

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: December 23, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.**

Town Hall Meeting Room

Verne Leach, Chairman  
Ed Munch, Selectman  
Sam Haupt, Selectman  
Terry Walker, Recording Secretary  
Bruce Cullett, Police Chief  
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent

Public Attendees: Jesse Pelkey

**Item 1: Call to order:** 6:00 P.M. Selectman Munch, Acting Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Item 2: Roll Call:** Chair Leach absent, Selectman Haupt present, Selectman Munch present

**Item 3: State Recording status:** TA Walker recording

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

**Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 12/09/2024:** Selectman Haupt motion to approve minutes, Selectman Munch second, 2-0

**Item 6: Update of Departments:**

**Police Department:**

Chief Cullett mentioned that he ordered a property owner at 2 West Main Road to move concrete blocks from the Town's right of way on December 10, 2024. The owner of the property removed the blocks immediately. Chief Cullett also mentioned that State Retirees may be allowed to collect Social Security and Retirement benefits. The Social Security Fairness Act passed the Senate. It is expected to be signed by President Biden on January 6, 2025.

**Emergency Management Director:**

EMD Cullett mentioned that the 2024 EMPG grant has been signed and returned to the state. The Kimtek Skid unit has been ordered for the UTV.

**Building Assessment and Needs Committee:**

Bruce Cullett, Chairman, mentioned that the committee met on December 11<sup>th</sup> and accepted 3 Qualifications packets. The committee is meeting again on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and will rank the firms with their recommendation for the Board of Selectmen after January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Two of the packets contained sealed fee proposals which were given TA Walker for safe keeping. The sealed fee proposals will not be opened until after a firm is awarded the contract.

**Highway Department:**

Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that his Chapter 90 paperwork was signed by the Accountant for reimbursement and it is no longer necessary for the BOS to sign Chapter 90 paperwork.  
MassWorks Grant – Superintendent Russell will be finishing up the contract by the end of January.

Superintendent Russell mentioned that the floor of the 550 sander was all rotted out and he is waiting for parts to repair it.

Justin mentioned that when the highway department is called out after hours it can cost between \$2,000-\$3,000 between salt, sand, fuel, and wages. Selectman Munch mentioned that when he gets complaints about the roads, he passes the complaints on to Justin. Justin explained that when there is just a light dusting from constant lake effect snow the highway department should wait until morning if they had already treated the roads. Selectman Haupt mentioned that someone slipped and fell after the Board of Selectmen's meeting last Monday evening. Justin mentioned that there are vehicles parked in the town hall parking lot overnight which inhibits plowing and sanding.

**Town Administrator:**

- TA Walker mentioned that she received an email from Linda Cernik stating that the town does not have to accept the grant for a Swap Shop. Selectman Munch placed on hold to discuss at the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- TA Walker mentioned that all encumbrances from FY24-FY25 have all been completed and the accountants are beginning the process of closing the books.
- ARPA Funds-TA Walker will get an updated Condition of Accounts from the Accountant and scan to all department heads so everyone will have the correct balance in ARPA. Jesse Pelkey mentioned that he spoke with Logan Brooks and the Defibrillator pads need to be replaced which will cost around \$1,000.00. Jesse wondered if the pads could be purchased using ARPA funds.
- Certified Letter: TA Walker received a receipt for a certified letter. The post office did not have the letter from Nancy Black and they could not find the name of the person that signed off to pick up the letter. Selectman Munch will investigate.
- Selectman Haupt inquired on the Spectrum (Charter Communications) invoice. TA Walker mentioned that after several calls and emails she was missing the October invoice for Spectrum and also October invoices from Eversource and TPX. The October invoice was emailed and the payment for Spectrum is on tonight's warrant. TA Walker now has to research October's invoices for Eversource and TPX which were not received.
- Selectman Haupt mentioned that TA Walker and Fire Chief Cawthron were able to submit the FEMA Grant for a new fire truck. The grant was written for \$725,000. TA Walker mentioned that it is a very competitive grant with all the United States and Guam competing. She also mentioned that writing a \$725,000 grant in three days was very tasking.

**Item 7: Discussion on MIIA inspections on town buildings:** Jordan Meyer, MIIA, will be available to inspect buildings on December 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and will need access to the buildings. The Board of Selectmen asked TA Walker to schedule a meeting with Jordon at a later date in January. Placed on hold

**Item 8: Discussion and possible vote on hiring a shredding company for Town Hall per (Sue Koziara) Head Assessor request:** Tabled until January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that there is a possibility the recycling dividends can be used to pay the shredding company.

**Item 9: Discussion on Town of Peru being designated as a Green Community:** TA Walker mentioned that she received a plaque and street signs from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources designating Peru as a Green Community. It was noted that the Town of Peru has met the criteria established pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter Twenty-Five A, and has been officially designated as a Green Community on February 3, 2020. The board agreed to display the plaque at town hall and Highway Superintendent Russell will place the street signs in appropriate places in town.

**Item 10: Discussion and Possible Vote on quotes for the Town Hall heat to be serviced:** Selectman Haupt will contact Pioneer Plumbers and Pittsfield Pipers, since they did not respond to TA Walker's email. TA Walker has one quote from Laureyns United.

**Item 11: Discussion and Possible Vote on requirements for Permiteyes:** Tim Martin, Plumbing Inspector, needs a town computer and town email to utilize Permiteyes software. TA Walker was asked to invite Mitch or Justin from Renatus to

attend the Board of Selectmen's meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that Renatus did not install the key pad on the front door. Citizens Security should be contacted about the security keypad.

