

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Town Hall Meeting Room 3 East Main Rd. Peru MA

Monday April 3, 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 3/27/23.
6. Updates of Departments.
7. Discussion and possible vote to reappoint Tina Barrington as Board of Registrars.
8. Discussion and possible vote on repair for the Peru Fire Engine.
9. Discussion of FY' 24 Budget.
10. Possible Executive Session pursuant to purpose #2 of Section 21 of the Open Meeting Law to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel specifically, Police Chief Bruce Cullett.
11. Public input
12. Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrant and Payroll Warrant.
13. 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

Posted March 30, 2023 @ 4:30pm, *Kim Leach, Town Clerk*

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: April 3, 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
Darryl Darby, Board of Health

Public Attendees:

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 03/27/2023:

Selectman Leach motion to approve 03/27/2023 minutes pending changes, Selectman Cullett second, 3-0,

Item 6: Updates of Departments:

Fire Department-Selectman Leach mentioned that he received an email from Fire Chief Pelkey, and the brake parts have not been received to fix the fire engine.

Highway Department-Selectman Leach mentioned that the fuel account has an overage and the accountant recommended that the Board of Selectmen meet with the Finance Committee to request a Reserve Fund transfer at the next BOS/FIN COM meeting. Selectman Leach will place the Reserve Fund transfer on April 10, 2023, Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Selectman Cullett updated the board on a Massachusetts Municipal Association Seminar that he and Highway Superintendent Russell attended in Holyoke, MA. Selectman Cullett mentioned that there are bills going to the legislature that will benefit small towns. One benefit to small towns is adjustments to the in Lieu of Taxes formula that sets value on state owned land. Chapter 90 funding was also discussed as well as investing in local roads. Peru is in the low end because of the population and the state is attempting to make changes so that all towns are treated fairly. Selectman Cullett felt that the new administration plans on making positive changes to help small towns.

Selectman Haskins presented two quotes for sheds from Sheds and Stuff in Cheshire, MA.

- One quote for the compactor shed is \$4,800.00 for a 10 X 10
- One quote for the parks shed is \$3,500 for an 8 X 8.

Selectman Cullett felt that other quotes should be obtained for the sheds. Selectman Haskins mentioned that a resident suggested that the new shed be moved. Selectman Leach felt that that should be left up to the Highway Superintendent. Selectman Cullett felt that moving the shed didn't make any sense.

Selectman Leach mentioned that they have a person interested in the Assessor position. Selectman Leach notify Amy Davidson-Assessor and will call interested party. Selectman Leach will invite the person for an interview. Selectman Cullett revisited the legal decision by KP Law regarding 1- member Board of Assessors. The board felt that the decision of KP Law was not a bad legal opinion regarding a 1- member Board of Assessors. The issue is that the Department of Revenue prefers a 3-member board. The Department of Revenue does not recognize the change from a 3-member board to a 1-member board until it is voted at the Annual Town Meeting.

Selectman Haskins mentioned an email that was received from Fire Chief Pelkey after his budget was voted on at the last Board of Selectmen/Finance Committee meeting. Selectman Haskins mentioned that the Fire Department's revised budget is in place, and the Fire Chief must make it work. The board agreed that the town cannot pay volunteer fire fighters.

Item 7: Discussion and possible vote to reappoint Tina Barrington as Board of Registrars: Selectman leach motion to appoint Tina Barrington to the Board of Registrars, Selectman Cullett second, unanimous vote 3-0

Item 8: Discussion and possible vote on repair for the Peru Fire Engine: Selectman Leach mentioned there were no updates at this time and placed on hold.

Item 9: Discussion of FY24 Budgets: Darryl Darby mentioned that the Board of Health is requesting \$1,000 for FY24. Darryl is hopeful there is \$400 remaining in the grant for the Board of Health's legal notice and will speak with the Town Treasurer to get a balance.
Selectman Haskins mentioned that he doesn't believe there is enough grant funds to pay for the Parks Shed and he feels that the shed should be a Free Cash item.

