

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Town Hall Meeting Room 3 East Main Rd. Peru MA

Monday April 10, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. State recording status
4. Pledge Alliance to the Flag
5. Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 4/3/23.
6. Updates of Departments.
7. Discussion and possible vote on transferring funds from the reserve fund to the Fuel account.
8. Update, Discussion and possible vote on repair for the Peru Fire Engine.
9. Discussion of and possible vote to Appointment Logan Brooks as Alternate Inspector of Smoke Alarms.
10. Discussion and possible vote on Patriot Data Collection services.
11. Discussion, Review and possible vote on the applicants for the Town Administrator position (Robert Ireland and Terry Walker).
12. Discussion of FY' 24 Budget.
13. Public input
14. Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrant and 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, April 6, 2023 @ 4:22 pm *Kim Leach, Town Clerk*

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: April 10, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.**

Peru Town Hall Meeting Room

Vern Leach, Chairman BOS/ACO  
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Chief  
Doug Haskins, Selectman/Fin Com  
Terry Walker, Administrative Assistant  
Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief

Public Attendees: Bonny DiTomasso, Nanette Mone

**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 04/03/2023:**

Selectman Leach motion to approve 04/03/2023 minutes pending changes, Selectman Cullett second, 3-0,

**Item 6: Updates of Departments:** Fire Chief Pelkey mentioned that the Fire Truck is still at Freightliner in Westfield, MA and the brake parts to fix the fire engine are obsolete. The fire truck is 21 years old, and the manufacturer went out of business in 2015. Freightliner is trying to find the brake parts elsewhere. Chief Pelkey mentioned that there were two calls for mutual aid to Chesterfield and the Peru Fire Department spend over 4 hours on these calls. Selectman Leach asked Chief Pelkey who was left in Peru for standby. Chief Pelkey stated that Middlefield and Hinsdale Fire Departments were on standby for Peru. Fire Chief Pelkey also mentioned that two citizens Petitions were filed with the Town Clerk. One petition was to increase the Fire Chief salary to \$7,500 and the other petition asking for \$100,000 for a Fire Truck. The Fire Chief mentioned that he had seen the petitions and signed them because the citizens wanted the Fire Chief to be aware of the citizens petitions.

Finance Committee Hickling mentioned at the March 30, 2023, joint meeting the following items were discussed:

Rescue Vehicle-Placed on hold

Fire Department Budget \$27,500 was lowered to \$25,000

BOS and Fin Com agreed to increase the Fire Chief Salary to \$5,000

BOS and Fin Com agreed to lower Building Maintenance from \$2,500-\$2,000

BOS and Fin Com agreed to increase the Highway Superintendent's Salary to \$75,000

BOS and Fin Com agreed to increase Snow Roads to \$90,000

BOS and Fin Com agreed on the Highway Department wish list except the plow

BOS and Fin Com agreed to fund Permit eyes for \$8,800 and a yearly maintenance of \$4,250

Next joint Board of Selectman and Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Police Chief Cullett nothing at this time from the Police Department.

Selectman Leach mentioned that the Town Clerk had given the Board of Selectmen two citizens petitions just before tonight's meeting and all names were certified by the Board of Registrars. One petition was to raise the Fire Chief Salary to \$7,500 and the other petition asking for \$100,000 for a Fire Truck.

**Item 7: Discussion and possible vote on transferring funds from Reserve Account to the Fuel Account:** Selectman Leach mentioned that the Fuel Account is in deficit. Selectman Leach made a motion to bring this deficit to the Finance Committee's attention and request the Finance Committee vote to transfer from the Reserve Fund Account to the Fuel Account, Selectman Haskins second, 3-0.

**Item 8: Update, Discussion and possible vote on repair for the Peru Fire Engine:** Fire Chief Pelkey mentioned that the parts for the fire engine are on order. Fire Chief Pelkey mentioned that the Town of Townsend had donated a fire engine on temporary loan. Selectman Cullett mentioned that if this fire engine is being used it needs to be registered and put on town insurance.

