

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Peru
250th Annual Town Report



July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020



Peru's Population 2020 — 838 residents
Number of Registered Voters — 627
Square Miles — 26.10

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



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Fiscal Year 2020

July 1, 2019 – July 30, 2020

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ELECTED OFFICIALS

	Term Expires
Constables – 2-year term	
Coralie E. Pelkey	2020
Peggy White	2021
Finance Committee – 5-year term	
Jesse Pelkey	2024
George Greule	2020
Samuel Haupt	2021
Alan B. Gordon	2022
Darryl Darby	2023
Moderator – 3-year term	
Allan Gordon	2020
Planning Board – 5-year term	
Douglas A. Haskins	2022
Darryl Darby	2024
Samuel P. Haupt	2020
Kimberly Wetherell	2021
Richard Nelson	2023
School District Committee – 3-year term	
Bonny DiTomasso	2020
Selectmen - 3-year term	
Verne Leach	2022
Edward Munch	2021
Bruce Cullett	2020
Town Clerk – 3-year term	
Kim Leach	2021
Tree Warden – 1year term	
Justin Russell	2020
Board of Health – 1-year term	
Darryl Darby	2022
Nanette Mone	2020
Peggy White	2021

HIGHWAY – FIRE – EMERGENCY – 1 Year Term

Emergency Management	Rick Carl
Deputy Director for Emergency Management	Samuel Haupt
Fire Chief and Forest Warden	Brian Dewkett
Highway Superintendent	Justin Russell

INSPECTORS – 1 Year Term

Health Agent	Ed Fahey
Building Inspector	Tim Sears
Gas & Plumbing Inspector	Timothy Martin
Oil Burner & Smoke Alarm Inspector	Brian Dewkett
Wiring Inspector	Peter Yetman

POLICE DEPARTMENT – 3 Year Term

Police Chief – Jeffrey Henault (Resigned 4-25-2020)
Police Sergeant – Bruce Cullett (Acting Chief)

POLICE OFFICERS – 1 Year Term

Robert Horne ▪ Ethan Rougeau ▪ Kyle Nutting

Solid Waste District Commissioner	Richard Nelson
Transfer Station	Verne Leach & Richard Nelson
Veteran’s Agent	John Herrera

TOWN COUNCIL

Kopelman & Paige, P.C.

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

	Term Expires
Town Administrator - 1 Year Term Caleb Mitchell	2020
Administrative Assistant – 1 Year Term Irene Morrison	2020
Accounting Officer – 1 Year Term Anna Osborn	2020
Assessors – 3 Year Term Karen Tonelli	2020
Amy Davidson	2021
Shana Lecours	2022
Assistant Town Clerk – 1 Year Term Sharon Gruele	2020
Animal Control – 3 Year Term Verne Leach	2020
Animal Inspector – 3 Year Term Verne Leach	2020
Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission – 1 Year Term Samuel Haupt	2020
Board of Registrars – 3 Year Term JoAnn Gordon	2021
Tina Barrington	2020
Kim Leach Ex-Officio	2021
Scott Seely	2022
Cemetery Sexton – 1 Year Term Darryl Darby	2020

APPOINTED OFFICIALS (continued)

Conservation Commission – 5 Year Term

Caleb Mitchell	2024
William Tatro	2020
Darryl Darby	2021
Mike Frederick	2022
Greg Trembly	2023

Counsel on Aging – 1 Year Term

Caleb Mitchell, Acting	2020
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Treasurer/Tax Collector – 3 Year Term

Caryn Wendling	2022
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Custodian of Tax Title Properties – 3 Year Term

Caryn Wendling	2022
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Historical Commission – 5 Year Term

Susan Masino	2024
Edward Munch	2020
James Kenney	2021
Richard Burke	2022
Sara Adams	2023

Planning Board – 5 Year Term

Samuel Haupt	2020
Kimberley Wetherell	2021
Doug Haskins	2022
Darryl Darby	2024
Richard Nelson	2023

Zoning Board of Appeals – 5 Year Term

Doug Haskins	2024
Peter Shelsy	2022
Dave Strzepa	2022
Samuel Haupt	2023
Bonny Ditomasso	2020
Graham Sturz, Alternate	2021
Jeffrey Cranston, Alternate	2022

ADA Coordinator – 1 Year Term

Caleb Mitchell	2020
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APPOINTED OFFICIALS (continued)

Parks and Recreation – 5 Year Term

Jesse Pelkey	2023
Dawn Pelkey	2024
Sharon Gruele	2020
George Gruele	2021
Doug Haskins	2022

Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership – 1 Year Term

Edward Munch	2020
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Animal Advisory Committee – 5 Year Term

JoAnn Gordon	2023
Kim Leach	2021
Lynn McAvoy	2022
Allan Gordon	2024

Peru/Hinsdale Cultural Council – 1 Year Term

Kristen Parker	2019
Ruth Calaycay	2019

Election Poll Workers – 1 Year Term

Sara Adams, Kathleen Borden, Margaret Chieffo, Amy Davidson, Brenda Darby, Darryl Darby, George Gruele, Sharon Gruele, Linda Kellogg, Terry Kellogg, Barbara Kenney, James Kenney, Shana Lecours, Trinity Lecours, Cathy MacPhail, Nanette Mone, Irene Morrison, Coralie Pelkey, Amy Pharmer, Cassidy Scott, Denise Shaw, Charlene Steele, Grahm Sturz, Peggy White, David Whiting, Emma Whiting

Chief Election Official/Town Clerk – 3 Year Term

Kim Leach

Election Warden – 1 Year Term

Gladys Wheeler

Deputy Warden/Clerk – 1 Year Term

Becky Scott

The Peru Town Hall is located at 3 East Main Road and is open on Monday evenings from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, excluding holidays, for the purpose of conducting Town business.

MAILING ADDRESSES

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>SUITE</u>	<u>TOWN/STATE/ZIP</u>
Assessors	3 East Main Road	104	Peru, MA 01235
Building Inspector	3 East Main Road	103	Peru, MA 01235
Fire Department	11 East Main Road	109	Peru, MA 01235
Health Agent	3 East Main Road	103	Peru, MA 01235
Highway Department	7 East Main Road	110	Peru, MA 01235
Library	6 East Main Road	N/A	Peru, MA 01235
Police	3 East Main Road	106	Peru, MA 01235
Select Board	3 East Main Road	107	Peru, MA 01235
Tax Collector/Treasurer	3 East Main Road	101	Peru, MA 01235
Town Administrator	3 East Main Road	100	Peru, MA 01235
Town Clerk	3 East Main Road	102	Peru, MA 01235

TELEPHONE NUMBERS & E-MAIL ADDRESSES

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>	<u>EXTENSION</u>	<u>E-MAIL ADDRESS</u>
Accounting	413-655-8312	5	accounting@townofperuma.com
Assessor	413-655-8657	4	assessors@townofperuma.com
Building Inspector	413-655-8312	3	bldginsp@townofperuma.com
Conservation Commission	413 655-8312	0	
Council on Aging	413 441-4072		coa@townofperuma.com
General Delivery		15	
Health Agent	413-655-8312	3	inspectors@berkshireplanning.org
Library	413-655-8650		perulibrary@gmail.com
Library Website			perulibraryma.org
Planning & Zoning Boards		13	sammyrna@aol.com
Plumbing & Gas Inspector	413 822-8871	14	
Wiring/Electrical Inspector	413 347-0817		
Police	413-655-8377	6	
Police Fax	413-655-2144		
Select Board	413-655-8312	7	selectmen@townofperuma.com
Tax Collector/Treasurer	413-655-0072	1	taxcollector@townofperuma.com
Town Administrator	413-655-8312	0	townadmin@townofperuma.com
Town Clerk	413-655-8312	2	townclerk@townofperuma.com
Town Hall Fax	413-655-2759		
Volunteer Fire Department	413-655-8811		

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

It was a challenging year in the Town Clerk Office as we faced the Covid-19 pandemic. Although the building was closed to the public, with some adjustments the office continued to serve the public throughout the year. I would like to personally thank all of you for the continued patience you have provided to me during this pandemic. I am proud and honored to serve the residents of Peru and look forward to continuing to serve you.

The 2021 Street Listing/Census was mailed out in January. If you did not get a Census form in the mail, please contact the office and I will get one right out to you. I have continued to enclose a dog license registration application in with the street list/census which has worked out well, many people have used this convenient method of licensing their dog, as a reminder, please remember to include a self-address stamped envelope with your request.

Exciting News: UNIPAY Online Payment Center is coming soon to the Town Clerk Office! It will enable you to make online payments by electronic check or by credit card for Vitals, Business Certificates (DBA), Dog Licenses, Transfer Station Permits, Transfer Station Stickers and Bulky Waste Punch Cards.

The Town held two Town Meetings this past fiscal year: A Special Town Meeting on September 24, 2019 at 6:00pm with 19 registered voters in attendance and the Annual Town Meeting on June 20, 2020 at 6:00pm with 46 registered voters in attendance.

There were two Elections held within the 2020 Fiscal year, the Presidential Primary on March 3, 2020 from 7:00am-8:00pm with 206 Registered Voters casting a ballot and the Annual Town Election on June 27, 2020 from 11:00am-4:00pm with 101 Registered Voters casting a ballot. There were four Voter Registration Sessions held in the Town Clerk Office.

This past year I have continued to attend Town Clerk workshops by virtual attendance to stay current with laws and procedures pertaining to Elections, Early Voting, VRIS enhancements, Public Records, Vital Records, Town Meetings, Open Meeting Law, and Zoning/Planning.

2019 - 2020 Fiscal Year Vital Statistics

At the recommendation of the Registry of Vital Records and the United States Department of State, we will no longer be printing the individual names from vital records in the Town Report. This will help to protect the privacy of individuals as well as help to curb identity theft.

Deaths: This year, four people died. Our condolences go out to the families that have lost a loved one.

Marriages: One couple took out marriage intentions. Congratulations!

Births: There were seven births, six males and one female. Congratulations to the families on welcoming their little ones.

