

TOWN HALL, 3 EAST MAIN ROAD, PERU, MA 01235
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES: August 3, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Community Center

Edward Munch, Chairman Selectboard
Verne Leach, Selectman
Samuel Haupt, Selectman
Terry Walker, Town Administrator
Bruce Cullett, Police Chief
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Bonny DiTomasso, COA Director
Branden Mascolo, Assessor

Public Attendees: Tina Barrington, Tracy Kenney,

Item 1: Call to order: Chairman Munch called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Recording: Selectman Leach recording for personal reasons under exemption E.

Roll Call: Chairman Munch present, Selectman Haupt present, Selectman Leach present

Chairman Munch motion meeting be moved to the meeting room, Selectman Leach second, 3-0.

Chairman Munch motion to recess the meeting, Selectman Leach second 3-0 @ 6:01 p.m.

Chairman Munch adjourned meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Selectman Haupt second, 3-0

Chairman Munch called meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Selectman Leach second, 3-0 in the meeting room.

Item 2: Selectboard Roll Call: Chairman Munch present, Selectman Haupt present, Selectman Leach present

Item 3: State Recording status: TA Walker recording, Tina Barrington recording, Selectman Leach recording for personal reasons under exemption E.

Item 4: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Led by Chairman Munch

Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 7/20/2026: Chairman Munch motion to approve 7/20/2026 minutes as written, Selectman Leach second, 3-0.

Item 6: Update from Departments:

Police Department:

Chief Cullett mentioned that the 2022 Ford Explorer is having problems and was towed to Northampton Ford. The mileage on the Explorer is 23,000 miles and is still under warranty.

Highway Department:

- Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that he and TA Walker submitted a bid proposal for dense grade to Central Register, Combuys and the Berkshire Eagle.
- The Solar radar signs have been installed and are working.
- Winter Recovery Assistance program, (WRAP) \$93,266.13 was received and it will be added to Chapter 90. The funds can be used for repairs from the winter storms.
- Grant Central has an additional 20 million that the town can apply for. This money can be used for the harsh winter expenses during January and February 2026.

- Hogweed-Superintendent Russell mentioned that the Hogweed was recently sprayed. TA Walker mentioned that she had received an email from Chris Polatin from Land Stewardship. He mentioned that he had sent other individuals to spray hogweed on June 23rd and unfortunately the application failed. Chris sprayed on July 26th and will remove all areas that had gone to seed. He will not charge the town extra for respraying. Chris also said he would be willing to attend a BOS meeting to discuss hogweed eradication and speak with concerned residents. Tracy Kenney-77 August Smith Road attended the meeting and was concerned about the spread of hogweed to her property. Tracy will welcome a phone call from Chris Polatin to discuss the hogweed situation. Superintendent Russell mentioned that once 55 East Windsor Road is in receivership the state will come in and eliminate the hogweed.

COA Director:

- COA Director Bonny DiTomaso mentioned that the COA was awarded a FY27 Formula grant and the first quarterly installment of \$8,000.00 has been received.
- Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA) free transportation has been extended to June 2027, and 17 people are actively using BRTA.
- Farmers market coupons were distributed to 20 families. Peru had originally received 10 coupon books and Bonny advocated to increase the allotment to 20 coupon books. One resident called our COA Director the last week of July, and she has been placed on a wait list.
- Safety shoe threads were distributed to 65 residents and everyone appreciated receiving them during the summer as opposed to receiving them when the ground is covered with ice and snow.
- Bonny mentioned that she tried to access the new Peru website training and was unable to facilitate through a link. Selectman Leach suggested she contact the town clerk.
- Bonny DiTomaso, Shine Director, asked the BOS if they would allow her to do shine counselling at the Peru town hall. Elder Services will provide a MOU stating that Shine Services would not be performed in the COA office nor would the services be performed during COA hours.
- Bonny inquired about purchasing a wheelchair and storing it at town hall to assist elderly with medical appointments through BRTA. Selectman asked TA Walker to inquire about a liability to the town. TA Walker agreed to contact MIIA. Chairman Munch asked Bonny to get a price for the wheelchair.

