

## **Board of Selectman / Finance Committee Meeting**

COMUNNITY CENTER 3 East Main Rd. Peru MA

Wednesday April 26, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call Select Board
3. Roll Call Finance Committee
4. State recording status
5. Pledge Alliance to the Flag
6. Review and Approve Finance Committee Meeting Minutes for 4/13/23.
7. Discussion and vote on transferring funds from the Reserve Account to the Various Accounts.
8. Discussion and possible vote on opting out of early voting by mail for local elections.
9. Discussion of FY' 24 Budget.
10. Public input
11. Adjourn

The list of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Board / committee which may be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Official posting: Peru Town website: [www.townofperuma.com](http://www.townofperuma.com)

Posted April 24, 2023 @ 5:10 pm , Verne Leach, Select Board Chair

# Board of Selectmen-Finance Committee Joint Meeting

Town Hall Community Center, 3 East Main Rd. Peru, MA

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.

1. **Call to order:** Chairman Leach called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. **Roll Call Select Board:** Selectboard Chairman Leach present, Selectman Cullett present,
3. **Roll Call Finance Committee:** Finance Committee Chairman, Paul Hickling present, Finance Committee Member Darryl Darby present, Finance Committee Member Doug Haskins present, Finance Committee Member Jesse Pelkey present,
4. **State recording status:** Selectman Leach recording under Exemption E for personal reasons.
5. **Pledge Allegiance to the Flag:** Led by Selectman Leach
6. **Review and Approve Finance Committee Minutes/Board of Selectman from 04/13/2023**  
Finance Committee Chairman Hickling motion to approve 04/13/2023 Fin Com/BOS minutes  
Fin Com member Darby second, all in favor 4-0  
Selectman Leach motion to approve 04/13/2023 Fin Com/BOS minutes Selectman Cullett second, all in favor 2-0
7. **Discussion and vote on transferring funds from Reserve Account to various accounts:** Fin Com Chairman Hickling mentioned that two Council on Aging Accounts did not have balances to pay an invoice for \$144.58 and one for \$34.00. The Selectboard voted to pay the invoices from the Board of Selectmen's Expense account. These invoices could not be paid from the COA Salary account. Interest on Loans is in deficit which was to cover the interest on the loan for the MassWorks Grant. Tree Removal Account needs to have funds encumbered from FY22 to FY23. Fire Chief Pelkey mentioned that the electronic board on Tanker 1 is not working and may cost \$1,000-\$1,600.00. Fire Chief Pelkey stated that a gentleman from Overhead Door was at the fire station writing up a quote on work to be completed and found defective wires. Selectman Cullett gave a go ahead to make repairs while they were on site.
8. **Discussion and possible vote on opting out of early voting by mail for local elections:** The Selectboard realized that a public hearing needed to be held 45 days before the election, therefore; this item was put on hold because of a timing issue.
9. **Discussion of FY24 Budget:**

Board of Selectmen Salary invoking rule of necessity Selectman Leach motion to increase Board of Selectmen's Salary by 3%, invoking the rule of necessity Selectman Cullett second motion, 2-0, Fin Com Darby motion to increase Selectman's Salary by 3%, Fin Com member Pelkey second, 3 yes, 1 abstain.

Citizen's Petition-Selectman Cullett mentioned that the Selectmen and Finance Committee discussed the Fire Chief's Salary in good faith and good faith was not returned by Chief Pelkey by signing the petition. Fin Com Chairman Hickling felt that by Fire Chief Pelkey signing the petition

that he was supporting the petition Selectman Cullett mentioned that the Fire Chief Salary was voted It was a unanimous vote to increase the Fire Chief Salary to \$5,000 before the Selectmen received the Citizens Petitions. Selectman Cullett motion to adjust Fire Chief Salary to a 3% increase from FY23, Selectman Leach second, 2-0. Fin Com Chairman motion to adjust Fire Chief Salary -FY23 salary \$2,450 x 3%, Selectman Haskins second, 3 yes votes, Fire Chief Pelkey abstain. Fin Com member Darby increase Animal Control Expense to \$1,000, Fin Com Chairman Hickling second, 4-0.

Council on Aging	\$ 1,000
Elderly Outreach Program	\$ 650
Council on Aging Salary	\$ 1,200
Cemetery Sexton	\$ 500

Selectman Cullett motion to increase 4 accounts above, Selectman Leach second 2-0

Fin Com Chairman motion to increase 4 accounts above, Fin Com member Pelkey second, 3 yes 1 abstain Fin Com Member Darby.

**10. Public Input: N/A**

**11. Adjourn:** Selectman Leach motion to adjourn joint meeting at 8:10 p.m. Selectman Cullett second, unanimous vote to adjourn. 2-0. Fin Com Chairman Hickling motion to adjourn joint meeting at 8:10 p.m. Fin Com member Haskins second, unanimous vote to adjourn 5-0

Items used:

Finance Committee Draft minutes from April 13, 2023, joint meeting

Reserve Fund Transfers

Early voting

FY Budget worksheet

Sign in sheet

Respectively submitted,

*Terry L. Walker*  
*Administrative Assistant*

Verne Leach, Chairman Board of Selectman \_\_\_\_\_

Bruce Cullett, Selectman \_\_\_\_\_

Douglas Haskins, Fin Com Member \_\_\_\_\_

Samuel Haupt, Fin Com Member \_\_\_\_\_

Paul Hickling, Fin Com Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Jesse Pelkey, Fin Com Member \_\_\_\_\_

Darryl Darby, Fin Com Member \_\_\_\_\_

5-3-23

