

**PERU BOARD OF SELECTMEN / FINANCE  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Town Hall Meeting Room, 3 EAST MAIN RD**

**Monday, May 5, 2025 @ 6:00pm**

1. Call to order
2. Selectboard Roll Call
3. Finance Committee Roll Call
4. State recording status
5. Pledge Alliance to the Flag
6. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for 4-28-25 Selectboard / Finance Committee joint meeting and Finance Committee meeting 3-19-25
7. Discussion and possible vote on 2026 Fiscal Year Budget
8. Public Input
9. Adjourn

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

*Verne Leach , Select Board Chair*

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

Posted April 30, 2025 @ 6:30 pm

*Kim A Leach*

Town Clerk

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN/FINANCE COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING MINUTES:**

**May 5, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m..**

Town Hall Meeting Room

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman  
Edward Munch, Selectman  
Samuel Haupt, Finance Committee  
Terry Walker, Recording Secretary  
Bruce Cullett, Chairman Finance Committee  
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent  
Paul Hickling, Finance Committee  
Doug Haskins, Finance Committee  
Susan Koziara, Assessor

Public Attendees: Pete Yetman

**Item 1: Call to order:** Chairman Leach motion to call meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Selectman Munch second, 2-0, Selectman Haupt abstained and is participating as a Fin Com member.

**Item 2: Selectboard Meeting Roll Call:** Chairman BOS Leach present, Selectman Munch present

**Item 3: Finance Committee Meeting Roll Call:** Chairman Bruce Cullett present, Fin com member Robin Wadsworth absent, Fin Com member Doug Haskins present, Fin Com member Paul Hickling present at 6:05 p.m., Fin Com member Sam Haupt present

**Item 4: State Recording status:** Selectman Leach recording under Exemption E for personal reasons.

**Item 5: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:** Led by Selectman Leach

**Item 6. Review and approve meeting minutes for 4/28/2025 Selectboard/Finance Committee joint meeting and Finance Committee meeting minutes for 3/19/2025:**

Fin Com Chairman Cullett motion to approve 4/28/2025 minutes pending changes, Fin Com member Haupt second, 4-0. Selectman Leach motion to approve 4/28/2025 minutes pending changes, Selectman Munch second, 2-0. Fin com member Haupt motion to approve 3/19/2025 minutes, Fin Com Chairman Cullett second, 4-0.

**Item 7: Discussion and possible vote on FY26 Budget:**

**Fin Com Chairman Cullett mentioned:**

- We need number of vocational students plus one.
- Vocational Student Transportation may include one student at McCann and one student at Taconic. It was noted that the Town of Washington's town meeting is May 7<sup>th</sup>, and they may be purchasing a new van. TA Walker mentioned that the Town of Washington is willing to transport Peru students to McCann and Taconic.
- Compactor- we need the amount Casella is charging per ton.
- Mowing we have not received a bid. Fin Com Hickling mentioned that if the budget was increased, we may have more bidders.

- Health Insurance \$161,323.20
- Snow Roads coverage \$41,788.75
- Free Cash \$258,066 minus STM \$43,180.85 Balance \$214,885.15
- Salt Shed Roof- Titan \$26,700
- Highway Truck: \$309,000
  - Free Cash \$50,000
  - Future Equipment \$100,000
  - Chapter 90 remaining balance due
- Hogweed Eradication \$1,500.00 will have separate account # which will be easier to track.
- Website waiting for number
- Medicare-TA Walker will have a number by Monday.

**Monday May 12<sup>th</sup> will be the next joint meeting for Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee.**