Assessors:

Assessor Mascolo mentioned that on July 27, 2026, he passed Course 101 for the Assessor's office.

Town Administrator:

CHUBB Insurance-TA Walker is waiting on a quote from MIIA to recalculate the CHUBB (Special Risk Accident Insurance) for police officers. The weekly benefit has not been updated in years. Under Chapter 41 section 111F, the amount not covered by CHUBB must be paid by the town. TA Walker is waiting on a quote to increase weekly benefit from \$850.00 per week to \$2,000.00 per week.

TA Walker spoke with Hazel from UCP in Pittsfield and Evan will be picking up the ramp the town has donated to UCP.

Selectman Haupt: mentioned that the Pilot Program meeting was held on July 24th at the Innovation Center in Pittsfield, MA. He was happy to see multiple town officials attend the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was for discussion and reform of the Pilot Program.

Chairman Munch: mentioned that he attended a meeting at the Innovation Center in Pittsfield, MA and received a copy of the "Declaration of Independence" from Paul Mark which was printed on the original paper. The BOS plans to have the document framed.

Selectman Leach: mentioned that there is a water problem in the basement and water is coming in through the foundation. Chairman Munch suggested a curtain drain and repairing the foundation.

Item 7: 6:30 p.m. interview with Katelynn Wyman for Assessor position: Katelynn Wyman could not attend the interview and would make arrangements for an interview on August 17th or August 31st.

Item 8: Discussion and possible vote on appointing a representative for the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA): Chairman Munch motion to appoint Selectman Leach as the representative for BRTA, Selectman Haupt second, 2-0. Selectman Leach recused himself.

Item 9: Discussion and possible vote on determination from the Attorney General on Susan Koziara's Open Meeting Law Complaint: Selectman Haupt mentioned that the complaint failed for procedural reasons and it was not filed in a timely manner. The AG's office rejected the complaint and the case is closed.

Item 10: Discussion and possible vote on signing the State Primary Election Warrant: Chairman Munch motion to sign the State Primary Election Warrant, Selectman Leach second, 3-0.

Item 11: Discussion and possible vote on appointing poll workers: David Whiting, Peggy White, Gladys Wheeler, Becky (Mary) Scott, Amy Pharmer, Irene Morrison, Nanette Mone, Branden Mascalo, James Kenney, Terry Kellogg, Linda Kellogg, Karina Hamalainen, Sharon Greule, George Greule, Darryl Darby, Russ Chieffo, Margaret Chieffo, Katie Boucher, Kathy Borden, Beth Bigelow, Sara Adams: Chairman Munch motion to appoint poll workers, Selectman Leach second, 3-0.

Item 12: Discussion and possible vote on replacing locks at Town Hall Entry Doors: Police Chief Cullet presented an updated proposal from PYE Barker which includes a keypad for the main front door and interior gym door with a battery backup. Users will enter with individual codes that will release doors and disarm building security alarm. The codes can be updated for contractors. This new security system will eliminate the 2 Verizon phone lines which will save the town over \$180.00 per month. The cost of the Security & Access Upgrade is \$5,680.42 and the cost of the annual alarm monitoring is \$720.00. Chief Cullett mentioned that the new system upgrade will make tracking more efficient. The BOS would like to keep the Ring Doorbell because it is still in use. The Police Chief will be the point of contact for codes. Selectman Leach would like the Board of Selectmen to be the point of contact when the police chief is out of town. Chairman Munch motion to accept PYE Barker's proposal, Selectman Leach second, 3-0. Selectman Haupt motion to give permission for Chief Cullett to sign PYE proposal, Chairman Munch second, 3-0.

Item 13: Review and Approve accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll warrants: V03-2027

Item 14: Public Input: Tina Barrington suggested having 911 call boxes available at the town hall and fire house. The Selectboard will take it into consideration.

