

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Town Hall Meeting Room 3 East Main Rd. Peru MA

Monday, April 11, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. State recording status
4. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag
5. Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 3/21/22, 3/23/22, 3/28/22 and 4/4/2022
6. Updates of Departments
7. Discussion and possible vote to approve posting for Emergency Management Director Position.
8. Discussion and possible approval of bid with All States Construction for the FDR of E. Windsor Road project.
9. Review, discussion and possible release of Executive Session Minutes from June 1, 2021.
10. Discussion and possible vote on approval of Executive Session minutes from June 1, 2021
11. Review, discussion and possible release of Executive Session Minutes from March 28, 2022.
12. Discussion and possible vote on approval of Executive Session minutes from March 28, 2022.
13. Discussion and review of FY' 23 Town Budget Process
14. Public input
15. Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrant, Payroll Warrant.
16. Adjourn

The list of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Board 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](http://www.townofperuma.com)

***Posted April 7, 2022 @ 5:15pm ~ Kim Leach , Town Clerk***

TOWN HALL- 3 EAST MAIN ROAD- PERU, MA 01235  
**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: April 11, 2022: 6:00 P.M.**  
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman/ACO  
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Chief  
Doug Haskins, Selectman/Finance Committee  
James Welch, Town Administrator  
Terry Walker, Administrative Assistant  
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent  
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:** N/A

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

**Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes:** Selectman Cullett motion to review and approve 03/21/2022 minutes pending changes, Selectman Leach second, 2-0 -Selectman Haskins was absent.

Selectman Leach motion review and approve 3/23/2022 minutes pending changes, Selectman Cullett second, 3-0

Selectman Leach motion to review and approve 3/28/2022 minutes pending changes, Selectman Cullett second, 3-0

Selectman Leach motion to review and approve 4/4/2022 minutes pending changes, Selectman Haskins second, 2-0 - Selectman Cullett was absent.

**Item 6: Updates of Departments:**

Fire Chief Pelkey mentioned that the MCI training will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The local Boy Scout troop will be part of the victims. Fire Chief Pelkey asked permission from the Board of Selectmen to allow the Boy Scouts to camp out on May 20<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup>. The Board of Selectmen agreed that the Boy Scouts could camp out for the event. Pelkey also mentioned that life flight would be landing in the field around 11:30 a.m. It was also noted that White Wolf would be pumping septic tank beginning on May 17<sup>th</sup> to get ready for the events and White Wolf will inspect the tank as well. The cost is twenty cents per gallon which is around \$600.00. Chief Pelkey mentioned that he does not have \$600.00 available in Fire Department Budget. The Board of Selectmen agreed to have the tank pumped. Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that if the septic tank pipes need to be replaced the repairs can be completed after October. The Board of Selectmen agreed with pumping and repairing septic lines. Fire Chief Pelkey drove to Belmont and inspected the vehicle he would like to purchase. He stated that the vehicle looks good, brakes and tires are in good condition, and it was used as an inspector's vehicle with 65,000 miles. The interior is immaculate, and the rust spots are not an issue. The price is \$9,000 and Fire Chief Pelkey wants to know if ARPA funds is a possibility or should this purchase go to Annual Town Meeting-Free Cash or Stabilization. Board of Selectmen gave TA Jim Welch approval to discuss vehicle with Belmont Town Administrator any funding approval would need to wait until

ATM. This is a verbal approval, but nothing is official until ATM the first week of June. Selectman Leach motion to approve pending ATM vote, Selectman Haskins also agreed with the purchase pending ATM vote. Fire Chief updated Eversource website which updated emergency power to Highway Department, Fire Station and Tower. Fire Chief Pelkey has fire prevention training for 5 Thursdays in Stowe, MA at the Fire Academy and would like permission to get a hotel rather than commute. The Dalton Fire Chief will be used as back up for Peru. Selectman Leach is fine with Fire Chief Pelkey staying in a hotel and wants Pelkey to check on group rates, Selectman Cullett and Selectman Haskins both agreed on Fire Chief Pelkey's request to stay in a hotel. The dates the Fire Chief will be in training are May 5,19,26, June 2 and June 9.

Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that the Asphalt plants opened today, and it is too cold to patch potholes. Mark Bedard was chosen last Monday, Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> to serve on grand jury and he will be serving for 7 more days. Russell recommended the town pay for Grand Jury duty. Selectman Cullett mentioned a decent employer would pay the employee because wages are budgeted. Selectman Haskins and Selectman Leach are in favor of paying Mark for Grand Jury duty. Unanimous vote 3-0

Russell would like to have a separate bid for gravel to get a better deal rather than Berkshire Group Purchasing. Russell would like to work with TA Welch and Admin Assistant Walker to put gravel out to bid in central registry. Russell mentioned that Patriot's Day is a holiday in Peru and would appreciate the Highway Department getting the holiday off with pay. Selectman Cullett explained how the town hall must be closed on Patriot's Day and questioned how Selectboard can make the highway dept work on a state holiday. Selectman Leach reaffirmed that April 18<sup>th</sup> is Patriot's Day in Massachusetts and a state holiday. Selectman Cullett motion go give Highway Department Patriot's Day off with pay, Selectman Leach second, all in favor 3-0.