Population 842

Registered Voters 653

Dog Licenses Issued 154

The Restoration Project to preserve and maintain archival information of the permanent records of the Town Clerk's office has now been completed. The last four books were preserved by KOFILE Technologies this past year. The books have also been restored on Microfilm. This project was started some years ago and then went dormant. A special thank you to Sharon Greule for her help in completing the project. The preserved books are available for viewing, please contact the Town Clerk office if you would like to see them.

Automatic voter registration went into effect Jan. 1, 2020 in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts residents who renew their driver's license or apply for MassHealth will be automatically registered to vote, beginning Jan. 1. Automatic voter registration was signed into law by Gov. Charlie Baker in August 2018. Under the new law, any eligible citizen who applies for or renews their driver's license or state identification cards at the Registry of Motor Vehicles, applies for MassHealth, or signs up for health insurance through the

Commonwealth Health Connector will be automatically registered to vote. All three of these agencies already require proof of citizenship. Citizens will be able to opt out of registering to vote. They will not have to fill out a separate form to opt in.

Voter registration continues to be available online, by mail and in person. The Town Clerk's office will continue to hold voter registration sessions on the deadline date to register to vote for Elections and Town Meetings. The deadline to register to vote in any election or regular town meeting is twenty (20) days prior to the date of the election or meeting. The deadline to register to vote in a special town meeting is ten (10) days prior to the special town meeting. To confirm whether you are registered to vote, visit www.sec.state.ma.us/ele

Election Workers and Board of Registrars:

Warden Gladys Wheeler, Election Clerk/Assistant Election Warden Becky Scott.

Poll Workers; Sara Adams, Amy Davidson, Kathy Borden, Margaret Chieffo , Brenda Darby, Darryl Darby, George Greule, Sharon Greule, Linda Kellogg, Terry Kellogg, Barbara Kenney, James Kenney, Cathy MacPhail, Nanette Mone, Irene Morrison, Coralie Pelkey, Amy Pharmer, Cassidy Scott, Denise Shaw, Charlene Steele , Graham Sturz, Peggy White, David Whiting, Emma Whiting .

Board of Registrars; Tina Barrington, Scott Seely and JoAnn Gordon.
Kim Leach Ex-Officio member. Assistant Board of Registrar Sharon Greule.

Everyone's dedication is much appreciated. I sincerely thank you all.

Anyone interested in being an Election Poll Worker, please contact the Town Clerk Office. Appointments take place between July fifteenth and August fifteenth of each year.

Peru Annual Town Local Election June 27, 2020 Results

653 Registered Voters - 101 votes cast

Select Board 3-Yr. Term -Bruce Cullett - 77 Votes
Candidate for Re-Election

Planning Board 5-Yr. Term -Samuel P. Haupt - 91 Votes
Candidate for Re-Election

Finance Committee 5-Yr. Term - Douglas Haskins - 23 (Write-in) Votes

Moderator 3-Yr. Term - Samuel Haupt - 25 (Write-in) Votes

Board of Health 3-Yr. Term - Nanette Mone -18 (Write-in) Votes

Constable 2-Yr. Term - Coralie Pelkey - 27 (Write-in) Votes

Tree Warden 1- Yr. Term - Justin Russell - 20 (Write-in) Votes

Town Clerk Responsibilities

Serves as Custodian of official Town Records and public documents.

Maintains, records, catalogs, and files all official and public documents in conformity with the Massachusetts General Laws.

Files all Boards and Committees meeting minutes.

Administers Oath of Office for all town officials. Administers oath of office as required to all elected officials,

appointed members of boards and committees, and police and fire department personnel, and ensures that all officials are in writing of the State's Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest laws.

Attests to and maintains documentation on all elected and appointed Town officials, as well as letters of resignation.

Recording Officer. Records and certifies all official actions of Town Meeting legislation and appropriations, prepares and sends newly voted bylaws to the Attorney General's Office for approval.

Maintains DLS (Division of Local Services) Gateway and Local Officials Directory.

Certifies town budget in order for Assessor's to set tax rate.

Receives and records all applications and final decisions of the Zoning Board of Appeals; issues statements of "no appeal".

Files Zoning By-Law and Town By-Law changes accompanied with necessary documentation for approval with the Attorney General; records and notifies appropriate officials of approval/disapproval.

Serves as "Keeper of the Seal". Seals and attests to elected officials, by signature, to By Laws, resolutions and contracts, easements, deeds, bonds and other documents requiring town certification.

Issues certificates of the votes taken at Town meeting as required by law or upon request.

Serves as Chief Elections Officer for the Town with full responsibility for the total administration of fair and impartial local, state, and federal elections and town meetings in accordance with the Secretary of State's office and local By-laws.

Prepares election calendar, manages all on-site activity at the polling place, arranges for the physical setup of polls, trains poll workers, prepares tally sheets; oversees and reports official election results to the Secretary of State's Office, and is a member of the Board of Registrars.

Responsible for the layout and printing of town ballots. Prepares, receives, and certifies nomination papers and initiative petitions. and provides necessary election calendar and candidate information.

Arranges for applications, mailing and return of absentee ballots for all elections.

Over sees all aspects of voter registrations and related functions using automated state voter registration system: Central Voter Registration System (CVR). Resolves voter issues.

Reports the official list of town officials elected and qualified to the Secretary of State's office after every local election and reports any changes in such offices as they occur. Attests to and maintains files of appointed and elected Town officials.

Serves as Public Records Officer. Responsible for the processing, verifying, routing, and maintenance of official records, documents, business and legal records.

Preserves and maintains archival information and issues certified copies of birth, death and marriage records thereby providing a legal and historically accurate record of Town actions. Maintains and develops systematic procedures for the disposal of obsolete records. Responsible for the dissemination of information to all town departments, boards, committees, commissions and to the public regarding statutory regulation, from the Federal, State, County, and Local levels concerning the adherence to and changes to policy in a timely fashion.

Distributes and explains, upon request, Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest Law to all Boards and Committees.

Tracks and reminds employees, appointed and elected officials of biannual MA state ethics Training requirement.

Serves as Registrar of Vital Statistics. Records and indexes all birth, marriage and death certificates; with genealogical

research for members of the public, and is responsible for maintenance, disposition, and preservation of municipal archival records and materials.

Reports monthly to the State Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, adhering to records management schedules and files amendments to birth, marriage and death certificates as required; corrects and amends certificates as directed by court action from Massachusetts and all other states; establish birth records for foreign born adopted children upon request.

Serves as a Licensing Officer. Issues state, local and county licenses, permits and certificates including marriage licenses, raffle and bazaar permits, burial permits, business certificates, dog licenses; ensuring that rabies vaccination is current.

As Census and Voter Registration Administrator, the Town Clerk is responsible for the State Central Voter Registry Information System (CVR) on a local level as well as all related census activity.

Mails an annual census form to each household, enters the data in CVR, prepares and arranges for the printing of the Annual Street List.

Verifies and certifies residency upon request; transmits census information to Jury Commission, manages residency verification, publicizes voter registration sessions, manages voter list, verifies and certifies signatures of voters on petitions and nomination papers, manages and maintains Absentee Balloting lists for all Elections and certifies voter status.

Attends training seminars or programs in order to maintain knowledge of changes in local, state or federal regulations/laws as well as the application of technology in support of department operations.

Must attend all Annual Town Meetings and Special Town Meetings and be available to attend other Town and Department related meetings and Rabies Clinics.

In closing, I would like to thank Gladys Wheeler, my assistant, for her work in the Town Clerk Office. I sincerely appreciate her help and dedication .

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kim Leach, Town Clerk

Burial Agent

Chief Elections Officer Super Records Access Officer

Ex-officio Member Board of Registrars

Member of the Massachusetts Town Clerks Association

Phone: 413-655-8312 X 2 ~ E-mail: townclerk@townofperuma.com

Town Clerk Face Book Page www.facebook.com/PeruMassTownClerk

NOTICE: There is a Town Clerk DROP BOX located to the right of the front door of the main entrance of the Town Hall. You may drop off dog license renewals (with rabies vaccination update if required), Absentee ballot applications, Sealed Absentee Ballots, Voter Registration Forms, Transfer Station Permit & Punch Card requests, Census Forms, and other correspondence for the Town Clerk.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

This report is a summary of the events and highlights of fiscal year 2020. I am glad to report that the Town of Peru has made numerous improvements over the past few years to put the Town in a sound financial position despite the cost of building a new Wahconah High School.

The Town of Peru has become an official designated “Green Community” which was a long process for over two years. This process included becoming a member of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Community Compact program, adopting a solar array by-law, and completion of a “Energy Reduction Plan”, which qualified the Town of Peru to receive a Grant of over \$129,000 dollars from the State. We are currently in the process of replacing all of the lighting for the Town Highway Department and Town Hall with low energy LED lighting at no cost to the Town, which will contribute to our plan to reduce the overall energy cost by 20% within 5 years.

The Town is in the process of completing a Hazard Mitigation Plan, which along with the completion of our ADA Self Evaluation and Planning Study has put the Town in position to apply for future Grant opportunities.

As I mentioned in previous Town report, The Town was able to negotiate an Agreement on Pilot Tax payments with CVE North on the Solar Array Installation on West Main Road that will bring in over \$50,000 dollars in tax revenue per year for over 20 years (over 1 million dollars) We also designated Smith Vocational School as the Vocational School for the Town, which cut our Vocational School Transportation costs in half.

We will continue to make progress by utilizing our Green Community Grant funds to continue to lower our energy costs. However, We are still working on bringing attention to the fact that the state does not pay enough taxes on state owned land (Pilot Payments) and we don’t receive enough funding through Chapter 90 program to replace, fix and repair our roadways. We have worked to bring attention to these issues with our state representative and our state senator.

We have continued to apply for grant funding (over 1 million dollars) to repave East Windsor Road for the past 3 years, and We also applied for over \$100,000 dollars previously for ADA Grant to make improvements to parking areas and within Town Hall for individuals with disabilities. Despite not receiving funding, we will continue to apply for Grants to improve our roadways and make improvements to Town Hall.

We did receive a Grant of \$20,000 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Program to fund improvements to Curtin Road to make it more accessible to residents and visitors to the Town. We are trying to promote Sustainable Forestry, Forest Stewardship and Tourism throughout the Town. We are expecting signs to be installed at the intersection of Route 143 & Curtin Road, and at the intersection of Curtin Road and Monument Road, where we have created a small parking area, which leads up to the trail head to Garnet Hill Monument Memorial, where an additional sign will be installed.