Item 15: Adjourn: Chairman Munch motion to adjourn the 8/3/2026 BOS meeting, Selectman Leach second, 3-0. The 8/3/2026 BOS meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Articles Used:

7/20/2026 minutes
Warrant V03-2027
Email from Chris Polatin-Hogweed
BRTA Representative
OML complaint by Susan Koziara
State Primary Election warrant
Appointment letters
PYE Proposal

Terry Walker

Recording Secretary

Edward Munch, Chairman

Ed Munch

Samuel Haupt, Selectman

Samuel Haupt

Verne Leach, Selectman

Verne Leach

Date approved:

8-17-26

Received 8-17-2026
Kim Leach, Town Clerk

Town Administrator

From: admin <info@landstewardshipinc.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2026 5:58 PM
To: Town Administrator
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] New payment request from Land Stewardship, Inc. - invoice 023-2026

Hi Terry,

This email provides information about the hogweed treatment. The original treatment was conducted on 6/23/26. I sent an experienced crew member to conduct the application. You contacted me on July 24th disclosing that your board of health agent visited the site on July 6 and did not see any signs of treatment. I personally returned to the site on Sunday 7/26, and conducted a thorough treatment. I did notice vague signs of herbicide damage (slightly yellowing leaves), but not to the extent I expected. The active ingredient used (glyphosate) acts slowly, so I would not expect the plants to have browned out, but I would have expected wilting and significant yellowing of the leaves. I also noticed that seedheads had formed on several plants, which would not have occurred if the application had been successful. It is hard to know exactly what went wrong with our application.

I apologize that the initial application was not successful.

Next steps: I will need to return to the site over the next week to carefully cut and dispose of the several seedheads that formed this season to prevent more plants from growing on both sides of East Windsor Road. I will also cut and remove several seedheads around the property at 55 East Windsor Road. As you know, handling hogweed is dangerous. I will take precautions to avoid contact with the photo-reactive sap.

Please delay sending me the previously invoiced check until I remediate this situation. I will contact you again once the work is complete.

Sincerely,
Chris Polatin

On Fri, Jul 31, 2026 at 3:54 PM Town Administrator <townadmin@townofperuma.com> wrote:

Hi Chris,

I just left you a voicemail. Nice talking with you. I feel much better about the Hogweed situation. An email with the update will be very much appreciated.

Take care,

Terry Walker

TA Peru

May 20, 2026

Select Board Chair
Town of Peru
93 East Main Road
Peru MA 1253

Please:

- *Complete Fully**
- *Print Neatly**
- *Return Promptly**

Dear Select Board Chair:

According to MGL Ch. 161B, a Regional Transit Authority's (RTA's) Advisory Board is comprised of the chief elected official of each member community, or your designee.

Please advise who will represent the Town of Peru on the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA) Advisory Board. You may do so by simply annotating the space provided at the bottom of this letter and returning to the BRTA via:

Email Kaylyn.hunkler@berkshirerta.gov Fax 413 442 2536 Mail 1 Columbus Ave, Pittsfield MA 01201.

Your response by **June 19, 2026** will be appreciated so that we may prepare for our annual audit of the BRTA.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Lambert, Administrator

Representation from the Town of Peru on the BRTA Advisory Board.

July 1, 2026
June 30, 2027

If chief elected official is not serving

Select Board Chair or Mayor

Designee

First Name

Last Name

Email

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Facsimile

Executed by: _____

Name

Title

Date





THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

(617) 727-2200
www.mass.gov/ago

July 22, 2026

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Susan Koziara
Ksuezq88@aol.com

RE: Open Meeting Law Complaint

Dear Ms. Koziara:

This office received a complaint from you on December 5, 2025,¹ alleging that the Peru Select Board (the "Board") violated the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18- 25. The complaint was originally filed with the Board on September 11, and the Board responded by letter dated September 18.² The complaint alleges that the Board violated the Open Meeting Law when the Chair created a recording of an executive session held during an August 11 meeting. For the following reasons, we decline to review this complaint.