**Item 8: Public Input: Pete Yetman had a few concerns:**

- Permiteyes-Mr. Yetman asked why Permiteyes is not operational. He stated that this not acceptable since the town paid for the program. Pete would like to see this rectified knowing this will generate more money for the town.
- Mr. Yetman mentioned that after reading the Board of Selectmen minutes he was under the impression that the town was planning to change health insurance from 80/20 to possibly 60/40. Mr. Yetman asked Selectman Leach if he had health insurance and Selectman Leach said yes. Mr. Yetman asked Selectman Munch if he had health insurance and Selectman Munch said yes but only supplemental. Mr. Yetman asked Selectman Haupt if he had health insurance and Selectman Haupt said yes only dental. Mr. Yetman stated that all three Selectman had town insurance and wondered how they could vote on health insurance when it was benefitting them. Mr. Yetman asked TA Walker to research Mass General laws to get an answer as to who votes on changes that benefit the BOS.
- Mr Yetman questioned the Fire Department needing 5 radios. A grant is being written to purchase 5 radios.
- Mr. Yetman stated that he donates time and equipment to the town, and he would like to see the Board of Selectmen do a better job at keeping spending down.
- Vocational Transportation: Mr. Yetman wanted to know who signed off on invoices for the McCann Student. TA Walker mentioned that the BOS signed off on Dufour invoices for the McCann student. Selectman Munch explained that the board had been blindsided, and the town had to pay the invoices. Selectman Munch explained that even though Smith Vocational School is the school of choice, if a student meets the following criteria the town must provide tuition and transportation:
  - Attending a school other than Smith when they move to Peru.
  - The course is not offered at Smith
  - The Course is full
- Selectman Munch also mentioned that the town may receive a 100% reimbursement on school transportation. The bill is sitting on the Governor's desk.
- Mr. Yetman wanted to know if the Fire Chief was still sleeping in the fire house. Mr. Yetman asked Selectman Leach and Selectman Haupt to explain why they didn't see anything pertaining to the Fire Chief sleeping at the fire house when everyone knew he was sleeping there. Selectman Leach and Selectman Haupt stated after the investigation there was nothing to see. Selectman Leach stated that there is no state, or local bylaw stating people cannot sleep at the fire house. Selectman Munch stated that the BOS have created a new policy addressing this problem.
- Mr. Yetman asked why no one on the fire department goes out on emergency calls. Selectman Leach mentioned that there are 10 people on the fire department. Selectman Leach mentioned that it is difficult if the firefighters are not in town during the day and there are only 3 with proper training. Mr. Yetman mentioned that Chief Cullett responds to all calls, and he needs help from the fire department.

- Mr. Yetman questioned the town garage's 40-year note through USDA. He wanted to know why the BOS and Finance Committee didn't focus on paying the loan off. Selectman Munch mentioned that half the town is owned by the state and without raising taxes it is difficult to pay off the note. Selectman Munch also stated that paying down the note is a good idea, and the BOS will look into health insurance going from 80/20 to 70/30.

**Sue Koziara, Assessor:** asked permission to attend a conference in Plymouth, MA and registration is \$450.00. Selectman Leach motion to allow Sue Koziara to attend Assessor Conference, Selectman Munch second and reiterated that lodging and milage is also paid by the town.2-0

**Item 9: Adjourn:** Fin Com Chairman Cullet motion to adjourn the 5/5/2025 BOS meeting, / Fin Com meeting, Fin Com Member Hickling second, 4-0. The 5/5/2025 joint meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm. Selectman Leach motion to adjourn the 5/5/2025 meeting at 7:03 p.m. Selectman Munch second, 2-0.

