

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: May 8, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.

Peru Town Hall Meeting Room

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman/ACO
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Chief
Doug Haskins, Selectman/Finance Committee
Terry Walker, Town Administrator
Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief

Public Attendees: N/A

Item 1: Call to order: 6:00 P.M.

Item 2: Roll Call: Chairman Leach present, Selectman Cullett present, Selectman Haskins present

Item 3: State Recording status: Selectman Leach for personal reasons under Exemption E

Item 4: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Led by Selectman Leach

Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 04/18/2023 and 05/02/2023

Selectman Leach motion to approve 04/18/2023 minutes pending changes, Selectman Cullett second, 2-0, Selectman Haskins recuse.

Selectman Cullett motion to approve 5/02/2023 minutes pending changes, Selectman Haskins second, 2-0, Selectman Leach recuse.

Item 6: Updates of Departments

Fire Chief Pelkey mentioned that he has repaired the parking brake on Engine 3 by installing maxi cans on the front brakes. The fire engine parts to repair the parking brake were around \$200.00. Chief Pelkey stated that the parking brake is holding at 1,200 RPM and this has saved the town from replacing the rear axle. Chief Pelkey is now working on replacing leaking hydraulic lines. Selectman Haskins asked the fire chief to pressure wash the fire engine to see what other leaks he may find. Oil filters are also being replaced. The fire engine needs to have a mudflap replaced and the Highway Superintendent has a mudflap available that can be used on the fire engine. Fire Chief Pelkey had quotes from Pete's regarding tires. Micheline tires cost \$5,048 to replace 6 or \$2,700 to replace 4 tires. Selectman Leach is concerned about a blow out on one of the tires. Selectman Haskins felt that replacing tires will be pending on the amount of Free Cash and if the tires are needed. Selectman Haskins asked Chief Pelkey why one of the fire trucks was parked at the Town Hall. Fire Chief Pelkey said he didn't have room at the fire house. Chief Pelkey felt the fire truck was safe at the town hall parking lot because the town hall had surveillance cameras. The Selectboard instructed Chief Pelkey to lock the fire truck up in one of the bays at the Fire House. Chief Pelkey was instructed to remove equipment off the fire truck that is owned by Edgartown, put all the equipment back on the fire engine and park the town fire engine inside the fire house. Selectman Haskins stressed that the town equipment needs to be locked up. Fire Chief Pelkey mentioned that he had all the equipment on the Edgartown fire truck to use in the event of an emergency. Selectman Cullett made Chief Pelkey aware that the Edgartown fire engine is not insured and cannot be driven on the road. Fire Chief Pelkey agreed to remove all the equipment off the Edgartown fire engine, put all the equipment back on the town fire engine and park the town fire engine back in the bay. Chief Pelkey couldn't give a definite date because of training and Mother's Day weekend. Selectman Leach mentioned that a rumor was going around that Hinsdale will not be used as Peru's ambulance service. Fire Chief Pelkey said he had no idea of what Selectman Leach was talking about.

Fire Chief Pelkey mentioned Eagle Eye Institute and believed kids may be staying overnight. Chief Pelkey asked if the camp needed an inspection by the Board of Health. Chief Pelkey was instructed to discuss with the Building Inspector and give the camp notice of the inspection. Also, this should be done before they bring kids in.

Police Chief Cullett mentioned that the department completed the bi-annual firearms training last Saturday.

Selectman Leach mentioned that an invoice for an on-line Veteran's link could be added to the town website. Selectman Cullett explained that this was private and was not a state veterans link and this was not a legitimate invoice.

Town Administrator Walker mentioned the need to advertise for an Administrative Assistant. She is not able to complete all the duties as the Town Administrator when several hours per week are dedicated to the Administrative Assistant position. TA Walker feels that keeping the Town Administrator position running smoothly and effectively is a top priority. Selectman Leach suggested placing on next week's agenda and asked TA Walker to have a job description ready for next week.

Town Administrator Walker made a request to have Town Clerk Leach assist with the Annual Report. TA Walker mentioned that most towns begin compiling the information for the Annual Town Report in October and nearly half of the reports have not been received. The Annual Town Report must be available by May 27th and there isn't ample time to send to Courier Printing. Town Clerk Leach would be willing to work 20 hours, with my assistance, at minimum wage which is \$300.00. TA Walker mentioned that there is \$2,000 remaining in the Town Report Expense Account and \$2,900 remaining in the Administrative Comp Account. Selectman Haskins motion to pay TA Walker \$1,000 and pay Town Clerk Leach \$1,000 to complete the work on the Town Annual Report. Selectman Cullett motion to pay TA Walker \$750 and Town Clerk Leach \$750, Selectman Haskins second 2-0, Selectman Leach recused himself.