TA Welch spoke with Treasurer and Accountant and Free Cash is expected to be certified by the end of April.

TA Welch provided the Board of Selectman with an updated budget, and he also mentioned that he has procurement training, Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Police Chief Cullett mentioned that he completed his last week of in person Bridge Academy training. The state is requiring recertification of all full-time officers with last names A-H by June 15<sup>th</sup>

Chief Cullett mentioned that he had several applicants resumes for full time officers. Officer Boyne will be on medical leave for 12 weeks.

**Item 7: Discussion and Possible vote to approve posting for Emergency Management Director Position folders for review:** Selectman Leach motion to approve posting Emergency Management Director position, Selectman Haskins second, 2-0, Selectman Cullett recused himself.

**Item 8: Discussion and possible approval of bid with All State Construction for the FDR of E. Windsor Road Project.**

Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that this is the last part of the bid which is the performance bond, insurance and signed contract. The estimated date is September 16, 2022 and paving will be immediately after that. Russell mentioned that All States and L.B. Corp work well together. Selectman Leach motion for the Selectboard to sign All States contract, Selectman Cullett second, 3-0 all in favor.

**Item 9: Review, discussion and possible release of Executive Session Minutes from June 1, 2021.** Selectman Cullett mentioned that the town was released from the lawsuit. Selectman Leach motion to release minutes from June 1, 2021, Selectman Cullett second, 3-0.

**Item 10: Discussion and possible vote on approval of Executive Session Minutes from June 1, 2021.** Selectman Leach motion to approve June 1, 2021 Executive Session minutes, Selectman Cullett second, all in favor 3-0

**Item 11: Review, discussion and possible release of Executive Session Minutes from March 28, 2022.** Selectman Leach mentioned that at the end of the meeting the complaint was retracted, and he doesn't see a reason not to release. Selectman Leach motion to release executive session minutes from March 28, 2022, Selectman Cullett second, all in favor 3-0

**Item 12: Discussion and possible vote on approval of Executive Session Minutes from March 28, 2022:** Selectman Leach motion to review and accept March 28, 2022, executive session minutes pending changes, Selectman Cullett second, all in favor 3-0

**Item 13: Discussion and review of FY23 Town Budget Process:**

- Number of students for Vocational School (Central Berkshire) 10 students plus 1.
- Town insurance-need amount
- Health insurance 8% increase-need amount
- Medicare-need amount
- Masks purchased- Selectman Cullett mentioned that masks purchased are for Fire, Police, Town Hall, and some in reserve
- Selectman Haskins mentioned some accounts are overdrawn- snow/ice and fuel.
- Selectman Cullett mentioned that Assistant Assessor Wages and remainder of Assessor Salary should go to offset \$4,000 Assessing services to correct deficit.
- Heating account overdrawn.
- TA Welch will look into separate credit cards for Highway, Fire and Police Departments rather than one shared credit card by all departments.

TA Welch will work with Admin Assistant Walker for the wording on ATM article allowing the Town Treasurer to borrow for Revenue Anticipation Notes (RAN) and Grant Anticipation Notes (GAN).

Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen will have a joint meeting on May 2, 2022, at 6 p.m.

Annual report-TA Jim Welch and Admin Assistant Terry Walker are working on it. TA Welch will be sending a 2<sup>nd</sup> reminder to all departments that haven't complied.

**Item 14: Public Input:** N/A

**Item 15: Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrant, Payroll Warrant:** V19

Police Chief comp time was discussed. Generally, the town policy is use it or lose it. Since the police Department is down a couple officers, Chief Cullett could not use comp time. Selectman Haskins motion that Police Chief Cullett use two weeks' vacation and two weeks comp time split up in two pay periods before the end of the year, Selectman Leach second, 2-0, Selectman Cullett recused himself.

**Item 16: Adjourn:** Selectman Leach made motion to adjourn the 04/11/2022 BOS Meeting, Selectman Haskins second, Vote 3-0. The 04/11/2022 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

**Articles used:**

Minutes-3/21/2022, 03/23/2022, 03/28/2022, 04/04/2022

FY23 Budget Spreadsheet

All States Bid Contract

Warrant V19

Respectfully Submitted,

*Terry L Walker*  
*Administrative Assistant*

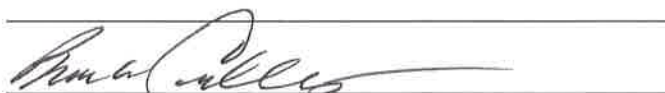
Verne Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved: 4/19/2022

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APR 19 2022  
*Kim Leach*  
TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF PERU