

Board of Selectman / Finance Committee Meeting

COMUNNITY CENTER 3 East Main Rd. Peru MA

Wednesday May 3, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call Select Board
3. Roll Call Finance Committee
4. State recording status
5. Pledge Alliance to the Flag
6. Review and Approve BOS and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes for 4/28/23.
7. Discussion of FY' 24 Budget.
8. Public input
9. Adjourn

The list of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Board / committee 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 April 29, 2023 @ 5:10 pm , Verne Leach, Select Board Chair

Board of Selectmen-Finance Committee Joint Meeting

Town Hall Community Center, 3 East Main Rd. Peru, MA

Wednesday, May 3, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.

1. **Call to order:** Chairman Leach called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call Select Board:** Selectboard Chairman Leach present, Selectman Cullett present,
3. **Roll Call Finance Committee:** Finance Committee Chairman, Paul Hickling present, Finance Committee Member Darryl Darby present, Finance Committee Member Doug Haskins present, ,

In attendance: Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent, Fire Chief Pelkey arrived at 7:00 p.m.

4. **State recording status:** Selectman Leach recording under Exemption E for personal reasons.
5. **Pledge Allegiance to the Flag:** Led by Selectman Leach
6. **Review and Approve Finance Committee Minutes/Board of Selectman from 04/26/2023**

Typo on agenda 4/28/2023

Finance Committee Chairman Hickling motion to approve 04/26/2023 Fin Com/BOS minutes
Fin Com member Darby second, all in favor 3-0

Selectman Leach motion to approve 04/26/2023 Fin Com/BOS minutes, Selectman Cullett
second, all in favor 2-0

7. **Discussion of FY24 Budget: highlighted items signify missing amounts. TA Walker updated today 5/3/2023. The following accounts were agreed upon.**

Accounting Services	\$ 31,800
Smith Vocational Tuition	\$200,760
Future Equipment	\$ 20,000 -Free Cash
Compactor	\$ 38,000
Northern Berk solid waste	\$ 2,866
Health Department	\$ 12,200
Internet	\$ 6,700
Interest on loans	\$ 1,000
Snow roads overage	\$34,799.74-Free Cash

Selectman Cullett motion to increase **Internet Account** from \$6,000 to \$6,700, Selectman Leach second, 2-0. Fin Com Chairman Hickling motion to increase Internet Account to \$6,700, Fin Com Member Haskins second, 3-0

Selectman Leach motion to reduce **Interest on Loans** from \$12,500 to \$1,000, Selectman Cullett second, 2-0. Fin Com Chairman Hickling motion to decrease Interest on Loans Account to \$1,000, Fin Com member Darby second, 3-0.

Free Cash Wish List

Snow Roads	\$ 34,799.74
Handguns, Police Dept.	\$ 2,000
Highway Plow	\$ 17,000
Salt shed door	\$ 4,600
Tracks and sprockets	\$ 7,800 for mini excavator
Police Roof	\$ 6,000
Permit eyes	\$ 13,050 -- \$8,800 software, \$4,250 annual support
Ballfield storage shed	<u>\$ 3,500</u>
Total	\$88,749.74

TA Walker received an email from Accountant regarding Free Cash- Eric Kinsherb is waiting for Town Treasurer Wendling to enter numbers in Gateway so Free Cash can be certified. Treasurer Wendling mentioned she would have a date Free Cash may be certified by May 10th.

