).
- Tammi reported she had received a phone call from one of the citizens requesting part of the stage from the old Peru Elementary School. The Select Board decided that the person requesting the stage could remove it if they did the work of removing it themselves. Larry agreed to let them into the building – a time just needed to be set up with him.
- Tammi said she would like to look at dates to start working on the 2019/2020 Town budget. Raquel will reach out to all department heads to ask them to develop their budget by November 13, 2019. The Select Board discussed times and days of the week that would work best for budget meetings. Tentatively Wednesdays were identified as working best for everyone.

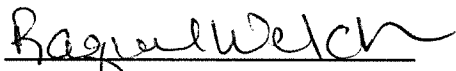
**Raquel moved to open the meeting to Public Participation at 7:48 p.m.**

- The Select Board discussed the lawn mowing and need for weed whacking of the Town Office complex.
- There was an inquiry to if the Select Board was holding a Special Town Meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The Select Board informed the attendees that there would be a Special Town Meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m. at the Dirigo Elementary School. The Special Town Meeting was being held to see if the Town will vote to take \$85,000 from surplus for the demolition of the old Peru Elementary School.
- There was an inquiry about the Town website and if there was any progress on getting help to fix it. There is not any new progress on getting help. Sandy is trying to work with what we have for now and have the website fixed when there is a better financial revenue coming in.
- The RSU 56 sport teams that were mentioned in the local paper were discussed by the Select Board and the attendees.
- The Select Board and the attendees discussed the method used to calculate the Town's average monthly financial expenses.
- The Select Board discussed painting and repairs to the framing of the garage door of the out building located beside the Town Office.
- The Select Board discussed with the attendees the expected auditor's report and meeting with the Select Board and the citizens.


**Raquel moved to close public participation at 8:05 p.m.**

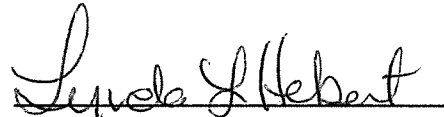
- The Select Board discussed the Article to be voted on at the Special Town Meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup>. The Article is to see if the Town will vote to take \$85,000.00 out of surplus to complete the demolition of the old Peru Elementary School.
  - ❖ **Raquel made a motion to put the Article out as: To see if the Town will vote to take \$85,000.00 from surplus for the demolition of the old Peru Elementary School. Larry seconded the motion. All in Favor.**

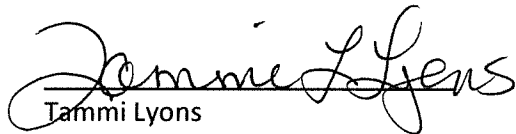
**Raquel moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Larry seconded the motion. All in Favor.**

  
Raquel Welch

  
Carol Roach

  
Larry Snowman

  
Lynda Hebert

  
Tammi Lyons

September 23, 2019  
Date