**Item 9: Discussion and possible vote to appoint Logan Brooks as Alternate Inspector of Smoke Alarms:** Selectman Leach motion to appoint Logan Brooks as Alternate Inspector of Smoke Alarms, Selectman Haskins second and mentioned that Logan is trained and a member of the fire department, 3-0

**Item 10: Discussion and possible vote on Patriot Data Collection Services:** Amy Davisson, Assessor, presented the Board of Selectmen with a proposal from Patriots Properties, Inc.

**DATA COLLECTION SERVICES:**

- Two days of Data Collection Services.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

- The Town will be responsible for setting up all appointments and coordinating the schedule with Patriot staff.
- Any additional days required will be billed at \$600.00 per day.

**COMPENSATION:**

- The total cost for the services listed above will be.
- \$1,200.00

Amy mentioned that there were 5 abatements to be completed and mentioned that abatements were not part of the contract. Selectman Leach motion to approve Patriots proposal, Selectman Cullett second, 3-0. Proposal was signed by Chairman Leach.

Amy Davidson asked when the doors would be installed to secure the town offices. Selectman Haskins will contact Jay Jewel and give Amy an approximate date.

**Item 11: Discussion, Review and possible vote on the applicants for the Town Administrator position(Robert Ireland and Terry Walker).** Selectman Leach mentioned that one candidate has more experience and is a better fit as the Town Administrator. Selectman Cullett agreed that one candidate has more relevant municipal experience. Selectman Haskins mentioned he was not present for Robert Ireland's interview, but the other candidate is well qualified for the job. Selectman Leach motion to appoint Terry Walker as the Town Administrator, Selectman Cullett second, unanimous vote 3-0. Selectman Haskins would like to call Robert Ireland and offer him the position as Administrative Assistant. Selectman Leach likes that idea and will ask Robert Ireland if he is interested. Terry Walker, Administrative Assistant, thanked the board for hiring her. Terry was concerned about keeping the new role in the Accounting Department and enjoys working with the accountant very much. Selectman Cullett mentioned that Terry has a critical role in the accounting department, and it shouldn't be a problem to continue with the accounting duties. Ms. Walker was asked if she would continue as the Administrative Assistant until someone is hired. Ms. Walker reiterated that she is willing to continue as the Administrative Assistant and would never leave the position without someone taking over her duties. Finance Committee Chairman Hickling mentioned that if Robert Ireland expresses an interest as the Administrative Assistant, it is crucial that he has typing skills and he should be made aware of the importance of keeping up with the minutes. Selectman Leach mentioned that he will give Robert Ireland a call.

**Item 12: Discussion of FY24 Budget:** It was decided that the next BOS & Fin Com meeting will be Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Fin Com Chairman Hickling will present the Fin Com with a Reserve Fund Transfer from Reserve Fund to Fuel Account.

**Item 13. Public Input:**

Bonny DiTomasso mentioned that after reading the Board of Selectmen's minutes when Representative Barrett spoke at a Board of Selectmen's meeting. Bonny understood that Rep. Barrett was requiring Master Plan documentation. Selectman Cullett mentioned that Rep. Barrett was diligently working on broad band and that Paul Mark had promised that there was funding for Broad Band in Peru. The Selectboard will be in contact with Rep Barrett's office and will supply any information that is needed from Peru. Selectman Cullett feels that Rep Barrett will be very vocal advocating for Peru in Boston.

Bonny DiTomasso mentioned a Health Fair will take place in Dalton on June 30, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This Health Fair is open to the public and residents from Peru may attend.

Police Chief Cullett was concerned about seniors and disabled residents needing transportation with Berkshire Regional Transportation Association. Chief Cullett asked if the service was state or town funded. There is a 90-year-old resident that needs transportation in a chair lift van. Bonny DiTomasso mentioned that there is an ADA application for such services which needs to be signed by the person's physician to require services with BRTA. The cost is \$30.00 each way. Bonny DiTomasso also mentioned that there may be another student attending the Vocational School.

