

**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 Fire Station, 11 East Main Road Peru, MA on Saturday, June 6, 2026, 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. Forty-seven voters were present at the meeting. And Nine Guests*

**Article 1:** To choose a Moderator for the Annual Town Meeting if the elected Moderator is absent or take any other action relative thereto:

*The elected moderator Allan Gordon was not present. Logan Brooks was nominated by the Town Clerk to be moderator for the meeting. No others were nominated on the floor. The nomination was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.*

*Sam Haupt explained recent work of the Planning Board to amend Town of Peru Zoning Bylaws. These changes were not to be voted on at this meeting. More information and a hearing will be held in the future. A handout of their work was available for residents to bring home.*

*Finance Committee Chairman Bruce Cullett made introductory remarks regarding the FY27 budget.*

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the several Town Officers, or take any other action relative thereto:

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

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or any other sums, for the Central Berkshire Regional School District FY27 Assessment, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Net Operating Assessment	\$ 1,083,751.00
Capital Assessment	<u>156,297.00</u>
Total Town of Peru Assessment	<b>\$1,240,048.00</b>

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

*Brief remarks were made by a representative of the School District. Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Following discussion, the article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 4: Citizens Petition:** Petition to the Town of Peru to change the position of Town Clerk as described under MGL c41 section 1 from an elected to an appointed position:

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. During discussion, a motion was made and seconded to vote by secret paper ballot, and that motion carried. The article did not pass. Eight voted yes, thirty-nine voted no.*

**Article 5: Citizens Petition:** The Board of Selectmen shall be required to schedule the Peru Annual Town Meeting no later than the second Saturday in May at 5:00 p.m.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Following discussion, the article was voted down by majority hand count.*

**Article 6: Citizens Petition:** Petition the Town of Peru in accordance with MGL Ch. 32B section 20 to create an Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund for the current and future liabilities of the Town for group health insurance benefits for the retirees and their dependents which fund may be expended by a 2/3 vote of a Town Meeting, and designate a trustee or trustees, and further, to direct that such trustee or trustees adopt and file a declaration of trust and take all other actions as required by said section, or take any other action relative thereto:

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Following much discussion, a motion was made and seconded to vote by secret paper ballot, and that motion carried. The article did not pass. Ten people voted yes, thirty-six people voted no.*

*A motion was made and seconded to move Article 35 to be discussed and voted upon at this time. The motion carried.*

**Article 35:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt as Article 39 of the Town's General By-laws the following non-criminal disposition by-law in accordance with G.L. c. 40, § 21D, or to take any other action relative thereto:

**Article 39. NONCRIMINAL DISPOSITION BY-LAW:**

1. Any by-law of the Town of Peru, or rule or regulation of its officers, boards or departments, may in the discretion of the Town official who is the appropriate enforcing person, be enforced through noncriminal disposition as provided in G.L. c. 40, § 21D. The specific penalty for purposes of noncriminal disposition for each such violation, if not otherwise specified, shall be as follows:
  - First violation – warning
  - Second violation - \$50
  - Third violation - \$100
  - Fourth and subsequent violations - \$300
2. Each day a violation exists shall constitute a separate violation for purposes of this by-law.
3. The term “enforcing person” as used in this by-law shall mean: any Town of Peru police officer with respect to any offense; as well as the Fire Chief and Fire Inspector, Town Administrator, Highway Superintendent, Animal Control Officer/Inspector, Building Commissioner, Conservation Commission or its agent, Board of Health or its agent, Zoning Board of Appeals or its agent, and their designees, and such other officials as the Select Board may from time to time designate, each with respect to violation of by-laws, rules and regulations within their respective jurisdictions. If more than one official has jurisdiction in a given case, any such official may be an enforcing person with respect thereto.
4. Any particular fine specified in a by-law shall be included on a list maintained in the office of the Town Clerk.
5. The fines set forth in the notice of violation issued in accordance with this By-law shall be payable to the Town within 21 days of the date set forth on the notice or, if the person so notified seeks to contest the violation, such person may request a hearing before the Pittsfield District Court. The person so notified may also seek to resolve the matter locally by appealing the issuance of the notice, in writing, to the Town Administrator no later than 14 days following the date of the notice of violation. The Town Administrator or the Administrator's designee shall, no later than 20 days following the date of the notice of violation, decide the appeal, or hold a hearing to determine such additional facts as may be necessary. If the person so notified is dissatisfied with the Town Administrator's determination and resolution, they may contest the violation as set forth in the notice by seeking a hearing before the Pittsfield District Court in accordance with G.L. c. 40, § 21D. The Administrator's failure to make a determination within the time set forth herein shall be construed for purposes of this paragraph as a determination to void the notice of violation.