Fire Chief Pelkey joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and mentioned that he found a twin fire engine that could be used for parts for the present fire engine that is out of service. Fin Com Chairman Hickling suggested Chief Pelkey discuss with his department and think about prioritizing needs. Fire Chief Pelkey mentioned that Zwack in New York would not replace the axel on fire truck. Chief Pelkey then called Freightliner in Westfield, MA and he was told that they have never replaced an axel on a fire truck, and it is very difficult. Freightliner suggested calling American LaFrance and Chief Pelkey reiterated that American LaFrance has been out of business since 2015. Chief Pelkey mentioned that the closest place to purchase an axel is in Alabama. The cost to ship from Alabama including the shipping cost and U-bolts is around \$30K to \$40K. The twin fire engine that Fire Chief found is a 2003 American LaFrance for \$60,000 and a 2004 American LaFrance for \$15,000. Selectman Leach mentioned that the Fire Department has 3 vehicles with major issues. Selectman Leach felt that a solution may be to fix the Tanker and have the Town of Hinsdale's Fire Department cover Peru. Fin Com Chairman Hickling mentioned that the fire department has an aging fleet, and everyone agrees on that. Fin Com Chairman Hickling asked if the town should purchase a \$60,000 fire truck, a \$15,000 fire truck or a new fire truck. Fin Com Hickling mentioned that there needs to be a plan since the fire engine has been out of service since January 2023. Fire Chief Pelkey felt that the insurance rating will increase if the town goes in with Hinsdale and Peru does not have a fire department. Selectman Cullett stated that the insurance rating is a 9 and cannot go any higher. Fire Chief Pelkey mentioned that he found a New Mini Pumper in South Carolina which is a 4X4 for \$140,000.00. Selectman Cullett suggested getting the fire engine back in service instead of scrambling to pull something together when the Annual Town Meeting Warrant needs to be finalized in two weeks. The Citizen's Petition to purchase a fire truck for \$100,000 was briefly discussed. Fin Com Chairman Hickling felt that by Chief Pelkey signing the petition he supported the citizen's petition, and the purpose of the joint meetings was to find a solution with the fire truck. Selectman Leach suggested not doing anything until after the Annual Town Meeting until the boards get the results of the Citizen's Petitions. Selectman Cullett mentioned that they are in the middle of fixing the fire engine- ARPA funds, Future Equipment funds and Free Cash could be used to repair the fire engine. Fin Com Member Darby agreed that the board cannot make a decision until after the Annual Town Meeting. Selectman Cullett suggested placing an Article on Annual Town Meeting warrant utilizing Future Equipment funds to repair the fire engine. Selectman Leach agreed with the proposed article. Selectman Cullett

motion to place an article on ATM Warrant to bring Engine 3 back in service and appropriate up to \$40,000 for repairs, Selectman Leach second, 2-0.

Fin Com Chairman Hickling motion to appropriate up to \$40,000 for repairs on Engine 3 to bring back in service. Fin Com Member Haskins second, 3-0- Fire Chief Pelkey abstain.

Selectman Leach motion to transfer \$2,508.02 from the Reserve Fund to the Fire Department Expense Account for Tanker repairs which was for an alternator and electronic board., Selectman Cullett second, 2-0

Fin Com Chairman Hickling motion to transfer \$2,508.02 from the Reserve Fund to the Fire Department Expense Account for Tanker repairs, Fin Com member Haskins second, 3-0, Fire Chief Pelkey abstain.

8. **Public Input:** None

9. **Adjourn:** Selectman Leach motion to adjourn joint meeting at 7:26 p.m. Selectman Cullett second, unanimous vote to adjourn. 2-0

Fin Com Chairman Hickling motion to adjourn joint meeting at 7:26p.m. Fin Com member Darby second, unanimous vote to adjourn 3-0

Items used:

Finance Committee Draft minutes from April 26, 2023, joint meeting

Budget worksheet updated 5/3/2023

Email from accountant Eric Kirsherf

Sign in sheet

Respectively submitted,

Terry L Walker
Administrative Assistant

Verne Leach, Chairman Board of Selectman _____

Bruce Cullett, Selectman _____

Douglas Haskins, Fin Com Member _____

Samuel Haupt, Fin Com Member _____

Paul Hickling, Fin Com Chairman _____

Jesse Pelkey, Fin Com Member _____

Darryl Darby, Fin Com Member _____