We are proud to be a member of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership program, and we are submitting another \$20,000 Grant application to make improvements to Beauman Road to improve access to protected land owned by MASS Fish & Wildlife and promote tourism into the Town of Peru.

The Town received a \$25,000 Grant for the 250th Anniversary Celebration. The Town was able to utilize the funding for a new electronic sign outside of Town Hall and electrical improvements to the Town Park. We are still working on installation of the electronic sign. Unfortunately, the 250th Anniversary was cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Town will continue to work on planning the 250th Celebration.

The Town adopted the PAYT (Pay as you throw Policy) through the MASS DEP Small Town Environmental Partnership Program, which increased our Grant funding from \$500 dollars to \$3,150, which we will utilize to make improvements to our Transfer Station.

There is still ongoing concern for equitable Pilot payments for state owned land, equitable payments for the Chapter 90 funding for small towns, and reimbursements for Vocational School Transportation costs.

The reconstruction of East Windsor Road remains a priority and We will be submitting another Grant application to obtain funding.

In closing, I am pleased with the work that has been done, and I appreciate the support of the Select Board, and the work of all our town employees, and the many volunteers serving the Town of Peru. It is a pleasure working for the Town of Peru.

Respectfully Submitted,
Caleb Mitchell
Town Administrator

BOARD OF ASSESSORS ANNUAL REPORT - FY2020

FISCAL YEAR	FY2020
Appropriations from Town Meetings	2,535,921.83
Cherry Sheet Offsets	2,395.00
Overlay Deficits	0.00
Cherry Sheet Charges	1,510.00
Overlay Allowance	10,748.42
TOTAL AMT. TO BE RAISED:	2,550,575.25
Total Estimated Receipts:	168,500.00
Cherry Sheet Receipts:	273,912.00
Free Cash to Reduce Tax Rate:	0.00
Revenue Sources appropriated:	200,817.00
Other Available Funds:	126,500.00
Other Source to reduce tax rate:	0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS & CREDITS:	769,729.00
TAX LEVY:	1,780,846.25
<u>Town Valuations By Class:</u>	
Residential	89,447,770.00
Open Space	0.00
Commercial	6,219,213.00
Industrial	511,000.00
Personal Property	5,480,068.00
Exempt Property	13,108,400.00
New Growth	79,778.00
Tax Rate (per thousand):	\$18.76

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Tonelli, M.A.A.
Amy W. Davidson, M.A.A.
Shana Lecours
Peru Board of Assessors

**FISCAL YEAR 2019
TAX COLLECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT
TAXES COLLECTED FOR THE PERIOD OF: 7/01/18 - 6/30/19**

YEAR	REAL ESTATE \$\$	PERSONAL PROPERTY \$\$	MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE \$\$	FOREST PRODUCTS \$\$
2011	0.10			
2013			78.75	
2014			123.23	
2015			81.25	
2016	3,021.82		875.84	
2017	622.33		2,272.40	
2018	8,013.52		5,567.60	
2019	39,056.34	1,005.35	30,679.79	
2020	<u>1,551,109.37</u>	<u>77,104.04</u>	<u>85,347.15</u>	
TOTALS	1,601,823.48	78,109.39	125,026.01	0.00

CHAPTER 61 ROLL BACK TAXES

PRINCIPAL	=	0.00
INTEREST	=	
TOTAL		0.00

TOTAL TAXES COLLECTED FY20	=	\$1,804,958.88
TOTAL INTEREST COLLECTED FY20	=	\$10,908.95
TOTAL COLLECTIONS FY20		\$1,815,867.83

Respectfully submitted,
Caryn E. Wendling, CMMC, CMMT
Tax Collector/Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT 2020

Long Term Debit

LOAN	OUTSTANDING JULY 1, 2019	NEW DEBIT ISSUED	RETIREMENTS	OUTSTANDING JUNE 30, 2020	INTEREST PAID IN FY 2020
HIGHWAY GARAGE	186,926.29		4,075.63	182,850.66	7,944.34
FIRESTATION	205,992.00		9,364.00	196,628.00	6,437.25

Total interest paid on loans = \$14,381.59

The Town continues to pursue properties that are in Tax Title. Taxpayers that are in Tax Title and fail to enter into a payment agreement and keep the terms of the agreement will face foreclosure on their properties.

FY 20 Tax Title Payments Collected:

Certified	=	\$36,343.65
Treasurer's Interest	=	\$13,254.29
Total Tax Title Payments Received=		\$49,597.94

The Town acquired ownership of the following property in Fiscal Year 2020 through the foreclosure process in Land Court:

<u>Parcel Id</u>	<u>Address</u>
25-0-33	4 Hilltop Drive

Respectfully submitted,
 Caryn E. Wendling, CMMC, CMMT
 Tax Collector/Treasurer

TREASURER'S RECEIPTS 2020
Summary Report
7-1-19 ~ 6-30-20

TR CODE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
1100.19	Personal Prop Taxes 2019	\$ 1,005.35
1100.20	Personal Prop Taxes 2020	\$ 77,104.04
1200.11	Real Estate Taxes 2011	\$ 0.10
1200.16	Real Estate Taxes 2016	\$ 3,021.82
1200.17	Real Estate Taxes 2017	\$ 622.33
1200.18	Real Estate Taxes 2018	\$ 8,013.52
1200.19	Real Estate Taxes 2019	\$ 39,056.34
1200.20	Real Estate Taxes 2020	\$ 1,551,109.37
1300.13	Motor Vehicle Ex 2013	\$ 78.75
1300.14	Motor Vehicle Ex 2014	\$ 123.23
1300.15	Motor Vehicle Ex 2015	\$ 81.25
1300.16	Motor Vehicle Ex 2016	\$ 875.84
1300.17	Motor Vehicle 2017	\$ 2,272.40
1300.18	Motor Vehicle 2018	\$ 5,567.60
1300.19	Motor Vehicle 2019	\$ 30,679.79
1300.20	Motor Vehicle 2020	\$ 85,347.15
1562.00	Tax Titles	\$ 36,343.65
1604.00	State Aid to Highways	\$ 16,973.78
1800.4171	Interest on Property Tax	\$ 8,647.66
1800.4172	Interest on MVE	\$ 2,261.29
1800.4173	Interest on Tax Titles	\$ 13,254.29
1800.4180	In Lieu of Taxes	\$ 2,712.14
1800.4360	Municipal Building Rent/C	\$ 120.00
1800.4420	Town Share Building Insp	\$ 3,405.65
1800.4424	Compactor Fees/Permits	\$ 26,820.80
1800.4426	Town Share Elec/Wiring In	\$ 2,682.00
1800.4428	Town Share Smoke/Fire Dep	\$ 51.00
1800.4432	Planning Bd Fees/Permits	\$ 25.00
1800.4434	Town Share Plumbing & Gas	\$ 73.20
1800.4439	Other Licenses & Permits	\$ 150.00
1800.4541	CS State Owned Land	\$ 48,267.00
1800.4616	CS Elderly Abatements	\$ 923.00
1800.4617	Abatements - PP	\$ 83.00
1800.4620	CS SCHOOL AID CHAPTER 70	\$ 89,842.00
1800.4667	CS VETERANS BENEFITS	\$ 4,384.00
1800.4671	CS Unrestricted General Government Aid	\$ 121,272.00
1800.4695	Court Fines	\$ 131.12
1800.4731	MVE Flagging Fees	\$ 960.00
1800.4820	Interest on Savings	\$ 937.08
1800.4835	3% Withholding on Police Detail	\$ 7,452.83

TREASURER'S RECEIPTS 2020
Summary Report
7-1-19 ~ 6-30-20

1800.4836	Police Detail Cruiser Fee	\$ 17,456.25
1800.4840	Misc. Revenues	\$ 5,004.61
1800.4950	Refunds	\$ 3,018.68
3051.00	Due from Employees - Insurance	\$ 204.30
3053.00	FID.License-Police	\$ 4,830.00
4000.00	State Aid to Libraries	\$ 2,411.98
4000.01	Lib Preserv. Assessment Grant	\$ 4,200.00
4000.911	Covid Cares	\$ 37,775.00
4004.00	Policing Gift	\$ 750.00
4006.02	Insurance Repl Damaged Prop	\$ 33,170.25
4007.00	Fire Dept. Grant	\$ 1,962.39
4008.00	C.O.A. Formula Grant	\$ 1,124.92
4009.00	Peru Recycling Grant Small Scale 2016	\$ 500.00
4012.00	Elections - State	\$ 415.50
42010.00	Taxes	\$ 70,620.88
42020.00	Retirement	\$ 19,764.79
42030.00	Deferred Comp	\$ 17,593.46
42040.00	Insurance	\$ 25,757.82
5000.01	Health Insp REV 53 E 1/2	\$ 4,700.00
5000.02	Bldg.Insp. REV 53 E 1/2	\$ 30,650.82
5000.03	Elect.Insp. REV 53 E 1/2	\$ 24,138.00
5000.04	Gas & Plumb Insp REV 53 E	\$ 658.80
5000.05	Fire Insp REV 53 E 1/2	\$ 459.00
5000.07	TAX TITLE COLLECTION REVOLVING	\$ 660.31
5000.08	250 CELEBRATION REVOLVING	\$ 12,508.59
5001.00	Tax Coll's Fees	\$ 2,065.00
5001.01	Town Clerk's Fees	\$ 428.25
5003.00	Deputy Collector's Fees	\$ 2,110.00
5004.00	Police Detail	\$ 92,300.81
600020.00	Stabilization Fund	\$ 1,651.97
600022.00	Partridgefld Plygrnd Trst	\$ 52.58
600024.00	Cemetery Trust Acct.	\$ 8.30
600026.00	Sunrise Solar Escrow Trust	\$ 78,487.90
7000.02	Dog Lic Rsrvd for Library	\$ 1,231.75
7000.03	Municipality Rides Disbursement	\$ 2.00
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 2,691,406.28

