

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Peru Community Center

3 East Main Rd. Peru MA

Monday, August 29, 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 8/22/2022.
6. Updates of Departments
7. Discussion and possible vote to appoint Beth Bigelow to the position of Election Worker.
8. Discussion and possible vote on the UPCODE program.
9. Public input
10. Review and Approve Accounts payable, Treasury Warrant, Payroll Warrant.
11. 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 August 25, 2022 @ 5:00pm *Kim Leach, Town Clerk*

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: August 29, 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

Terry Walker, Administrative Assistant

Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent

Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief

Public Attendees: NA

**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 use and TA Welch

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

**Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 08/22/2022**

Selectman Leach, Selectmen Cullett and Selectmen Haskins made suggestions to correct minutes on minor details. Selectmen Leach made motion to approve minutes for 8/22/2022 pending changes. Unanimous Affirmative vote to approve.

**Item 6: Updates of Departments**

**Fire Department-** Chief Pelkey gave an update regarding installation of AED machines in town buildings. He also gave update regarding his discussions with Barnes and Kiley about maintenance to the Town owned well. Waiting for estimate. Chief Pelkey gave his description of what he has done to try and correct the situation. Various of scenarios were discussed as to what is leading to the problem. Chief Pelkey also stated that he has contacted Henshaw about getting a proposal to fix the issue and should have one next week. Selectmen Cullett suggested getting a quote for updating the wiring, Selectmen Leach and Haskins agreed. Chief Pelkey gave an update on his research on the ESO program for software and education. He also provided information from other vendors for the same service and product. Selectmen Cullett asked if the information that would be provided by ESO was available in the public domain? Chief Pelkey stated he would research if it is. Chief Pelkey gave his opinion as to why the Fire Department should contract with ESO. Selectmen Leach asked if the price of the service would change if the town only contracted for 1 user of the system rather than 6 users. Chief Pelkey stated that he would research to get the answer. TA Welch asked Chief Pelkey what the result would be if the Fire Department did not purchase the ESO service or the service from another vendor? Chief Pelkey stated that he thought it would make his reporting more of a challenge. Selectmen Cullett stated that he feels that a purchase of this size should go through the Town Meeting process because of the cost to initial contract and for recurring fees going forward. Selectmen Leach agreed that Town Meeting would be the appropriate course of action. Selectmen Haskins believes the Town Meeting should be consulted regarding a purchase this size. Selectmen Leach suggested that Chief Pelkey use the current system being used by the Fire Department until next years Town Meeting. Chief Pelkey stated that he already gave the go ahead to ESO to build the program and that he signed a contract with them. Selectmen Leach informed Chief Pelkey that he shouldn't have contracted with ESO without bringing the issue before the Town Meeting and Board of Selectmen. Selectmen Cullett re-stated that Chief Pelkey should research any free options until the Board or Town Meeting could consider the proposal.

**Town Administrator**- TA Welch gave an update on the status of the Town Procurement Cards for Department heads. He also stated that he believes it would be a good idea to revisit the P-Card policy with Department Heads to reiterate that the cards are to be used for emergency situation and not for convenience. TA Welch updated the BOS on progress of Peru's application for and ADA grant through the Commonwealth. TA Welch updated the BOS that the School Committee did vote to move forward with requesting that the Wahconah HS track project be completed. TA Welch gave feedback from the State regarding our process for hiring a Primary Assessor. It was suggested that the scope of work does not reflect what we are offering as a salary. Selectmen Leach informed TA Welch that the Town Clerk needed a copy of the minutes when the BOS voted to move from 3 Assessors to 1 Assessor. TA Welch stated that he would find the documents and forward them to Clerk Leach. TA Welch informed the BOS that the Town's contract with Patriot Properties for Assessing services has been executed and contact has been made to begin the process with them. TA Welch gave an update regarding the interest thus far in the published Town Accountant position. One potential candidate inquired but has not officially applied.

**Police Department** – Chief Cullett gave an update regarding one of the members of the force had been out with COVID, but is feeling well and tested negative today. He also updated the BOS about the upcoming FALL-RUN motorcycle ride and how the traffic will be impacted due to East Windsor Rd. being under construction.

**Item 7 : Discussion and possible vote to appoint Beth Bigelow as Town Election Worker.** Selectmen Leach made a motion to appoint Beth Bigelow seconded by Selectmen Cullett. Unanimous affirmative vote.

**Item 8: Discussion and possible vote on the UPCODE program.** Selectmen Leach stated that he received information in regards to cost. He stated that Tim Sears, Building Inspector provided a cost estimate of \$396/year. It was determined that it would be best to pay the yearly fee all at once for the benefit of recordkeeping. Tim Sears gave his opinion that the Town would benefit from the UPCODE program and the cost is well worth the investment. Selectboard voted to approve 3-0.

**Item 9: Public Input.**

N/A

**Item 10: Review and Approve Treasury Warrant, Payroll Warrant, Accounts Payable Warrant.**

N/A

**Item 11: Adjourn:** Selectman Leach made motion to adjourn the 08/29/2022 BOS Meeting, Selectman Cullett second, Vote 3-0. The 09/29/2022 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

**Articles used:**

Minutes- 08/22/2022

UPCODE Quote

Respectfully Submitted,

*James Welch*

*Town Administrator*

Verne Leach, Chairman

Doug Haskins, Selectman

Bruce Cullett, Selectman

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

