

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## Town of Peru 253rd Annual Town Report July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

2020 Federal Census Population# 814      Square Miles — 26.10



## Directory

**Peru Town Hall and Community Center is located at 3 East Main Road**

### 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	105	<a href="mailto:eric@erickinsherfcpa.com">eric@erickinsherfcpa.com</a>
American Disability Coordinator	413-655-8312	100	
Assessor	413-655-8657	104	<a href="mailto:assessors@townofperuma.com">assessors@townofperuma.com</a>
Building Inspector	413-347-0226		<a href="mailto:bldginsp@townofperuma.com">bldginsp@townofperuma.com</a>
Council on Aging	413-655-8312	100	
Electrical Inspector	(413)347-0817		<a href="mailto:Wiringinspector@townofperuma.com">Wiringinspector@townofperuma.com</a>
Gas/Plumbing Inspector	(413) 822-8871		
Health Agent	413-442-1521	60	<a href="mailto:E-mailinspectors@berkshireplanning.org">E-mail inspectors@berkshireplanning.org</a>
Library	413-655-8650		<a href="mailto:perulibrary@gmail.com">perulibrary@gmail.com</a>
Library Website			<a href="http://perulibraryma.org">perulibraryma.org</a>
Police	413-655-8377	106	
Select Board	413-655-8312	107	<a href="mailto:selectmen@townofperuma.com">selectmen@townofperuma.com</a>
Tax Collector/Treasurer	413-655-0072	101	<a href="mailto:taxcollector@townofperuma.com">taxcollector@townofperuma.com</a>
Town Administrator	413-655-8312	100	<a href="mailto:townadmin@townofperuma.com">townadmin@townofperuma.com</a>
Town Clerk	413-655-8312	102	<a href="mailto:townclerk@townofperuma.com">townclerk@townofperuma.com</a>
Town Hall Fax	413-655-2759		
Town Hall Website			<a href="http://Townofperuma.com">Townofperuma.com</a>
Volunteer Fire Department	413-655-8811		

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<b>ELECTED POSITIONS</b>	<b>TERM EXPIRES</b>	<b>APPOINTED POSITIONS</b>	<b>TERM EXPIRES</b>
<b><u>Selectboard - 3 Yrs.</u></b>		<b><u>Accountant - 3 Yrs.</u></b>	
Douglas Haskins	2024	Eric Kinsherf, CPA,	
Verne Leach	2025	<b><u>Administrative Asst - 1 Yr.</u></b>	
Edward Munch Jr.	2026	Terry Walker	2024
<b><u>Town Clerk - 3 Yrs.</u></b>		<b><u>Animal Advisory Committee - 5 Yrs.</u></b>	
Kim Leach	2024	Allan Gordon	2024
<b><u>Finance Committee - 3 Yrs.</u></b>		Vacancy One	2025
Jesse Pelkey	2024	Kim Leach	2026
Sam Haupt	2024	Lynn McAvoy	2027
Douglas Haskins	2025	Joann Gordon	2028
Robin Wadsworth	2026	<b><u>Animal Control Officer / Inspector - 3 Yrs.</u></b>	
Paul Hickling	2026	Verne Leach	2026
<b><u>Planning Board - 5 Yrs.</u></b>		<b><u>Assessors - 3 Yrs.</u></b>	
Darryl Darby	2024	Susan Koziara	2025
Samuel Haupt	2025	Shana Lecours	2026
Kimberly Wetherell	2026	Vacancy	2024
Douglas Haskins	2027	<b><u>Assistant Assessor - 3 Yrs.</u></b>	
Paul Hickling	2028	Patriot Properties Assessing Services	
<b><u>Constables - 2 Yrs.</u></b>		<b><u>Assistant Town Clerk - 1 Yr.</u></b>	
Coralie Pelkey	2024	Gladys Wheeler	2024
Peggy White	2025	<b><u>Board of Registrars - 3 Yrs.</u></b>	
<b><u>Moderator - 3 Yrs.</u></b>		Kim Leach	2024
Samuel Haupt	2026	Scott Seely	2025
<b><u>Board Of Health - 3 Yrs.</u></b>		Tina Barrington	2026
Peggy White	2024	Joann Gordon	2027
Darryl Darby	2025	<b><u>Cemetery Commission - 5 Yrs.</u></b>	
Nanette Mone	2026	Vacancy One	2024
<b><u>Central Berkshire Regional School</u></b>		Vacancy Two	2025
Bonnie DiTomasso	2024	James Kenney	2026
		Darryl Darby	2027
		Gladys Wheeler	2028
		<b><u>Cemetery Sexton - 1 Yr.</u></b>	
		Darryl Darby	2024

APPOINTED POSITIONS	TERM EXPIRES
<b><u>Conservation Commission - 5 Yrs.</u></b>	
Vacancy /Caleb Mitchell ( <i>resigned</i> )	2024
Darryl Darby	2024
Mike Frederick	2025
James Kenney	2025
Vacancy	2026
<b><u>Council On Aging - 1 Yr.</u></b>	
Vacancy	2024
<b><u>Cultural Council - 1 Yr.</u></b>	
Kathy Borden	2024
Katie Boucher	2024
<b><u>Election Clerk - 1 Yr.</u></b>	
Mary (Becky) Scott	2024
<b><u>Election Warden - 1 Yr.</u></b>	
Gladys Wheeler	2024
<b><u>Emergency Management - 1Yr.</u></b>	
Bruce Cullett	2024
<b><u>Emergency Management Asst.- 1 Yr.</u></b>	
Kevin Wall	2024
<b><u>Fire Chief/Forest Fire Warden- 3Yrs.</u></b>	
Vacancy /Jesse Pelkey Chief ( <i>resigned</i> )	2025
Dan Cawthron—Temporary Fire Chief	
<b><u>Health Agent/Inspector - 1 Yr.</u></b>	
Ed Fahey	2024
Valerie Bird	2024
<b><u>Highway Superintendent - 3 Yrs.,</u></b>	
Justin Russell	2024
<b><u>Historical Commission - 5 Yrs.</u></b>	
Susan Masino	2024
Vacancy	2025
James Kenney	2026
Vacancy	2027
Sara Adams	2028

APPOINTED POSITIONS	TERM EXPIRES
<b><u>Inspectors - 1 Yr.</u></b>	
Building - Tim Sears	2024
Electrical - Peter Yetman	2024
Gas & Plumbing - Tim Martin	2024
<b><u>Woodlands Partnership of North-west Massachusetts 1 Yr.</u></b>	
Samual Haupt	2024
<b><u>Parks &amp; Recreation - 5 Yrs.</u></b>	
Dawn Pelkey	2024
Vacancy	2025
George Greule	2026
Douglas Haskins	2027
Jesse Pelkey	2028
<b><u>Police Chief - 3 Yrs.</u></b>	
Bruce Cullett	2026
<b><u>Police Officers - 1 Yr.</u></b>	
Shawn Boyne	2024
Ryan Kresiak	2024
Joseph Sniezek	2024
Michael Hunt	2025
<b><u>Town Administrator - 1 Yr.</u></b>	
Terry Walker	2024
<b><u>Treasurer/Tax Collector - 3 Yrs.</u></b>	
Caryn Wendling	2026
<b><u>Tree Warden - 1 Yr.</u></b>	
Justin Russell	2024
<b><u>Veterans' Grave Officer - 1 Yr.</u></b>	
Wally Morrison	2024
<b><u>Zoning Board of Appeals - 5 Yrs.</u></b>	
Douglas Haskins	2024
Peter Shelsy	2025
Bonnie DiTomasso	2026
David Strzepa	2027
Samuel Haupt	2028
<b><u>Alternates Zoning Board 2Yrs.</u></b>	
Grahm Sturz	2025
Vacancy	2024

Town of Peru  
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Financial Statement Report  
Balance Sheet General Accounts Assets  
Balance Sheet General Accounts Liabilities  
Balance Sheet Trust Fund Accounts  
Balance Sheet Debt Balance Accounts