Item 10: Possible Executive Session pursuant to purpose #2 of Section 21 of the Open Meeting Law to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel specifically, Police Chief Bruce Cullett:

Police Chief Cullett declined executive session.

Changes:

See Employment Agreement modified April 3, 2023.

Item 11: Public Input: None

Item 12: Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrants and Payroll Warrant: V20-2023, 23-20P

Item 13: Adjourn: Selectman Leach motion to adjourn the 04/03/2023 BOS Meeting, Selectman Haskins second, vote 3-0. The 04/03/2023 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

Articles used:

Minutes- 03/27/2023

Warrants – V20-2023, 23-20P

MMA seminar packet

2 shed quotes

Tina Barrington appointment letter

Police Chief contract

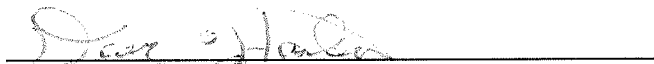
Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Walker
Administrative Assistant

Verne Leach, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Selectman



Bruce Cullett, Selectman



Date Approved: 4-10-23

RECEIVED
APR 11 2023
Kim Leach
TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF PERU

Western & Rural Massachusetts Conference

When: Saturday, April 1, 2023, 8:00 am - 1:15 pm

Where: Delaney House, 3 Country Club Rd., Holyoke

Agenda

- 8 - 8:25 Registration and Networking**
A light breakfast will be served
- 8:25 - 8:30 Opening Remarks and Overview**
Andrew Hogeland, MSA President, Williamstown Select Board Member
Geoff Beckwith, MMA Executive Director & CEO
- 8:30 - 9:30 Rural Policy Legislative Agenda**
Representative Natalie Blais
Senator Joanne Comerford
- 9:30 - 10:15 Keynote Speaker**
Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll
- 10:15 - 10:30 Break**
- 10:30 - 11:30 Rural Priorities in the State Auditor's Office**
State Auditor Diana DiZoglio
Ben Tafoya Director of the Division of Local Mandates, Office of the State Auditor
- 11:30 - 12:15 Roundtable Discussions**
Goals & Priorities for the Director of Rural Affairs
- 12:15 - 1:15 Networking Lunch**

Co-Sponsored By:

Massachusetts Select Board Association, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts

2023-2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Prepared by
THE RURAL POLICY
ADVISORY COMMISSION

TOP 10 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

An Act Relative to the Rural Policy Advisory Commission, H.403/S.233

01

An Act Granting a Local Option for a Real Estate Transfer Fee to Fund Affordable Housing, H.2747/S.1771

02

An Act Providing for Climate Change Adaptation Infrastructure and Affordable Housing Investments in the Commonwealth, H.2894/S.1799

03

An Act to Reform Payments in Lieu of Taxes for State-Owned Land, H.2714/S.1769

04

An Act to Review the Municipal Chapter 90 Transportation Funding Program, H.3284/S.2270

05

An Act to Invest in Local Roads, H.3273

06

An Act Creating a Municipal and Public Safety Building Authority, HD.3675/S.1489

07

An Act to Provide a Sustainable Future for Rural Schools, H.3567/S.D.2519

08

An Act Relative to Accelerating Improvements to the Local and Regional Public Health System to Address Disparities in the Delivery of Public Health Services (the SAPHE 2.0 Act), H.2204/S.1334

09

An Act Strengthening Local Food Systems, H.88/S.42

10

Though this list is limited to bills identified as priorities, the RPAC also supports and tracks additional legislation regarding rural communities.