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Following discussion, the article carried by majority hand count.*

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or any other sums, to fix the salaries of all elected officers as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of M.G. L., for FY27 or take any other action relative thereto:

Selectboard

Member	\$ 3,906.50
Member	3,906.50
Member	3,906.50

Town Clerk \$15,450.00

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

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

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or any other sums, to fix the salaries of the following appointed officers for FY27, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Assessors'

Lead Assessor	\$22,496.20
Assessor #1	4,006.03
Assessor	2,732.81
Treasurer	16,068.00
Tax Collector	16,068.00
Accounting Services	35,100.00
Animal Control Officer	2,088.19
Police Chief	82,400.00
Inspector of Animals	1,037.46
Veterans' Agent	546.02
Council on Aging Director	1.00
Fire Chief	6,180.00
Cemetery Sexton	772.00
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. The article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or any other sums, for the following accounts for FY27, or take any other action relative thereto:

Assessors' Salaries	\$ 29,235.04
Selectmen's Salary	11,719.49
Tax Collector's Salary	16,068.00
Town Clerk's Salary	15,450.00
Treasurer's Salary	16,068.00
Accounting Services	35,100.00
Assessing Services	25,000.00
Animal Control Officer's Salary	2,088.19
Inspector of Animals Salary	1,037.46
Veterans' Agent Salary	546.02
Council on Aging Director	1.00
Fire Chief	6,180.00
Police Chief	82,400.00
Cemetery Sexton Salary	772.00
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. The article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or any other sums, for the following wage accounts for FY27, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Recording Secretary	\$ 5,304.50
Elections & Registrar's Account	8,340.00
Board of Registrar's Pay Town Clerk	100.00
Assistant Town Clerk	2,575.00
Compactor Attendants	9,446.25
Town Administrator's Salary	41,200.00

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

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

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or any other sums, for the following accounts for FY27, 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	2,000.00
Town Clerk's Expense	2,595.00
Town Report Expense	2,000.00
Treasurer	1,500.00
Treasurer Tax Title Expense	6,000.00
Board of Appeals Expense	100.00
U.S. Postal Expense	5,000.00
Health Department Expense	16,402.00
Hogweed Eradication	750.00

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

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

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or any other sums, for the following accounts for FY27, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Assessors' Annual Computer Support	\$ 2,400.00
Computer Supplies & Maintenance IT	22,450.00
Treas./Acct. Annual Computer Support	15,370.92
Tax Collector's Annual Computer Support	12,580.82
Assessors' Tax Map Maintenance	2,600.00
Continuing Education	3,000.00
Office Supplies	2,000.00
Assessor Utility Appraisal	4,500.00

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

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

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or any other sums, for the following accounts for FY27, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Conservation Commission Expense	\$ 500.00
Interest on Loans	17,000.00
Legal Expense	9,000.00
Officers' Mileage	1,500.00

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

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

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or any other sums, for the following accounts for FY27, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Elderly Outreach	\$ 1.00
Council on Aging Expense	1.00
Veterans Service	6,000.00

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

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

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or any other sums, for the following accounts for FY27, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Medicare – Town Share	\$ 6,900.00
Health Ins/Life & Dental	185,000.00
Town Insurance - All	43,553.00
Mass. Unemployment Insurance	600.00
CHUBB Insurance	7,381.00

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

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

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or any other sums, for the following accounts for FY27, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Partridge Field Playground Trust	\$ 1,500.00
Peru Library	23,256.00
Mowing: Cemeteries, Town Hall, Town Park and Town Green:	7,300.00

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

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

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or any other sums, for the following accounts for FY27, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Town Buildings' Maintenance	\$ 15,000.00
Town Building Maint. Salary	6,180.00
Utilities – Electric	15,000.00
Utilities – Heating	21,000.00
Utilities - Telephone	1,800.00
Internet Communication Lines	7,250.00
Town Website Design, Hosting, & Support	1,500.00
Town Hall Janitorial Services	4,900.00
Cemetery Expense	500.00

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

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

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or any other sums, for the following accounts for FY27 or to take any other action relative thereto:

Compactor	\$ 40,000.00
Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District	3,420.00

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

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

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or any other sums, for the following accounts for FY27, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Berk. County Reg. Planning Comm.	\$ 746.26
Berk. County Retirement Assessment	66,990.00
Hinsdale Ambulance	3,000.00

Town Fire Station Mortgage Payment	13,752.88
Police Wages	29,380.75
Police Expenses	8,539.00
Police Cruiser Maintenance	3,850.00
Police Continuing Education	3,000.00
Emergency Management Expenses	1,000.00

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

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

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or any other sums, for the following accounts for FY27, 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 in support of this article.