**Town of Peru Financial Statement Report 7/1/2022-6/30/2023**

Account	FY 2022	FY 2023				
Number/Description	Carry Fwd	Orig Approp	Amended	Expended	Balance	% Exp
10111.00 Legal Expense		\$ 9,000.00	\$ 5,635.59	\$ 11,477.93	\$ 3,157.66	78.42%
10122.00 Town Administrator	\$ (576.93)	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 1,326.93	\$ 24,980.86	\$ 5,769.14	81.24%
10122.01 Selectmen's Salary		\$ 10,413.00	\$ -	\$ 10,413.00	\$ -	100.00%
10122.02 Selectmen & Other Expense		\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,451.55	\$ 1,048.45	58.06%
10122.06 Administrative Comp		\$ 9,100.00	\$ -	\$ 6,265.03	\$ 2,834.97	68.85%
10122.10 Peru Marketing Study	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	0.00%
10123.00 Continuing Education		\$ 6,530.00	\$ -	\$ 4,091.43	\$ 2,438.57	62.66%
10124.00 Computer Maintenance System		\$ 19,000.00	\$ 1,688.78	\$ 16,338.78	\$ 4,350.00	78.97%
10124.01 New Network Server		\$ 6,500.00	\$ -	\$ 6,465.50	\$ 34.50	99.47%
10124.02 New town Website		\$ 1,930.00	\$ -	\$ 1,929.38	\$ 0.62	99.97%
10135.00 Accounting Officers Salary		\$ 12,360.00	\$ 3,706.91	\$ 10,766.91	\$ 5,300.00	67.01%
10135.01 Town Auditor's Salary		\$ 1.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1.00	0.00%
10141.00 Assessor's Salary		\$ 3,471.00	\$ 3,464.75	\$ 6,935.75	\$ -	100.00%
10141.01 Assessor's Expense		\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 52.00	\$ 948.00	5.20%
10141.04 Tax Map Maintenance		\$ 1,600.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,600.00	0.00%
10141.12 Assessor's Annual Computer Support		\$ 2,400.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 400.00	83.33%
10141.25 Assessors Utility Appraisal		\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	100.00%
10141.30 Assessors Assessment Services		\$ 32,400.00	\$ (3,354.31)	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 23,845.69	17.90%
10145.00 Treasurer's Salary		\$ 12,360.00	\$ -	\$ 12,360.00	\$ -	100.00%
10145.02 Treasurer/Accountant Expense		\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 460.57	\$ 1,039.43	30.70%
10145.03 Bank Service Charges		\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 10.22	\$ 89.78	10.22%
10145.04 Treasurers Tax Title Expense		\$ 6,000.00	\$ (4,118.09)	\$ 1,881.91	\$ -	100.00%
10145.05 Treas/Acct Annual Computer Support		\$ 12,646.00	\$ -	\$ 12,645.68	\$ 0.32	100.00%
10145.08 Integrated Acct Software	\$ 3,025.04	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,025.04	0.00%
10146.00 Tax Collector's Salary		\$ 12,360.00	\$ -	\$ 12,360.00	\$ -	100.00%
10146.01 Tax Collector's Expenses		\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 342.27	\$ 1,157.73	22.82%
10146.02 Tax Taking Charges		\$ 1,500.00	\$ (1,500.00)	\$ -	\$ -	-
10146.05 Tax Coll Annual Comp Support		\$ 10,351.00	\$ -	\$ 10,350.27	\$ 0.73	99.99%
10161.00 Town Clerk's Salary		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 10,750.00	\$ -	100.00%
10161.01 Town Clerk's Expenses		\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,145.85	\$ 854.15	57.29%
10161.02 Asst Town Clerk Salary		\$ 2,484.00	\$ -	\$ 1,626.94	\$ 857.06	65.50%
10161.03 Election & Board of Reg Expense		\$ 5,850.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 7,322.28	\$ 527.72	93.28%
10161.04 Historical Records Fire Proof Safe	\$ 3,292.69	\$ -	\$ 354.31	\$ 3,647.00	\$ -	100.00%
10171.00 Conservation Commission Expense		\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 95.00	\$ 305.00	23.75%
10172.00 BC Reg Planning Comm		\$ 677.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 677.00	0.00%
10173.00 Bd of Appeals Expense		\$ 100.00	\$ 160.00	\$ -	\$ 260.00	0.00%
10175.00 Officers Mileage		\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 401.03	\$ 2,098.97	16.04%
10175.01 US Postal Expense		\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,896.27	\$ 103.73	96.54%
10175.02 Office Supplies		\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,059.06	\$ 940.94	52.95%
20212.00 Police Dept Expenses		\$ 6,500.00	\$ -	\$ 5,208.54	\$ 1,291.46	80.13%
20212.02 Police Dept Wages		\$ 32,088.00	\$ -	\$ 27,406.24	\$ 4,681.76	85.41%
20212.04 Police Cruiser Maintenance		\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ 3,488.81	\$ 11.19	99.68%
20112.08 Police Chief Salary		\$ 44,187.00	\$ -	\$ 40,271.09	\$ 3,915.91	91.14%
20212.05 Police Handguns		\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	0.00%
20212.12 Police Continuing Education		\$ 7,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,821.62	\$ 4,678.38	37.62%
20217.00 Internet Communication Lines		\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,811.71	\$ 188.29	96.86%
20218.00 911 Communication Service		\$ 11,116.00	\$ -	\$ 11,115.43	\$ 0.57	99.99%
20222.00 Peru Volunteer Firemen's Assoc.		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 2,518.02	\$ 22,495.08	\$ 22.94	99.90%
20222.01 Fire Chief's Salary		\$ 2,450.00	\$ -	\$ 2,450.00	\$ -	100.00%
20222.02 Fire Station Mortgage Payment		\$ 14,923.38	\$ -	\$ 14,923.38	\$ -	100.00%
20222.03 Fire AED		\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,957.70	\$ 42.30	99.15%
20222.04 Firemen's Assoc Bldg. Maintenance		\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,493.19	\$ 6.81	99.55%
20222.06 Fire Truck		\$ -	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 9,500.00	\$ -	100.00%
20222.11 Peru Vol Firemen's Insurance		\$ 6,500.00	\$ -	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 1,400.00	78.46%
20222.13 Fire Dept Grant Share		\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	0.00%
20222.21 Forest Fire Fighting Equipment		\$ 1,700.00	\$ -	\$ 1,700.00	\$ -	100.00%
20224.00 Hinsdale Ambulance		\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	100.00%
20226.00 Inspector of Animals Salary		\$ 922.00	\$ -	\$ 922.00	\$ -	100.00%
20292.00 Animal Control Officer's Salary		\$ 1,855.00	\$ -	\$ 1,855.00	\$ -	100.00%
20293.00 Animal Control Officer's Expense		\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 9.65	\$ 590.35	1.61%

**Town of Peru Financial Statement Report 7/1/2022-6/30/2023**

30000.01	CBRSD Operating Expense		\$ 883,912.00	\$ -	\$ 883,912.00	\$ -	100.00%
30000.02	CBRSD Capital Expense		\$ 110,695.00	\$ -	\$ 110,695.00	\$ -	100.00%
30000.04	Vocational School Tuition		\$ 215,842.00	\$ -	\$ 196,220.00	\$ 19,622.00	90.91%
30000.05	Vocational School Transportation		\$ 39,408.00	\$ -	\$ 39,407.40	\$ 0.60	100.00%
30610.00	Peru Library		\$ 18,893.00	\$ -	\$ 18,893.00	\$ -	100.00%
40100.00	Road Superintendent's Salary		\$ 67,764.00	\$ -	\$ 67,764.00	\$ -	100.00%
40103.00	Highway Employees' Wages		\$ 94,600.00	\$ 7,086.50	\$ 101,670.87	\$ 15.63	99.98%
40103.05	Temporary Summer Help		\$ 8,000.00	\$ (7,086.50)	\$ 913.50	\$ -	100.00%
40105.00	Highway Employee Uniforms		\$ 3,700.00	\$ -	\$ 3,408.83	\$ 291.17	92.13%
40200.00	Maint. Hard Surface Roads	\$ 4,483.37	\$ 28,000.00	\$ -	\$ 32,483.37	\$ -	100.00%
40204.00	Material Gravel Roads		\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 19,891.47	\$ 108.53	99.46%
40206.00	Road Machinery Maintenance	\$ (388.94)	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 854.13	\$ 25,465.19	\$ -	100.00%
40208.00	Gas & Fuel		\$ 30,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 35,675.97	\$ 4,324.03	89.19%
40210.00	Town H & B (Gravel Roads)		\$ 16,750.00	\$ -	\$ 16,750.00	\$ -	100.00%
40212.02	Hwy Garage Mortgage Payment		\$ 12,020.00	\$ -	\$ 12,020.00	\$ -	100.00%
40212.05	Hwy Truck Financing	\$ 16,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,000.00	0.00%
40213.21	Boom Mower Motor		\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ 14,636.52	\$ 363.48	97.58%
40213.25	Future Equip. & Vehicle Purchase	\$ 54,050.43	\$ 25,000.00	\$ (9,500.00)	\$ -	\$ 69,550.43	0.00%
40214.00	Tree Removal	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 28,025.00	\$ 975.00	96.64%
40423.00	Snow Roads, Public		\$ 80,000.00	\$ 35,299.74	\$ 115,299.74	\$ -	100.00%
40424.00	Snow Roads, Private		\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)	\$ -	\$ -	-
40500.00	Compactor		\$ 38,000.00	\$ -	\$ 31,227.08	\$ 6,772.92	82.18%
40502.00	Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Mgt		\$ 2,794.00	\$ -	\$ 2,794.00	\$ -	100.00%
40503.00	Health Dept Expenses		\$ 11,900.00	\$ -	\$ 11,786.08	\$ 113.92	99.04%
40504.00	Compactor Attendant		\$ 7,800.00	\$ -	\$ 7,358.70	\$ 441.30	94.34%
50300.00	Council on Aging		\$ 400.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 640.34	\$ 259.66	71.15%
50302.00	Elderly Outreach Program		\$ 525.00	\$ -	\$ 520.77	\$ 4.23	99.19%
50303.00	COA Director Salary		\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 750.00	0.00%
50700.00	Cemetery Sexton		\$ 350.00	\$ -	\$ 350.00	\$ -	100.00%
50700.01	Cemeteries		\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 667.48	\$ 332.52	66.75%
50700.02	Flag Poles/Signage		\$ 2,400.00	\$ -	\$ 1,798.00	\$ 602.00	74.92%
50900.00	Veteran Agent's Salary		\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -	100.00%
50902.00	Veterans Services		\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00	0.00%
60002.04	Town Building Maintenance		\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ 14,560.09	\$ 439.91	97.07%
60002.05	Utilities - Electric		\$ 12,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 14,230.92	\$ 269.08	98.14%
60002.06	Utilities - Heating		\$ 16,500.00	\$ -	\$ 15,317.01	\$ 1,182.99	92.83%
60002.07	Utilities - Telephone		\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,387.72	\$ 112.28	92.51%
60002.25	ADA Study-Town Hall	\$ 28,000.00	\$ -	\$ (26,733.70)	\$ -	\$ 1,266.30	0.00%
60002.40	Town Hall Cleaning	\$ (300.00)	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,140.00	\$ 2,760.00	29.23%
60004.10	Town Green, Park, Cemeteries mowing		\$ 6,450.00	\$ -	\$ 6,450.00	\$ -	100.00%
60006.00	Partridgefield Playground		\$ 6,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	23.08%
70750.00	Interest on Loans		\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,070.70	\$ 24,570.70	\$ -	100.00%
90206.00	Town Insurance All		\$ 48,000.00	\$ -	\$ 45,936.00	\$ 2,064.00	95.70%
90208.00	Town Report Expense		\$ 2,000.00	\$ (1,500.00)	\$ 123.53	\$ 376.47	24.71%
90912.00	BC Retirement Assessment		\$ 39,078.00	\$ 14,663.00	\$ 53,741.00	\$ -	100.00%
90913.00	Mass Unemployment Ins./DUA		\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 292.35	\$ 307.65	48.73%
90915.00	Medicare Town Share	\$ (456.34)	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 456.34	\$ 5,361.93	\$ 2,338.07	69.64%
90919.00	Health Insurance		\$ 129,112.32	\$ (14,503.13)	\$ 99,718.68	\$ 14,890.51	87.01%
95781.00	Reserve Fund		\$ 10,000.00	\$ (9,518.02)	\$ -	\$ 481.98	0.00%
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 126,129.32</b>	<b>\$ 2,508,717.70</b>	<b>\$ 38,521.95</b>	<b>\$ 2,419,856.15</b>	<b>\$ 253,512.82</b>
	Respectfully Submitted,						
	Eric Kinsherp, CPA, Town Accountant						