Town of Peru

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Financial Statement Report

Balance Sheet General Accounts Assets

Balance Sheet General Account Liabilities

Balance Sheet Trust Fund Accounts

Balance Sheet Debt Balance Accounts

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT
07/01/19 - 06/30/20

<u>Account</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>				
<u>Number Description</u>	<u>Carry Fwd</u>	<u>Orig Approp</u>	<u>Amended</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>% Exp</u>
10111.00 Legal Expense		10,000.00		10,718.83	(718.83)	107.19%
10122.00 Town Administrator		20,400.00		20,400.00	-	100.00%
10122.01 Selectmen's Salary		10,413.00		10,413.00	-	100.00%
10122.02 Selectmen & Other Expense		2,500.00		2,500.00	-	100.00%
10122.06 Administrative Comp		8,204.00		7,000.50	1,203.50	85.33%
10123.00 Continuing Education		6,530.00		4,103.35	2,426.65	62.84%
10124.00 Computer Maintenance System		17,500.00		16,607.84	892.16	94.90%
10124.02 New town Website		3,500.00		3,464.50	35.50	98.99%
10135.00 Accounting Officer's Salary		9,469.00		9,469.00	-	100.00%
10135.01 Town Auditor's Salary		1.00		-	1.00	0.00%
10135.02 Town Audit	2543.75			2,293.75	250.00	90.17%
10141.00 Assessor's Salary		10,413.00		10,413.00	-	100.00%
10141.01 Assessor's Expense		1,000.00		504.83	495.17	50.48%
10141.02 Assistant Assessor's Wages		19,278.00		19,278.00	-	100.00%
10141.04 Tax Map Maintenance	4389.50	1,500.00		2,135.00	3,754.50	36.25%
10141.12 Assessor's Annual Computer Support	6100.00	4,500.00		480.00	10,120.00	4.53%
10141.20 Assessor's Software	6800.00			6,400.00	400.00	94.12%
10145.00 Treasurer's Salary		9,469.00		9,469.00	-	100.00%
10145.02 Treasurer/Accountant Expenses		1,500.00		1,499.95	0.05	100.00%
10145.03 Bank Service Charges		100.00		14.14	85.86	14.14%
10145.04 Treasurer's Tax Title Exp		9,000.00		4,462.55	4,537.45	49.58%
10145.05 Treas/Acct Annual Computer Support		10,924.00		10,924.00	-	100.00%
10145.08 Integrated Accountant's Software	3,025.04			9,469.00	3,025.04	0.00%
10146.00 Tax Collector's Salary		9,469.00		9,469.00	-	100.00%
10146.01 Tax Collector's Expense		1,500.00		345.16	1,154.84	23.01%
10146.02 Tax Taking Charges		1,500.00		-	1,500.00	0.00%
10146.05 Tax Coll's Annual Computer Support		8,941.00		8,941.00	-	100.00%
10161.00 Town Clerk's Salary		8,078.00		8,078.00	-	100.00%
10161.01 Town Clerk's Expenses		2,200.00		1,239.57	960.43	56.34%
10161.02 Assistant Town Clerk's Salary		2,484.00		437.88	2,046.12	17.63%
10161.03 Election & Bd of Registrars Comp		4,850.00		3,269.70	1,580.30	67.42%
10171.00 Conservation Comm Expenses		400.00		400.00	-	100.00%
10172.00 BC Regional Planning Commission		674.86		674.86	-	100.00%
10173.00 Board of Appeals Expense		100.00			100.00	0.00%
10175.00 Officers' Mileage		2,000.00		957.75	1,042.25	47.89%
10175.01 U.S. Postal Expense		3,000.00		1,493.24	1,506.76	49.77%
10175.02 Office Supplies		2,500.00		1,163.94	1,336.06	46.56%
20212.00 Police Expense		4,150.00		8,465.11	(4,315.11)	203.98%
20212.02 Police Wages		40,056.00		32,480.95	7,575.05	81.09%
20212.04 Police Cruiser Maintenance		3,400.00		3,330.32	69.68	97.95%
20212.06 Police Vests & Pager			2,000.00	2,000.00	-	100.00%
20212.08 Police Chief Salary		31,824.00		26,316.00	5,508.00	82.69%
20217.00 Internet Communication Lines		9,000.00		3,650.77	5,349.23	40.56%
20218.00 911 Communication Service		10,172.19		10,172.19	-	100.00%
20220.00 Fire Warden's Salary		870.00		870.00	-	100.00%
20222.00 Peru Volunteer Firemen's Assoc	1,938.90	20,000.00		18,088.61	3,850.29	82.45%
20222.01 Fire Chief's Salary		1,178.00		1,178.00	-	100.00%
20222.02 Fire Station Mort Pymt		15,801.25		15,801.25	-	100.00%
20222.04 Firemen's Assoc Bldg Maintenance		1,500.00		1,314.35	185.65	87.62%
20222.05 Forest Fire Fighting Equipment			4,000.00	3,924.78	75.22	98.12%
20222.06 Fire Truck			80,000.00	76,400.00	3,600.00	95.50%
20222.11 Peru Vol Firemen's Insurance		7,000.00		6,399.00	601.00	91.41%
20224.00 Hinsdale Ambulance		2,000.00		2,000.00	-	100.00%
20226.00 Inspector of Animals Salary		870.00		870.00	-	100.00%
20292.00 Animal Control Officer's Salary		1,749.00		1,749.00	-	100.00%

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT
07/01/19 - 06/30/20

Account Number Description	FY 2019 Carry Fwd	FY 2020 Orig Approp	Amended	Expended	Balance	% Exp
20293.00 Animal Control Officer's Expense		1,000.00		892.01	107.99	89.20%
30000.01 CBRSD Operating Expense		854,636.00		854,636.00	-	100.00%
30000.02 CBRSD Capital Expense		14,389.00		14,389.00	-	100.00%
30000.04 Vocational School Tuition		180,000.00		126,453.78	53,546.22	70.25%
30000.05 Vocational School Transportation		34,710.00		24,294.06	10,415.94	69.99%
30610.00 Pens Library		5,340.00	1,500.00	6,840.00	-	100.00%
30610.02 Library Director's Salary		5,240.00		5,240.00	-	100.00%
40100.00 Road Superintendent's Salary		61,200.00		61,200.00	-	100.00%
40103.00 Highway Employees' Wages		83,000.00		83,616.14	(616.14)	100.74%
40103.05 Temporary Summer Help		5,000.00		5,000.00	-	100.00%
40105.00 Highway Employee Uniforms		3,700.00		2,818.84	881.16	76.18%
40200.00 Maint. Hard Surface Roads		28,000.00		27,990.15	9.85	99.96%
40204.00 Material Gravel Roads		20,000.00		19,893.26	106.74	99.47%
40206.00 Road Machinery Maintenance		20,580.00		20,577.98	2.02	99.99%
40208.00 Gas & Fuel		27,630.00		27,088.88	541.12	98.04%
40210.00 Town H & B (Gravel Roads)		16,750.00		16,710.87	39.13	99.77%
40212.02 Highway Garage Mortgage Payment		12,020.00		12,020.00	-	100.00%
40213.00 Highway Truck			45,000.00	45,000.00	-	100.00%
40213.25 Future Equip. & Vehicle Purchase	1,050.43	10,000.00	(7,000.00)		4,050.43	0.00%
40213.40 Transfer Station Blacktop			35,000.00	35,000.00	-	100.00%
40214.00 Tree Removal		20,000.00		13,200.00	6,800.00	66.00%
40423.00 Snow Roads,Public		80,000.00		80,025.11	(25.11)	100.03%
40424.00 Snow Roads,Private		500.00		500.00	-	100.00%
40500.00 Compactor		33,000.00		32,058.05	941.95	97.15%
40504.00 Compactor Attendant		6,084.00		6,163.70	(79.70)	101.31%
40502.00 Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Mgt		2,471.41		2,426.33	45.08	98.18%
40503.00 Health Dept Expenses		10,337.00		7,876.55	2,460.45	76.20%
50300.00 Council on Aging		400.00		228.14	171.86	57.04%
50302.00 Elderly Outreach Program		525.00		209.34	315.66	39.87%
50303.00 Council on Aging Director Salary		590.00		393.28	196.72	66.66%
50700.00 Cemetery Sexton		306.00		306.00	-	100.00%
50700.01 Cemeteries		200.00		498.74	(298.74)	249.37%
50900.00 Veterans Agent's Salary		2,250.00			2,250.00	0.00%
50902.00 Veteran's Service		10,000.00		4,870.20	5,129.80	48.70%
60002.04 Town Building Maintenance	4,500.38	16,000.00		10,402.30	10,097.98	50.74%
60002.05 Utilities - Electric		12,500.00		11,360.35	1,139.65	90.88%
60002.06 Utilities - Heating		16,500.00		9,825.77	6,674.23	59.55%
60002.07 Utilities - Telephone		1,500.00		1,494.96	5.04	99.66%
60002.40 Town Hall Cleaning		2,160.00		1,341.45	818.55	62.10%
60004.10 Town Green, Park, Cemeteries mowing		6,000.00		6,000.00	-	100.00%
60006.00 Partridgefield Playground		1,500.00		1,500.00	-	100.00%
70750.00 Interest on Loans		1,000.00			1,000.00	0.00%
90206.00 Town Insurance - ALL		44,000.00		32,000.00	12,000.00	72.73%
90208.00 Town Report Expense		2,000.00		1,487.62	512.38	74.38%
90912.00 BC Retirement Assessment		39,389.00		39,389.00	-	100.00%
90913.00 Mass Unemployment Ins /DUA		600.00		462.32	137.68	77.05%
90915.00 Medicare Town Share		6,500.00		7,574.80	(1,074.80)	116.54%
90919.00 Health Insurance		145,629.12		97,717.66	47,911.46	67.10%
95781.00 Reserve Fund		10,000.00			10,000.00	0.00%
Total	30,347.99	2,208,604.83	160,500.00	2,163,604.31	236,448.42	

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Osborn, Accountant
Sharon Greule, Accountant

