

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 3, 2023, at 6:00 PM for the Annual Town Meeting, then and there to take action on the following articles, namely:

*The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Town Clerk Kim Leach.  
There was a total of 42 registered voters and 3 guests in attendance.*

*Town officers seated at the front table were introduced. Housekeeping notes by Moderator Samuel Haupt.*

**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.*

*Selectman Bruce Cullett, on behalf of the Selectmen and Finance Committee, made introductory remarks regarding the FY24 budget, and reviewed graphs of the budget.*

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

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 3: Citizen's Petition:** To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of \$7,500 for the Fire Chief's Salary for the purpose of protection of persons and property (Fire Department) or take any other action thereon. (BY SECRET BALLOT).

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee do not support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Motion made and seconded to conduct the vote by secret ballot. Motion for secret ballot failed by majority voice vote.*

*Article failed by majority hand count; 8 in favor, 25 not in favor.*

**Article 4: Citizen's Petition:** To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of purchasing and outfitting a new fire truck for the Town of Peru Fire Department or take any other action relative thereto. (BY SECRET BALLOT).

Board and Selectmen and Finance Committee do not support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Motion made and seconded to move the article. Motion to move the vote carries by unanimous hand vote. No motion was made to conduct the vote by secret ballot. Article failed by majority hand count; 16 in favor, 26 not in favor.*

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the Central Berkshire Regional School District FY24 Assessment, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Net Operating Assessment	903,919.00
Capital Assessment	<u>102,405.00</u>
Total Town of Peru Assessment	<b>\$1,006,324.00</b>

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee in support of this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 6:** 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., for FY24 or take any other action relative thereto:

Selectboard

Member	\$ 3,575.00
Member	3,575.00
Member	3,575.00

Town Clerk 10,300.00  
Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee in support of this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to fix salaries of the following appointed officers for FY24, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Assessors'	
Lead Assessor	18,720.00
Assessor	2,500.00
Assessor	2,500.00
Treasurer	12,360.00
Tax Collector	12,360.00
Accounting Services	31,800.00
Animal Control Officer	1,911.00
Police Chief	67,500.00
Inspector of Animals	950.00
Veterans' Agent	500.00
Council on Aging Director	1,200.00
Fire Chief	2,525.00
Cemetery Sexton	500.00
Town Auditor	1.00

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee in support of this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written.  
Article carried by majority voice vote.*

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts for FY24, or take any other action relative thereto:

Assessors' Salaries	\$ 23,720.00
Selectmen's Salary	10,725.00
Tax Collector's Salary	12,360.00
Town Clerk's Salary	10,300.00
Treasurer's Salary	12,360.00
Accounting Services	31,800.00
Assessing Services	25,000.00
Animal Control Officer's Salary	1,911.00
Inspector of Animals Salary	950.00
Veterans' Agent Salary	500.00
Council on Aging Director	1,200.00
Fire Chief	2,525.00
Police Chief	67,500.00
Cemetery Sexton	500.00
Town Auditor	1.00

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee in support of this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by majority voice vote.*

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following wage accounts for FY24, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Administrative Assistant	\$ 5,500.00
Elections & Registrar's Account	5,850.00
Assistant Town Clerk	2,730.00
Compactor Attendants	7,950.00
Town Administrator's Salary	\$30,900.00

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee in support of this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous majority voice vote.*

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts for FY24, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Assessors' Expense	\$ 1,000.00
Bank Service Expense	100.00
Animal Control Officer's Expense	1,000.00
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	2,200.00
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	3,500.00
Health Department Expense	15,500.00

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts for FY24, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Assessors' Annual Computer Support	\$ 2,400.00
Computer Supplies & Maintenance IT	24,500.00
Treas./Acct. Annual Computer Support	13,277.97
Tax Collector's Annual Computer Support	10,867.78
Assessors' Tax Map Maintenance	1,600.00
Continuing Education	6,530.00
Office Supplies	2,000.00
Assessor Utility Appraisal	3,500.00

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts for FY24, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Conservation Commission Expense	\$ 400.00
Interest on Loans	1,000.00
Legal Expense	9,000.00
Officers' Mileage	2,000.00

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee Support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts for FY24, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Elderly Outreach	\$ 650.00
Council on Aging Expense	1,000.00
Veterans Service	6,000.00