**Town of  
Peru  
6/30/2023**

**Balance Sheet General Accounts Assets**

**ASSETS**

<b>Cash</b>			
General Cash Checking		799,437.71	
Petty Cash - Tax Collector		50.00	
Petty Cash - Town Clerk		50.00	
	<b>Total for Cash</b>		<b>799,537.71</b>
<b>Personal Property Taxes</b>			
Personal Prop Taxes Prior Years (1995-2022)		688.73	
Personal Prop Taxes 2023		0.00	
	<b>Total for Personal Prop Taxes</b>		<b>688.73</b>
<b>Real Estate Taxes</b>			
Real Estate Taxes Prior Years		31,612.78	
Real Estate Taxes 2000-2013		91,134.41	
Real Estate Taxes 2014		8,540.67	
Real Estate Taxes 2015		7,024.54	
Real Estate Taxes 2016		7,387.06	
Real Estate Taxes 2017		5,527.77	
Real Estate Taxes 2018		5,382.89	
Real Estate Taxes 2019		6,478.36	
Real Estate Taxes 2020		28,414.23	
Real Estate Taxes 2021		52,153.62	
Real Estate Taxes 2022		81,845.05	
Real Estate Taxes 2023		113,137.46	
	<b>Total for Real Estate Taxes</b>		<b>438,638.84</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes</b>			
Motor Vehicle Ex Prior Years		2,373.01	
Motor Vehicle Ex 2002-2013		7,941.85	
Motor Vehicle Ex 2014		840.01	
Motor Vehicle Ex 2015		150.42	
Motor Vehicle Ex 2016		579.17	
Motor Vehicle Ex 2017		802.52	
Motor Vehicle Ex 2018		1,333.13	
Motor Vehicle Ex 2019		5,373.78	
Motor Vehicle Ex 2020		8,079.27	
Motor Vehicle Ex 2021		18,426.28	
Motor Vehicle Ex 2022		28,733.65	
Motor Vehicle Ex 2023		19,361.57	
	<b>Total for Motor Vehicle Ex Taxes</b>		<b>93,994.66</b>
<b>Tax Title &amp; Possessions</b>			
Tax Titles		174,328.04	
Tax Possessions (Foreclosures)		0.00	
	<b>Total for Tax Titles &amp; Possessions</b>		<b>174,328.04</b>
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>			
State Aid to Highways		608,817.47	<b>608,817.47</b>
<b>Estimated Receipts</b>			
Loans Authorized		201,620.00	<b>201,620.00</b>

<b>Grants &amp; Revolving Receivable</b>			
EMPG		87.28	
MEMA		9,050.98	
Green Communities Grant		5,176.84	
Fire Dept Grant		8,537.61	
Bldg. Inspector 53E 1/2		284.51	
Electrical Inspector 53E 1/2		135.00	
Fire Inspector 53E 1/2		128.50	
Town Clerk Fees		85.50	
Police Detail		541.80	
	<b>Total for Grants Receivable</b>		<b>24,028.02</b>
<b>Appropriations Receivable (raised on recap)</b>			
None		0.00	
	<b>Total for Appropriations Receivable</b>		<b>0.00</b>
		<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2,341,653.47</b>
<b>Balance Sheet General Account Liabilities</b>			
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
Revenue 2024		115,950.00	<b>115,950.00</b>
<b>Agency</b>			
FID. License - Police		8,725.00	<b>8,725.00</b>
<b>Revolving &amp; Gifts</b>			
COVID CARES Funding		0.06	
ARPA Funding		122,179.35	
Board of Health Grant		1,207.97	
Policing Gift		524.85	
Elections Grant		2,155.26	
COA Gift		30.00	
COA Formula Grant		24,000.00	
Berk Reg Planning Comm		500.00	
Peru Recycling Grant Small Scale		10,850.00	
Green Communities Grant		10,000.00	
CCC IT FY22 State Grant		25,000.00	
CTCL Grant		15.62	
Health Insp Revolving 53E 1/2		8,475.00	
Bldg. Insp Supply Expense		1,004.59	
Tax Title Collection Revolving 60:1		1,208.84	
250 Year Celebration Rev 44:53 I		23,099.90	
Tax Collector's Fees		1,018.00	
Conservation Wetland Fees		603.61	
Deputy Collector's Fees		1,164.00	
Mohawk Trails Grant		8.75	
Chapter 90 Highway		449,780.47	
	<b>Total for Revolving &amp; Gifts</b>		<b>682,826.27</b>
<b>Revolving</b>			
Loans Authorized Unissued		201,620.00	<b>201,620.00</b>
<b>Receipts Reserved for Appropriation</b>			
Dog Lic Reserved for Library		3,100.00	
Road Machinery Earnings		4,208.00	
Municipality Rides Disbursement		14.90	
	<b>Total for Receipts Reserved for Appropriation</b>		<b>7,322.90</b>

<b>Overlays Reserved for Abatements</b>			
Rsrvd for Overlay		61,944.85	<b>61,944.85</b>
<b>Revenue Reserved Until Collection</b>			
Tax Title & Possession Rev.		174,328.04	
Tax Poss. (Foreclosures) Revenue		0.00	
Motor Vehicle Excise Rev.		93,994.66	
Reserve for Petty Cash		100.00	
	<b>Total for Revenue Resv'd until Collected</b>		<b>268,422.70</b>
<b>Surplus Revenue</b>			
Surplus Revenue		836,910.58	
	<b>Total for Surplus Revenue</b>		<b>836,910.58</b>
<b>Appropriations Balances</b>			
ADA Study-Town Hall		1,266.30	
Peru Marketing Study		10,000.00	
Future Equipment		69,550.43	
Hwy Truck Financing		16,000.00	
New Network Server Town Hall		34.50	
Partridgefield Playground		5,000.00	
Fire Dept Grant Share		3,000.00	
Fire Dept (AED) Auto Ext Def		42.30	
Boom Mower Repairs		363.48	
Fire Truck		0.00	
Flag Poles/Signage-Cemeteries		602.00	
Police Cont. Education		4,678.38	
FY23 Encumbrances			
Integrated Acct Software		3,025.04	
Legal Expense		1,782.74	
Selectmen Expense		300.00	
Computer Systems		4,350.00	
Accounting Officer		5,300.00	
Assessors Expense		374.75	
Assessment Services		22,500.00	
Conservation		8.13	
Board of Appeals		260.80	
Office Supplies		202.09	
Police Expense		225.62	
Police Firearms		2,000.00	
Highway		2,670.47	
Compactor		1,922.49	
COA		74.50	
Utilities		173.91	
Town Hall Cleaning		2,115.29	
Unemployment		107.95	
	<b>Total for Appropriation Balances</b>		<b>157,931.17</b>
		<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2,341,653.47</b>
*****			

<b>Balance Sheet Trust Fund Accounts</b>			
<b>Trust Funds</b>			
Trust Cash		417,779.85	
Stabilization Fund			311,083.03
Partridgefield Playground Fund			24,584.94
Cemetery Trust Fund			1,958.70
Conservation Trust Account			78,125.00
Sunrise Solar Escrow Trust			2,028.18
	<b>Total for Trust Funds</b>	<b>417,779.85</b>	<b>417,779.85</b>
*****			
<b>Balance Sheet Debt Balance Accounts</b>			
<b>Long Term Debt</b>			
Highway Garage Mortgage		169,554.72	
Fire Station Mortgage		168,536.02	
Net Funded/Fixed Debt			338,090.74
	<b>Total for Long Term Debt</b>	<b>338,090.74</b>	<b>338,090.74</b>
*****			
Respectfully Submitted,			
Eric Kinsherf, CPA, Town Accountant			

### **Animal Control Officer/ Animal Inspector**

**Animal Control Officer Calls:**

12 Barking Dogs    4 Wild Animal Related Calls  
 0 Dog Bite   0 Cat Bites    14 Loose Dogs    0 Dogs Hit by Cars

**State Required Recertification Courses:**

**Continuing Education Credits**

- ASPCA Cornell Maddie’s Shelter Medicine Conference Session:
- Spay Neuter Training Presentation: Puppy Breath & Kitten Tails: The Ins and Outs of Pediatric Spay-Neuter
- Fundamentals of High-Quality High Volume Spay and Neuter
- Risky Business: Preventing Dog Bites with Risk Assessment
- Safety Net Programs to Support Pet Ownership: Creating Strategic, Impactful Programs that Make a Difference
- Separation Anxiety
- Tools and Tips for Transport Technicians
- Tough Choices: Thinking About the Shelter's Role in Antimicrobial Stewardship

**Animal Inspector:**

I would like to thank all the wonderful animals and their owners for their cooperation during barn inspections.