Balance Sheet General Accounts Assets
7-1-2019 ~ 6-30-2020

ASSETS

Cash			
General Cash Checking	513,449.57		
Petty Cash - Tax Collector	50.00		
Petty Cash - Town Clerk	50.00		
	Total for Cash		513,549.57
Personal Property Taxes			
Personal Prop Taxes Prior Years (1995-2014)	548.12		
Personal Prop Taxes 2020	24,848.17		
	Total for Personal Prop Taxes		25,396.29
Real Estate Taxes			
Real Estate Taxes Prior Years	31,612.78		
Real Estate Taxes 2000-2010	72,428.83		
Real Estate Taxes 2011	8,308.13		
Real Estate Taxes 2012	7,277.25		
Real Estate Taxes 2013	7,176.02		
Real Estate Taxes 2014	10,196.19		
Real Estate Taxes 2015	8,772.41		
Real Estate Taxes 2016	9,323.48		
Real Estate Taxes 2017	7,466.85		
Real Estate Taxes 2018	12,519.15		
Real Estate Taxes 2019	53,301.45		
Real Estate Taxes 2020	120,712.42		
	Total for Real Estate Taxes		349,094.96
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes			
Motor Vehicle Ex Prior Years	2,373.01		
Motor Vehicle Ex 2002-2010	5,383.94		
Motor Vehicle Ex 2011	145.94		
Motor Vehicle Ex 2012	1,168.54		
Motor Vehicle Ex 2013	1,714.06		
Motor Vehicle Ex 2014	1,080.01		
Motor Vehicle Ex 2015	260.51		
Motor Vehicle Ex 2016	1,255.94		
Motor Vehicle Ex 2017	1,725.44		
Motor Vehicle Ex 2018	6,826.30		
Motor Vehicle Ex 2019	16,411.51		
Motor Vehicle Ex 2020	24,383.93		
	Total for Motor Vehicle Ex Taxes		62,729.13
Tax Title & Possessions			
Tax Titles	176,329.37		
Tax Possesions (Foreclosures)	68,569.06		
	Total for Tax Titles & Possessions		244,898.43
Accounts Receivable			
State Aid to Highways	145,744.57		145,744.57
Estimated Receipts			
Loans Authorized	201,620.00		201,620.00
Grants Receivable			
MIIA Grant	1,650.00		
250th Year Celebration Grant	11,318.00		
Mohawk Trails Grant	19,901.42		
	Total for Grants Receivable		32,869.42
Appropriations Receivable (raised on recap)			
Legal	718.83		
Police	4,315.11		
Highway Wages	616.14		

Compactor Attendant	79.70	
Cemeteries	298.74	
Medicare	1,074.80	
Dog Lic Reserved for Library	268.25	
Snow Roads	25.11	
Total for Appropriations Receivable		7,396.68
	TOTAL ASSETS	1,583,299.05

Balance Sheet General Account Liabilities
7-1-2019 ~ 6-30-2020

LIABILITIES

Revenue			
Revenue 2021		3,671.00	75,671.00
Agency			
FID. License - Police		6,967.50	6,967.50
Revolving & Gifts			
State Aid to Libraries		4,624.34	
Library Preservation Assessment Grant		4,200.00	
COVID CARES Funding		35,258.00	
Policing Gift		274.85	
COA Gift		20.00	
COA Formula Grant		6,000.00	
Berk Reg Planning Comm		500.00	
Fire Dept Grant		1,962.39	
Peru Recycling Grant Small Scale		1,000.00	
Bldg Insp Supply Expense		1,202.59	
Fire Inspection Fees 53E 1/2		2.00	
Tax Title Collection Revolving 60:1		850.40	
250 Year Celebration Rev 44:53 I		5,544.03	
Tax Collector's Fees		1,370.00	
Town Clerk's Fees		20.00	
Conservation Wetland Fees		216.11	
Deputy Collector's Fees		546.00	
Police Detail		58.20	
Insurance Replace Damaged Property		33,170.25	
Chapter 90 Highway		150,598.27	
	Total for Revolving & Gifts		247,417.43
Revolving			
Loans Authorized Unissued		201,620.00	201,620.00
Receipts Reserved for Appropriation	Total for Revolving		
Dog Lic Reserved for Library		1,500.00	
Road Machinery Earnings		4,208.00	
Municipality Rides Disbursement		14.60	
	Total for Receipts Reserved for Appropriation		5,722.60
Overlays Reserved for Abatements			
Rsrvd for Overlay		70,977.50	70,977.50
Revenue Reserved Until Collection			
Tax Title & Possession Rev.		176,329.09	
Tax Poss. (Foreclosures) Revenue		68,569.06	
Motor Vehicle Excise Rev.		62,729.13	
Reserve for Petty Cash		100.00	
	Total for Revenue Resv'd until Collected		307,727.28
Surplus Revenue			
Surplus Revenue		643,904.70	
	Total for Surplus Revenue		643,904.70
Appropriations Balances			

Balance Sheet General Account Liabilities

7-1-2019 ~ 6-30-2020

Assessor's Annual Computer Support	6,100.00	
Assessor's Software	80.00	
Integrated Accounting Software	3,025.04	
Tax Collector's Expense	73.80	
Future Equipment & Vehicle Purchase	4,050.43	
Tree Removal	6,800.00	
Health Department Expenses	1,922.00	
Highway Uniforms	659.77	
MRV Non-renewal Underestimate	580.00	
Total for Appropriation Balances	23,291.04	23,291.04
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,583,299.05

* * * * *

Balance Sheet Trust Fund Accounts

Trust Funds

Trust Cash	406,748.22	
Stabilization Fund		306,617.58
Partridgefield Playground Fund		19,940.48
Cemetery Trust Fund		1,702.26
Sunrise Solar Escrow Trust		78,487.90
Total for Trust Funds	406,748.22	406,748.22

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Balance Sheet Debt Balance Accounts

Long Term Debt

Highway Garage Mortgage	182,850.66	
Fire Station Mortgage	196,628.02	
Net Funded/Fixed Debt		379,478.68
Total for Long Term Debt	379,478.68	379,478.68

* * * * *

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Osborn, Accountant

ANIMAL INSPECTOR REPORT 2020

Cattle	= 17	Goats	= 24	Sheep	= 11
Swine	= 13	Llamas	= 6	Equine	= 34
Chickens	= 248	Turkeys	= 18	Ratites	= 0
Water Fowl	= 36	Game Birds	= 0	Rabbits	= 2

I would like to thank all of the barn owners for there time.

Respectfully submitted,

Verne Leach
Animal Inspector

2020 ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT

Calls:

6 Barking Dogs
1 Dog Bite
4 Wild Animal Related Calls
4 Loose Dogs
1 Cat Bite
2 Dogs Hit by Cars
3 Conference Calls

State Required Recertification Courses:

CE Certificate Feline Toxicities
CE Certificate Means Multivitamins
CE Certificate Opioids June 7
CE Certificate Serotonin Syndrome
CE Certificate Waratuke Lipids
CE Certificate Command Holiday Toxins
CE Certificate Updates on Rodenticides

Assisted 3 Residents To Receive Spay / Neuter Vouchers Through The Massachusetts Animal Fund.

I Receive A Certificate for Basic Animal Rescue Training Through The BART Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Verne Leach
Animal Control Officer

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Here at the Highway Department we started off the summer season by making much needed repairs to East Main Rd and West Main Road. We rented a skid steer with an asphalt milling attachment. This machine was able to mill out many of the bad areas of the road to allow us to saw cut the edges and make nice repairs to the areas in which we thought were the worst spots at that time. For our small crew of three, this was a lot of work and it was all done by hand. It took close to 2 months to complete all the patches in between mowing, employee vacations, taking care of the rest of the town roads and finally adding a permanent addition to our crew by the middle of July. Our department had been understaffed for 4 months leaving just my self and one other employee. We are very thankful to still have Dale Weeks to fill in and help out when needed.

All State Asphalt was back in town this year to reapply the chip seal coating on the 1 mile stretch of South Rd that had been applied the previous year. The application had failed, and they warrantied the job and repaired it at no expense to the town.

The town had once again applied for the MassWorks STRAP grant to fund the 3 mile stretch of East Windsor Rd. This stretch extends from North Rd all the way to the Windsor town line. Repairing that stretch of road would be a major accomplishment for the town and its commuters. The grant would provide 1 million dollars in funds to repair the entire 3 miles. It costs over \$300,000.00 per mile to properly repair and resurface a road. We only receive \$140,000 from the state in the form of Chapter 90 funds for road repairs each year. It takes multiple years of saving Chapter 90 funds to pave 1 mile.

We had a successful refurbish of our 2008 International plow truck. The truck frame was sandblasted and painted with a zinc primer and epoxy paint coatings. After the painting work had been finished on the frame, a new stainless steel side dumb all season body was mounted on it. The original body was steel and was rotted out after 12 winters. The stainless body will last a long time.

This past winter brought challenges just like any other here in Peru. Our two crew members have very little experience if any plowing snow. One employee was on his second winter ever plowing snow and the other employee had absolutely no experience. These 2 guys did an awesome job keeping up with the demands of the job and the road conditions. Besides blowing and drifting snow, we also had a few serious ice events. Trees and wires were starting to look like the ice storm of 2008. Luckily the precipitation started to fade off and the temperatures came up just enough to start melting the ice. With all the bad weather we had we ended the season with a level funded budget.

By the end of winter, Covid 19 broke out across the country. By the middle of March schools were closed, businesses sent workers home to work remotely, medical facilities were starting to become stretched to the max, food and everyday products were starting to become very hard to get because of the massive influx of demand and the dwindling supply and Town Halls across the State were closed to the public. We all had to learn new ways to be safe and still be able to work together.

