

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: April 18, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.**

Peru Town Hall Meeting Room

Verne Leach, Chairman BOS/ACO  
Bruce Cullett, Selectman/Police Chief  
Terry Walker, Administrative Assistant  
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent  
Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief  
Paul Hickling, Fin Com Chairman

Public Attendees: Bonny DiTomasso, Keith Blake and Louise Blake 45 North Road

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

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

**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 04/10/2023:**

Selectman Leach motion to approve 04/10/2023 minutes pending changes, Selectman Cullett second, 2-0

**Item 6: Updates of Departments:**

Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that the Chapter 90 request has been submitted for payment of loader. Superintendent Russell also mentioned that the 550 is back at Marcotte Ford and they are trying to diagnose the issue with the engine. Superintendent Russell also mentioned that the grader has been repaired. Highway Superintendent Russell will speak with the Town Treasurer Wendling to see if funds can be transferred from Temporary wages to Highway Department wages.

Fire Chief Pelkey mentioned that there was a brush fire on Saturday and one of the door openers at the fire house does not work. Selectman Leach mentioned that they will find money to fix the doors. Chief Pelkey also mentioned that the electronic board on the Tanker is flashing, and a repair would cost \$2,800. Chief Pelkey has a call into Shakerly for the cost to repair electronic board. Selectman Leach felt that the Fire Chief could use the tanker to keep everything under control. Update on fire engine- Chief Pelkey mentioned that Freightliner in Westfield, MA sent out the rotors on Monday to have the rotors turned. Chief Pelkey also reported that the state police and local towns searched for two people that were lost in Peru, they were rescued and brought to BMC.

Finance Committee Hickling mentioned that a reserve fund transfer for \$6,000 to the Fuel Account was voted at the last Fin Com meeting.

Bonny DiTomasso, School Committee member, mentioned that a grant for a resource officer has been written and the funds will come through the Dalton Police Department. Out of the five schools, only three schools would benefit from the grant. Bonny Ditomasso is asking for guidance on how she should vote on the grant funding. The Selectboard instructed Bonny to get more information and then report back to the Selectboard.

Keith and Louise Blake, 45 North Road, were very disturbed about a house trailer parked on North Road. The House trailer needs to be parked 65 feet from the center of the road and they feel it is too close to the road. Selectman Cullett

mentioned that it may be just a temporary park. Selectman Cullett will contact the Building Inspector to visit the site and see if the house trailer is parked in the town right of way. Selectman Leach mentioned the Selectboard needs to start with the Building Inspector.

**Item 7: Discussion and possible vote on repair for the Peru Fire Engine:** Selectman Leach placed on hold.

**Item 8: Appoint Terry Walker as Town Administrator:** Selectman Leach motion to appoint Terry Walker as Town Administrator, Selectman Cullett second, 2-0. Selectman Leach and Selectman Cullett signed the appointment letter - term ending June 30, 2024.

**Item 9: 6:30 Open, Discussion and vote on bids for Vocational Transportation:** Selectman Leach mentioned that the bids went out to three companies. Selectman Leach received and opened one bid at 6:30 p.m. on April 18, 2018. The only bid was from Dufour Inc. 133 South Street, Hinsdale, MA 01235. The bid for Vocational Student Transportation to Smith Vocational in Northampton, MA was \$288.78 per day totaling \$41,180.40 for the 2023-2024 school year. Selectman Leach motion to accept lowest and only bid, Selectman Cullett second, 2-0, Selectman Leach motion to award bid to Dufour Inc., Selectman Cullett second, 2-0

**Item 10: Discussion and possible vote on AssessPro Server Migration Approval:** **Selectman Leach** motion to approve migration of Assesspro to move Assessor Data Base from old server to new server for \$1,500 if not covered under Assesspro software fee for support and maintenance, Selectman Cullett second, 2-0.

**Item 11: Discussion of FY24 Budget:**

- Mowing-level funded
- Utilities need amounts
- Interest on loans \$12,000 over-Selectman Leach suggested using ARPA funds.
- Retirement -carried the wrong number forward therefore the account is in deficit.
- Town Insurance ask Town Treasurer
- Assessor Salary / Assessor Services need amounts
- Tree Removal \$9,000 once books are closed this number needs to show that it was encumbered from last fiscal year.
- Town Clerk Grants journal entry to correct appropriation deficit.

**Item 12. Public Input:** Continued discussion regarding a 40-year-old house trailer on North Road. The town Zoning by-laws need to be updated. The lot on North Road where the house trailer is parked has not been assigned a number. Highway Superintendent Russell inquired about the Tree Removal Account and mentioned that \$9,000 should have been encumbered from last year.