The Open Meeting Law requires that complaints be filed with the public body within 30 days of the alleged violation. G.L. c. 30A, § 23(b); 940 CMR 29.05(4). If the alleged violation could not have been known at the time it occurred, then the complaint must be filed with the public body within 30 days of the date on which the alleged violation could reasonably have been discovered. 940 CMR 29.05(4). Alleged violations that take place during an open session can reasonably be discovered at the time they occur. See OML 2012-52.2.³ A complaint challenging the propriety of an executive session must be filed within 30 days of the date that the substance of the executive session discussions was reasonably discoverable. See OML 2025-65; OML 2024-204.

Minutes of the Board's August 11 meeting confirm that you attended the executive session held that evening. Therefore, the alleged violations were discoverable to you at the time of the meeting and the deadline for filing your complaint with the Board was September 10, 30 days after the August 11 meeting. As your complaint was filed on September 11, 31 days after

¹ All dates are in 2025, unless otherwise stated.

² The Board's response was not received by this Office until November 6. The Board is reminded that the Open Meeting Law requires that within 14 days of receipt of a complaint, the public body review the complaint's allegations; take remedial action, if appropriate; and send to the Attorney General a copy of the complaint and a description of any remedial action taken. G.L. c. 30A, §23(b); 940 CMR 29.05(5).

³ All previous determinations and declinations issued by the Division can be found on the Attorney General's website: <https://www.mass.gov/the-open-meeting-law>.

the meeting, it was not timely and we decline to review it. We have consistently declined to review complaints that were filed one or two days late. See, e.g., OML Declination 9-19-2025 (Northborough Select Board); OML Declination 11-27-2023 (Wellfleet Selectboard) (complaint filed one day after deadline); OML Declination 8-22-2011 (Crocker Pond Recreation Area Committee) (acknowledging that “[s]trict enforcement of filing deadlines may sometimes produce hard results” in case where complaint was filed one day late); OML Declination 2-16-2023 (Cambridge Planning Board) (rejecting complainant’s argument that late complaint should be reviewed because delay was *de minimis* and no prejudice would result).⁴

We now consider this matter closed. Please feel free to contact the Division at (617) 963-2540 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Matthew Lindberg
Assistant Attorney General
Division of Open Government

Assisted by Andrew Guay, Legal Intern

cc: Brian W. Riley – By email only: briley@k-plaw.com
Peru Town Administrator – By email only: townadmin@townofperuma.com
Peru Town Clerk – By email only: townclerk@townofperuma.com
Peru Select Board – By email only: selectman@townofperuma.com

This determination was issued pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 23(c). A public body or any member of a body aggrieved by a final order of the Attorney General may obtain judicial review through an action filed in Superior Court pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 23(d). The complaint must be filed in Superior Court within twenty-one days of receipt of a final order.

⁴ Although we decline to review the complaint, we note that the Open Meeting Law contemplates that a public body might record an executive session to aid in the preparation of minutes. See G.L. c. 30A, §22(f) (referencing “minutes of any executive session, the notes, recordings or other materials used in the preparation of such minutes”).

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WARRANT FOR 2026 STATE PRIMARY

SS.

To the Constables of the City/Town of Peru

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said city or town who are qualified to vote in Primaries to vote at:

0/1

Ward/Precent

Peru Community Center, 3 East Main Road, Peru MA 01235

Polling Location

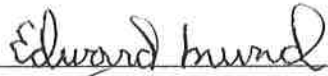
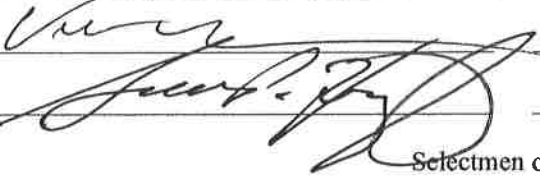
On **TUESDAY, THE FIRST DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026**, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the State Primaries for the candidates of political parties for the following offices:

SENATOR IN CONGRESS	For this Commonwealth
GOVERNOR	For this Commonwealth
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	For this Commonwealth
ATTORNEY GENERAL	For this Commonwealth
SECRETARY OF STATE	For this Commonwealth
TREASURER	For this Commonwealth
AUDITOR	For this Commonwealth
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	FIRST DISTRICT
COUNCILLOR	EIGHTTH DISTRICT
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	BERKSHIRE, HAMPDEN, FRANKLIN AND HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	FIRST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT
DISTRICT ATTORNEY	BERKSHIRE DISTRICT
REGISTER OF PROBATE	BERKSHIRE COUNTY

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this 3rd day of August , 2026.



Selectmen of: Peru
In Hand
(method of service of warrant)

_____, 2026.
Constable (month and day)

Warrant must be posted by **August 25, 2026** (at least *seven days* prior to the **September 1, 2026** State Primary).



proposal

Prepared By:

Pittsfield, MA - Springside Ave
Tom Kelley
Branch Manager
326 Springside Ave
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 449-1259
(800) 370-2525
tomk@alarmsofberkshirecounty.com

TOWN of PERU SECURITY & ACCESS UPGRADE
3 EAST MAIN ROAD
PERU, MA 01235
Proposal 298178-2-0

Submitted: 7/28/2026

TOWN of PERU
CHIEF BRUCE CULLETT
413-822-3731
bcullett@townofperuma.com

WWW.PYEBARKERFS.COM

The Leader in Fire, Life Safety, and Security Solutions

SCOPE OF WORK

TOWN of PERU SECURITY & ACCESS UPGRADE
Submitted by Pye Barker Fire & Safety
MA LIC# 4387-C NY LIC# 12000164861 CT LIC#0180729

Pye Barker Fire & Safety would like to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide a quote to upgrade the Alarm System and add Access.

Pye Barker Fire & Safety will provide and install a new DMP XR150 network control panel and backup battery. The existing keypads will be replaced with DMP Alpha Numeric keypads at the Front Entry & Police Dept. doors. DMP Wiegand Access Modules and Cellular backup communicator will be installed at the main panel location.

Two DMP reader/keypads will be provided and installed on the exterior of the main front and interior Gym to Town Hall doors for controlled keyless entry. The existing electric strike on the front door will be connected for door release, and a new strike added to the Gym door. Authority levels and schedules can be programmed to control the doors. Users will enter their individual code that will release the doors and disarm the building security alarm. The option exists to utilize access tokens or cards if you wish.

The existing first floor corner office motion sensor will be relocated to the rear hallway area. All existing security devices in the Town Hall building and Police Dept. will be connected to the new panel and tested for proper operation. Any deficiencies will be noted and discussed with Owner prior to any repair or replacement that may result in a price difference. This quote is predicated on use of existing wiring, electric strike, and security devices. The existing Fire Alarm panel alarm output will be connected to the new control panel to report alarm activations to the Central Station.

The system will be connected to the UL Listed Central Station via Network communications with cellular backup. The client is responsible for providing AC Power and Internet Service at the premises for proper operation.

The system will utilize the DMP Virtual Keypad™ APP to allow for remote management of the system for remote arm/disarm, event history, user code management, etc.

Changes or additions to the scope of work may result in a price difference.

Again, thank you for allowing Pye Barker this opportunity, we look forward to establishing a working relationship while providing your alarm and access needs. Please feel free to reach out for any additional assistance.

