

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: March 4, 2026 @ 6:30 P.M.**

Peru Community Center

Bruce Cullett, Chairman  
Doug Haskins, Fin Com Member  
Samuel Haupt, Fin Com Member  
Paul Hickling, Fin Com Member  
Branden Mascolo, Fin Com Member  
justin

Public Attendees: Terry Walker, Recording Secretary

**Item 1: Call to order:** 6:30 P.M.

**Item 2: State Recording Status:** N/A

**Item 3: Roll Call:** Chairman Cullett present, Doug Haskins absent, Samuel Haupt present, Paul Hickling present, Branden Mascolo present

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

**Item 5: Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes for:**

July 9, 2025, Fin Com member Haupt motion to accept minutes, Chairman Cullett second, 4-0.

January 12, 2026, Chairman Cullett mentioned that the minutes were approved by the BOS, Chairman Cullett motion to accept minutes, Fin Com member Mascolo second, 3-0. Sam Haupt abstained.

February 17, 2026, Chairman Cullett motion to approve item 9, Item 10, and Item 11, Fin Com Member Hickling second, 3-0. Sam Haupt abstained.

**Item 6: Review, discuss and possibly vote on any FY26 Reserve Fund Requests submitted by Department:** TA Walker mentioned that she had assisted Assessor Mejias fill out the Reserve Fund form, but he did not submit to her also Chairman Cullett did not have the request.

**Item 7: Presentations and discussion of proposed FY27 Budget Line items and Departmental requests:**

Highway Superintendent Russell presented his budget:

Highway Supt Salary	\$ 81,955	3% increase
Employee wages	\$120,000	3% plus OT bring wages in line with other towns
Temp help	\$ 8,000	level funded
Maint Hard Surface Roads	\$28,000	level funded
Material gravel roads	\$25,000	level funded
Road Machinery Maintenance	\$30,000	20% increase due to increased repairs
Fuel	\$33,000	Level funded
H & B Roads	\$20,000	Level funded
Tree Removal	\$25,000	Level funded
Snow Roads	\$95,000	Level funded
Private Roads	-0-	not funded- Remove from budget
Highway Build Maint	\$ 3,000	New Item

**Wish list:**

Blower for Tractor	\$7,209
Floor Drains Fiberglass	\$4,524.82
Salt Shed Roof	
Two sandblasted plows and painted	\$15,000

**Item 8: Discussion, Deliberation and possible vote on Fiscal Year 2027 Budget line items and Departmental Requests:**

- Fin Com Member Hickling would like an email sent to fire chief to attend the next meeting to discuss his budget
- Retirement assessment is incorrect and TA Walker will have correct number for next meeting.
- Health Insurance may increase 8.5 % for FY27
- Assessors need to revise their budget with more clarification.
- Fin Com Chairman motion to level fund animal control budget, Fin Com member Mascolo second, 4-0
- Some discussion regarding the Fire Chief Salary, Fin Com Member Hickling mentioned the chief has a lot of responsibility and felt that the salary was low compared to other towns. Fin Com Chairman mentioned that in the current situation he would not be in favor of increasing the chief's salary because last year's increase was 150%.

TA Walker, Recording Secretary, was asked to make a separate wish list for one-time purchases and get an update on FREE CASH from Treasurer Wendling

Next meeting will be a joint meeting with the BOS on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**Item 9: Public Input: N/A**

**Item 10: Adjourn:** Chairman Cullett made motion to adjourn the 3/4/2026 Fin Com Meeting, Fin Com Member Haupt second, vote 4-0. The 3/4/2026 Fin Com meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

**Articles used:**

Minutes- July 9, 2025, January 12, 2026, February 17, 2026  
FY27 spreadsheet

Respectfully Submitted,

*Terry Walker*  
*Recording Secretary*

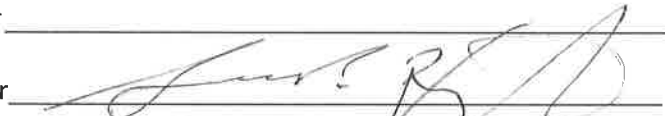
Bruce Cullett, Chairman



Doug Haskins, Fin Com Member



Samuel Haupt, Fin Com Member



Paul Hickling, Fin Com Member



Branden Moscolo, Fin Com Member



Date Approved: 4/1/26