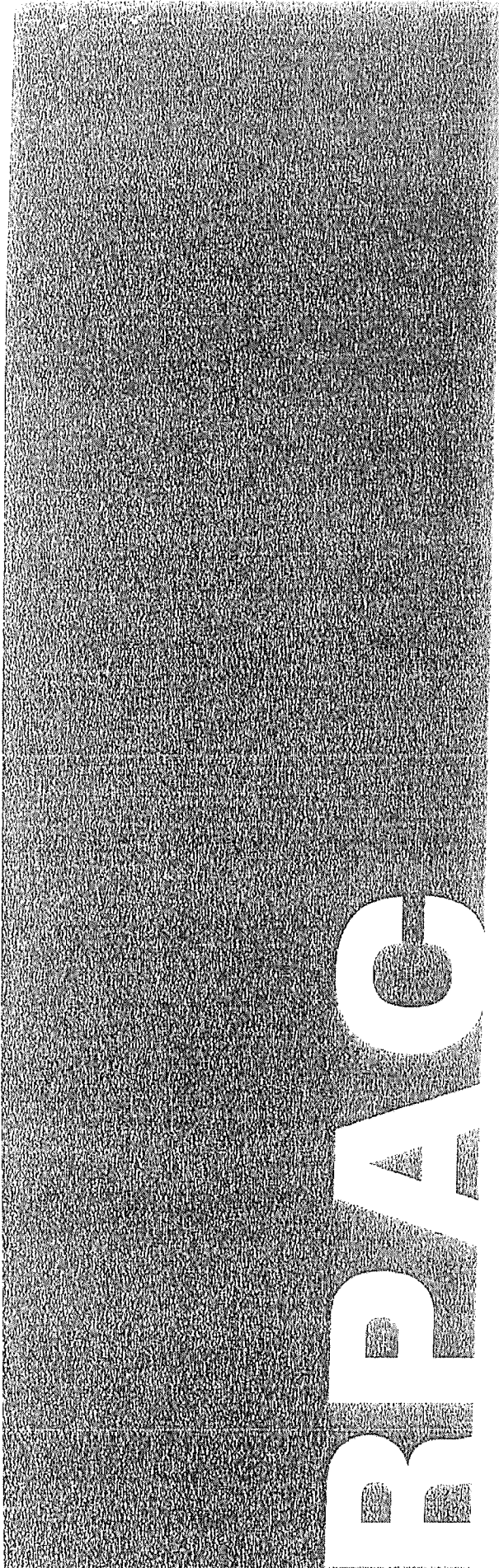


THE STATE OF RURAL MASSACHUSETTS

The 170 rural communities in the Commonwealth require a comprehensive and sustained commitment from the state to address decades of disinvestment, resulting in declining population growth; a disproportionately aging population; lower wages; and difficulty attracting or retaining a young, skilled workforce. A slower recovery from the great recession, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic has further deteriorated the economic and demographic conditions of rural communities. However, rural communities are also best positioned, now more than ever, to capture investments and grow. These regions provide a high quality of life with unique access to the outdoors, excellent schools, close knit communities, and rich with critical natural resources.

OUR WORK

The Rural Policy Advisory Commission (RPAC) was created by the Legislature in 2015. The commission serves as a research body for issues critical to the welfare and vitality of rural communities and studies, reviews, and reports on the status of rural communities and residents in the Commonwealth. Additionally, the RPAC advises the General Court and the Executive Branch on the impact of existing and proposed state laws, policies and regulations, and seeks to advance legislative and policy solutions that address rural needs. RPAC is also charged with advocating to ensure that rural communities receive a fair share of state investment, promoting collaboration among rural communities to improve efficiency in delivery of services, and developing and supporting new leadership in rural communities.



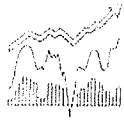
THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

The Legislature's 193rd session (2023-2024) officially began on January 4th. All timely filed legislation was filed by January 20th, and given House and Senate docket numbers. During March of the first year, the bills are assigned, based on topic matter, to their respective committees and given their official bill numbers. Shortly after, hearings will begin. All timely filed legislation will be heard before February 7, 2024. After bills are heard, they may be reported favorably out of committee, or sent to study. Most bills that are reported favorably will move to Ways and Means for additional consideration, and eventually, if successful, to the floor of each chamber to be engrossed, and passed. Bills passed by the House and Senate are sent to the Governor for her consideration, and ultimately vetoed, or signed into law.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT

Your advocacy is incredibly important to move these legislative priorities forward. Between the filing deadline in January and any action taken by committees on bills, House and Senate members may cosponsor bills, showing their support by "signing onto" the legislation. Reach out to your legislator to request their cosponsorship on the legislation to show the widespread support for these bills. After bills are assigned to committees, hearings begin. These hearings provide an opportunity to voice your support in person, virtually, and/or in written format. Sign up on malegislature.gov for the My Legislature tool to be notified when bills are being heard. You may sign up with the committee for in person testimony, virtual testimony via Microsoft teams, or you may submit written documents. Most importantly, make your voice heard.

