

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: April 1, 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 Russell, Highway Superintendent
Bonny DiTomasso, COA Director

Public Attendees: Terry Walker, Recording Secretary,

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

Item 2: Roll Call: Chairman Cullett present, Doug Haskins present, Samuel Haupt present, Paul Hickling present, Branden Mascolo present

Item 3: State recording status: N/A

Item 4: Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 4, 2026, and March 16, 2026:

Fin Com member Haupt motion to accept March 4, 2026, minutes as written, Chairman Cullett second, 4-0. Fin Com member Haskins abstained not present.

Fin Com member Haupt motion to accept March 16, 2026, minutes as written in sections 9-11, Fin Com member Hickling second, 4-0. Fin Com member Haskins abstained not present.

Item5: Review, discuss and possibly vote on any FY27 Budget line items:

COA -Bonny DiTomasso, COA Director, mentioned that she was appointed on July 7, 2025, and previously her duties were covered by Town Administrator Terry Walker. Bonny mentioned that her salary is to compensate 3 hours per week which is on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bonny mentioned that she:

- Advocated for fee transportation
- Assisted several residents in applying for fuel assistance and disability assistance.
- Assisted with a disabled person with housing
- She has delivered 37 sets of ice cleats
- Files of life have been ordered which will have emergency contacts, medications and all information for EMT's. Purpose for the files of life - to be proactive in keeping our seniors safe.
- Bonny mailed letters to town residents requesting contact information. She mentioned that 67 people responded and wanted services.

Bonny feels that the salary should be increased to compensate for all the hours she is working. Fin Com Chairman Cullett is recommending an increase in salary but mentioned that the Selectmen have the final say. Fin Com Chairman Cullett mentioned that in the last 8-9 months Bonny is invaluable, a pleasure to work with and her needs continue to grow. Fin Com Chairman Cullett is in favor of expanding Bonny's hours and recommended her salary be paid from the Formula Grant. Fin Com Chairman Cullett motion to increase COA Director Salary from \$2,400.00 to \$5,200.00 and expand hours, Fin Com member Hickling second, 5-0.

Fin Com Chairman Cullett motion to approve:

COA expenses of	\$1,000.00
Elderly Outreach Program	\$650.00

Fin Com member Hickling second, 5-0.

Town Clerk: More clarification needs to be provided by the Town Clerk regarding staffing. Fin Com Chairman Cullett mentioned that Homeland Security elected to go to detail rate to pay officers for federal and state elections. Fin Com Chairman Cullett mentioned that during local elections the officers are paid out of the police wage account. Placed on hold.

TA Walker mentioned:

IT-Mitch Lacker has not responded

Town of Washington has not responded regarding transporting vocational students to McCann and Taconic.

Sam Haupt mentioned:

Fire Department did not present a budget although Heather Brooks felt that all budgets should be level funded. The Fin com agreed that a member of the fire department should be here to discuss the budget.

FREE CASH wish list

<u>Audit</u>	<u>\$22,000</u>
<u>Snow Roads deficit</u>	<u>\$40,000 anticipated</u>
<u>OWL</u>	<u>\$2,000 plus \$500.00 per year</u>

Chairman Cullett attended a MEMA meeting, and the meeting was held with a devise known as OWL. The OWL allows people that cannot attend in person to participate in a zoom meeting. The OWL has a camera, microphone, speakers and is connected to the internet. Chairman Cullett felt that if this isn't funded the town will never find the opportunity to put in place. Chairman Cullett mentioned that taxpayers from out of state would be able to observe meetings remotely.

Item 6: Review, discuss and possible vote on any FY26 Requests to Transfer Funds: N/A

Item 7: Public Input: N/A

Item 8: Adjourn: Fin Com member Haupt made motion to adjourn the 4/1/2026 Fin Com Meeting, Fin Com Chairman Cullett second, vote 5-0. The 4/1/2026 Fin Com meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Articles used:

Minutes- March 4, 2026, March 16, 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: 4/14/26

Received 4-17-2026
Kim Leach, Town Clerk