

**ORDER OF BUSINESS
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Berkshire, ss**

To either of the Constables of the Town of Peru, in said County.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Peru, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet in the Town of Peru Community Center, 3 East Main Road Peru, MA on Saturday, June 4, 2022, at 6:00PM for the Annual Town Meeting, then and there to take action on the following articles, namely:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Town Clerk Kim Leach.

Housekeeping notes by Moderator Samuel Haupt.

Town Administrator James Welch introduced himself and described the pie charts showing a breakdown of Town finances.

Article 1: To choose a Moderator for the Annual Town Meeting if the elected Moderator is absent.

Moderator Samuel Haupt was present. Motion made to pass over Article 1, seconded and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the several Town Officers.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following Central Berkshire Regional School District FY23 Assessment, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Transportation Assessment	\$ 39,078.00
Net Operating Assessment	844,834.00
Capital Assessment	<u>110,695.00</u>
Total Town of Peru Assessment	\$994,607.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to fix salaries of all elected officers as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of M.G. L., or take any other action relative thereto:

Selectboard

Member	\$ 3,471.00
Member	3,471.00
Member	3,471.00

Town Clerk \$10,000.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to fix salaries of the following appointed officers, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Assessors'	
Member	\$ 3,471.00
Treasurer	12,360.00
Tax Collector	12,360.00
Accounting Officer	12,360.00
Animal Control Officer	1,855.00

Police Chief	44,187.00
Inspector of Animals	922.00
Veterans' Agent	500.00
Council on Aging Director	750.00
Fire Chief/Forest Fire Warden	2,450.00
Cemetery Sexton	350.00
Town Auditor	1.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written.

Motion to add salaries for two more members of the Board of Assessors at \$3,471.00 each. Motion failed by majority voice vote.

The original article carried by majority voice vote.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts, or take any other action relative thereto:

Assessors' Salaries	\$ 3,471.00
Selectmen's Salary	10,413.00
Tax Collector's Salary	12,360.00
Town Clerk's Salary	10,000.00
Treasurer's Salary	12,360.00
Accounting Officer's Salary	12,360.00
Animal Control Officer's Salary	1,855.00
Inspector of Animals Salary	922.00
Veterans' Agent Salary	500.00
Council on Aging Director	750.00
Fire Chief/Forest Fire Warden	2,450.00
Police Chief	44,187.00
Cemetery Sexton	350.00
Town Auditor	1.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried by majority voice vote.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following wage accounts, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Administrative Assistant	\$ 9,100.00
Elections & Registrar's Account	5,850.00
Assistant Town Clerk	2,484.00
Compactor Attendants	7,800.00
Assistant Assessor's Salary	\$32,400.00
Town Administrator's Salary	\$30,000.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written.

Motion made and seconded to strike Assistant Assessor's Salary from this article. This motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the amended article, carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Assessors' Expense	\$ 1,000.00
Bank Service Expense	100.00
Animal Control Officer's Expense	600.00
Selectmen & Other Expenses	2,500.00
Tax Collector's Expenses	1,500.00

Tax Collector's Tax Taking Charges	1,500.00
Town Clerk's Expense	2,000.00
Town Report Expense	2,000.00
Treasurer/Accounting Expense	1,500.00
Treasurer Tax Title Expense	6,000.00
Board of Appeals Expense	100.00
U.S. Postal Expense	3,000.00
Health Department Expense	11,900.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written.

A motion was made and seconded to add a line item for Assessor Services in the amount of \$32,400. This motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The amended article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Assessors' Annual Computer Support	\$ 2,400.00
Computer Supplies & Maintenance	19,000.00
Treas./Acct. Annual Computer Support	12,646.00
Tax Collector's Annual Computer Support	10,351.00
Assessors' Tax Map Maintenance	1,600.00
Assessors' Utility Appraisal Expense	3,500.00
Continuing Education	6,530.00
Office Supplies	2,000.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Conservation Commission Expense	\$ 400.00
Interest on Loans	12,500.00
Legal Expense	9,000.00
Officers' Mileage	2,500.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Elderly Outreach	\$ 525.00
Council on Aging	400.00
Veterans Service	6,000.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Medicare – Town Share	\$ 7,700.00
Health Ins/Life & Dental	129,112.32
Town Insurance - All	48,000.00
Mass. Unemployment Insurance	600.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Partridgefield Playground Trust	\$ 1,500.00
Peru Library	18,893.00
Mowing: Cemeteries, Town Hall, Town Park and Town Green:	6,450.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Town Buildings' Maintenance	\$ 15,000.00
Utilities – Electric	12,000.00
Utilities – Heating	16,500.00
Utilities - Telephone	1,500.00
Internet Communication Lines	6,000.00
Town Website Design, Hosting, & Support	1,930.00
Town Hall Janitorial Services	3,900.00
Cemetery Expense	1,000.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Compactor	\$ 38,000.00
Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District	2,794.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Berk. County Sheriffs Dispatching	\$ 11,116.00
Berk. County Reg. Planning Comm.	677.00
Berk. County Retirement Assessment	39,078.00
Hinsdale Ambulance	2,000.00
Town Fire Station Mortgage Payment	14,923.38
Police Wages	32,088.00
Police Expenses	6,500.00
Police Cruiser Maintenance	3,500.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Peru Volunteer Fire Department Operating Expenses	\$ 20,000.00
Peru Volunteer Fire Department Insurances	6,500.00
Peru Volunteer Fire Department Building Maintenance	1,500.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Four Dollars and No Cents (\$67,764.00) for the Highway Superintendent's annual wage account, or to take any other action relative thereto:

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Gas & Fuel Account	\$ 30,000.00
Maintain Hard Surface Roads	28,000.00
Material, Gravel Roads	20,000.00
Road Machinery Maintenance	25,000.00
Snow Roads, Private	500.00
Snow Roads, Public	80,000.00
Town Highways & Bridges	16,750.00
Town Highway Garage Mortgage Payment	12,020.00
Highway Employee Wage Acct.	94,600.00
Highway Department Uniforms	3,700.00
Tree Removal	20,000.00
Temporary Summer Help	8,000.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the vocational education and transportation accounts:

Vocational School Tuition	\$215,842.00
Vocational School Transportation	39,408.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$10,000.00) to cover the cost associated with overages in the Snow Roads Account or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$6,500.00) for the purchase of a New Computer Server for the Town Hall or to take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$25,000.00) into the Future Equipment and Vehicle Purchase Account or to take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$2,400.00) for Flag Poles and Signage for the Town Cemetery or to take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$10,000.00) for the Town of Peru 250th Celebration or take any other action thereto.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to Transfer from Free Cash the sum of Three Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$3,000.00) for the Town Share of a Department of Conservation and Recreation matching grant for the Fire Department or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$1,700.00) for the purchase of a Pump Heater for Tanker Number One of the Fire Department or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$5,000.00) to pay for the upgrade and maintenance of the Partridgefield Park and Playground or to take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 29: To See if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$15,000.00) for the Re-build of the Highway Department Boom Mower Deck and Replacement of Safety Glass or to take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$7,500.00) for the cost of Police Education associated with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Police Reform Legislation or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$5,000.00) for the purchase of Five AED Units and associated equipment for use at the Town Hall and Community Center, Public Safety Vehicles, and the Highway Garage or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$10,000.00) for the Reserve Fund or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 33: Tow see if the Town will vote to approve the future purchase of a SUV Command Vehicle for the Fire Department not to exceed Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$9,500.00) out of the Future Equipment and Vehicle Expense Account.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 34: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Chapter 90 funds that are, or may become, available to the Town during the FY23 for Roadway Projects and Repairs, and to authorize the Treasurer to borrow such amounts in anticipation of reimbursement by the Commonwealth or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, or other Town Departments with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to apply for and accept grants from the Federal Government, Commonwealth of Massachusetts or any other source, and to expend the same for purposes received without further appropriation, or to take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 2022, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with the General Laws Chapter 44, Section 17, or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

A motion was made, seconded to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting at 7:48 PM. The article carried unanimously by voice vote.

There was a total of 29 registered voters and 7 guests in attendance.

ATTEST:

This is a true copy.



Kim Leach, Town Clerk

Gladys Wheeler

Assistant Town Clerk

Certified: June 14, 2022

ATTEST:

This is a true copy.

Kim Leach

Kim Leach

Town Clerk

Certified: May 26, 2022

You are directed to serve this warrant with your doing thereon to the Town Clerk or the Board of Selectmen at the time and place of said meeting.

Given under our hands this _____ day of May, 2022.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Verne Leach

Verne Leach, Chair

Bruce Cullett

Bruce Cullett, Member

Douglas Haskins

Douglas Haskins, Member

I have served this Warrant as directed above.

Places of Posting: Bulletin Board/Town Hall/Transfer Station/Library/Community Center/Website: Townofperuma.com

ATTEST:

Peggy White

Constable

Peggy White

5-25-22

Date

10:00 Am

Time

Posted: May 26, 2022