

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Peru Community Center

3 East Main Rd. Peru MA

Monday, June 27, 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 6/13/22 and 6/21/22
6. Updates of Departments
7. Presentation by Mark Toporoff regarding Camp Danbee License to Operate.
8. Discussion and possible vote to approve Camp Danbee License to Operate.
9. Discussion and possible vote to approve RFQ Language for Assessor Services.
10. Discussion and update regarding Peru 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration.
11. Discussion and possible vote for use of ARPA funds.
12. Discussion and possible vote regarding purchase of fire/water resistant cabinets for Town Records.
13. Public input
14. Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrant, Payroll Warrant.
15. 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 June 23, 2022 @ 5:57pm, Kim Leach, Town Clerk***

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: June 27, 2022: 6:00 P.M.**

Peru Community Center

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman/ACO  
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Chief  
Doug Haskins, Selectman/Finance Committee  
James Welch, Town Administrator  
Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief  
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent

Public Attendees: Mark Toporoff-Camp Danbee

**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:** TA Welch

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

**Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 6/13/2022 and 6/21/2022:** Put on hold.

**Item 6: Update of Departments:** Fire Chief Pelkey presented three proposed three different policies regarding continuing education. Selectman Cullett asked Chief Pelkey about the order of certain training for EMT's to get certified. Chief Pelkey gave an explanation about how EMT's gain certification. Selectman Leach requested that Chief Pelkey redraft the policy to make it more detailed. The policy was basically how the EMT's would be reimbursed by the town for the cost of their certification. Chief Pelkey explained that the fire department would like to seek bids for a ladder that was purchased by the fire department years ago and has never been used. Chief Pelkey expressed his interest of having the proceeds of the sale of the ladder given back to the fire department. Selectman Leach explained to Chief Pelkey that the proceeds would go back in the general fund. Chief Pelkey said he understood that it would go into the general fund but would like the proceeds ear marked to go back to the fire department. Selectman Cullett asked Chief Pelkey to explain the details around the notice of inspection that he sent to town officials regarding his proposed inspections of all town buildings. Selectman Cullett asked why there was no communication with department heads and other town officials prior to sending the notice. Chief Pelkey stated that he scheduled the inspections around the availability of John Wood from the Massachusetts Fire Academy. Chief Pelkey stated that Mr. Wood was his instructor at the fire academy, and he asked Mr. Wood to accompany him on inspection for training purposes. He also stated that Mr. Wood advised him of the responsibilities as Fire Chief regarding inspections. Selectman Cullett advised chief Pelkey that in the future he should seek clarification from the Board of Selectman regarding his responsibilities rather than outside sources. Selectman Cullett also explained that the notice of inspections was not timely due to the fact is seeking proposals from engineering firms to begin the process of reconstructing town hall to meet current standards. Chief Pelkey explained that he plans to shadow the fire chief from Stockbridge on inspections to gain further knowledge and training. TA Welch added that perhaps the proposed training that Chief Pelkey spoke about should happen prior to conducting official inspections in Peru. Selectman Leach asked Chief Pelkey what the motivation was behind his intentions to inspect the small shed at the transfer station? Chief Pelkey said he wasn't sure because he hasn't been in the shed. Chief Pelkey could not state specifics regarding the type of violations he would be looking for but does plan to research it. All three Selectman suggested that Chief Pelkey reschedule his proposed inspections of highway garage and town hall until he has stronger knowledge of overall inspection process. Selectman Haskins pointed out that the tone of Chief Pelkey's emails to various department heads about his planned inspections was not handled as professionally as

it should have been. Selectmen Cullett and Selectman Leach both agreed with Selectman Haskins regarding Chief Pelkey's approach lacking professional courtesy to other department heads in Peru. TA Welch requested that Chief Pelkey delay his planned inspection of the highway garage until after the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration since the highway employees are working straight out to get the town ready for that occasion. Chief Pelkey would not agree at this time to delay the inspections but promised to think about it over night and he would inform the Board of Selectmen the next day of his decision. Selectman Leach suggested that the Town Church and the Town Library be prioritized before inspecting people's personal property that they use for DBA's. TA Welch suggested that Chief Pelkey inspect the firehouse and report back to the Board of Selectmen about his findings. Then he could possibly move to the Town Hall and Highway Garage for inspections.

