

**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 5, 2021 at 6:00PM for the Annual Town Meeting, then and there to take action on the following articles, namely:

An emergency meeting of the Select Board was called at 6:07 PM to appoint Peggy White as the temporary Town Clerk, motion made, seconded and all voted in favor, meeting adjourned at 6:07PM.

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM and opening remarks were made by Moderator Samuel Haupt. Joel Bard was presented with a commemorative Peru 250th medallion for his years of service.

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, motion made, seconded and passes 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 and seconded to accept the article as written. Caryn Wendling stated the heading on her report had a typographical error: it did not have the proper year. Article carried unanimously by voice vote with correction noted.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to Transfer from Free Cash the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$30,000.00) to offset the Town Tax Rate or Take any other action relative thereto.

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

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the following Central Berkshire Regional School District FY22 Assessment, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Transportation Assessment	\$ 50,919.00
Net Operating Assessment	827,372.00
Capital Assessment	<u>121,263.00</u>
Total Town of Peru Assessment	\$999,554.00

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 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	8,321.00

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

Article 6: 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
Member	3,471.00
Member	3,471.00
Treasurer	9,753.00
Tax Collector	9,753.00
Accounting Officer	12,000.00
Animal Control Officer	1,801.00
Police Chief	42,900.00
Forest Fire Warden	896.00
Inspector of Animals	896.00
Veterans' Agent	2,250.00
Council on Aging Director	608.00
Fire Chief	1,214.00
Cemetery Sexton	316.00
Town Auditor	1.00

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

Article 7: 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	\$ 10,413.00
Selectmen's Salary	10,413.00
Tax Collector's Salary	9,753.00
Town Clerk's Salary	8,321.00
Treasurer's Salary	9,753.00
Accounting Officer's Salary	12,000.00
Animal Control Officer's Salary	1,801.00
Forest Fire Warden's Salary	896.00
Inspector of Animals Salary	896.00
Veterans' Agent Salary	2,250.00
Council on Aging Director	590.00
Fire Chief	1,214.00
Police Chief	42,900.00
Cemetery Sexton	316.00
Town Auditor	1.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written with the edit of Council of Aging amount should read 608.00. The 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 wage accounts, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Administrative Assistant	\$ 8,450.00
Elections & Registrar's Account	4,850.00
Assistant Town Clerk	2,484.00
Compactor Attendants	7,533.00
Assistant Assessor's Salary	\$19,857.00
Town Administrator's Salary	\$21,012.00

A motion was made, seconded to accept the article as written. The 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' 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	2,200.00
Town Report Expense	2,000.00
Treasurer/Accounting Expense	1,500.00
Treasurer Tax Title Expense	5,000.00
Board of Appeals Expense	100.00
U.S. Postal Expense	3,000.00
Health Department Expense	11,450.00

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:

Assessors' Annual Computer Support	\$ 4,500.00
Computer Supplies & Maintenance	19,000.00
Treas./Acct. Annual Computer Support	11,470.00
Tax Collector's Annual Computer Support	9,388.00
Assessors' Tax Map Maintenance	1,600.00
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 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:

Conservation Commission Expense	\$ 400.00
Interest on Loans	1,000.00
Legal Expense	9,500.00
Officers' Mileage	2,000.00

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:

Elderly Outreach	\$ 525.00
Council on Aging	400.00
Veterans Service	10,000.00

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:

Medicare – Town Share	\$ 7,600.00
Health Ins/Life & Dental	102,730.08
Town Insurance - All	46,000.00
Mass. Unemployment Insurance	600.00

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

Article 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:

Partridgefield Playground Trust	\$ 1,500.00
Peru Library	16,541.00
Mowing: Cemeteries, Town Hall, Town Park and Town Green:	6,350.00

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:

Town Buildings' Maintenance	\$ 15,000.00
Utilities – Electric	12,500.00
Utilities – Heating	16,500.00
Utilities - Telephone	1,500.00
Internet Communication Lines	7,800.00
Town Website Design, Hosting, & Support	1,850.00
Town Hall Janitorial Services	2,500.00
Board of Health Expense	450.00
Cemetery Expense	1,000.00

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

Article 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

Compactor	\$ 38,000.00
Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District	2,515.00

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:

Berk. County Sheriffs Dispatching	\$ 10,792.00
Berk. County Reg. Planning Comm.	691.73
Berk. County Retirement Assessment	45,162.00
Hinsdale Ambulance	2,000.00
Town Fire Station Mortgage Payment	15,216.00
Police Wages	29,849.00
Police Expenses	4,900.00
Police Cruiser Maintenance	3,400.00

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 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	7,000.00
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 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Three Thousand Thirty-Six Dollars and No Cents (\$63,036.00) 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 20: 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	\$ 27,630.00
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.	88,000.00
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 21: 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	\$205,469.00
Vocational School Transportation	37,710.00

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 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 23: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Three Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety-Two Dollars and Sixty-Nine Cents (\$3,292.69) to purchase a Fire Proof Cabinet for the Storage of Historical town Records 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 Thirty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$30,000.00) 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 25: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$3,500.00) for an Assessor Utility Appraisal 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 26: To see if the Town will transfer from Free Cash the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$20,000.00) 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 27: To see if the Town will Transfer from Free Cash the sum of Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$13,500.00) for IMC Public Safety Software for the Police 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 Sixteen Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$16,000.00) for First Year Financing for the purchase of a new F-350 Extended Cab with Plow Ford Pick-up Truck for the Highway Department or take any other action relative thereto. (Requires a 2/3 Vote)

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written, a subsidiary motion was made to hold the vote as a secret ballot. The moderator was unable to determine by voice vote the outcome of the vote for the secret ballot, a show of hands was called. The motion for a secret ballot did not pass by a show of hands: 14 in favor and 30 opposed. A show of hands was called for the vote on the article. The article passed by more than the 2/3 required vote which was 31 votes: 34 voted in favor of the article and 12 opposed.

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Chapter 90 funds that are, or may become, available to the Town during the FY22 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 30: 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 31: 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 market the Town of Peru or take any other action relative thereto.

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

*A motion was made, seconded to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting at 8:00 PM.
There was a total of 47 registered voters and 4 guests in attendance.*

ATTEST: This is a true copy.


Peggy White, Acting Town Clerk

Certified: June 16, 2021

ATTEST:

This is a true copy.

Kim Leach

Kim Leach
Town Clerk

Certified: May 27, 2021

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 27 day of May, 2021.


BOARD OF SELECTMEN

		
Verne Leach, Member	Bruce Cullett, Member	Edward Munch Jr. Chair

I have served this Warrant as directed above.

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

ATTEST:

	<u>5/27/21</u>	<u>5:25 pm</u>
Constable Peary L White	Date	Time

Posted: May 27, 2021