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts for FY24, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Medicare – Town Share	\$ 7,700.00
Health Ins/Life & Dental	132,120.96
Town Insurance - All	41,559.00
Mass. Unemployment Insurance	600.00

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by majority voice vote.*

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts for FY24, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Partridge Field Playground Trust	\$ 1,500.00
Peru Library	19,265.00
Mowing: Cemeteries, Town Hall, Town Park and Town Green:	6,450.00

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts for FY24, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Town Buildings' Maintenance	\$ 15,000.00
Utilities – Electric	12,500.00
Utilities – Heating	16,500.00
Utilities - Telephone	1,500.00
Internet Communication Lines	6,700.00
Town Website Design, Hosting, & Support	1,930.00
Town Hall Janitorial Services	3,900.00
Cemetery Expense	1,500.00

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts for FY24 or to take any other action relative thereto

Compactor	\$ 38,000.00
Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District	2,866.00

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts for FY24, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Berk. County Sheriffs Dispatching	\$ 11,449.00
Berk. County Reg. Planning Comm.	693.00
Berk. County Retirement Assessment	58,841.00
Hinsdale Ambulance	2,000.00
Town Fire Station Mortgage Payment	14,630.75
Police Wages	39,000.00
Police Expenses	7,085.00
Police Cruiser Maintenance	3,500.00
Police Continuing Education	3,000.00

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts for FY24, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Peru Volunteer Fire Department Operating Expenses	\$ 25,000.00
Peru Volunteer Fire Department Insurances	6,000.00
Peru Volunteer Fire Department Building Maintenance	2,000.00

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following accounts for FY24, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Gas & Fuel Account	\$ 33,000.00
Maintain Hard Surface Roads	28,000.00
Material, Gravel Roads	25,000.00
Road Machinery Maintenance	25,000.00
Snow Roads, Private	500.00
Snow Roads, Public	90,000.00
Town Highways & Bridges	16,750.00
Town Highway Garage Mortgage Payment	12,020.00
Highway Employee Wage Acct.	107,000.00
Highway Superintendent Salary	75,000.00
Highway Department Uniforms	3,700.00
Tree Removal	20,000.00
Temporary Summer Help	8,000.00

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by majority voice vote.*

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the vocational education and transportation accounts for FY24, or take any other action relative thereto:

Vocational School Tuition	\$180,684.00
Vocational School Transportation	41,180.40

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 22:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Thirty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Nine Dollars and Seventy-Four cents (\$34,799.74) for the deficit in the Snow Roads Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 23:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Two Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$2,000.00) Police Department Handgun Account, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 24:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Seventeen Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$17,000) to purchase a new Highway Plow, including all costs incidental and related, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 25:** To see if the Town will transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Four Thousand Six Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$4,600) to refurbish the Salt Shed Door, including all costs incidental and related, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 26:** To see if the Town will transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$7,800) for tracks and Sprocket on the mini excavator, including all costs incidental and related, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 27:** To see if the Town will Transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Three Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$3,000.00) for the Police Garage Roof, including all costs incidental and related, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 28:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Thirteen Thousand Fifty Dollars and Zero Cents (\$13,050.00) for Permit Eyes online permitting system and first year support, including all costs incidental and related, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 29:** To see if the Town will Transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$3,500) for a Storage Shed for playground equipment, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 30:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$50,000.00) to fund the Future Equipment & Vehicle Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 31:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$10,000) to the Reserve Account or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 32:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Chapter 90 funds that are, or may become, available to the Town during FY24 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.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 33:** 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.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 34:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Four Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$4,000) for Rear Tires on Tanker 1 if needed or take any other action relative thereto. Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 35:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Three Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$3,000) to be utilized by the Fire Department for a matching DCR Grant or take any other action relative thereto.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

*Motion was made and seconded to dissolve the meeting. Article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

ATTEST:

*This is a true copy.*

*Kim A. Leach, Town Clerk*



*Certified: June 8, 2023*

*Gladys Wheeler*

*Assistant Town Clerk*



ATTEST:

This is a true copy.

*Kim A Leach*

Kim Leach  
Town Clerk

Certified: May 25, 2023

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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2023.


BOARD OF SELECTMEN

 _____ Verne Leach, Chairman	 _____ Bruce Cullett, Member	 _____ Doug Haskins, Member
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I have served this Warrant as directed above.

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

ATTEST:

 _____ Constable <i>Peggy White</i>	<i>5-25-23</i> _____ Date	<i>12:20p</i> _____ Time
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Posted: May 25, 2023