TA Welch presented RFQ's for the Town Hall Improvement Feasibility plan. TA Welch has received one inquiry from one of the firms regarding the RFQ thus far. TA Welch updated the Board of Selectmen about his conversation earlier that day with John Wood. Mr. Wood explained that he was invited by Chief Pelkey to accompany him on the proposed inspections as a training component. John Wood also explained to TA Welch that he would only be there for training purposes and not be there for any violations. TA Welch informed the Board of Selectmen that one candidate has expressed an interest for the Finance Committee position.

**Item 7: Presentation by Mark Toporoff regarding Camp Danbee License to Operate:** Mark Toporoff presented to the board that the camp was ready to open for the season and received inspections from Health, Building and Fire Department. He is appearing before the board tonight to request license to operate for the season. Mr. Toporoff explained there were a few issues with the fire department inspection regarding smoke detectors and that they were currently in the process of replacing outdated smoke detectors. Chief Pelkey stated that he would go to the camp on Friday to finalize the inspection.

**Item 8: Discussion and possible vote to approve Camp Danbee License to Operate:** Selectman Leach motion to approve Camp Danbee's license to operate pending final approval by fire chief and building inspector. Selectman Cullett second, 3-0

**Item 9: Discussion and possible vote to approve RFQ Language for Assessor Services:** TA Welch informed the Board of Selectmen that he spoke with KP Law regarding the opinion from Brian Maser last fall that Peru could move from a 3-member Board of Assessors to one primary assessor. He also stated that Jared Collins from KP Law gave the opinion that it was ok to move to one primary assessor as long as there is no documentation that the town of Peru adopted any state statute limiting their ability to do so. TA Welch will do further research to ensure that this did not happen before proceeding. Selectman Cullett suggested changes to the language of the RFQ and the other Selectmen agreed, TA Welch will make the changes. Selectman Leach made a motion to approve RFQ pending changes and the verification that Peru did not adopt any state statutes limiting their ability to move to one primary assessor. Selectman Cullett second, 3-0.

**Item 10: Discussion and update regarding Peru 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration:** TA Welch gave an update from Currier Printing that they would complete the printing of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary booklets and would invoice the town the balance. Discussion regarding preparation of the different locations that will be used for the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration activities. Chairman gave further updates about the dinner for town residents that will be provided by the Lions Club the week after the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration.

**Item 11: Discussion and possible vote to for use of ARPA funds:** Selectman Leach presented ideas on how to fix the drainage behind the fire department. Selectman Cullett and Selectman Haskins both made recommendations on the drainage as well. No vote was taken.

**Item 12: Discussion and possible vote regarding purchase of fire/water resistant cabinet for Town Records:** According to TA Welch's research, the Town Clerk's estimate was the same that he could find for the exact same model. Discussion about different options, but it was decided that the model the Town Clerk requested was the best option.

Selectman Cullett motion to approve the purchase of the cabinet with the funds originally allocated at town meeting and take difference from the Town Clerk's expense account. Unanimous vote to purchase cabinet.

**Item 13: Public Input:** N/A

**Item 14: Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrant, Payroll Warrant:**

**Item 15: Adjourn:** Selectman Leach made motion to adjourn the 06/27/2022 BOS Meeting, Selectman Cullett second, Vote 3-0. The 06/27/2022 BOS Meeting adjourned at 8:59 P.M.

**Articles used:**

Draft of RFQ for Assessor Services  
Camp Danbee License to operate  
RFQ for Architectural /Engineering Feasibility Study  
EMT Policies

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jim Welch*  
*Town Administrator*

Verne Leach, Chairman

Doug Haskins, Selectman

Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved: 8-8-22

RECEIVED  
AUG 09 2022  
*Kim Leach*  
TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF PERU