There were 21 barns inspections in the Fiscal year of 2023.

Oxen 8    Goats 19    Sheep 25    Swine 18    Liams 3    Horse 17    Donkey 7    Chickens 156  
 Turkeys 14    Donkey 7    Turkeys 14    Ratites 0    Waterfowl 27    Rabbits 11

Respectfully submitted,

Verne Leach, Animal Control Officer/ Animal Inspector

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS**  
**ANNUAL TOWN REPORT FY 2023**

Fiscal Year 2023

Appropriation from Town Meetings	2,538,217.70
Cherry Sheet Offsets	3,962.00
Cherry Sheet Charges	644.00
Overlay Allowance	12,566.64
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED</b>	<b>2,557,112.55</b>

Local Estimated Receipts	146,524.92
State Cherry Sheet Receipts	300,750.00
Free Cash to Reduce Tax Rate	101,100.00
Other Available Funds	9,500.00
Other Sources to Reduce Tax Rate	.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS AND CREDIT</b>	<b>557,874.92</b>

**TAX LEVY:** **1,999,237.63**

**Town Valuations By Class**

Residential	97,818,506.00
Commercial	6,456,604.00
Industrial	865,200.00
Personal Property	9,101,840.00
Exempt Property	12,281,100.00
Tax Rate (per thousand)	\$17.50

Board of Assessors

Susan Koziara

Shana Lecours

## **Peru Cemetery Commission**

The Peru Cemetery Commission's current members are Jim Kenney, Chair, Darryl Darby, Cemetery Sexton and Gladys Wheeler. There are 2 openings for volunteers who would like to help with the commission's work.

The key activity in 2023 was the release of the updated version of the Tombstone Inscription Book. The original book was prepared in 1948 by Mrs. Max Lederer of Southamptton, Mass. and Mrs. Homer Granger of Chesterfield, Mass. and included every tombstone in Peru, to that date. This 2023 version provides an update since the 1948 document and includes updated mapping of the cemeteries, corrections, when possible, along with all burials to date. Hardcopies can be viewed in the Historical Reference section at the Peru Library. The electronic file is posted to the town's webpage in the Cemetery Commission's section. Corrections, clarifications and stories relating to family members and friends are welcome by the Cemetery Commission and Historical Commission. Many of the epitaphs are difficult to read and may become more legible due to cleaning and lighting. If anyone is aware of an unmarked grave, please let us know.

Another key activity undertaken by the Cemetery Commission is updating the 1975 Cemetery Rules. The final draft is currently under review and a vote to accept the update will be made at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

Some additional accomplishments during 2023 are:

The installation of a section of new fence at South Cemetery, donated by Beery Fence Co.

The purchase of a flagpole for Center Cemetery, which will be installed in the Spring of 2024.

New signs for Center, North and South Cemeteries using signposts created and donated by Dave Tarjick.

Wally Morrison, Peru's Veteran's Graves Officer, continues to ensure that each veteran's grave is marked by an American flag.

Commission members have responded to various inquiries from the public regarding burials in Peru.

Commission members have completed assessments, cleaning, repairs and resetting of headstones and monuments for 161 of those buried in North, South and Center cemeteries during 2023. A special thanks goes from the commission to Justin Russell and members of the Highway Department for their support when needed throughout the year.

Headstone cleaning, resetting and repair is an on-going activity and anyone interested to watch, learn the process, or help can contact a member of the Selectboard or Cemetery Commission. This is fair-weather work so not typically done during inclement weather.

Anyone who would like to participate in Cemetery Commission activities is invited to contact the Selectboard or one of the members of the Cemetery Commission.

Jim Kenney, Chair, Peru Cemetery Commission

### **Conservation Commission**

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the Conservation Commission was involved in the following activities:

(1) Request for Determination of Applicability and 1 Determination issued.

(1 )Certificate of Compliance was issued. ( 2 ) Requests for the Extension of Conditions were issued.

Allowed a Beaver Deceiver to be installed. Continuing review of Middlefield Road reconstruction performed. Reviewed Board of Health proposed updated well regulations.

Additionally conducted numerous site visits at the behest of property owners, prospective owners and the Building Inspector to advise them with regard to any possible wetland issues.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Frederick, Chair

Members :Darryl Darby, Jim Kenney

### **Finance Committee Report**

#### **Fiscal year 2023**

The overall budget decreased from \$2,356,349.81 to \$2,345,194.08.

Significant increases were realized in the following areas:

Interest on loans- increase of \$11,500

Gas and fuel- increase of \$2,370

Highway Employee Wages- increase of \$6,600

CBRSD Operating/Transportation- increase of \$5,622

Police Wages- increase of \$2,219

Treasurer's salary- increase of \$2,247

Tax Collector salary-increase of \$2,247

Town Clerk's salary- increase of \$1,679

Town administrator salary- increase of \$8,988

Fire Chief Salary- increase of \$1,236

Road Superintendent Salary- increase of \$4,728

Significant decreases were realized in the following areas:

CBRSD Capital- decrease of \$10,568

Veteran's Agent Salary- decrease of \$1,750

Veteran's Services- decrease of \$4,000

Smith Vocational Tuition- decrease of \$10,373

Internet- decrease of \$1,800

BCRS Assessment- decrease of \$6,084

A new rescue vehicle was funded in FY2023 using ARPA and Future Equipment Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Hickling, Chair

Members: Darryl Darby, Sam Haupt, Doug Haskins, Jesse Pelkey

## Peru Volunteer Fire Department

The fire department has had a busy year with almost 280 person hours of training. This did not include the hours for E.M.T. training that Chief Pelkey and Heather Brooks put in from September to January 2023. The classroom hours for the 2 combined were 130 and the same if not more of self-study and practical. The Volunteers also put in a staggering 235 hours over a record breaking 106 calls in one year.

The call breakdown is as follows:

Medical: 55    Storm damage/ hazards: 19    Mutual aids: 5    CO activation: 4    Elderly Assist: 4  
Lift Assist: 3    Brush fires: 2    medical alarms: 2    MVA: 2    Pellet Stove Fires: 2    Searches: 2  
Stand By: 1    Structure Fire: 1    Chimney Fire: 1    Well Being Check: 1    Fire Alarm: 1    Patient Eval: 1

The fire department issued 21 permits for propane tanks, oil burners, solar battery storage systems, oil tanks, etc., 13 smoke and CO inspection certificates and 6 Fire and Life Safety Inspection business certificates.

The Chief along with other members helped write a few grants for the Town. They were able to bring in the following monies:

\$10,500 From the Department of Fire Service to replace some of the fire hose that was dated back to June of 1976. This was of no cost to the taxpayers. Another grant which was our first time applying for was The Senior Safe grant of \$1,500.00. Actually, turned into \$1,777.00. This has helped many seniors in town get free house number signs, update outdated smoke and CO alarms, Files of life and many other things. This was also a no cost to our taxpayers. The last grant that we received was from the Department of Conservation and Recreation for new forestry fire fighting equipment. This was a matching grant we received \$5,500.00 worth of equipment for \$3,000.00 which was a savings to our town of \$ 2,500.00 on things that we needed to update. These are competitive grants.

The Fire Department would like to thank Logan Brooks for obtaining his Fire prevention officer basic certification. With this certification the Selectboard appointed him as assistant inspector ,if the chief is unable to do inspections.

The fire department would also like to congratulate Heather Brooks and Chief Pelkey on their completion of E.M.T. They will be a great asset to this town and the communities they serve in.

The Fire Chief has been attending many meetings and seminars over the past year for fire prevention and inspections. Some are as local as Jiminy Peak or as far away Worcester.

Respectfully Submitted,

Officers:

Jesse Pelkey Chief	Dan Cawthron Assistant Chief	Logan Brooks Captain
Sam Haupt 1ST LT.	George Haywood 2ND LT.	
Members: Heather Brooks	Carlton Brooks Casey Hopkins	Bryon Mallet
JR Members: Heath Brooks		

## **Report of the Board of Health**

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. Some of these services include follow up on complaints, housing issues and inspections, re-research for taxpayers and homeowners, witnessing percolation tests, Title V inspections, septic plan review, inspection and approval, researching and issuing well permits, providing office hours for consultation and information. The Health inspector accepts and processes permit applications and payments. Typical activities in Peru include: Disposal System Construction Permits, Septage Hauler, Food Permits, Septic Installer, Title 5 witness, Perc Test Witness, Camp Permit, Pool Permit, Private Well Permit, and Bathing Beach. Some of the services do not generate a fee but are required by Massachusetts General Law 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.