PRIORITIES



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The economic and demographic trends in rural Massachusetts are more varied than the Greater Boston region, with some small areas growing quickly, but many others are facing slow to declining growth, lower income levels, lower housing values, and economies more dependent on public and non-profit sectors. To cultivate economic growth, reforms must be made to generate additional revenue streams, update inequitable funding formulas, provide technical assistance, and increase investment in rural regions.



TRANSPORTATION

Rural communities are overburdened by the costs of maintaining transportation infrastructure. Chapter 90 is the main source of funding used by municipalities to complete improvements and maintenance and is insufficient to keep up with needs. Many rural towns have large networks of aging roads, bridges, and culverts that are in need of maintenance and repair. Rural communities struggle to pay for design and engineering plans in order to get projects included on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) or to apply for other grants. Aside from roads, the lack of regional transit funding makes it difficult for our residents to get around. Expanded micro-transit is an additional priority for the commission to address this need.



HOUSING

Housing values tend to be lower in rural areas than the rest of the state. While this generally reflects lower demand for housing and declining population, property values are the most critical source of revenue generation for municipalities, leading to a systemic lack of financing capacity in many rural communities. Though housing challenges occur statewide, rural regions need unique strategies for smaller scale housing projects, and the revenue to make these investments.



MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

The combination of limited commercial activity in rural communities, lower property values and income, and a large percentage of total acreage in rural towns being tax-exempt, makes it difficult to generate municipal revenue. State funding formulas and grant programs also often favor more populated municipalities, making it significantly more difficult for communities to fund capital projects, and keep up with the increasing costs of education, infrastructure, or municipal employee wages. Identifying ways to increase state support for rural communities is essential to ensure long term, fiscal sustainability.