TA Walker questioned the Selectboard about the content of the Departmental Reports for the Annual Town Report. Selectman Cullett mentioned that the Fire Chief's report contained a job description and the board felt this is not necessary. Fire Chief Pelkey felt that if another department can put their job description in the Annual Town Report he could as well. Selectman Cullett explained that the Town Clerk is Elected, and her report was explaining mandates the state requires. It was agreed that the Fire Chief should not include his job description in his annual report.

Assessor Amy Davidson met with the Board of Selectmen. She felt that someone had messed with her computer on Wednesday and Saturday. Ms. Davidson thanked the Selectboard for the installation of office doors to make the offices secure. Ms. Davidson also donated a 3-hole punch to the Assessor's Office. Lastly Ms. Davidson read her resignation letter and Ms. Davidson's resignation will be effective on May 22, 2023. The Board of Selectmen thanked Amy for her hard work and years of dedication to the Town of Peru.

Item 7: Discussion and possible vote on repair for the Peru Fire Engine: Already discussed in Updates from Departments.

Item 8: Review and sign Town Election Warrant: Selectman Leach motion to sign Town Election Warrant, the Town Election will be held on June 10, 2023. Selectman Cullett second, 3-0

Item 9: Discussion and possible vote to appoint Susan Koziara for the Assessor position.: Selectman Leach mentioned he was not present for the interview. Selectman Cullett mentioned that Susan Koziara is very interested, she is very skilled but will not work for the \$3,500 stipend offered. Ms. Koziara mentioned she would like to continue with a 3-member board which most towns have. At Ms. Koziara's interview, she mentioned that other towns do not pay all assessors the same stipend but pay according to the hours worked. If the town wants to go to a one-member board, there needs to be an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant otherwise, the Department of Local Services will not

recognize the change. Selectman Cullett motion to have TA Walker call Ms. Koziara and invite her to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting in to discuss a stipend, Selectman Haskins second, 3-0

Item 10: Discussion of FY24 budget. Fire Chief Pelkey mentioned that fixing garage door openers may cost \$9,780 and new ones would cost \$14,700. Chief Pelkey mentioned that Overhead Doors installed the door openers ten years ago.

Item 11: Public Input: N/A

Item 12: Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrants and Payroll Warrant: None

Item 13: Adjourn: Selectman Leach made motion to adjourn the 5/8/2023 BOS Meeting, Selectman Cullett second, Vote 3-0. The 5/8/2023 BOS Meeting adjourned at 8:08 P.M.

Articles used:

Minutes- 4/18/2023, 5/2/2023

FY24 Budget Requests

Town Election Warrant

Amy Davidson resignation

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Walker

Town Administrator

Verne Leach, Chairman

Doug Haskins, Selectman

Bruce Cullett, Selectman

Date Approved: 5-15-2023

Received May 15, 2023, Kim Leach, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF PERU BERKSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL TOWN LOCAL ELECTION**

Berkshire, ss

To the either of the Constables of the Town of Peru in said County.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required and directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Peru, qualified to vote in elections to vote at.

**Peru Community Center - 3 East Main Road - Peru, MA
Ward 0 / Precinct 1 Saturday, June 10, 2023, from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M**

to cast their votes in the **ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION** for the election of candidates for the following offices.

(1) SELECT BOARD - 3 YEAR TERM

(1) PLANNING BOARD - 5 YEAR TERM

(1) BOARD OF HEALTH - 3 YEAR TERM

(2) FINANCE COMMITTEE - 3 YEAR TERM

(1) CONSTABLE - 2 YEAR TERM

(1) MODERATOR - 3 YEAR TERM


And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof at five suitable places seven days at least before the time of holding said election. Hereof, fail not, and make do returns of this Warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of said voting.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS 8th DAY OF **May** IN THE YEAR **TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE**

SELECT BOARD OF PERU


Verne L Leach



Bruce W. Cullett


Douglas A. Haskins

A true copy, ATTEST: 
Kim A Leach TOWN CLERK

Return of Service; By virtue of the within Warrant, I have served the same posting in at least five public places attested copies thereof, seven days at least before the time of holding said election.

ATTEST:


Constable of Peru *Peggy White*

Date

5-13-23

Time:

12:13pm

Place of Posting: Peru Town Hall (inside/outside) Bulletin Boards, Peru Community Center, Peru Library, Peru Transfer Station, and Town of Peru Website: Townofperuma.com

May 8, 2023

Town of Peru Selectmen

3 E. Main Road

Peru, MA 01235

Select Board Members:

Am hereby tendering my resignation as Assessor for the Town of Peru, effective May 22, 2023.


I had intended to stay on until a new Assessor could be instructed by me, however there are six or seven individuals in the Town of Peru that have made it impossible for me to go on.

As you know, this is my third resignation. I came out of retirement as I just wanted to help the Town of Peru. Due to this decision, I found my love for the Assessing profession again, unfortunately the working climate in Peru does not make it possible for me to go on serving the town.

I wish you all well in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the citizens of the Town of Peru.

Sincerely,



Amy W. Davidson