**Item 14: Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrants and Payroll Warrant: N/A**

**Item 15: Adjourn:** Selectman Leach motion to adjourn the 04/10/2023 BOS Meeting, Selectman Cullett second, vote 3-0. The 04/10/2023 BOS Meeting adjourned at 6:46 P.M.

**Articles used:**

Minutes- 04/03/2023

Warrants N/A

Appointment letter Logan Brooks

Patriots Properties Proposal

Robert Ireland & Terry Walker, cover letter, resumes and awards on website.

2 Citizens Petitions

Respectfully Submitted,

*Terry Walker*

*Administrative Assistant*

Verne Leach, Chairman

Doug Haskins, Selectman

Bruce Cullett, Selectman

Date Approved: 4-18-23

RECEIVED  
APR 19 2023

TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF PERU





Logan Brooks is HEREBY APPOINTED TO THE POSITION

OF: Alternate Inspector of Smoke Alarms

FOR SAID TOWN OF PERU, FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR

April 10, 2023 - ENDING: June 30, 2023

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Bruce W. Cullett

4-10-2023

Date

Douglas A. Haskins

4/10/2023

Date

Verne L Leach

4-10-23

Date

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Then personally appeared the above name and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially discharge all duties of said office.

Before me: \_\_\_\_\_

Kim A. Leach, Town Clerk

Date



**patriot**  
PROPERTIES, INC.

A DIVISION OF CATALYTIC  
TAX & CLAIM, INC.

**Peru, MA**

3 East Main Road  
Peru, MA 01235

Amy Davidson  
Ph: (413) 665-8312  
[assessors@townofperuma.com](mailto:assessors@townofperuma.com)

**PROPOSAL / APPROVAL**

Date: 3/7/2023

Jeff Leone  
(800) 527-9991 x22035  
[jeff@patriotproperties.com](mailto:jeff@patriotproperties.com)

**Data Collection Services:**

- A. Two days of Data Collection Services.

**General Conditions:**

- A. The Town will be responsible for setting up all appointments and coordinating the schedule with Patriot staff.
- B. Any additional days required will be billed at \$600.00 per day.

**Compensation:**

The total cost for the services listed above will be:

**\$1,200.00**

**APPROVAL:**

The signature below by an authorized person indicates approval to purchase Services the items listed above. Invoice for above items will be submitted upon completion of services.

X 

(Signature of Authorized representative)

**VERNE LEACH**

(Print Name)

**SELECT BOARD CHAIR**

(Title)

**4-10-23**

(Date)

# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING CITIZEN'S ARTICLE

DATE and TIME this paper received by  
Registrars

APR 01 2023

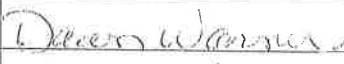
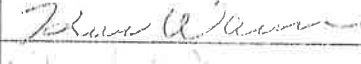


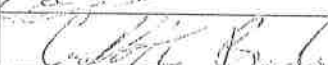

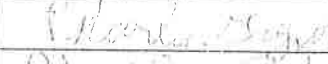

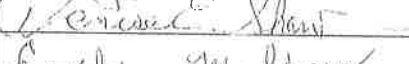
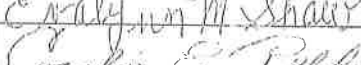
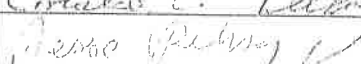




(Insert Petition Language here)

TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$100,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING AND OUTFITTING A NEW FIRE TRUCK FOR THE TOWN OF PERU FIRE DEPARTMENT OR TAKE ANY OTHER ACTION RELATIVE THERETO. (BY SECRET BALLOT).