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

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or any other sums, for the following accounts for FY27, 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	30,000.00
Snow Roads, Public	95,500.00
Town Highways & Bridges	20,000.00
Town Highway Garage Mortgage Payment	12,020.00
Highway Employee Wage Acct.	120,000.00
Highway Superintendent Salary	81,954.52
Highway Department Uniforms	3,800.00
Tree Removal	25,000.00
Temporary Summer Help	8,000.00
Highway Garage Maintenance	3,000.00

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

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

**Article 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or any other sums, for the vocational education and transportation accounts for FY27, or take any other action relative thereto:

Vocational School Tuition	\$203,031.00
Vocational School Transportation	\$74,887.20

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

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

**Article 23:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Forty-Eight Thousand, Five Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars and Eighty Three Cents, (\$48,529.83) or any other sums, for overage in Snow Roads, or take any other action relative thereto.

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

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

**Article 24:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Ten Thousand Six Hundred Nine Dollars and Twenty-Five Cents, (\$10,609.25), or any other sum, to fund sandblasting and painting highway department plows, including all costs incidentals or related thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.

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

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

**Article 25:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$7,500.00), or any other sum, to purchase a new tractor mount 3-point hitch leaf blower or take any other action relative thereto.

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

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

**Article 26:** To see if the Town will transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred and Zero Cents, (\$4,500.00), or any other sum, to replace floor drain grates at the highway garage, or take any other action relative thereto.

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

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

**Article 27:** To see if the Town will transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$50,000.00), or any other sum, to the Future Equipment Account or take any other action relative thereto.

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

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

**Article 28:** To see if the Town will transfer from Free Cash the sum of Twenty-Two Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents, (\$22,000.00), or any other sum, for a Financial Town Audit for FY25, including all costs incidental or related thereto, or take any other action relative thereto:

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

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

**Article 29:** To see if the Town will transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Forty-One Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents, (\$41,000.00), or any other sum, to reduce the FY27 tax rate, or take any other action relative thereto.

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

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

**Article 30:** To see if the Town will Transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents, (\$5,000.00), or any other sum, these funds will be expended to purchase new laptops to use at Town Hall and within all town departments, or take other action relative thereto.

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

*Motion made and seconded to accept the article as written. Following discussion, the 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 (\$10,000.00), or any other sum, to the Reserve Fund for FY27 or take any other action relative thereto.

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

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

**Article 32:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of Nine Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Four Dollars and Zero Cents (\$9,364.00), or any other sum, to pay an additional Fire Station principal mortgage payment, or take any other action relative thereto.

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

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

**Article 33:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from **Free Cash** the sum of One Hundred and Four Dollars and Seventy-Six Cents, (\$104.76), or any other sum, to pay a FY25 AT&T invoice, or take any other action relative thereto.

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

4/5 quantum of vote is required.

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

**Article 34:** To see if the Town will vote:

1. To amend Article 37 of the By-laws of the Town of Peru General Bylaws to establish a revolving fund, pursuant to G.L. c.44, sec. 53E1/2, entitled "Board of Health Fees", for which the receipt of payments for fines and inspections shall be credited to the fund and where such funds may be expended for cyclical public health activities, including but not limited to, offering immunizations and health clinics and to pay part-time contract health agents or nurses, with authorization for use by the Town Treasurer, provided that no more than \$1,500.00 may be expended from the Board of Health Fees Revolving Fund during Fiscal Year 2027;
  2. To amend Article 37 of the By-Laws of the Town of Peru General Bylaws to establish a revolving fund, pursuant to G.L. c.44, sec. 53E1/2, entitle "Firearms Licensing Fees" for which the receipt of payments of firearms licensing applications shall be credited to the fund and funds may be expended for costs associated with the processing of firearms applications, with authorization for use by the Town Treasurer, provided that no more than \$3,000.00 may be expended from the Firearms Licensing Fees Revolving Fund during Fiscal Year 2027; and
  3. To amend Article 37 of the By-laws of the Town of Peru General Bylaws to set the spending limit of the Town's Inspectional Services Revolving Fund at \$25,000.00 as set forth in the By-law and by deleting "FY2019" as found in Article 37 and replacing it with "FY2027" or take any other action relative thereto.
- Board of Selectman and Finance Committee in support of this article.

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

**Article 36:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Chapter 90 funds that are, or may become, available to the town during FY27 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. The article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**Article 37:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, or other Town Departments with the approval of the Board of Selectman, 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. The article carried by unanimous voice vote.*

*Motion made and seconded to dissolve the meeting. Article carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was dissolved at 8:08 p.m.*

ATTEST:

This is a true copy.

*Kim A Leach*

Kim Leach  
Town Clerk

Certified: June 10, 2026