The prevalence of COVID-19 has continued to impact the duties of the Board of Health, to include providing free COVID home test kits and free KN95 masks to the residents of Peru. The Peru Board of Health was the recipient of a mini-grant from the Berkshire Public Health Alliance that allowed the purchase of CPR mannequins for training purposes, baby changing tables, first aid kits, a stand up sign board for announcements and tick removal devices. Funds from the Rural Equity Grant were also received and utilized for gas cards and a yoga class. The role of the public health nurse includes the mandated reporting of contagious disease cases, contact tracing, conducting flu/COVID vaccine clinics and providing support and public education as deemed appropriate.

The current Sanitarian/Health Inspector is Valerie Bird who can be reached at [inspectors@berkshireplanning.org](mailto:inspectors@berkshireplanning.org). The Sanitarian/Inspector holds office hours 6-8PM the first and third Monday of the month at Town Hall. Contact information can also be found on the town website at [www.townofperuma.com/boardofhealth](http://www.townofperuma.com/boardofhealth) for residents who would like to request inspection, ask questions or file a complaint or inquire about public health related issues.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy White, Chair  
Nanette Mone  
Darryl Darby

## Highway Department Town Report

This past year was a very productive at the Highway Department. We completed the repaving of East Windsor Rd funded by the STRAP grant that we received. Overall that project was a major success for our small staff. We began replacing culvert 3 years prior in anticipation of the resurfacing project. There are some minor areas that have a little bit of washout that we will be fixing this coming year. We also received another \$20,000 grant from Mohawk Trails Woodland Partnership to improve access to state owned land on Pierce Rd and we anticipate another grant for the same road. This spring we will be spending time improving Pierce Rd. MassDCR completed a tree cutting operation off Curtain Rd to irradiate infected Ash trees in the areas closest to the road. DCR has provided funding to Peru and Middlefield to further repairs and access to the State Forest.

We purchased a new 2023 Volvo loader after our 2006 Komatsu had a major mechanical failure and the cost of the repairs far outweighed the value of the aging machine. We accessed our Chapter 90 funds to pay for the Volvo Loader.

Our 2016 F550 is the most used vehicle in our fleet. It is used every day whether it's plowing snow, spring cleanup, transporting tools and equipment around town, and hauling blacktop for patching potholes, etc. We have had many mechanical problems over the years that were covered under the factory warranty. At the end of last winter and going into early spring the motor lost compression in 2 cylinders and the only option was to replace the engine. This was a huge expense costing the town around \$27,000.00. The selectboard voted to use ARPA funds to pay for the repairs. Ford denied any assistance with the cost of the repairs.

I will be asking the Finance Committee and Selectboard to begin the discussion on purchasing a new single axle dump/plow truck. Our Mack is a 1998 making it 26 years old. This truck has many problems due to its age and has become less reliable to be a front-line plow truck that is ready to go and keep going during winter weather events. The next oldest truck is our 2008 International that is 16 years old. Most plow trucks have a usable 20-25-year life span and we need to replace them as the need arises. Please support the purchase of a new truck to be able to maintain the winter roads efficiently.  
Respectfully submitted ~ Justin Russell

**PERU LIBRARY, INC.**

Peru Library, Inc., 7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023

**Receipts**

Town Appropriation	\$19,265
State Aid	\$3,959
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$23,224</u>

**Expenses**

Patron Materials:	
Books	1,776
DVDs/Video	1,134
Periodicals	211
<u>Other materials</u>	<u>491</u>
Total	\$3,612
Internet	768
Director Salary	8,360
State Aid	3,219
Utilities	3,618
Insurance	1,137
Supplies & Maintenance	742
Accounting &	
<u>Payroll Expense</u>	<u>11,433*</u>
	\$22,599

\*\$1,252 balance for FY23 paid 9/23

**Note:** FY23 was the Library's second year managing its finances independently, per the Town-Library Memorandum of Understanding agreed 7/2021. Budget oversight is provided by an outside accountant.

**Circulation:** Items borrowed, 2,127, including 829 books, 1,069 DVDs, and 272 interlibrary loans through cwmars.

**Total circulating items:** 7,741. Books, 4,839; DVDs, 2,588; Magazines, 20 subscriptions; Miscellaneous (passes, games, audio, puzzles, etc.), 294.

**Events:** 10, with 259 participants. **Volunteers:** 10, 65 hours of volunteer work – many thanks!.

**Total library attendance:** 973. **Registered borrowers:** 382, including 292 Peru residents. Our thanks, as always, to Town residents for their support of the Library's operating budget.

**Overview, FY2023-25:** A generous grant through ARSL / Association of Rural and Small Libraries allowed us to purchase \$3,500 in new children's books, and also helped the Library meet state minimum materials requirements for certification through the MBLC / Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The same ARSL grant provided \$1,200 for supplies for an online catalog. Initial set-up of the new catalog, on LibraryThing / Tiny Cat, is ongoing.

Thanks to an increase in State Aid through the MBLC, library hours were extended for 6 months from May 1 through Oct. 31, from 2 days / 10 hours a week to 3 days / 14 hours, to improve access and make it easier for children to take part in the Summer Reading & Writing Program. In 2024, extended hours for May through October will again be funded by State Aid.

Projects this year include filing an updated Strategic Plan for FY25-29 to make the library eligible for State and Federal grants, and continuing work on the Local History Area.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Ruth Calaycay, Director. Board of Trustees: Kathy Borden (Chair), Sharon Greule, Dawn Warner.

## **Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District CY 2023 Page 1**

The Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District (NBSWMD) was established in 1988 through legislation passed by the Massachusetts General Court. By forming the solid waste district, the small municipalities in Northern Berkshire County have been able to pool resources and obtain professional waste management services to conduct recycling and outreach education programs, hazardous and special recycling collections. We have a vision to seek regional solutions to attain sustainability and environmental objectives through solid waste and recycling programs.

The 14 member -towns that comprise NBSWMD include Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Florida Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Monroe, New Ashford, Peru, Savoy, Windsor, and Williamstown. The newest Town is Dalton, each town appoints a representative to serve on the NBSWMD Board. Board Officers for 2023 included: Joseph Szczepaniak Jr., Chair (Lanesborough), Douglas McNally, Vice Chair (Windsor); and Barbara Belisle Treasurer.

### **In 2023, NBSWMD services included:**

- Linda Cernik, District Director since 2016, and newly 2023 Certified Third Party Inspector with MassDEP. Linda conducts all our Transfer Station Inspections pursuant to 310 CMR 19.018, all of which have been highly rated.
- Serving as Bid Administrator for 5 years hauling and processing waste, recyclables With Casella Waste Systems, INC.
- Coordinates all outreach activities, Special Collections, and marketing materials. CY23 Full execution of our Annual Earth Day Kick off events, Household Annual Hazardous Waste Collection, over 165 HH in attendance. This event helps keep unwanted chemicals from the waste stream. Also, Community paper shredding Event, 3 Bulky and electronics collections. All of these are shared services and allow all 14 Member town's residents to attend.
- Management and compliance of the Town's Transfer Station services. Including Recycling sheds, Tires, Textiles, Mattress "HUB", Scrap metal, books, Swap shops, and Universal Waste sheds. Town's that house swap shops are as follows, Hinsdale, Savoy, and Windsor. Cy 24 will bring new recycling services such as Food Waste collections & swap shops. Our District is always looking to improve our recycling and shared service model.
- Coordinating our Annual Home Composting Units at a subsidized rate for all member town's residents to take part in. CY23, we had 60 Units sold and offered Public Education.
- Worked closely with Commonwealth of Massachusetts Community Service program! Along with the States 3 Coordinators of the Program, participants that are on community service have provided the district with over 1,000 hours of help.

## Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District CY 2023 Page 2

Projects such as painting Sheds at our Transfer Stations. Helping maintain and organize Town of Hinsdale Swap shops, help at all or our Special Collections with offloading and loading items for our Bulky and E waste events, Community paper shredding events (2), HHW event, helps and clean out of universal waste sheds. (Lightbulbs and battery recycling). This program has been recognized throughout the state and Coordinator took part in a survey highlighting the benefits. Participants are not only working towards their community service hours, but they are also benefiting from learning about the environment.

Such as re-use, recycling, toxic materials banned from the waste stream, NEW waste ban regulations effective November 1, 2022. Working together as a team to get the job done professionally. This allows the participants to gain experience in the field of waste management.



Community service painting recycling shed.

- Outreach with local youth groups introducing MassDEP “Green Team” Program. NBSWMD and Casella Waste Systems hosted a Touch A Truck Event in CY23. This was part of the Green Team program, MassDEP. Not only was it a fun day, but the youth also learned about recycling, composting and the career opportunities available in the Field. Highlight of the Day was the Kid’s getting to sit in the Big Trucks and blow the air horns!



Youth Center Inc Touch a Truck 2023

- Yearly Linda submits for the Town’s Sustainable Materials Recovery Program “RDP” awards based on merit points. This is based on best practices for each town within the Recycling services. In CY23 NBSWMD 14 Towns and Solid Waste District were awarded a total of \$52,810. The Town of Dalton was also awarded a \$5,000 grant for a universal waste shed. Yearly the Grants benchmarks become harder to reach the goals, collectively Linda Works with the Town’s Directly to help them achieve as many points as possible.