THE CREATION OF A DIRECTOR FOR RURAL AFFAIRS

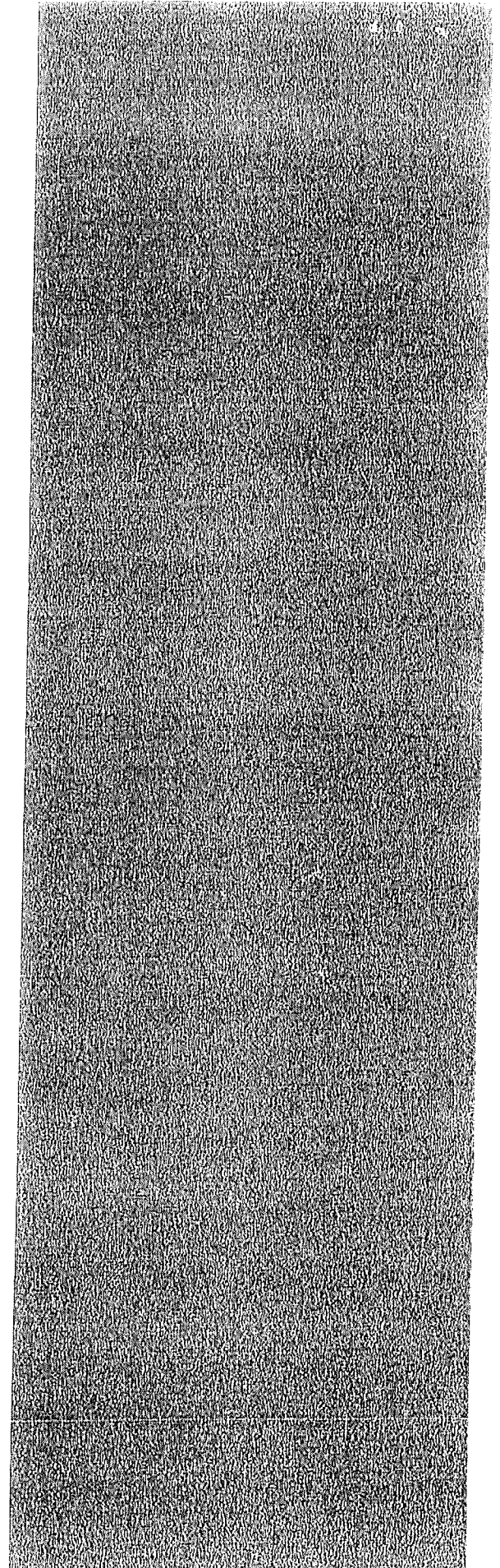
March 10, 2023

We are pleased to announce that our first legislative priority, *An Act relative to the rural policy advisory commission*, has been accomplished administratively through the tremendous support of Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll.

We applaud the efforts of this new administration, so early on, for recognizing the unique needs of rural communities and establishing this critical position.

Housed in the Executive Office of Economic Development, the Director of Rural Affairs will serve as a dedicated advocate and ombudsman for rural communities. They will be responsible for cultivating rural economic development and coordinating with secretariats and state agencies to ensure that state government is attuned to the unique needs of rural communities. The Director of Rural Affairs will be tasked with conducting a review of all state grant opportunities to ensure that barriers for rural and small towns are mitigated. They will also be instructed to host dedicated office hours for rural towns to receive technical assistance to identify and explore grant opportunities.

We also wish to thank you, the advocates for rural communities, for your steadfast support and for using your voice to stand up for rural communities across the Commonwealth.



SHEDS STUFF

211 South State Road
Cheshire MA 01225
(p) 413.743.9964 / (f) 413.743.8194
(e) shedsnstuff@gmail.com

Invoice #: QUOTE
Order Date: 1/30/23
Delivery Date: _____

Name: Town of Peru

Email: DHAGINS138@GMAIL

Delivery Address: _____

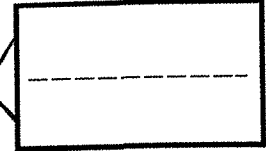
Billing Address: _____

Peru, MA

Phone 1: 413-242-4471

Phone 2: _____

Shed Layout



STYLE: Shed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable / A Frame <input type="checkbox"/> Mini Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Dutch / Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Budget Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Budget Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Hip Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Cape <input type="checkbox"/> Quaker <input type="checkbox"/> Garden <input type="checkbox"/> Stall Horse Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Run-In Horse Barn Gazebo <input type="checkbox"/> Octagon <input type="checkbox"/> Rectangle <input type="checkbox"/> Oval <input type="checkbox"/> PT <input type="checkbox"/> Vinyl <input type="checkbox"/> Cedar			
COLORS: Main: _____ Trim: _____ Roof: _____			
ROOF: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> Metal <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
DELIVERY: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assembled <input type="checkbox"/> Kit—Customer Built <input type="checkbox"/> Kit—Built On-Site			
SIZE: <u>8</u> x <u>8</u> <input type="checkbox"/> In-Stock Delivery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Need to Order			
SIDING: <input type="checkbox"/> EZ Panel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duratemp T111 <input type="checkbox"/> Pine <input type="checkbox"/> Custom <input type="checkbox"/> Vinyl <input type="checkbox"/> Smart Panel <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
DOORS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Overhead <input type="checkbox"/> Larger Size Additional Door <input type="checkbox"/> Double <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Overhead <input type="checkbox"/> Larger Size Size: _____ Type: _____ Color: _____ Transom: <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Hinges: <input type="checkbox"/> Standard <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage <input type="checkbox"/> Scroll <input type="checkbox"/> Strap			
WINDOWS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18" x 27" Vertical Slider (STD) <input type="checkbox"/> White (STD) <input type="checkbox"/> Brown <input type="checkbox"/> Jalousie (STD on T111 Mini Barn) <input type="checkbox"/> Shutters - Raised Panel <input type="checkbox"/> Window Trim <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Shutters—Louvered			
OPTIONS/NOTES: _____ _____ _____			
How did you hear about us? _____			