This was at times very challenging especially in a highway garage. The biggest recommendation for the CDC was 6 foot of distance and wear a mask. That's a pretty difficult thing to do when it takes more than one person to change heavy parts on plow trucks and equipment. Not to mention how flammable a mask is while using a torch or while welding. MassDOT and most municipalities instituted a policy of 1 person per vehicle. That was not something we could do when there is only 1 truck for 2 employees to ride in to be out on the road working. The larger municipalities began staggering shifts to reduce how many people were in the building at a time. With a small crew to take care of the entire town, we could not follow every guideline that was recommended to us. That being said, I want to thank my 2 crew members for continuing to do their jobs and will continue to do their jobs throughout this pandemic. We are here for the residents of Peru.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Russell~ Highway Superintendent

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance committee had a difficult year with the Covid Pandemic and a new Wahconah. We really tried to keep the overall budget level funded, without knowing what was going to happen to the state funding during this crisis. I would like to thank the Finance committee and all of the town officials for all the help and guidance that everyone has given me as the new chairman. I have a long way to go and I have big shoes to fill. A big thank you was given to George Gruele for his 30 years of service on the finance committee. He was given a plaque at our annual town meeting at the end of June 2020 as a token of our appreciation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jesse Pelkey ~ Chairman
George Greule ~ Recording Secretary
Members:
Samuel P. Haupt
Darryl Darby
Allan B. Gordon

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

www.nbswmd.com

For Calendar Year 2020, District Wide Data 842.97 tons of paper, glass, cans, and plastic were recycled. The Town of Peru recycled 24.42 tons of paper and 18.30 Co-mingle. District Wide Recycling Services, MSW (Trash) 2,048 tons, Demo / Bulky recycling 649-ton, Scrap Metal Recycling 290 Tons generating revenue back to the Towns \$19,053. Congratulations to all the member Towns residents for increasing your recycling from last calendar year. The Textile Recovery recycling program District wide had an increase as well and collected 79,425pounds of textiles. Thank you for keeping from the waste stream and donating. The town's Transfer Station again this year rated Excellent in your MassDEP Third Party inspection. Congratulations to Transfer Station Attendants and town officials!

The District contracted with Clean Harbors Environmental for a one-day Hazardous Waste Collection that was held on August 22, 2020, at the Adams DPW Yard. This location is central to the residents of thirteen member towns and we appreciate the Town of Adams for allowing NBSWMD the use of the property for that day. Residents from every member town—155 households and several Town Departments in all—took advantage of the opportunity to dispose of Hazardous Chemicals in a safe way. The cost for this one-day event was \$10,150; Peace of mind for residents—Priceless! Thank you to Town of Adams Commissioner Edward Driscoll, Commissioner of Clarksburg Carl McKinney, Commonwealth Community Service program and Adams Police Department for help at our much-needed collection. The NBSWMD has changed the paint collection program to mainstream the collection and maximize our dollars. Oil-based paint is collected at the Comprehensive Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Latex Paint is no longer accepted as it is not a hazardous material. We continue to educate of residents on drying latex and proper disposal or donating if the product is usable. Next Our HHW collection will be held April 24, 2021, Town of Adams DPW yard. Please view under www.nbswmd.com, Under Special Collections.

The district has six Universal Waste Product Sheds for district member towns to utilize, funded throughout the years by Mass DEP. The cost of recycling is allocated from the district's yearly budget. This program has increased with the amount of collections and there are sheds at the Adams, Cheshire, Hinsdale, Peru, Windsor, and Williamstown transfer stations. Next Level for Recycling Inc. (NLR) is the designated facility for the district's recycling of Universal Waste products. To stay in compliance with Mass DEP all sheds must be cleaned and packed for shipping on a yearly basis. Each town generates a Waste Manifest which is filed in the district office. Thanks again to all who make this program a success. This program is also maintained by each town's transfer/recycling center attendants; thank you. The district recycled 917 LBS. Of various size Fluorescent lamps, 1088 LBS Mixed batteries, 503 LBS Non-PCB Contaminated Ballasts, 2 5 Gallon Containers of Mercury Devices (such as Thermostats and Thermometers) at a cost of \$4,655. We continue with outreach and education in assisting our communities in converting their households and Businesses to LED lighting. Please check with your local Community Action Council or Mass Save program. Your Utility Company can assist with this information regarding Energy Audits.

The district, with town volunteers, held annual Bulky and Electronic waste collection days in Adams, Clarksburg, and Lanesborough. The special collection events are open to all residents of the thirteen member towns. Total material collected at Adams: 14,230 pounds of electronics, 7.05 tons of scrap metal, and 5.61 tons of furniture, etc. Total collected at Lanesborough: 6120 pounds of electronics, 1.99 tons of scrap metal, and 1.51 tons of furniture, etc. Total collected at Clarksburg: 3600 pounds of electronics, 2.56 tons of scrap metal and 1.51 tons of furniture, etc. Thanks to our volunteers: Joe Szczepaniak, Paul Howcroft, Selectman Bush, Clarksburg, and Lanesborough DPWs. The district had 3 extraordinarily successful Bulky Waste Collection events. The schedule for 2021 can be found on our website (under special

collections) and flyers will be available at the transfer stations as soon as dates are finalized. These collections are held in the months of June, September, and October.

The district April 11, 2020 offered with Pro Shred, paper shredding event; held at the Town Hall in Lanesborough. There was no cost for residents to utilize this collection, we generated 4,8000 PDS of shredded paper. The collection promotes recycling and helps combat identify theft. Many Towns residents had the opportunity to safely shred paper Documents.

Please view our website for events and information/resources on recycling programs.

- Kickoff to Earth Day/Month
- Saturday April 24, 2021 Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Town of Adams DPW yard
- Saturday, May 8, Town of Williamstown Transfer Station Shred Fest Paper. Pro-shred
- The district has been in discussion Williams College Environmental Studies conducted a comprehensive study on a Pilot Project to promote Food Waste reduction. The 2 Models will offer curb side and drop off at the Transfer Station. With possible support from the Cool Committee and Casella Waste systems INC we hope to offer this in the upcoming year. Then introduce to all Member Towns in the District.
- July 2021 kicks off Town of Hinsdale TS promoting our subsidized Earth Machine Program (home composting units) Diverting food waste into Compost.
- More collections will be offered, www.nbswmd.com under special collections.

This year NBSWMD Program Coordinator Linda Cernik filed grant applications and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection awarded “Small Initiative Grants” of \$500.00 to 3 towns in the district and \$1500.00 to NBSWMD. The Commissioners voted to pool the grants for a shared purchase of 100 (80) Gallon Earth Machines (home composting units), various outreach materials, and to organize special collection events by the community and schools and hold Community Paper Shredding days and HHW collection events. The approved shared purchase will be a benefit to all the member towns and residents. There were ten towns in the district that received Mass DEP Recycling Dividends Program. Each of the member towns contributed \$500.00, with NBSWMD contribution of \$1500.00 for shared purchase.

The Towns of Adams, Cheshire, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Williamstown, Windsor, and Savoy were again recognized and awarded funds under the Mass. DEP Recycling Dividends Program. The district is proud to announce two newcomers receiving Recycling Dividends Program: towns of Monroe \$2800 and Peru \$3150 This program awards points for achievement. Awards for the district member towns: Adams \$5950, Cheshire \$4,550, Florida \$3500, Hancock \$3500, Hinsdale \$4,900, Savoy \$4550, Williamstown \$4900, and Windsor \$4550. Towns of Clarksburg, Lanesborough, New Ashford, and were awarded Small Scales Awards of \$500 and NBSWMD \$1,500 Total grants dollars awarded to NBSWMD: \$45,350 District wide. This is an increase of 30% from last year’s grant awards. Congratulations, we did it as a team, thank you! The funds are reinvested to promote recycling education, new equipment, or projects. All the towns increased their RDP Grant Awards from last calendar year. My goal is to help all the towns achieve RDP Grant awards. Each year the criteria to achieve RDP Awards requires additional data and recycling requirements. This coming Grant cycle all towns must certify that their school system is contracted with a hauling company which provided recycling. This data was captured in our Solid Waste and recycling data surveys submitted January 2021 for all 13 member towns.

The waste stream continues to evolve, and our programs will continue to evolve as well. Our efforts in the coming year will be aimed at expanding locations for collecting textiles; Compost Distribution Program; Pilot Program with Williams College. Creation of new CHARM Center; Waste reduction; keeping

cost down, Kickoff to Earth Day/Month; HHW Collection April 24, 2021; and Community paper Shred Fest scheduled May 8, 2021, expanding our “Green Team” collaboration with our district’s Local Schools, Outreach and Education.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Shawn Wright and Amy Broderick and Connor Doherty, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Trial Court, Office of Community Corrections. Over 168 hours of volunteer time were given to the member towns in the district. Your help—with HHW events, packing our Universal Waste Sheds, helping with special events, packing the boxes for pickup, organizing the Town of Hinsdale’s Swap Shop monthly cleaning; and organizing the Town of Williamstown’s Book Shed—is greatly appreciated. There are so many benefits from the sheds at the transfer stations. Many treasures can be found. Thank you all for a great year and partnership. We look forward to working with you in 2021!

To the residents of the member towns: Thank you for your continued support in recycling and waste reduction. Your dedication is what makes the Northern Berkshire community a beautiful place to call home! Stop by your town’s Swap Shop located TS Hinsdale, Savoy, and Windsor; there are treasures to be found!

Thank you all for a Great Year with challenging Times we stuck together to make it all possible. The District Thanks all Board of Commissioners, Transfer Station/Recycling Attendants, Contracted Haulers Casella Waste Systems INC, Sayers Scrap Recycling, Bob’s Tires, Next Level Recycling, Clean Harbors Environmental, and our Textile Recycling collections Vendors.

Reuse~ Recycle~ Rethink~ Donate and Recycle whenever Possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cernik, NBSWMD Program Coordinator
NBSWMD Board of Commissioners

PERU LIBRARY, INC.

Peru Library, Inc., 7/1/2019 – 6/30/2020

Receipts Town Appropriation

Library Operations	5340
Dog License Fees	1500
Director Salary	5240
State Aid	2412
Total Receipts	13,492

Expenses

Patron Services:	Books	1012
	Video / DVDs	1512
	Periodicals	160
	Other Supplies	263
	Internet	997
Director Salary		5240
State Aid		1000
Utilities		1915
Insurance		750
Supplies & Maintenance		800
Total Expenses:		\$13,649*

* Shortfall funded by accrued State Aid

Circulation: Items borrowed **2,417**, including **668** books, **1,669** DVDs, **102** interlibrary loans. Events: **19**, with **105** participants. Total Attendance: **1,156**. Please note, all circulation numbers showed steep drops due to required covid-19 restrictions.

Items available for loan: 7,201, including **4423** books and **2471** DVDs. Registered borrowers: **386**.

Our thanks, as always, to town residents for their support of the library's operating budget. Here are updates on additional and capital projects at the library in FY2020 and FY2021.

