

Board of Selectman / Finance Committee Meeting

COMUNNITY CENTER 3 East Main Rd. Peru MA

Monday April 13, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call Select Board
3. Roll Call Finance Committee
4. State recording status
5. Pledge Alliance to the Flag
6. Review and Approve Finance Committee Meeting Minutes for 3/30/23.
7. Discussion and vote on transferring funds from the Reserve Account to the Fuel Account.
8. Discussion of FY' 24 Budget.
9. Public input
10. Adjourn

The list of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Board / committee which may be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Official posting: Peru Town website: www.townofperuma.com

Posted April 11, 2023 @ 4:25PM , *Kim Leach, Town Clerk*

tBoard of Selectmen-Finance Committee Joint Meeting

Town Hall Community Center, 3 East Main Rd. Peru, MA

Thursday, April 13, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.

1. **Call to order:** Chairman Leach called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Selectman Leach corrected typo on the agenda which read Monday, April 13, 2023. The agenda should read, Thursday, April 13, 2023.
2. **Roll Call Select Board:** Selectboard Chairman Leach present, Selectman Cullett present,
3. **Roll Call Finance Committee:** Finance Committee Chairman, Paul Hickling present, Finance Committee Member Darryl Darby present, Finance Committee Member Doug Haskins present, Finance Committee Member Jesse Pelkey present, Finance Committee Member Sam Haupt present.

In attendance: Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent

4. **State recording status:** Selectman Leach recording under Exemption E for personal reasons.
5. **Pledge Allegiance to the Flag:** Led by Selectman Leach
6. **Review and Approve Finance Committee Minutes/Board of Selectman from 3/30/2023**
Finance Committee Chairman Hickling motion to approve 3/30/2023 Fin Com/BOS minutes pending changes, Fin Com member Jesse Pelkey second, all in favor 5-0
Selectman Leach motion to approve 3/30/2023 Fin Com/BOS minutes pending changes, Selectman Cullett second, all in favor 2-0
7. **Discussion and vote on transferring funds from Reserve Account to the Fuel Account:**
Fin Com Chairman Hickling motion to transfer \$9,750 from Reserve to the Fuel Account. Highway Superintendent Russell felt that \$5,000 would be a good amount to transfer. Selectman Cullett felt that \$6,000 would be a better amount to finish the fiscal year. Fin Com member Haupt motion to transfer \$6,000 from Reserve Fund to Fuel Account, Fin Com Member Pelkey second, all in favor 5-0. Selectman Cullett motion to transfer \$6,000 from Reserve Fund to Fuel Account, Selectman Leach second, 2-0.
8. **Discussion of FY24 Budget:** Selectman Cullett mentioned that at the last Fin Com/ BOS meeting the boards were working on numbers for a Rescue Vehicle and the Fire Chief presented three estimates to the boards. Selectman Cullett feels that after receiving a citizens petition to raise and appropriate \$100,000 for a Rescue Vehicle; the Fin Com and BOS should stop discussing and let the Citizens petitions take its course. Selectman Cullett felt that both departments were working on a solution and that the petitions are a slap in the face and future discussion about the Rescue Vehicle is a waste of time. Fire Chief Pelkey said he was asked to sign petitions so he would be aware of the citizens petitions. Fin Com Chairman Hickling felt that the citizens petitions were defeating the purpose and the boards were working on a solution. Selectman Haskins mentioned that Fire Chief

Pelkey wants to spend \$100,000, we don't have a fire truck and a \$100,000 Rescue Vehicle is not capable of putting out fires. Selectman Cullett mentioned that they need to decide what is cost effective to the town. The options are: Raise and Appropriate which will add to tax rate, Free Cash, Future Equipment account or grants. Fin Com Chairman Hickling felt that the citizens petitions was a blunt approach and the people supporting the citizens petitions did not have all the facts. Fire Chief Pelkey mentioned that the citizens petitions were not pushed by him, and he signed petition to show he was aware of the two citizens petitions. Fin Com member Haupt mentioned that if the BOS didn't have an interest in having conversations about a Rescue Vehicle he could understand, but that was not the case. Fin Com member Haupt asked if someone could withdraw petition. Fin Com Chairman Hickling felt that the citizens petitions raising the Fire Chief's salary to \$7,500 was trying to strong arm the boards after the Fin Com and BOS had agreed to double the Fire Chief's Salary from \$2,500- \$5,000. The BOS and Fin Com agreed with Fin Com Chairman's statement. Fin Com member Haupt felt that Fire Chief Pelkey just mucked things up by signing the citizen's petitions. It was a consensus that Fire Chief Pelkey was responsible for the confusion and if he was not in favor of his salary being raised from \$2,500-\$5,000 he should have let the Fin Com and BOS know. Selectman Leach mentioned that if the citizen's petition raising the Fire Chief Salary to \$7,500 at Annual Town Meeting is voted down, then the Fire Chief Salary will be increase by 3% of his present salary of \$2,500. The \$5,000 that was voted by BOS and Fin Com will not be in the budget. Selectman Haskins felt that both board work hard at raising the Fire Chief Salary to \$5,000 and the fire department was behind the petition. Fire Chief Pelkey stated that the Fire Department was not behind these petitions. Selectman Haskins apologized for assuming the Fire Department was behind these petitions. Selectman Cullett mentioned that they need to go forward because this is a waste of time.