### **Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District CY 2023 Page 3**

- Public speaking events, conference attendance, Coordinator member of Springfield Materials solid Waste Advisory group, The Western Mass Regional Planning Coordinator group, and interfaces with local, regional, and state officials.

District in 2023 held its annual household hazardous waste collections April 22, 2023, held in the Town of Adams for all 13 member Town's residents. 165 Households participated in this event. (This was held before the Town of Dalton joined NBSWMD). This year our Annual Household Hazardous Waste collection will be held Saturday, April 20, 2024, with all 14 Member Towns, to kick off Earth Day. This allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, oil-based paints, oil, pesticides, and other products that are deemed hazardous.

The day -to-day program operations of the NBSWMD are managed by the Director.

Linda Cernik, only employee! She also serves as a representative to the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility, The Solid Waste Advisory Committee, The Western Mass Regional Recycling Coordinator group, and interfaces with local, regional, and state officials, and newly appointed to Mass Recycle Board. Linda works closely with all the town officials and departments that oversee the Town's Transfer/ Recycling Facilities, such as DPW, BOH, Town Administrators, NSWMD Board of Commissioners and more! We have a great Team and I thank you for your continued Support.

During the past year, the NBSWMD member-towns collectively sent 723 tons of recyclable materials to Casella Waste Systems INC, Vermont MRF; 60 Earth Machines were subsidized and distributed to all 14 member towns, for composting household brush, leaves, food.

District wide diverted over 123,979 pounds of textiles from the waste stream. Electronics recycling with East Coast Electronics, over 40,567 pounds. The district donated some of the Earth machines to local youth groups, Town outreach events, schools and more.

Thank you to all the district volunteers, town's DPW, officials, and the residents of all the member towns. Your continued support in recycling and waste reduction keeps our communities a beautiful place to call home. I am proud to be part of the district and expanding our towns in the right direction of sustainability within the environment.

Earth Day 2024! Let's make everyday Earth Day!

Best Regards~

Linda Cernik, Director

### **Parks and Recreation Committee**

Spring of 2023 has come and gone; we've had a wet spring to get the ball rolling and the ball field started. We still have some work to do to get it finished up this year, but it will all finally come through.

A big appreciation and thank you to Scott McKnight for his donation of all the excavation work and installation of material on the infield. As well as to White Wolf for their donation of materials and trucking, so thank you to Craig and his son Paul for that.

A very special thank you to my son, Doug Haskins, for all of his time spent working on the field nights and weekends.

Once the weather breaks and things begin to dry out some, we will be picking up where we left off. Soon we will have a useable baseball field at the Peru Town Park.

Douglas Haskins

Parks and Recreation Committee Chair

### **Peru Planning Board & Zoning Board of Appeals Annual Report**

Through the end of calendar year 2023 the Planning Board saw a decrease 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 or involve the sale of non-conforming parcels to abutters.

Looking forward, the Town recently was the recipient of a \$10,000 District Local Assistance Grant administered through the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to assist us with updating our Zoning By-Laws. There will be numerous opportunities to receive public comments regarding any areas of interest or concern throughout the process.

We invite any interested developer to make a pre-permitting planning presentation to the Town when a project is proposed in order 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

## Peru Police Department Annual Report Fiscal Year 2023 Page 1

(July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023)

The Peru Police Department would like to thank the residents of Peru and the Board of Selectmen for their continued support. In late November of 2022 a familiar face re-joined our department when we welcomed back Officer Joseph Sniezek. Officer Sniezek previously served our department for five years and the Massachusetts State Police for nearly 10 years. In January of 2023, Officer Kyle Nutting left our department to pursue another career, and we wish him success in his new venture as an electrician.

Our department answered 992 calls for service during fiscal year 2023. We provided mutual aid to surrounding communities and have worked jointly with Police and Sheriff's Departments in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire Counties as well as the Massachusetts State Police, New York State Police, US ATF, US Homeland Security, Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency, and USPS Inspectors.

All members of our department completed 48 hours of mandatory in-service training as required by the Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee in FY23. The in-service training included CPR/first responder recertification, digital evidence, trauma informed policing, reports and testimony, rules of the road, legal updates, and bi-annual firearms training and qualifications. In addition to the mandatory in-service training, I became certified as a De-escalation Instructor and recertified as an MPTC Firearms Instructor in the categories of handgun, shotgun, rifle, and less lethal.

Our office hours are on Monday evenings from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. If you are unable to make it in person during those hours, please call our non-emergency number 413-655-8377 to make other arrangements with an on-call officer. We continue to process LTC and FID renewals by mail as well.

The following is a breakdown of our 992 calls for service for fiscal year 2023:

Abandoned Vehicles (1)	Lockout (3)	Tree on Wire (14)
Accidental 911 (53)	Medical (25)	Trespass (6)
Alarms (9)	Meetings (15)	Town Ordinance (18)
Animal (22)		Unsecure Property (0)
Assault & Battery (3)	Missing Person (3)	Vandalism (3)
Assist (67)	MVA (9)	Vehicle stops (96)
Attempt to locate (6)	MVAD (0)	Warrant service (5)
Breaking & Entering (1)	MVV (0)	Weapons (3)
BOLO (51)	Noise Complaint (1)	Well Being Checks (18)
Child Custody (8)	Parking Complaint (2)	Unattended Death (0)
Civil (7)	Possession/weapon (1)	
Court (10)	Prevention/ abuse Order (4)	
DCF (11)	Polls Election (2)	
Disturbance (4)	Possible Scam (18)	
Domestic (4)	Property returned (1)	
Disable Vehicle (3)	Restraining Order (7)	

**Peru Police Department Annual Report Fiscal Year 2023 Page 2**

Fire Dept. Assist (3)	Road complaint (4)
Fireworks (1)	Shots fired (4)
Follow up (18)	Sex Offender Reg (4)
Found Property (2)	Speed complaint (5)
Fraud (21)	LTC/FID Permits (61)
Hit and Run (0)	Stolen property (1)
Harassment (3)	Summons (7)
House/Building Check (105)	Suspicious activity (4)
Illegal dumping (3)	Suspicious Person (3)
Improper Firearm Storage (0)	Suspicious Vehicle (4)
Information (71)	Theft (3)
Interviews (4)	Transport (3)
Larceny (2)	Traffic Detail Requests (134)
	Tree in Road (8)

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce W. Cullett  
Chief of Police



## Select Board Report

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

The town did not have a Town Administrator from December 2022 till April 2023, the Selectboard filled in until Terry Walker was appointed as Town Administrator.

Patriots Properties was hired in 2022. Susan Koziara was appointed as Primary Assessor on June 5, 2023.

Eric Kinsherf's accounting firm was hired in December 2022.

Police Chief hours were increased to 40 hours per week and a new cruiser was purchased.

The purchase of a used Command (Fire Chief's) vehicle.

The purchase of AED units for Town Hall and town owned vehicles.

East Windsor RD was finished being paved to the Windsor town line.

Peru 250th Celebration was held on July 16, 2022, It began with a March to the Town Green where an opening ceremony took place. The Color Guard proceeded with the POW/MIA Missing Man" Ceremony". Chapter 65 Vietnam Veterans honored those soldiers who did not return from combat,

Darryl Darby was Grand Marshal,

The Boston Cane was awarded to Lealon (Sonny) Russell, The Boston Cane display was hand crafted and donated by James Kenny and the Boston Cane was donated by State Representative Paul Mark.

Senator Adam Hinds and State Representative Paul Mark presented the town with a Replica of Peru's Original Charter from 1771, The Boston Cane display case and the Replica both hang on the wall at Town Hall. Photos were taken throughout the day by Gerry Higgins and Daniel Dougherty, The event had many vendors and sponsors, there was Live Music, a Peru Library Tour and Church Tour, Roger's Rangers & The Hinsdale's Encampment, Fireworks. and Piston Poppers Car Show.

A 250th Pewter Commemorative Medallion was created, T-shirts, and a Sestercentennial Book, all are still available for purchase, One Sestercentennial Book was given free to each household. If you didn't get a book, contact the town clerk to get yours.

A 250th Celebration Chicken & Pasta dinner was catered by Hinsdale Lions Club on July 23, 2022, with a fabulous turnout. Thanks to Colleen Laroche, Kim Leach Co- Chairpersons of the committee, Members: Jim Kenney, Verne Leach, Kathie Boucher, John Bigelow, Beth Bigelow, Sara Adams, Luran Steele, Coralie Pelkey, Sonya Butler, Glen Butler, George Grule, Darryl Darby, Dawn Warner and Kevin Warner. Thank you to the Police Department, Fire Department and the many, many volunteers.

