TOWN HALL, 3 EAST MAIN ROAD, PERU, MA 01235
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES: October 26, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Edward Munch, Chairman Selectboard
Verne Leach, Selectman
Samuel Haupt, Selectman
Terry Walker, Town Administrator
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Tim Sears, Building Inspector
Marc Grenier, Assessor
Jonathon Mejias, Assessor
Kim Wetherell, School Committee member

Public Attendees: Tina Barrington

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

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 10/13/2026: Selectman Leach motion to approve 10/13/2026 minutes as written, Selectman Haupt second, 3-0.

Item 6: Update from Departments:

Highway Department: Superintendent Russell mentioned:

- The Salt Shed roof project was completed last Friday
- LB Corp has finished the shoulders on South Road
- There are two collapsed drains on East Windsor and Marlow that will be rebuilt and then black top the area.
- Justin mentioned in the event of an emergency that he should not be contacted on his cell phone. The chain of command is as follows: call dispatch, and dispatch will contact the person at the highway department that is on call.

School Committee:
Kim Wetherell mentioned that no one from Peru was present at the CBRSD budget meeting on October 13th. Kim mentioned that CBRSD would like feedback from all towns.

Town Administrator, TA Walker

- Berkshire Family Cleaning emailed a quote on deep cleaning the kitchen at the Community Center. The cost for a one-time deep cleaning is $ 350.000 and quarterly cleaning the kitchen every three months is $250.00 per visit. The BOS felt that cleaning the kitchen was not necessary and for TA Walker to advise the cleaning company of their decision.

- Tina Barrington's complaint about COA Director, Bonny DiTomasso. The BOS directed TA Walker to discuss the issue with Bonny. Bonny stated that she did have the newsletters at the library, transfer station and hand delivered copies to some seniors. Bonny also mentioned that the Hinsdale-Peru newsletter is issued quarterly and Bonny contributed to the most recent newsletter. Tina Barrington was adamant that Bonny did not get the newsletters out. TA Walker would not discuss any further because Bonny was not present. Tina mentioned that she is willing to hand out newsletters and mail to residents. Selectman Leach told TA Walker to ask Bonny to get the newsletters out as soon as they are printed.
- Logan and Heather Brooks emailed TA Walker with letters of interest on being appointed to the ADA Advisory Committee
- Superior Propane will be sending a check to the town for $1,190.20 for a propane refund. Superintendent Russell mentioned that the two propane tanks at the Fire House cannot be removed by Superior Propane because the old fire truck is in the way. He mentioned that the truck is not his problem and the Fire Department should have the truck removed before it starts snowing.
- Certified mailings notifying residents living on private roads that their roads will no longer be plowed have all been returned except: 8 Garnet, 3 Greylock Circle, 9 Greylock and 5 Pine Road. Selectman Haupt suggested mailing the 4 letters regular mail. TA Walker will send by regular mail and hopefully everyone has been notified. The letter is also on the town website.

Assessor:

Assessor Mejias mentioned that the final form of approval to set the tax rate was sent to DLS today. As soon as the assessors get the approval, the town will be ready to set a classification hearing. Assessor Mejias was instructed to keep in contact with TA Walker and the BOS and a classification hearing could be held before November 9th. Chairman Munch mentioned that the classification hearing could wait until the November 9th BOS meeting. Chairman Munch felt that a week would not make a big difference.

Selectman Haupt:

- Sam Haupt met with Mackenzie Greer at DCR's western headquarters in Pittsfield to discuss the long-standing issue of returning the surplus fire service vehicle behind the fire house. She explained they have been years of delays in dealing with their federal partners and would get us more information on a location where the town could either trailer or tow the vehicle to a designated area.
- Regarding the notice of acquisition received from DCR, that is handled by a different department, and she will follow up with more details. Mackenzie also agreed to attend a future Selectboard meeting to discuss the status of DCR's properties in Peru and respond to questions. She agreed to connect Selectman Haupt with Andrew Maddes to discuss the WMA's in town.
- The PILOT commission continues to meet and collect information and data to support its mission. Selectman Haupt noted at recent meetings the issue of discrepancies in the total acreage sited in municipalities. For instance, one of the DLS slides showed the Commonwealth owned 7,500 acres in Peru, but the Auditor's report only reflected 6,100 acres of eligible PILOT land. Also, a major consideration is the development of a formula that will value the ecosystem services provided by large tracts of protected lands, including carbon sequestration, climate change mitigation, etc.
- The Woodlands Partnership is in the process of working with EEA through the MVP process to develop a regional application to support the development and sustainability of a regional wood bank. The purpose of which would be to utilize regional forestry resources to help families in rural communities with free or discounted cordwood deliveries based on eligibility requirements. Selectman Haupt noted Peru would join in on the application as an interested community.