Fin Com Chairman Hickling and Fin Com Pelkey asked questions regarding prevailing wages and a public records request that was received. Fire Chief Pelkey asked where these records are kept at town hall. Selectman Cullett mentioned that it up to the vendor to pay prevailing wage. Also, the town is complying with the law by certifying payroll.

FY24 Budgets requests:

Cemetery Budget \$1,500

Highway Mowing Bids:

JRD \$6,450

Labeau \$7,000

It was suggested that if any money last from FY23 budget could be used for Spring Clean up.

Highway Repairs:

550 Ford Injector \$ 180

550 Ford motor \$23,000 possibility

Grader belts \$ 3,000

Grader driveshaft \$ 700

Grader Alternator \$ 700

Tractor Maintenance \$ 700

Highway Superintendent Russell will have more information about the motor in the Ford 550 next week.

Fire Chief Pelkey mentioned that Freightliner is still waiting on parts for the fire engine, and it could possibly take up to 3 months. Chief Pelkey is looking for machine shops that could turn the rotors. Fire Chief Pelkey asked the Board of Selectmen if they had considered having the Police Chief become a certified EMT in the new employment agreement. Selectman Leach mentioned that requirement was not currently in the employment agreement.

Some discussion regarding the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and simplifying the ATM warrant similar to Dalton and Becket's Warrant. The taxpayers would be voting on one number for each department rather than voting on each line item. The taxpayers would have access to the budget worksheet prior to town meeting. Fin Com member Haskins didn't think there was time to reorganize the warrant this year. Selectman Cullett stated that the main purpose of reorganizing the Annual Town Meeting Warrant would be to expedite town meeting and shorten its length. Next scheduled joint Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee will be held, Wednesday, April 26th at 6:00 p.m.

9. Public Input: None

10. Adjourn: Selectman Leach motion to adjourn joint meeting at 7:04 p.m. Selectman Cullett second, unanimous vote to adjourn. 2-0
Fin Com Chairman Hickling motion to adjourn joint meeting at 7:04 p.m. Fin Com member Pelkey second, unanimous vote to adjourn 5-0

Items used:

Finance Committee Draft minutes from March 30, 2023
Reserve Fund Transfer
JRD Mowing Bid
LeBeaus Landscaping & Excavating , Inc Mowing Bid
Citizens Petitions for Town Meeting
Sign in sheet

Respectively submitted,

Terry L. Walker
Administrative Assistant

Verne Leach, Chairman Board of Selectman _____

Bruce Cullett, Selectman _____

Douglas Haskins, Fin Com Member _____

Samuel Haupt, Fin Com Member _____

Paul Hickling, Fin Com Chairman _____

Jesse Pelkey, Fin Com Member _____

Darryl Darby, Fin Com Member _____



Request For Transfer From The Reserve Fund

(To be submitted in triplicate)

Date.....4-13-2023

Finance Committee
Town of PELU

Gentlemen:

Request is hereby made for the following transfer from the Reserve Fund in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 6, of the Massachusetts General Laws:

1. Amount requested:
2. To be transferred to:
3. Present balance in said appropriation:
4. The amount requested will be used for (give specific purpose):

\$6,000

\$ 9,750 error (PH)

FUEL ACCOUNT
(Give name of appropriation)

\$ 10,000

Fuel consumption over budget

5. This expenditure is extraordinary and/or unforeseen for the following reasons:

Recent 2 winter storms

J. Murall
Supt of Highway Department
.....
Officer or Department Head

Action of Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting.....4-13-2023

Number Present and Voting... 5/5

Transfer voted in the sum of \$ 6000


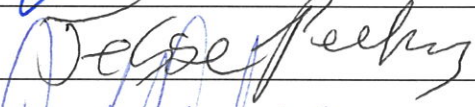


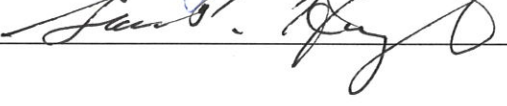
Transfer disapproved ☐

[Signature]
Chairman, Advisory Committee

Request must be made and transfer voted before any expenditure in excess of appropriation is incurred.

Town of Peru
Finance Committee/Selectboard Meeting
Sign-In Sheet

April 13, 2023

	Please Print Your Name
1	Paul Hickling
2	Bruce Cullett
3	
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JRD Mowing

Robert Dewkett
101 Hickingbotham Road
Peru, MA 01235
413-212-0857
dewkettbob@yahoo.com

To: Board of Selectman
Town Of Peru
3 East Main Road
Peru, MA 01235

Bid for Town Mowing July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Mowing and trimming of:

Center Cemetery
North Cemetery
South Cemetery
Town Green
Town Hall
Town Park
Fire Department

Total of 10 mows at \$6450.00

Thank you for your consideration of this bid.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Dewkett
JRD Mowing

LeBeaus Landscaping & Excavating, Inc

P.O. Box 62
Dalton, Ma 01226

Estimate

Date	Estimate #
3/31/2023	383

Name / Address
PERU HIGHWAY DEPT. JUSTIN RUSSELL 3 East Main Rd Suite 110 PERU, MA 01235

			Project
Description	Qty	Cost	Total
TOWN MOWING -CEMETERY AND COMMON AREAS -10 MOWINGS		7,250.00	7,250.00
		Total	\$7,250.00

Customer Signature _____