Respectively submitted by Verne Leach

Peru Selectboard:

Verne Leach Chair, Doug Haskins Member, Edward Munch Member

FISCAL YEAR 2023  
TAX COLLECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT  
TAXES COLLECTED FOR THE PERIOD OF: 7/01/22 - 6/30/23

YEAR	REAL ESTATE \$\$	PERSONAL PROPERTY \$\$	MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE \$\$	FOREST PRODUCTS \$\$
2007			36.26	
2008			195.00	
2009			42.50	
2010				
2011				
2013				
2014				
2015			16.34	
2016			48.75	
2017			43.75	
2018	1,601.33			
2019	1,023.79		5,095.11	
2020	13,472.25		2,781.45	
2021	27,687.19		1,613.71	
2022	42,504.96		27,133.66	
2023	1,718,206.31	159,676.23	82,149.82	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,804,495.83</b>	<b>159,676.23</b>	<b>119,156.35</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**CHAPTER 61 ROLL BACK TAXES**

PRINCIPAL	=	
INTEREST	=	
TOTAL		0.00

**TOTAL TAXES COLLECTED FY23** = \$2,083,328.41  
**TOTAL INTEREST COLLECTED FY23** = \$24,465.18

**TOTAL COLLECTIONS FY23** \$2,107,793.59

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

**FISCAL YEAR 2023  
TREASURY RECEIPTS  
SUMMARY REPORT  
07/01/22 - 06/30/23**

<b>TR CODE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
1100.23	Personal Prop Taxes 2023	\$ 159,676.23
1200.18	Real Estate Taxes 2018	\$ 1,601.33
1200.19	Real Estate Taxes 2019	\$ 1,023.79
1200.20	Real Estate Taxes 2020	\$ 13,472.25
1200.21	Real Estate Taxes 2021	\$ 27,687.19
1200.22	Real Estate Taxes 2022	\$ 42,504.96
1200.23	Real Estate Taxes 20223	\$ 1,718,206.31
1300.07	Motor Vehicle Ex 2007	\$ 36.26
1300.08	Motor Vehicle Ex 2008	\$ 195.00
1300.09	Motor Vehicle Ex 2009	\$ 42.50
1300.15	Motor Vehicle Ex 2015	\$ 16.34
1300.16	Motor Vehicle Ex 2016	\$ 48.75
1300.17	Motor Vehicle 2017	\$ 43.75
1300.19	Motor Vehicle 2019	\$ 5,095.11
1300.20	Motor Vehicle 2020	\$ 2,781.45
1300.21	Motor Vehicle 2021	\$ 1,613.71
1300.22	Motor Vehicle 2022	\$ 27,133.66
1300.23	Motor Vehicle 2023	\$ 82,149.82
1562.00	Tax Titles	\$ 5,079.14
1562.50	Tax Possessions (Foreclosures)	\$ 76,000.00
1604.00	State Aid to Highways	\$ 54,737.10
1800.4125	Proforma/Rollback Taxes	\$ 611.18
1800.4125	Gain/Loss on Sale of Tax Foreclosure	\$ 2,065.00
1800.4171	Interest on Property Tax	\$ 19,994.50
1800.4172	Interest on MVE	\$ 4,470.68
1800.4173	Interest on Tax Titles	\$ 2,290.15
1800.4180	In Lieu of Taxes	\$ 2,712.14
1800.436	Municipal Building Rent	\$ 80.00
1800.4416	Bd of Appeals Fees/Permit	\$ 275.00
1800.4420	Town Share Building Insp	\$ 778.65
1800.4424	Compactor Fees/Permits	\$ 17,087.20
1800.4426	Town Share Elec/Wiring In	\$ 328.50
1800.4428	Town Share Smoke/Fire Dep	\$ 171.00
1800.4434	Town Share Plumbing & Gas	\$ 88.00
1800.4439	Other Licenses & Permits	\$ 162.50
1800.4541	CS State Owned Land	\$ 71,082.00
1800.4616	CS Elderly Abatements	\$ 1,006.00
1800.4620	CS School Aid Chapter 70	\$ 90,112.00
1800.4671	CS Unrestricted General Government Aid	\$ 132,295.00
1800.4695	Court Fines	\$ 157.50
1800.4731	MVE Flagging Fees	\$ 160.00
1800.477	Dog Fines	\$ 50.00
1800.4820	Interest on Savings	\$ 9,615.15
1800.4835	3% Withholding on Police Detail	\$ 1,189.30

**FISCAL YEAR 2023  
TREASURY RECEIPTS  
SUMMARY REPORT  
07/01/22 - 06/30/23**

<b>TR CODE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
1800.4836	Police Detail Cruiser Fee	\$ 1,353.12
1800.4840	Misc. Revenues	\$ 274.61
1800.495	Refunds	\$ 490.00
2014.00	Temporary Loan - BAN	\$ 1,244,706.00
3053.00	FID.License-Police	\$ 4,525.00
4000.00	State Aid to Libraries	\$ 3,958.97
4000.912	ARPA	\$ 124,644.15
4001.00	Bd. of Health Grant	\$ 5,330.00
4006.02	Insurance Repl Damaged Prop	\$ 4,022.44
4007.00	Fire Dept Grant	\$ 3,799.00
4008.00	C.O.A. Formula Grant	\$ 6,000.00
4009.00	Peru Recycling Grant Small Scale 2016	\$ 3,850.00
4012.00	Elections - State	\$ 2,155.26
42010.00	Taxes	\$ 45,704.20
42020.00	Retirement	\$ 25,929.27
42030.00	Deferred Comp	\$ 13,362.93
42040.00	Insurance	\$ 29,114.55
5000.01	Health Insp REV 53 E 1/2	\$ 2,975.00
5000.02	Bldg.Insp. REV 53 E 1/2	\$ 7,007.85
5000.03	Elect.Insp. REV 53 E 1/2	\$ 2,956.50
5000.04	Gas & Plumb Insp REV 53 E	\$ 792.00
5000.05	Fire Insp REV 53 E 1/2	\$ 1,539.00
5000.07	Tax Title Collection Revolving	\$ 421.95
5000.08	250 Celebration Revolving	\$ 4,389.15
5001.00	Tax Coll's Fees	\$ 1,978.00
5001.01	Town Clerk's Fees	\$ 652.00
5003.00	Deputy Collector's Fees	\$ 1,024.00
5004.00	Police Detail	\$ 15,332.75
5005.06	MassWorks Grant	\$ 927,000.00
5005.07	Wrap FY22 State Grant	\$ 117,706.06
5005.08	Police FY22 Bridge Academy State Grant	\$ 3,000.00
5007.00	Mohawk Trails Grant	\$ 39,523.34
600020.00	Stabilization Fund	\$ 3,199.51
600022.00	Partridgefld Plygrnd Trst	\$ 78.10
600024.00	Cemetery Trust Acct.	\$ 5.23
600026.00	Sunrise Solar Escrow Trust	\$ (1,529.09)
600030.00	Conservation Trust Acct	\$ 15.49
7000.02	Dog Lic Rsrvd for Library	\$ 1,516.25
7000.03	Municipality Rides Disbursement	\$ 0.30
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ 5,224,728.99</b>

**Treasurer's Report FY 2023**

Long Term Debit

LOAN	OUTSTANDING JULY 1, 2022	NEW DEBIT ISSUED	RETIREMENTS	OUTSTANDING JUNE 30, 2023	INTEREST PAID IN FY 2023
HIGHWAY GARAGE	174,172.39		4,617.67	169,554.72	7,402.33
FIRESTATION	177,900.00		9,364.00	168,536.00	5,559.38

Short Term Debit

LOAN	OUTSTANDING JULY 1, 2022	NEW DEBIT ISSUED	RETIREMENTS	OUTSTANDING JUNE 30, 2023	INTEREST PAID IN FY 2023
SAN- STATE GRANT ANTICIPATION NOTE		1,244,706.00	1,244,706.00	0.00	24,451.56

Total interest paid on loans = \$37,413.27

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 23 Tax Title Payments Collected:**  
 Certified = \$5,079.14  
 Treasurer's Interest = \$2,290.15  
**Total Tax Title Payments Received= \$7,369.29**

**Foreclosures**

The Town acquired ownership of the following property in Fiscal Year 2023 through the foreclosure process in Land Court:

<u>Parcel Id</u>	<u>Address</u>
21-0-2	Strong Road

**Town Auction**

On December 1, 2022, the Town held an auction to sell 6 parcels that we had Foreclosed on. Sullivan & Sullivan Auctioneers LLC conducted the auction for the Town. There were 19 registered bidders – all 6 parcels were sold at this auction. Total sales were \$73,000.00. Below are the parcels that sold and the amount they sold for.

<u>Parcel ID</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Sale Price</u>
11-0-6	144 Middlefield Road	\$ 3,500.00
17-0-5	Kreutzer Road	\$21,000.00
21-0-6	Strong Road	\$16,000.00
44-0-71	9 Hillside Road	\$ 3,500.00
25-0-33	4 Hilltop Drive	\$ 6,500.00
37-0-4	Andes Road	\$22,500.00

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

## **Town Administrator Report**

July 2022-June 2023

My name is Terry Walker, and I was appointed as the Administrative Assistant November 2021. James Welch was appointed as the Town Administrator, December 2021 and resigned December 2022. The town did not have a Town Administrator from December 2022 until I was appointed April 18, 2023. March 20, 2023, Robert Ireland was interviewed to fill the position as Town Administrator. March 27, 2023, I was interviewed to fill the position as Town Administrator. On April 18, 2023, the Board of Selectmen appointed me as the Town Administrator for the Town of Peru.

The following report is based on minutes from Board of Selectmen's meetings.

**Assessor's Office:** Some of the work in the Assessor's Office was outsourced and completed by RRG. The Primary Assessor, Amy Davidson, was overseeing RRG and making sure all their duties and responsibilities were being completed. Bids for Assessing services were accepted and Patriots Properties was hired by the town to assist in the Assessor's office. Amy Davidson, Primary Assessor, resigned May 22, 2023. Susan Koziara was interviewed for the Primary Assessor position on May 2, 2023, Ms. Koziara was hired as the Primary Assessor May 22, 2023, and began working in the Assessor's office on June 5, 2023.