Building Inspector:

Tim Sears was asked to attend the BOS meeting. Superintendent Russell mentioned that he has emailed Tim several times and has not received a response about new building permits. Superintendent Russell wanted to know if 2 lots on Haskell Road had building permits issued because they do not have driveway permits. Apparently, emails the Building

Inspector is sending to highway and ZBA are not being received. Selectman Leach asked Tim to please be certain the fire chief is receiving his emails. Also, Valerie Bird, BOH agent, has not received an email from Tim Sears confirming that he will be attending an inspection at 55 East Windsor Road. Selectman Leach instructed Tim Sears to contact Valerie and confirm he will be attending.

Selectman Leach: Verne asked TA Walker to have Chief Cullett get a price for a phone outside town hall and also outside the fire house for 911 calls to dispatch.

Item 7: Discussion and possible vote to appoint Daryl Darby as Berkshire Health Alliance Governing Board as the Representative: Chairman Munch motion to appoint Dary Darby as Berkshire Health Governing Board as the Representative, Selectman Haupt second, 3-0.

Item 8: Discussion and possible vote to appoint Peggy White as the Alternate Representative for the Berkshire Public Health Alliance Governing Board: Chairman Munch motion to appoint Peggy White as the Alternate Representative for the Berkshire Public Alliance Governing Board, Selectman Leach second, 3-0.

Item 9: 6:30 p.m. Interview Doug Haskins for position on the ADA Advisory committee and possible vote to appoint: Placed on hold.

Item 10: 6:40 p.m. Interview Marc Grenier for position on the ADA Advisory committee and possible vote to appoint: Interview was switched to 7:00 p.m. because of a conflict with the assessor meeting. Marc Grenier mentioned that he served on with the Disability Commission in Barnstable, MA. Marc has 29 years' experience working with the disabled including individuals with cerebral palsy. Marc is very interested in making a difference in assisting the disabled and handicapped in accessing the town hall. Chairman Munch motion to appoint Marc Grenier for a position on the ADA Advisory committee, Selectman Leach second, 3-0.

Item 11: 6:50 p.m. Interview Marc Grenier for town hall maintenance position and possible vote to appoint: Interview was rescheduled to 7:10 p.m. because of a conflict with the assessor meeting. Marc mentioned that he was:

- A licensed builder
- Owner of a landscaping company
- Ran the maintenance department at Sturgis in Barnstable, MA
- He has experience with electrical work, maintenance and painting.

Selectman Leach felt that by running a maintenance department and previous experience as a contractor he was a good candidate. Marc was instructed to fill out time sheets, he would be paid by the hour, and this is not a salaried position. Selectman Leach and Selectman Haupt agreed that the rate of pay would be $22.0 per hour. Selectman Haupt motion to hire Marc Grenier as town hall maintenance starting at $22.00 per hour with a 90-day probation period, Selectman Leach second, 2-0. Chairman Munch recused himself. The BOS instructed Marc to contact the Ethics board on how to handle being hired for two town positions.

Item 12: Discussion and possible vote on Sansoucy Contract as consultants for the Assessors: This item was removed from the agenda because the Sansoucy Contract had already been signed.

Item 13: Review and Approve accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll warrants: V09-2027.
Selectman Leach instructed Treasurer Wendling to start paying Branden Mascolo as the Animal Inspector retro active from September 22, 2026, which was the date Verne Leach was removed as Animal Inspector. Treasurer Wendling was confused because she has not received any paperwork stating that Branden Mascolo was employed by the town as the Animal Inspector. Treasurer Wendling also stated that the position was not advertised and any paid position in town must be advertised. Selectman Leach told Treasurer Wendling that he would discuss this in her office after the meeting.

Item 14: Public Input: Tina Barrington mentioned she has a resident notify her that on October 16, 2026, at 8:48 a.m. the individual was standing outside the Peru Town Hall and the doors were locked. Tina stated that the Police Chief Cullett was in the building and didn't answer the door. Tina wondered why the town pays the police chief for 40 hours per week and he did not answer the door when the call button was pressed. Selectman Haupt mentioned that the Police Chief's job includes more than town hall hours. Tina mentioned that it was a well-being check. The BOS agreed that this was urgent and the resident should have called 911 for the wellbeing check.
Tina Barrington made a verbal public records request to obtain a copy of Bonny DiTomasso's email regarding newsletter distribution.