**Articles used:**

4/28/2025 BOS and Fin Com minutes

3/19/2025 Fin Com minutes

FY26 Spread sheet

*Terry Walker*  
Recording Secretary

Verne Leach, Chairman BOS

Edward Munch, Selectman

Date Approved: 5/12/25

Bruce Cullett Chairman Fin Com

Robin Wadsworth, Fin Com

Doug Haskins, Fin Com

Paul Hickling, Fin Com

Samuel Haupt, Fin Com

Date approved: 5/12/25

Received May 12, 2025  
Kim Leach, Town Clerk

Line Item Number	Budget Item	FY 23 Allocation	FY 24 Allocation	FY 25 Proposed	FY 26 Proposed	Increase/(Decrease)	% change
10111.00	Legal	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,900.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ (900.00)	-9%
10122.00	Town Administrator	\$ 30,900.00	\$ 30,900.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	14%
10122.01	Selectmen's Salary	\$ 10,413.00	\$ 10,725.00	\$ 11,046.75	\$ 11,378.15	\$ 331.40	3%
10122.02	Selectmen Expenses	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 500.00	25%
10122.06	Recording Secretary	\$ 9,100.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,150.00	\$ 150.00	3%
10123.00	Continuing Ed	\$ 6,530.00	\$ 6,530.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	0%
10124.00	IT	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (24,000.00)	-100%
10124.02	Website	\$ 1,930.00	\$ 1,930.00	\$ 1,930.00	\$ -	\$ (1,930.00)	-100%
10135.00	Accountant Services	\$ -	\$ 31,800.00	\$ 31,800.00	\$ 35,100.00	\$ 3,300.00	10%
10135.01	Town Auditor	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	100%
10141.00	Assessor Salary	\$ 3,471.00	\$ 24,691.00	\$ 25,431.00	\$ 28,380.63	\$ 2,949.63	12%
10141.01	Assessor Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	0%
10141.02	Assessor Services	\$ 32,400.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	0%
10141.04	Tax Map Maintenance	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ -	0%
10141.12	Assessor Computer	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ -	0%
10141.12	Assessor Utility Appraisal	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	0%
10145.00	Treasurer's Salary	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,730.80	\$ 13,112.72	\$ 15,600.00	\$ 2,487.28	19%
10145.02	Treasurer Expenses	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	0%
10145.03	Bank Charges	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	0%
10145.04	Treasurer Tax Title Exp	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	0%
10145.05	Annual Software	\$ 12,646.00	\$ 13,277.97	\$ 13,941.87	\$ 14,638.97	\$ 697.10	5%
10146.00	Tax Collector Salary	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,730.80	\$ 13,112.72	\$ 15,600.00	\$ 2,487.28	19%
10146.01	Tax Collector Expenses	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	0%
10146.02	Tax Taking Charges	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 500.00	33%
10146.05	Tax Coll Computer Support	\$ 10,351.00	\$ 10,867.78	\$ 11,411.17	\$ 11,981.73	\$ 570.56	5%
10161.00	Town Clerk Salary	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,300.00	\$ 10,609.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 4,391.00	41%
10161.01	Town Clerk Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (200.00)	-9%
10161.02	Asst Town Clerk Salary	\$ 2,484.00	\$ 2,730.00	\$ 2,811.60	\$ 2,500.00	\$ (311.60)	-11%
10161.03	Election & Bd of Reg	\$ 5,850.00	\$ 5,850.00	\$ 5,850.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (2,350.00)	-40%
10171.00	Conservation Comm	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -	0%
10172.00	BRPC	\$ 677.00	\$ 693.00	\$ 710.30	\$ 728.05	\$ 17.75	2%
10173.00	Board of Appeals	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	0%
10175.00	Officer's Mileage	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	0%
10175.01	USPS	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 200.00	5%
10175.02	Office Supplies	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	0%
20212.00	Police Dept. Expenses	\$ 5,145.00	\$ 7,085.00	\$ 7,450.00	\$ 8,250.00	\$ 800.00	11%
20212.02	Police Wages	\$ 32,088.00	\$ 39,000.00	\$ 39,000.00	\$ 28,525.00	\$ (10,475.00)	-27%
20212.04	Police Cruiser Maint	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,850.00	\$ 350.00	10%
20212.08	Police Chief Salary	\$ 44,187.00	\$ 67,500.00	\$ 69,525.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 10,475.00	15%
20217.00	Internet	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 200.00	3%
20212.13	Police CHUBB Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,300.00	\$ 8,300.00	\$ -	0%
20218.00	Emergency Management	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	#DIV/0!
20220.00	Police Continuing Ed	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	0%
20222.00	Vol FD	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	0%