INVESTMENT

Equipment

QTY	Description
1	DMP Security & Access Network Control Panel
1	DMP 50 VA Plug-in Transformer
1	12V 7AH Sealed Lead Acid Battery, F1 Terminal
2	DMP Graphic Touchscreen Keypad with Prox Reader
1	DMP DualSIM LTE Cellular Communicator (Verizon & AT&T)
2	DMP Wiegand Access Control Module
2	DMP Denali Proximity Reader with Keypad

Supplies & Materials:

QTY	Description
1	Hardware & Gym Door Electric Strike

Monitoring Services

Professional Services:

Description	Billing Freq.	Ext.Price
Alarm Monitoring Network & Cellular	Annually	\$720.00

System Investment

Total Proposal Amount \$5,680.42

THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE. DO NOT PAY. INVOICE TO BE PROVIDED.

Acceptance of proposal - The above prices, specifications, and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted (subject to credit approval.) You are authorized to do the work as specified.

Pricing is valid for 7 days from the date proposal was submitted to contractor/customer.

Progress Billing will be applied to this proposal.

TOWN of PERU

Company _____ Date _____

Authorized Signature _____

Printed Name _____ Title _____

413-822-3731

Phone _____ Fax _____

bcullett@townofperuma.com

Email _____

Purchase Order Number _____

Pye-Barker Fire & Safety, LLC &
Subsidiaries

Company _____ Date _____

Authorized Signature _____

Tom Kelley Branch Manager

Printed Name _____ Title _____

(800) 370-2525

Phone _____ Fax _____

tomk@alarmsofberkshirecounty.com

Email _____

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This proposal is subject to the Pye-Barker General Terms and Conditions located at <https://pyebarkerfs.com/generalterms>. By signing or receiving services under this proposal, you acknowledge that you have reviewed such terms and conditions and that they will be incorporated into the proposal by reference. This proposal, including the incorporated General Terms and Conditions, contains the complete and final agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof.

Customer # _____ Site # _____ System # _____ Job # _____ Online Date _____



326 Springside Ave • Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-445-4030 • Fax

Office Reviewer _____
RMR Added _____

COMMERCIAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

Date _____

AGREEMENT between Pye-Barker Fire & Safety, LLC. and the following described customer (the "Customer")

(Customer) TOWN of PERU

Billing Name TOWN of PERU
and Address: 3 EAST MAIN ROAD
PERU, MA 01235

Email: _____

Billing Telephone: _____

Service Name TOWN of PERU
and Address: 3 EAST MAIN ROAD
PERU, MA 01235

Email: bcullett@townofperuma.com

Service Telephone: 413-822-3731

Systems and Services: Customer hereby requests Contractor to provide the following services:

SERVICES

Billing ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-Annually ☒ Annually

DESCRIPTION	MONTHLY AMT	EXT PRICE
Alarm Monitoring Network & Cellular	\$60.00	\$720.00

Payment for Service: Customer shall pay Contractor the fees listed above during the Term of the Agreement, subject to the General Terms and Conditions outlined below.

Agreement Term. This Agreement shall remain in force for an initial term of 36 months from the date the System is installed and becomes operative, or the date of execution of this Agreement, whichever is later and shall renew in accordance with the General T&Cs described below.

Terms and Conditions

This Agreement, and the services hereunder, are subject to the Pye-Barker General Terms and Conditions available at <https://pyebarkerfs.com/generalterms> ("General T&Cs"). The applicable version of such terms shall be the version in effect as of the date this document was fully executed. Such terms shall not be modified except by a written agreement signed by both parties. By signing or receiving services described in this document, you acknowledge that you have reviewed such terms and conditions and that they will be incorporated by reference. This Agreement, including the General T&Cs, contains the complete and final agreement between the parties regarding the subject matter herein. For the avoidance of doubt, any Customer provided terms, including those contained in a purchase order, shall have no effect, unless expressly agreed to in writing by Contractor. In the event of a conflict between the General T&Cs and the terms of this Agreement, the terms of this Agreement shall control. Upon your request, such terms may be attached to this order document.

PYE BARKER FIRE & SAFETY, LLC

By Tom Kelley
Customer Legal Entity

Signature _____

Title Vice President of Business Integration Date _____

Customer

By (Print Name) _____

Signature _____

Title _____ Date _____