Selectman Leach motion to take a short recess at 6:56 p.m. Selectmen Cullett second, 2-0 Selectman Leach called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., Selectman Cullett present, Selectmen Leach present.

Selectman Cullett and Selectman Leach discussed ATM Warrant:

- Posting Annual Town Meeting Warrant on May 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Signing Annual Town Meeting Warrant on May 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Submitting the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to KP Law on May 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Fin Com and BOS finalize draft warrant on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Item 13: Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrants and Payroll Warrant:** V22-2023, 23-21P

**Item 14: Adjourn:** Selectman Leach motion to adjourn the 04/18/2023 BOS Meeting, Selectman Cullett second, vote 2-0. The 04/18/2023 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:46 P.M.

**Articles used:**

Minutes- 04/10/2023

Warrants V22-2023, 23-21P

Appointment letter Terry Walker

Patriots- Data/Server Migration Assesspro

Vocational bid from Dufour Inc.


Sign in sheet

Respectfully Submitted,

*Terry Walker*

*Administrative Assistant*

Verne Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved: 5/8/23

Received 5/8/2023 Kim Leach, Town Clerk



**Terry Walker is HEREBY APPOINTED TO THE POSITION**

**OF: Town Administrator**

**FOR SAID TOWN OF PERU, FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR (remainder of term )**  
**April 18, 2023 - ENDING: June 30, 2023**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**


  
Bruce W. Cullett

4/18/23

Date

Douglas A. Haskins

Date



4-18-23

Verne L Leach

Date

**Signature:**  Date 4-19-23

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**

4-19-23

Date



A DIVISION OF PATRIOT  
PROPERTIES, INC.

## APPROVAL

<b>Peru, MA</b> Town Hall, 3 East Main Road Peru, MA 01235	Date: 4/11/2023 Patriot Contact: Jeff Leone jeff@patriotproperties.com
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PATRIOT TECH	SOFTWARE / SERVICES	Proposal Expiration Date	PO NUMBER
Hank Derby	AssessPro Data Migration	90 Days	

### AssessPro Data / Server Migration:

(Please Circle Option 1 or Option 2 below)

Option 1: Standard Migration: **\$1,500.00**

Option 2: Standard Migration with SQL Assistance: **\$2,000.00**

### **Hardware and Software Requirements:**

If you have any questions regarding hardware or software requirements please contact; **Technical Support**

Hank Derby: [hank@PatriotProperties.com](mailto:hank@PatriotProperties.com)

*Thank you for your business.*

### **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**

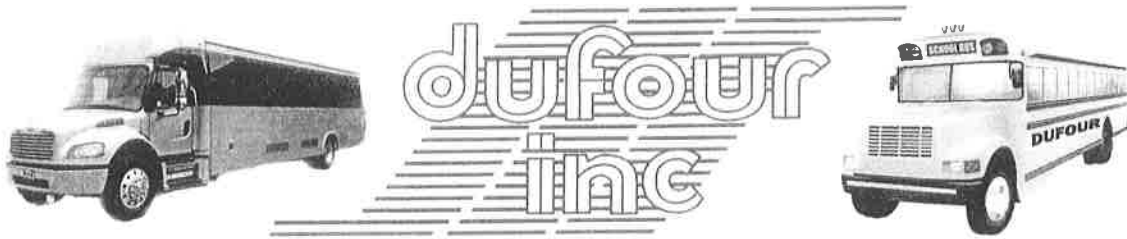
(Print Name)

**Select Board Chair**

(Title)

**4-18-23**

(Date)



133 South Street • P.O. Box 549 • Hinsdale, MA 01235

*Received/opened  
4/18/23  
@ 18:30 hrs*

March 30, 2023

Town of Peru  
Bruce Cullett, Selectman  
3 East Main Rd., Suite 100  
Peru, MA 01235

Dear Mr. Cullett;

In response to your request for bid for vocational student transportation to Smith Vocational In Northampton, Dufour Escorted Tours, Inc. of Hinsdale, proposes daily student transportation For the 2023-24 school year as follows:

Peru students to/from Smith Vocational - \$228.78 per day

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Town of Peru and please do not hesitate to call with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*William D Dufour*

William D. Dufour Jr., President  
Dufour Escorted Tours, Inc.

*\$ 41,180.40*

DATE OF: April 18, 2023

## ADDRESS

[illegible]