20222.01	Fire Chief Salary	\$	2,450.00	\$	2,525.00	\$	2,600.50	\$	6,000.00	\$	3,399.50	131%
20222.02	Fire Station Mortgage	\$	15,216.00	\$	1.00	\$	14,338.13	\$	14,045.50	\$	(292.63)	-2%
20222.04	Firemen's Building Maint	\$	1,500.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	-	0%
20222.11	Vol FD Insurance	\$	6,500.00	\$	6,000.00	\$	6,000.00	\$	6,000.00	\$	-	0%
20224.00	Hinsdale Ambulance	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	3,000.00	\$	3,000.00	\$	-	0%
20226.00	Insp of Animals	\$	922.00	\$	950.00	\$	978.50	\$	1,007.25	\$	28.75	3%
20292.00	Animal Control Salary	\$	1,855.00	\$	1,911.00	\$	1,968.33	\$	2,027.37	\$	59.04	3%
20293.00	Animal Control Expense	\$	600.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	-	0%
30000.01	CBRSD Operating/Transp	\$	883,913.00	\$	903,919.00	\$	943,938.00	\$	1,021,339.00	\$	77,401.00	8%
30000.02	CBRSD Capital	\$	110,695.00	\$	102,405.00	\$	117,707.00	\$	160,437.00	\$	42,730.00	36%
30000.04	Smith Vocational Tuition	\$	215,842.00	\$	180,684.00	\$	208,470.00	\$	216,930.00	\$	8,460.00	4%
30000.05	Voc Sch Transportation	\$	39,408.00	\$	41,180.40	\$	43,027.20	\$	88,380.00	\$	45,352.80	105%
30610.00	Peru Library	\$	18,893.00	\$	19,265.00	\$	21,243.00	\$	23,256.00	\$	2,013.00	9%
30610.02	Communication Equip. PD	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	0%
40100.00	Road Superintendent Salary	\$	67,764.00	\$	75,000.00	\$	77,250.00	\$	79,567.50	\$	2,317.50	3%
40103.00	Highway Employee Wages	\$	94,600.00	\$	107,000.00	\$	110,210.00	\$	113,516.30	\$	3,306.30	3%
40103.05	Temp Summer Help	\$	8,000.00	\$	8,000.00	\$	8,000.00	\$	8,000.00	\$	-	0%
40105.00	Highway Uniforms	\$	3,700.00	\$	3,700.00	\$	3,700.00	\$	3,800.00	\$	100.00	3%
40200.00	Maint Hard Road Surfaces	\$	28,000.00	\$	28,000.00	\$	28,000.00	\$	28,000.00	\$	-	0%
40204.00	Material Gravel Roads	\$	20,000.00	\$	25,000.00	\$	25,000.00	\$	25,000.00	\$	-	0%
40206.00	Road Machinery Maint	\$	25,000.00	\$	25,000.00	\$	25,000.00	\$	25,000.00	\$	-	0%
40208.00	Gas & Fuel	\$	30,000.00	\$	33,000.00	\$	33,000.00	\$	33,000.00	\$	-	0%
40210.00	Town Highway & Bridges	\$	16,750.00	\$	16,750.00	\$	20,000.00	\$	20,000.00	\$	-	0%
40212.02	Highway Garage Mortgage	\$	12,020.00	\$	12,020.00	\$	12,020.00	\$	12,020.00	\$	-	0%
40213.21		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	0%
40213.22		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	0%
40213.25		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	0%
40214.00	Tree Removal	\$	20,000.00	\$	20,000.00	\$	25,000.00	\$	25,000.00	\$	-	0%
40423.00	Snow Roads Public	\$	80,000.00	\$	90,000.00	\$	90,000.00	\$	95,000.00	\$	5,000.00	6%
40424.00	Snow Roads Private	\$	500.00	\$	500.00	\$	500.00	\$	500.00	\$	-	0%
40500.00	Compactor	\$	38,000.00	\$	38,000.00	\$	38,000.00	\$	38,000.00	\$	(38,000.00)	-100%
40502.00	Northern Berk Solid Waste	\$	2,794.00	\$	2,866.00	\$	3,178.48	\$	3,178.48	\$	-	0%
40503.00	Health Dept	\$	11,900.00	\$	15,500.00	\$	16,000.00	\$	16,672.00	\$	672.00	4%
40504.00	Compactor Attendant	\$	7,800.00	\$	7,950.00	\$	8,188.50	\$	9,171.12	\$	982.62	12%
50300.00	Council On Aging Expenses	\$	400.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	-	0%
50302.00	Elderly Outreach Program	\$	525.00	\$	650.00	\$	650.00	\$	650.00	\$	-	0%
50303.00	Council On Aging Salary	\$	750.00	\$	1,200.00	\$	1,236.00	\$	2,400.00	\$	1,164.00	94%
50700.00	Cemetery Sexton Salary	\$	350.00	\$	500.00	\$	515.00	\$	750.00	\$	235.00	46%
50700.01	Cemeteries	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,500.00	\$	500.00	\$	500.00	\$	-	0%
50900.00	Veterans Agent Salary	\$	500.00	\$	500.00	\$	515.00	\$	530.12	\$	15.12	3%
50902.00	Veterans Services	\$	6,000.00	\$	6,000.00	\$	6,000.00	\$	6,000.00	\$	-	0%
60002.04	Town Building Maintenance	\$	15,000.00	\$	15,000.00	\$	15,000.00	\$	12,000.00	\$	(3,000.00)	-20%
60002.05	Utilities Electric	\$	12,000.00	\$	12,500.00	\$	12,500.00	\$	15,000.00	\$	2,500.00	20%
60002.06	Utilities Heating	\$	16,500.00	\$	16,500.00	\$	19,000.00	\$	17,000.00	\$	(2,000.00)	-11%
60002.07	Utilities Telephone	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,800.00	\$	300.00	20%