**Accountant's Office:** Anna Osborn resigned as our Town Accountant, August 2022. Eric Kinsherp CPA and his accounting firm were hired December 2022. Anna received a grant for \$25,000 which was for the conversion from Statutory Accounting to Uniform Massachusetts Accounting System UMAS.

**Police Department:** Police Chief Cullett was awarded several grants to assist with departmental training and equipment. A new cruiser was purchased with ARPA funds. The BOS voted to increase Police Chief Cullett's hours to a 40 hour work week.

**Fire Department:** Fire Chief Pelkey attended all necessary training as the Fire Chief and was awarded several grants for the fire department.

**Highway Department:** Highway Superintendent Russell was notified in August 2022 that the state awarded funding for improvements to Route 143. Also, the \$1,000,000 MassWorks grant for the East Windsor Road project was completed September 2022.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer Wendling scheduled an auction where six Real Estate parcels were taken out of Tax Title and auctioned off. The town did not only receive payment for these parcels at the auction, but these six parcels are back on the tax rolls.

Permit Eyes software for Fire Department, Building, Plumbing, Gas Inspectors was approved by the Board of Selectmen. The online permitting is a tool for departments to communicate. The BOS are also anticipating that more homeowners and contractors will be applying for permits online; therefore, generating more revenue.

Peru 250th Celebration was held summer of 2022 which included a parade, vendors, T-shirts and a free book to each household. A 250th Celebration dinner was held on July 23, 2022, with a fabulous turnout. September 2022, the town received a \$20,000 grant from Woodlands Partnership Initiative Grant for upgrading Pierce Road and making it passable.

I was hired April 18, 2023, as the Town Administrator and this report is for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. I really enjoy every aspect of my job. I have worked in several towns, and I found the Peru Board of Selectmen strive to keep the best interest of the town a priority. My goal is to continue writing grants to assist with the infrastructure of the town and help keep the taxes down. I also feel that spending more hours at the town hall would enhance the position.

I would like to thank all the departments that welcomed me to the town and to everyone that assisted with my transition as the Town Administrator.

Terry Walker  
Town Administrator

## Town Clerk Report for Fiscal Year 2023 Page 1

The 2023 Annual Street Listing/Census was mailed out in January. If you did not get a Census form in the mail, please contact the Town Clerk office and I will get one right out to you.

Peru's Annual Town Meeting was held on June 3, 2023, at 6:00pm with 42 registered voters and 3 guests were in attendance The Annual Town Election was held on June 10, 2023, Polling hours were from 10:00am-4:00pm with 129 Voter Turn Out. A special town meeting was held on December 18, 2023, with 30 registered voters and 2 guests in attendance.

### 2023 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, five people died. Our condolences go out to the families that have lost a loved one.

Marriages: One couple took out marriage intentions.

Births: There were two births, and one female and one male. Congratulations to the families on welcoming their little ones.

2020 Federal Census Population# 814 Registered Voters #639 Dog Licenses Issued #190

### Peru Annual Town Local Election June 10, 2023, Results

Select Board 3-Yr. Term

Bonny B. DiTomasso -42

Edward Munch - 68 (*write-in votes*)

(2) Finance Committee 3-Yr. Term

Paul Hickling—31 (*write-in votes*)

Robin Wadsworth—30 (*write-in votes*)

Board of Health 3-Yr. Term -

Nanette Mone -106

Moderator 3 Yr. Term

Samuel Haupt-29 (*write-in votes*)

Constable 2-Yr. Term -

Peggy L. White- 116

Planning Board 5-Yr. Term -

Paul Hickling-6 (*write-in votes*)

### Election Poll Workers and Board of Registrars:

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

Poll Workers; Sara Adams, Bonny DiTomasso , Kathy Borden, Margaret Chieffo, Brenda Darby, Darryl Darby, George, Greule, Sharon Greule, Linda Kellogg, Terry Kellogg, James Kenney, Jamie Leach, Cathy MacPhail, Nanette Mone, Irene Morrison, Amy Pharmed, Paula Phillips, Charlene Steele, Grahm Sturz, Peggy White, David Whiting

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

I'd like to thank my Assistant Gladys Wheeler for her help in the office. Her work is deeply appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted by, Kim A. Leach, Town Clerk

Burial Agent, Chief Elections Officer, Records Access Officer, Ex-officio Member Board of Registrars

Member of the Massachusetts Town Clerks Association

Phone: 413-655-8312 X 102 ~ E-mail: [townclerk@townofperuma.com](mailto:townclerk@townofperuma.com)

## Town Clerk Report for Fiscal Year 2023 Page 2

### 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 Mass. 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.

Attests to and maintains documentation on all elected and appointed Town officials, and 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.

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 & 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.

Oversees 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.

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.

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

Serves as a Licensing Officer. Issues 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 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.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Berkshire, ss

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

**GREETINGS:**

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Peru, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet in the Town of Peru Community Center, 3 East Main Road Peru, MA on Saturday, June 3, 2023, at 6:00 PM for the Annual Town Meeting, then and there to take action on the following articles, namely:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to fix salaries of all elected officers as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of M.G. L., for FY24 or take any other action relative thereto:

Selectboard

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

Town Clerk 10,300.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Assessors' Expense	\$ 1,000.00
Bank Service Expense	100.00
Animal Control Officer's Expense	1,000.00
Selectmen & Other Expenses	2,500.00
Tax Collector's Expenses	1,500.00
Tax Collector's Tax Taking Charges	1,500.00
Town Clerk's Expense	2,200.00
Town Report Expense	2,000.00
Treasurer/Accounting Expense	1,500.00
Treasurer Tax Title Expense	6,000.00
Board of Appeals Expense	100.00
U.S. Postal Expense	3,500.00
Health Department Expense	15,500.00

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

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

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

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

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

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

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

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

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee Support this article.

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

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

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

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

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

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

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

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

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

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

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

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

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

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

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

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

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

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

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

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

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

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

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

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

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

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

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

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

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

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

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

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

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

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

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

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

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

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

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

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

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

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Article 32:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Chapter 90 funds that are, or may become, available to the Town during FY24 for Roadway Projects and Repairs, and to authorize the Treasurer to borrow such amounts in anticipation of reimbursement by the Commonwealth or take any other action relative thereto.

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

**Article 33:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, or other Town Departments with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to apply for and accept grants from the Federal Government, Commonwealth of Massachusetts or any other source, and to expend the same for purposes received without further appropriation, or to take any other action relative thereto.

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

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

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

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

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

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

*ATTEST:*

*This is a true copy.*

*Kim A. Leach, Town Clerk*



*Certified: June 8, 2023*

*Gladys Wheeler*

*Assistant Town Clerk*

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

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

**GREETINGS:**

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Peru, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet in the Town Hall Meeting Room , 3 East Main Road Peru, MA for a Special Town Meeting on December 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., then and there to take action on the following articles, namely:

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

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

*Moderator Samuel Haupt was present.*

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to Transfer from \$60,000.00 from Future Equipment & Vehicle Purchase Account to purchase a Fire Rescue Truck or take any other action relative thereto. The balance of \$47,135.00 will be transferred from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Moderator Haupt identified the word "from" before "\$60,000" as a scrivener's error, to be deleted from the wording of the article.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Following discussion, a vote was taken using green index cards. 27 voted aye, 3 voted nay. The article carried by 2/3rds vote.*

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate \$2,102.60 to the following accounts to fund FY23 oversights or take any other action relative thereto.

Tax Collector	\$ 370.80 (up 3%)
Treasurer	\$ 370.80 (up 3%)
Assessor	\$ 971.00 (level fund from FY23)
Highway Department	\$ 355.00 (from FY23)
Highway Department	\$ 35.00 (from FY23)

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

*Motion was made and seconded to dissolve the meeting; motion was carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was dissolved at 6:36 p.m.*

*Number of registered voters attending: 30 Number of guests: 2*

ATTEST: This is a true copy. Certified: December 23, 2023

*Kim A Leach*

Kim A. Leach, Town Clerk

*Gladys Wheeler*

Gladys Wheeler, Assistant Town Clerk

### **About Peru**

Incorporated in 1771, Peru, MA is located on the eastern edge of beautiful Berkshire County. Peru had a population of 814 at the 2020 census. The town has a rich rural character, and is perfect for those seeking a peaceful getaway in the country.

Our official website is designed to be user-friendly and provide the public with greater access to our municipal government.

### **Our History**

Originally known as Northern Berkshire Township Number 2 and including all of Hinsdale and part of Middlefield, the town was first settled in 1767 and was officially incorporated as Partridgefield in 1771. Originally named for Oliver Partridge, one of the three purchasers of the town (along with Governor Francis Bernard), the name was officially changed to Peru in 1806, on the suggestion of the Rev. John Leland, "because it is like the Peru of South America, a mountain town, and if no gold or silver mines are under her rocks, she favors hard money and begins with a P."

(From Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peru,\\_Massachusetts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peru,_Massachusetts) )

The Berkshires town of Peru is a bedroom community for the mills in Dalton, Pittsfield of Berkshire county, and the Hampden county cities Springfield and West Springfield. With the highest town center in Massachusetts, more than half of Peru is woodlands, including the Dorothy Frances Rice Wildlife Sanctuary.

The only lake in Peru is the privately-owned Garnet Lake. Garnet Mountain Monument commemorates 15 soldiers who were killed in a plane crash on Garnet Mountain during World War II.