Projects and Grants, FY2020:

- Preservation Assessment. As groundwork for a Local History Area, the Preservation Assessment provides clear directions on preserving historic resources at the library to make them user-friendly.

Funding: \$4200 Preservation Assessment grant from Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

This project will help the library contribute to Peru's 250th Anniversary, postponed to summer 2022.

- Space Planning Project. The library's second major space planning project included:
 1. New dedicated computer room
 2. secure space for Local History Area
 3. new shelving for adult books and DVDs
 4. custom picture-book shelves for children
 5. French door to front hall
 6. new incinerator toilet

Funding: 2019 grant from Central Berkshire Fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, \$2439.

Matching funds provided by two generous donors and in-kind donations of skilled labor.

- Facility Conditions Assessment: 2019 FCA found that our building dates to the 1910's, and that costs to repair it exceed the assessed value. The structure was long thought to be the original 1780's meeting house for colonial-era Partridgefield. Research is ongoing to fund a new building or location.

Projects and Grants, FY2021:

- MBLC Protecting Priority Collections grant: Application in progress for Local History Area: \$5200.
- Children's Service and On-Line Catalog: A planned grant application in Oct. '21 would add after-school hours for a trial period, buy new children's books, and start an on-line catalog for all patrons.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Calaycay, Director

Board of Trustees: Kathy Borden (Chair), Sharon Greule, Dawn Warner

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

To the Honorable Selectboard:

The Peru Board of Health strives to provide high quality services to the Town of Peru. Health inspection functions in Peru are mandated by State laws and regulations and local Board of Health Regulations, with additional priorities set by the Board of Health and Selectboard. While Health Departments across the country are regionalized on a county or state level, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts leaves it up to each city/town to provide their own health services. In a small town like Peru the Board of Health has to be ready to address a wide variety of questions and issues. To meet this need, the Town of Peru has contracted with the Berkshire Public Health Alliance who provides a Registered Sanitarian and Public Health Nurse to provide professional services to the board and conduct many of the necessary functions. This year activities in Peru included: 10 percolation tests, 13 Title 5 inspections, and 7 new septic system installations and issued 1 well permit.

The Board of Health has oversight of the following issues: Beaver Nuisances * Public Nuisances * Demolition Inspections * General Complaints * Private Wells * Public/Semi-public Pools * Flu Clinics* Public Beaches * Food Establishments * Septage Haulers * Garbage Haulers * Recreational Camps for Children * Septic System Review and Inspections* Housing Complaints and Inspections* Temporary Food Events * Monitoring Infectious Diseases. In 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic broadened the duties of the Board of Health. The role of the public health nurse included the reporting cases of contagious diseases and contact tracing. The board spent time gaining and disseminating information about COVID-19 to other town officials and residents. The current Sanitarian/Health Inspector is Edward Fahey who can be reached at inspectors@berkshireplanning.org. The Sanitarian/Inspector holds office hours by appointment during most of the year. Contact information can also be found on the town website at www.townofperuma.com/boardofhealth for residents who would like to request inspection, ask questions or file a complaint or inquire about COVID-19 and other public health related issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanette Mone, Chair

Peggy White

Darryl Darby

PERU POLICE DEPARTMENT

3 East Main Road

BOX 106

Peru, MA 01235

Emergency "911" • Dispatch (413) 442-0512 • Office (413) 655-8377

The Peru Police Department would like to thank residents of Peru and the Board of Selectmen for their continued support. Fiscal year 2020 was challenging due to a national pandemic and a great deal of civil unrest throughout our nation. In April of 2020, Chief Jeff Henault retired and relocated with his wife to a warmer climate after serving the Town of Peru for seven years. We wish Chief Henault the best of luck in his future endeavors and a long and healthy retirement. Our department has also seen the departure of Officer Robert Horne as he accepted a full time position with the Pittsfield Police Department. We wish Officer Horne success and thank him for his service to the Town of Peru.

The Department answered 472 calls for service during fiscal year 2020 and made 162 traffic stops resulting in 58 citations. We provided mutual aid to surrounding communities and have worked jointly with several Police Departments in Berkshire and Hampshire Counties as well as the Massachusetts State Police and New York State Police.

All members of our department completed 40 hours of mandatory in-service training as required by the Massachusetts Police Training Committee. The training included CPR and first aid recertification, legal updates, police interactions with youth, defensive tactics, and firearms training. Multiple members of the department completed additional training related to domestic and sexual assault, EVOC, and Breath Test Operator recertification.

The Covid pandemic made interacting with the public more challenging, but our department continued providing service to the community. Due to the closure of the Peru Town Hall to the public we have processed LTC and FID requests by mail and conducted in person appointments as necessary for fingerprinting. While many police departments suspended the processing of LTC and FID requests during the Covid pandemic, we modified our procedures to continue serving the residents of Peru.

When the Town Hall is open to the public again our office hours will be by appointment on Monday evenings from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. If you are unable to schedule an appointment during those hours, please call our non-emergency number 413-655-8377 to make other arrangements with an on-call officer.

In closing, it our sincere pleasure to continue serving the residents of Peru and we are thankful for the cooperation and support of the Board of Selectmen.

The following is a breakdown of our 472 calls for service for fiscal year 2020:

Abandoned Vehicles (5)
Accidents (4)
Alarms (8)
Animal (15)
Assist (7)
Attempt to locate (2)
Arson (0)
Breaking & Entering (2)
BOLO (2)
Child Custody (1)
Civil (3)
Court (15)
DCF (7)
Disturbance (4)
Domestic Violence (6)
Disable Vehicle (3)
Fire Dept. Assist (4)
Fireworks (2)
Follow up (4)
Found Property (2)

Fraud (6)
Harassment (4)
Hit and Run (1)
House Check (3)
Illegal Dumping (2)
Improper Firearm Storage (1)
Information (6)
Interviews (4)
Larceny/over (2)
Lockout (1)
Medical (13)
Meeting (12)
Mental/Health (2)
MVA (5)
MVAD (1)
MVV (1)
Noise Complaint (1)
Parking Complaint (1)
Possession/weapon (1)
Prevention/ abuse Order (3)

Polls Election (7)
Possible Scam (1)
Property returned (3)
Restraining Order (1)
Road Complaint (4)
Runaway (2)
Shots Fired (4)
Sex Offender Registration (3)
Speeding Complaint (5)
Stolen property (1)
Summons (4)
Suspicious Activity (6)
Suspicious Person (1)
Suspicious Vehicle (7)
Theft (2)
Transport (1)
Traffic Detail Requests (153)
Tree in Road (5)

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce W. Cullett
Chief of Police

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Historical Commission has been meeting since 2016. The current membership includes Jim Kenney (Chair), Susan Masino, Richard Burke, Ed Munch and Sara Adams. The Commission members are now holding monthly meetings by Zoom Meeting. Despite the challenges presented by a global pandemic, accomplishments during 2020 include:

Creation of a Mission Statement which can be viewed on the town webpage

While the global pandemic has caused the Sestercentennial celebration to be pushed out of 2021, the town's 250th year, it hasn't slowed some of the activities. The preparation of the Sestercentennial Book remains on-going which will incorporate both the Bicentennial book and the 1995 update. Anyone interested in contributing historical topics, vintage photographs or interesting town stories to the book is invited to contact any member of the Historical Commission.

Additionally, the Historical Commission members, working closely with the Board of Selectmen, has designed a new town logo, which will replace the Town Seal. Pewter Commemorative Medallions have been created and are available for purchase.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Kenney, Chair,
Peru Historical Commission

COUNCIL ON AGING

Hello to all. The Council on Aging has been at a standstill due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to have events opened up soon for all seniors to be able to participate in and to have some enjoyable time, as well as educational programs to do together. As the new director of the Peru Council on Aging, I will be working with the Board of Health, neighboring towns' Council on Aging as well as the state to develop new programs and to provide information for your needs. I welcome any ideas for programs or suggestions for various events of interest to you. You may call me at 413-441-4072 with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne Forgea, Director

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Report not submitted.

GAS AND PLUMBING INSPECTOR

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

A total of 6 Gas Permits were issued.

A total of 1 Plumbing Permits were issued.

Propane Tanks

1 - 500 gallon

2 - 120 gallon

1 - 100 gallon

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Martin, Plumbing and Gas Inspector

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Town of Peru Conservation Commission acted on the following applications under the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations.

One Request for Amendment to Order of Conditions

One Notice of Intent Application

One Order of Conditions

One Request for Extension of Order of Conditions

One Extension of Order of Conditions

Sincerely Submitted on behalf of the Conservation Commission

Caleb Mitchell

Member Peru Conservation Commission

PLANNING BOARD & ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Through the end of calendar year 2020 the Planning Board saw a slight uptick in requests for approval of Form A subdivision plans, meaning subdivisions of land that do not invoke the Subdivision Control Law because they meet the standard frontage and area requirements of the Zoning By-Law for the development of primarily single-family homes. This is a positive sign that Peru will see growth related to an influx of new residents from more urban areas due to the pandemic.

I am especially pleased with the work put in by the Zoning Board of Appeals related to the granting of the Special Permit to CVE North America for the large- scale solar energy facility located on West Main Road which is online and is a significant source of PILOT funds to the Town partially offsetting the capital burden of the new Wahconah Regional High School.

Separately, the Planning Board worked diligently to advance a solar by-law for the Town which was a major component to earn qualification for the Town as a “Green Community,” thereby allowing the Town to qualify for specific grant funding and other programs advanced by the Commonwealth.

Several rumors have circulated around Peru about recreational marijuana associated development including grow or retail facilities. No specific proposal has been presented to the Town; however, any effort to do so is highly regulated and would require a Special Permit subject to site plan review among other licensing requirements. Residents should be aware that a large scale grow facility is already proposed on Bullard’s Crossing in Hinsdale. As such, other states relaxing their marijuana laws may impact the viability of future projects.