**Item 12: Update on Town Hall front entrance:** Selectman Munch mentioned that Jay Jewell cannot do anything to fix the front door. The board decided to remove mail slot and replace it with a piece of metal to keep the cold out. The board decided to remove "Update on Town Hall front entrance" from any future agendas.

**Item 13: Public Input: Jesse Pelkey wanted to finish the year out on a good note.** He mentioned that his Real Estate bill has a due date of January 1, 2199, which is 174 years from now. Jesse jokingly asked if the taxpayers could be charged interest. Chief Cullett asked if anyone had turned off the exhaust fan in the basement. Selectman Munch mentioned that Selectman Leach said he would take care of it at last week's meeting. Selectman Munch mentioned the town hall needs a maintenance person and it should be on the next agenda.

**Item 14: Review and Approve Accounts Payable, Treasury Warrant and Payroll Warrant:** V13-2025

**Item 15: Adjourn:** Selectman Munch motion to adjourn, Selectman Haupt second, 2-0, The 12/23/2024 BOS meeting was adjourned at 6:59 P.M.

**Articles used:**

Minutes 12/9/2024  
V13-2005  
Green Community plaque  
Email from Linda Cernik  
Certified mail receipt

*Respectfully submitted:*

*Terry Walker*

*Recording Secretary*

Verne Leach, Chairperson

Sam Haupt, Selectman

Ed Munch, Selectman



Date Approved: 1/6/25

Received January 6, 2025  
Kim Leach, Town Clerk



## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Be it hereby known to all that the:

# Town of Peru

Having met the criteria established pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter Twenty-five A, Section Ten, has been officially designated as a:

## Green Community

By the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Department of Energy Resources with all rights and privileges conferred upon it by the Green Communities Division.

**DESIGNATION DATE: February 3, 2020**

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in cursive.

Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in cursive.

Karyn E. Polito  
Lieutenant Governor

Handwritten signature of Kathleen A. Theoharides in cursive.

Kathleen A. Theoharides  
Secretary  
Energy and Environmental Affairs

Handwritten signature of Patrick C. Woodcock in cursive.

Patrick C. Woodcock  
Commissioner  
Department of Energy Resources





Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

## Department of Environmental Protection

100 Cambridge Street Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114 • 617-292-5500

Maura T. Healey  
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll  
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper  
Secretary

Bonnie Heiple  
Commissioner

December 17, 2024

Terry Walker  
Town Administrator  
Town of Peru  
3 East Main Road, Suite 100  
Peru, MA 01235

Dear Mr. Walker:

Congratulations! It is my pleasure to inform you that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has awarded the Town of Peru Recycling Dividends Program funds under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. The Town of Peru has earned 12 points and will receive \$4,200. Your municipality has also been awarded \$6,000 in funding for Drop Off Equipment for a Reuse Swap Shop.

The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) was created under 310 CMR 19.300-303 and the Green Communities Act, which directs a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Waste Energy Certificates to recycling programs approved by MassDEP. This year, we are awarding more than \$4 million in SMRP funding to 285 municipalities and regional groups.

Recycling programs play a vital role in limiting our dependence on landfills and incinerators, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting economic activity in the Commonwealth. Recycling Dividend Program funds foster investment in local programs including recycling equipment, organics diversion, outreach and education, pilot programs, school recycling, toxics reduction, and more. Please refer to the [RDP Approved Expenses List](#) for more information. MassDEP has invested in developing nationally recognized tools to assist municipalities with reducing recycling contamination and improving public awareness of smart recycling practices. We encourage you to utilize the [Recycling IQ Kit](#) and [Recycle Smart MA](#) website and to consult with your MassDEP [Municipal Assistance Coordinator](#) for assistance in implementing these best practices.

To accept your grant award, please sign and return the attached RDP Contract via email to Cathy Doodnauth at [Cathy.Doodnauth@mass.gov](mailto:Cathy.Doodnauth@mass.gov) before **February 15, 2025**. After we receive your signed RDP contract, funds will be sent to your community. Also see the enclosed Checklist for instructions related to the Drop Off Equipment for a Swap Shop Shed grant. The receipt of grant funds is contingent upon the grantee being able to certify that it will comply with the Massachusetts General Laws, including G.L. c. 40A, § 3A, the MBTA Communities Act. Compliance with the MBTA Communities Act is determined by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

Should you have any questions, please email Rachel Smith at [Rachel.Smith@mass.gov](mailto:Rachel.Smith@mass.gov). Thank you for your continued commitment to recycling and waste reduction in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Heiple, Commissioner



**Sorry we missed you while you were out.**

Date: 12/18/17

The item was sent by: Nancy K Lark

It was sent to: Touch on Period

At this address: 7 E Main St

**About the missed delivery:**

It was a:

Package  Letter  Large envelope

USPS® Smart Parcel Locker Eligible  
(Smaller than 17Hx13Wx23D)

Available for pickup date: 12/17

This is the:

First attempt  Final notice



**To schedule a redelivery:**  
Scan the QR code or go to  
[usps.com/redelivery](https://usps.com/redelivery)

Article number:  
5293 0663 2100 6148

**We have item/s for you which we could not deliver because:**

It requires a payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Postage due \_\_\_\_\_ Customs

Receptacle full/item oversized

No secure location available

No authorized recipient available

Signature required

\_\_\_\_\_ must be 18+ years old \_\_\_\_\_ must be 21+ years old

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please see reverse to schedule redelivery or pickup.**