BASE PRICE \$ _____

SHED REMOVAL \$ _____

TRADE IN \$ _____

CUSTOM PAINT \$ _____

CUSTOM ROOF \$ _____

KIT ADJUSTMENT \$ _____

SITE PREP \$ _____

(Subject to site check)

SIDING \$ _____

DOORS \$ _____

WINDOWS \$ _____

OPTIONS \$ _____

OPTIONS \$ _____

OPTIONS \$ _____

SUB TOTAL \$ 3500

TAX (6.25%) \$ _____

DEL. \$ _____

TOT. \$ _____

DEP. \$ _____

BAL. \$ _____

Customer Approved _____
Date _____/_____/_____

Received _____
Date _____/_____/_____



SHEDS STUFF

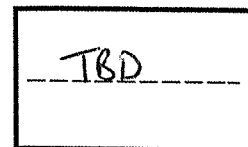
211 South State Road
Cheshire MA 01225
(p) 413.743.9964 / (f) 413.743.8194
(e) shedsnstuff@gmail.com

Invoice #: Quote
Order Date: 1/30/23
Delivery Date: _____

Name: TOWN OF PERU
Delivery Address: COMPACTOR
PERU, MA
Phone 1: 413-242-4471

Email: DHASKINS138@GMAIL
Billing Address: _____
Phone 2: _____

Shed Layout



STYLE: Shed ☒ Gable / A Frame ☐ Mini Barn ☐ Dutch / Gambrel
☐ Budget Barn ☐ Budget Gable ☐ Hip Barn
☐ Cape ☐ Quaker ☐ Garden
☐ Stall Horse Barn ☐ Run-In Horse Barn

Gazebo ☐ Octagon ☐ Rectangle ☐ Oval
☐ PT ☐ Vinyl ☐ Cedar

COLORS: Main: _____ Trim: _____ Roof: _____

ROOF: ☒ Asphalt ☐ Metal ☐ Other _____

DELIVERY: ☒ Assembled ☐ Kit—Customer Built ☐ Kit—Built On-Site

SIZE: 10 x 10 ☐ In-Stock Delivery ☒ Need to Order

SIDING: ☐ EZ Panel ☒ Duratemp T111 ☐ Pine ☐ Custom
☐ Vinyl ☐ Smart Panel ☐ Other _____

DOORS: ☒ Double ☐ Single ☐ Overhead ☐ Larger Size
Additional Door ☐ Double ☐ Single ☐ Overhead ☐ Larger Size
Size: _____ Type: _____ Color: _____

Transom: ☐ White ☐ Brown
Hinges: ☐ Standard ☐ Black ☐ Heritage ☐ Scroll ☐ Strap

WINDOWS: ☒ 18"x27" Vertical Slider (STD) ☐ White (STD) ☐ Brown
☐ Jalousie (STD on T111 Mini Barn) ☐ Shutters - Raised Panel ☐ Window Trim
☐ Other _____ ☒ Shutters - Louvered

OPTIONS/NOTES: _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Customer Approved _____
Date _____/_____/_____

Received _____
Date _____/_____/_____

BASE PRICE \$ _____

SHED REMOVAL \$ _____

TRADE IN \$ _____

CUSTOM PAINT \$ _____

CUSTOM ROOF \$ _____

KIT ADJUSTMENT \$ _____

SITE PREP \$ _____
(Subject to site check)

SIDING \$ _____

DOORS \$ _____

WINDOWS \$ _____

OPTIONS \$ _____

OPTIONS \$ _____

OPTIONS \$ _____

SUB TOTAL \$ 4800

TAX (6.25%) \$ _____

DEL. \$ _____

TOT. \$ _____

DEP. \$ _____

BAL. \$ _____



Tina Barrington is HEREBY APPOINTED TO THE POSITION

OF: Board of Registrars (unenrolled)

FOR SAID TOWN OF PERU, FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS

April 3, 2023 - ENDING: April 1, 2026

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Bruce W. Cullett

4-3-23

Date

Douglas A. Haskins

4-3-23

Date

Verne L. Leach

4-3-23

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