SIGNERS STATEMENT We are qualified voters of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and of the Town of Peru

## INSTRUCTIONS TO SIGNERS:

Your signature should be written as substantially as registered. If you are prevented, by physical disability, from writing you may authorize some person to write your name and residence in your presence.

I		II		III	
C h e c k	Signatures to be made in person with name substantially as registered (except in case of physical disability as stated above)	Printed Name	W a r d 0	P r e c t 0	Street Address
1		DAWN WARNER			7 Kreuzer Rd
2		KEVIN WARNER			7 KREUZER RD
3		NATALIE MOORE			80 E MAIN RD
4		DANA ADAMS			8 ORPIN Rd
5		Logan Brooks			1 East Main Rd
6		Caitlin Brooks			15 S Rd Ex
7		Caitlin Brooks			155 E. ex
8		CHADLEY COYNE			29 NORTH RD
9		Phyllis ZAKHARY			29 NORTH RD
10		Denise L. Shaw			127 East Windsor Rd.
11		Evelyn M. Shaw			137 East Windsor Rd.
12		Cora E. Pelkey			37 Abick Rd
13		Jesse L. Pelkey			16 NORTH RD
14		Charlene F. Steele			25 South Rd.
15		Kimberly Wetherell			10 South Rd
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

## Instructions to Registrars

You must time-stamp or write in date and time these papers are received.

Check thus ✓ against the name of qualified voter to be certified.

N = no such registered voter at that address.

S = unable to identify signature or address as that of

W = wrong district or community.



# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING CITIZEN'S ARTICLE

DATE and TIME this paper received by  
Registrars

APR 11 2021

(Insert Petition Language here)

TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL RAISE AND APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$7,500 FOR THE FIRE CHIEF'S SALARY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY (FIRE DEPARTMENT), OR TAKE ANY OTHER ACTION THEREON. (BY SECRET BALLOT).

SIGNERS STATEMENT We are qualified voters of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and of the Town of Peru

## INSTRUCTIONS TO SIGNERS:

Your signature should be written as substantially as registered. If you are prevented, by physical disability, from writing you may authorize some person to write your name and residence in your presence.

	C h e c k	I  Signatures to be made in person with name substantially as registered (except in case of physical disability as stated above)	II  Printed Name	W a r d 0	P r e c 1	III  Street Address
1		<i>Dawn Warner</i>	Dawn Warner			7 KROTZER RD
2		<i>Rene Warner</i>	RENE WARNER			7 KROTZER RD
3		<i>Marie Adams</i>	Marie Adams			80 E MAIN RD
4		<i>Sara Adams</i>	SARA ADAMS			8 Orion Rd
5		<i>Logan Brooks</i>	Logan Brooks			1 East Main Rd
6		<i>Carlton Brooks</i>	Carlton Brooks			155 Rd Ext
7		<i>Camie Brooks</i>	CAMIE BROOKS			155 Rd ext
8		<i>Charles Gortner</i>	CHARLES GORTNER			29 NORTH RD
9		<i>Phyllis Zakharay</i>	Phyllis ZAKHARY			29 NORTH RD
10		<i>Denise E. Shaw</i>	Denise E. Shaw			127 East Windsor Rd
11		<i>Evelynn M. Shaw</i>	Evelynn M. Shaw			127 East Windsor Rd
12		<i>Corrie E. Terrey</i>	Corrie E. Terrey			37 North Rd
13		<i>Tesse C. Terrey</i>	TESSE C. TERREY			16 North Rd
14		<i>Charlene F. Storie</i>	Charlene F. Storie			25 South Rd
15		<i>Kimberly J. Washenall</i>	Kimberly J. Washenall			10 SOUTH RD
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						

## Instructions to Registrars

You must time-stamp or write in date and time these papers are received.

Check thus ✓ against the name of qualified voter to be certified.  
For names not certified, use the codes opposite.

N = no such registered voter at that address.

S = unable to identify signature or address as that of

W = wrong district or community.

T = already signed this petition.