We invite any developer to make a pre-permitting planning presentation to the Town when a project is proposed to consider at a high level the potential impacts and benefits to the Town. If we have business, the Board generally meets on a designated posted evening of the month at 6:00 PM as requested for a plan review with the required statutory notice.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Haupt, Chair,
Peru Planning Board & Zoning Board of Appeals

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Peru Volunteer Fire Department responded to 52 calls over the course of the last year. Calls were as follows:

Medical	38
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2
Chimney Fire	2
CO Alarm	1
Mutual Aide for structure fire	3
Illegal Burn	3
Hazardous leak	2
Rescue/Recovery	1

Fiscal year 20 was an exciting and challenging year. As many of you know I am happy to announce that with the help of the Selectboard, Finance committee, and Fireman's association, we were able to replace our 1985 Engine 1 with a very lightly used 2002 American LaFrance pumper. This truck is a huge improvement from the 1985 and I hope to have it in service for years to come.

We were awarded a Grant through DCR to purchase new Forest fire Gear which allowed us to purchase enough new sets of helmets, gloves, Jackets and pants for the entire department.

Unfortunately with the struggles of COVID-19 we were unable to hold a golf tournament. We hope to hold our annual tournament again as soon as feasible.

Respectfully Submitted Chief Brian Dewkett

Current Roster ;

Chief- Brian Dewkett
Assistant Chief- Mike Dewkett
Captain- George Haywood
1st Lieutenant- Sam Haupt
2nd Lieutenant- Paul Drosehn
3rd Lieutenant- Jesse Pelkey

Firefighters- Vern Leach, Logan Brooks, Ed Munch, Steve Wall, Eric Magni, Heather Brooks, Carlton Brooks, Ed Taylor, Bryon Mallet

CEMETERY COMMISSION

Late in 2019 the Board of Selectmen agreed to a re-start of Peru's Cemetery Commission. Current Commission members are Jim Kenney, Chair, Irene Morrison, Gladys Wheeler and Darryl Darby, the town's Cemetery Sexton. An opening currently exists as this is a 5-member Commission

The Commission members have been meeting monthly in-person and now by Zoom Meeting. Despite the challenges presented by a global pandemic, accomplishments during 2020 include:

Creation of a Mission Statement which can be viewed on the town webpage.

Commission members have begun work to review and update the current Cemetery Rules. These rules exist for the mutual protection of lot owners and the cemetery as a whole.

Mapping each of the town's three cemeteries. When completed, this work will provide an inventory of graves and also provide guidance on where to locate a specific grave. Aerial photography is being used to help with this mapping.

Gaining support from the Selectboard to identify an individual to serve as Peru's Veteran's Graves Officer. This role has the responsibility to cause every veteran's grave within town to be 'suitably kept and cared for.' The mapping of the cemeteries will allow for a listing of veteran's graves to be prepared. In addition to the upkeep of these graves, placing flags on the graves of the town's military veterans is important to recognize their service to the country. This will be done just prior to Memorial Day each year. The list of veterans will be used by the Historical Commission to help ensure that Peru's earliest veterans are included on the Town's Honor Roll.

Most obvious is the cleaning and resetting of headstone and footstones which started in June. While this is a fair-weather activity and on-hold now until the spring thaw, Commission members and friends, have worked on a total of 44 headstones / footstones in Center, North and South Cemeteries. Repairs to broken stones will begin in the Spring. Additionally, the bench in North cemetery has been refurbished. A parking area and gate have been added to Center Cemetery, thanks to Justin Russell and the members of the Highway Department.

Histories of families and individuals are being prepared as time and interest allows. These documents will eventually be placed in the Cemetery Commission files on the town's webpage and in the Library.

Anyone who would like to participate in Cemetery Commission activities is invited to contact any member of the Cemetery Commission.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Kenney, Chair,
Peru Cemetery Commission

**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 vote meet in the Peru Community Center, 3 East Main Road Peru, MA at the Outdoor Lower Parking Lot on Saturday, June 20, 2020 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 6:04PM by Town Clerk Kim Leach and then turned over to Moderator Alan Gordon.

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

Moderator Alan Gordon was present.

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
Article carried by voice vote*

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to Transfer from Free Cash the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars and No Cents for the Central Berkshire Regional School District Capital Assessment (\$15,000.00) or to Take any other action relative thereto.

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried 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 FY20 Assessment, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Transportation Assessment	\$ 44,113.00
Net Operating Assessment	849,072.00
Capital Assessment	<u>128,328.00</u>
Total Town of Peru Assessment	\$1,021,513.00

A motion was made and seconded to amend the article to read FY21 instead of FY20 and to amend the Capital Assessment amount to 113,328.00 replacing the amount of 128,328.00 making the Total Town of Peru Assessment 1,006,513.00 replacing the amount of 1,021,513.00

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as amended
Article carried 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	8,078.00

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried 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	9,469.00
Tax Collector	9,469.00
Accounting Officer	9,469.00
Animal Control Officer	1,749.00
Police Chief	31,824.00
Forest Fire Warden	870.00
Inspector of Animals	870.00
Veterans' Agent	2,250.00
Council on Aging Director	590.00
Fire Chief	1,178.00
Cemetery Sexton	306.00
Town Auditor	1.00

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried 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	9,469.00
Town Clerk's Salary	8,078.00
Treasurer's Salary	9,469.00
Accounting Officer's Salary	9,469.00
Animal Control Officer's Salary	1,749.00
Forest Fire Warden's Salary	870.00
Inspector of Animals Salary	870.00
Veterans' Agent Salary	2,250.00
Council on Aging Director	590.00
Fire Chief	1,178.00
Police Chief	31,824.00
Cemetery Sexton	306.00
Town Auditor	1.00

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried 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	\$ 8,204.00
Elections & Registrar's Account	4,850.00
Assistant Town Clerk	2,484.00
Compactor Attendants	6,611.00
Assistant Assessor's Salary	\$19,278.00
Town Administrator's Salary	\$20,400.00

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried 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	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	5,000.00
Board of Appeals Expense	100.00
U.S. Postal Expense	2,500.00
Health Department Expense	11,000.00

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried 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	23,500.00
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 and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried 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	10,000.00
Officers' Mileage	2,000.00

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried 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 and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried 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	\$ 6,500.00
Health Ins/Life & Dental	123,241.92
Town Insurance - All	45,000.00
Mass. Unemployment Insurance	600.00

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried 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	\$ 1,500.00
Peru Library	5,340.00
Mowing: Cemeteries, Town Hall, Town Park and Town Green:	6,300.00

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried 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	\$ 16,000.00
Utilities – Electric	12,500.00
Utilities – Heating	16,500.00
Utilities - Telephone	1,500.00
Internet Communication Lines	8,000.00
Town Website Design, Hosting, & Support	3,500.00
Town Hall Janitorial Services	2,160.00
Board of Health Expense	450.00
Cemetery Expense	600.00

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried 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	\$ 35,000.00
Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District	2,378.00

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried 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	\$ 10,477.36
Berk. County Reg. Planning Comm.	691.73
Berk. County Retirement Assessment	41,097.00
Hinsdale Ambulance	2,000.00
Town Fire Station Mortgage Payment	15,508.63
Police Wages	40,056.00
Police Expenses	4,150.00
Police Cruiser Maintenance	3,400.00

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried 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 and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried by voice vote*

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty One-Thousand Two Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$61,200.00) for the Highway Superintendent's annual wage account, or to take any other action relative thereto:

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried 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.	86,000.00
Future Machine/Vehicle Purchase	10,000.00

Highway Department Uniforms	3,700.00
Tree Removal	20,000.00
Temporary Summer Help	5,000.00

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried 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	\$184,000.00
Vocational School Transportation	36,266.40

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried by voice vote*

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Dollars and No Cents (\$5,630.00) for a Paid Librarian for the Peru Library, or to take any other action relative thereto.

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried by voice vote*

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$1,500.00) from the dog license fees to the Peru Library Account, or to take any other action relative thereto.

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried by voice vote*

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate 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 and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried by voice vote*

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Five Dollars and No Cents (\$5,765.00) to purchase a Boom Mower hydraulic Motor for the Highway Department or to take any other action relative thereto.

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried by voice vote*

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$10,000.00) into the Future Equipment and Vehicle Purchase Account or to take any other action relative thereto.

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried by voice vote*

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Three Thousand Four Hundred Six Dollars and No Cents (\$3,406.00) for the purchase of a hydraulic Hose Crimper Machine for the Highway Department or to take any other action relative thereto.

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried by voice vote*

Article 28: 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 and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried by voice vote*

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Twenty Eight Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$28,000.00) to fund an Architectural and Engineering Assessment of the Town Hall/Community Center to identify the structural, electrical, mechanical, security, and ADA needs of the facility.

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried by voice vote*

Article 30: To see if the Town will 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 and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried by voice vote*

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Chapter 90 funds that are, or may become, available to the Town during the FY20 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 in relative thereto.

*A motion was made und seconded to amend the article to read FY21 instead of FY20
A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as amended
Article carried by voice vote*

Article 32: 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 and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried by voice vote*

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the Peru Wetlands By-Law and Administer and Enforce the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (Chapter 131, Section 40) and Wetlands Protection Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) or to take any other action relative thereto.

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried by voice vote*

Article 34: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to consider a current member of the Board of Selectmen for the position of Police Chief while he currently serves on the Board of Selectmen subject to the restrictions in Section 20 of the Conflict of Interest Law.

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried by voice vote*

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Overlay Surplus the sum of Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Five Dollars and No Cents (\$7,805.00) for the further Preservation of Town Records or take any other action thereto.

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried by voice vote*

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to change the Tree Warden from an elected position to an appointed position as authorized by G.L. Chapter 41, Section 1 or take any other action thereto.

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Article carried by voice vote*

A motion was moved and seconded to close this Annual Town Meeting at 7:13 pm

There was a total of 46 registered voters in attendance and 7 guests.

ATTEST: This is a true copy.

Kim A Leach

Kim A. Leach Town Clerk, Certified: July 21, 2020

ATTEST:

This is a true copy.

Kim Leach

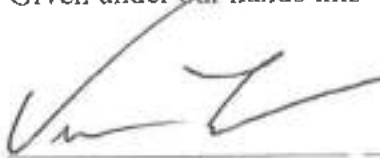


Kim Leach
Town Clerk

Certified: June 11, 2020

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 10 day of June, 2020.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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



Constable

Peggy White

Posted: June 11, 2020

6-11-2020

Date

11:05 AM

Time