Item 15: Adjourn: Chairman Munch motion to adjourn the 10/26/2026 BOS meeting, Selectman Leach second, 3-0. The 10/26/2026 BOS meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Articles Used:
10/13/2026 minutes
Warrant V09-2027
Email from Bonny DiTomasso COA Director
Email from Peggy White, BOH
Marc Grenier -letter of interest-ADA Advisory Committee
Marc Grenier-letter of interest-maintenance position
Appointment letters
Berkshire Family Cleaning quote

Terry Walker
Recording Secretary

Edward Munch, Chairman Edward Munch

Samuel Haupt, Selectman

Verne Leach, Selectman

Date approved: 11/9/26

Received11-12-2026
Kim Leach Town Clerk

Town Administrator

From: Bonny DiTomasso <jtfan13@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 5:06 PM
To: Select Men; Sam Haupt; kinderhaus1@verizen.net; Town Administrator
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hinsdale/Peru COA newsletter

Good afternoon,

Today I delivered the Hinsdale/Peru most recent COA newsletter to the Transfer station.

It should be noted that contrary to the comment made at the 10/13/26 Selectboard meeting requesting that the Hinsdale/Peru COA newsletter be placed at the Library, the person making this statement was VERY MUCH MISTAKEN. The newsletters have been available to All Residents for SEVERAL WEEKS at the Peru Library.

It is my hope that these types of comments are discouraged during public comments as they are baseless criticisms.

Thank you,
Bonny DiTomasso

Town Administrator

From: Peggy White <pwhiteperuboh@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2026 11:55 AM
To: Town Administrator; Ed Munch
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gov Board appointment
Attachments: Governing Board Appointment form.pdf

Hi Terry the Peru BOH discussed the Governing Board representatives. As we have previously discussed it is the responsibility of the Board of Health to nominate the main representative for the governing board of the Berkshire Public Health Alliance. It is the responsibility of the select Board to nominate the alternative representative. A motion was made seconded and all in favor of Darryl Darby to become the representative of the governing board and to make a recommendation to the Select Board to have Peggy White become the Alternate Representative for the Berkshire Public Health Alliance Governing Board. At your convenience I would request that this matter be on the agenda for the select Board. I have attached an old appointment form for me as an example, but the new appointment form should read Alternate Representative, as we have clarified the BOH can do the appointment of the Representative.

Thank you,
Peggy White
Peru Board of Health

Warning Open Meeting Law users who are subject to the Open Meeting Law should be mindful of their obligations to not communicate with a quorum of their board on which they serve.

Town Administrator

From: Marc Grenier [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:31 AM
To: Town Administrator
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ADA Committee

Good morning Terry,

Please throw my name into the mix for the ADA Committee being formed. Thank you. Marc.

Town Administrator

From: Marc Grenier [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:53 AM
To: Town Administrator
Cc: Select Men; Sam Haupt
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Town of Peru Maintenance Position

Good morning Terry,

I am writing to follow up on the open Maintenance position.

As mentioned in my resume on file, I have extensive experience in this field, including my previous role in the same position at Sturgis Library in Barnstable, MA.

I remain very interested in the role and look forward to hearing from you regarding next steps.

Best regards,

Marc Grenier

BERKSHIRE FAMILY CLEANING, INC.

COMMERCIAL CLEANING PROPOSAL

Basement Kitchen | Quarterly Service

413-329-2071

PREPARED FOR
Peru Town Hall
Attn: Terry Walker
3 E Main Rd
Peru, MA 01235

PROJECT LOCATION
Peru Town Hall
Basement Kitchen
3 E Main Rd
Peru, MA 01235

SCOPE OF SERVICES

01 INITIAL DEEP CLEANING

One-time detailed cleaning of the basement kitchen, including walls, refrigerator, cabinets, interior windows, floors, stove, countertops, and shelves.

02 QUARTERLY KITCHEN CLEANING

Regular maintenance cleaning of the basement kitchen every three months, covering the areas listed above at a routine-cleaning level rather than an intensive deep cleaning.

SERVICE PRICING

Initial Deep Cleaning — one-time service	**$350.00**
Quarterly Kitchen Cleaning — every 3 months	**$250.00 per visit**

SCHEDULING & PAYMENT

The initial cleaning will be scheduled upon proposal approval, subject to BFC availability. Quarterly visits will be arranged every three months on mutually agreed dates. Payment will follow the existing arrangements between BFC and Peru Town Hall.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

BFC uses professional-grade commercial cleaning products appropriate for each surface; bleach is not used. BFC maintains General Liability and Workers' Compensation insurance.

PROPOSAL ACCEPTANCE

Approval confirms the scope and pricing above. Service dates are subject to mutual confirmation.

Authorized Client Signature: _____ Date: _____

Tatiana Cadavid
Co-Owner | Operations Manager
413-329-2071