

PERU BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Town Hall Community Center, 3 EAST MAIN RD
Monday, July 21, 2025 @ 6:00pm

1. Call to order
2. Selectboard Roll Call
3. State recording status
4. Pledge Alliance to the Flag
5. Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 7-7-25
6. Update from Departments
7. Update on Transfer Station dumpster
8. Discussion and possible vote on approving a Basketball court at the park, per Doug Haskins request.
9. Review and Approve accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll Warrants
10. Public Input
11. 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.

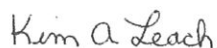
Official posting: Peru Town website: www.townofperuma.com



Verne Leach, Chairman

Posted July 17, 2025 @ 3:30pm

Kim Leach, Town Clerk



TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: July 21, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.

Town Hall Community Center

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman
Samuel Haupt, Selectman
Edward Munch, Selectman
Terry Walker, Recording Secretary
Bruce Cullett, Police Chief
Caryn Wendling, Treasurer/ Tax Collector

Public Attendees: Paul Bianco

Item 1: Call to order: 6:00 P.M.

Item 2: Roll Call: Chairman Leach present, Selectman Haupt present, Selectman Munch present

Item 3: State Recording status: TA Walker recording, Selectman Leach recording for personal reasons under Exemption E

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

Item 5: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 7/7/2025: Selectman Leach motion to accept minutes pending changes, Selectman Munch second, 3-0.

Item 6: Update from Departments:

Police Department:

Police Chief Cullett did not have anything to report. Chief Cullett mentioned that yesterday was Parents' Day at Camp Danbee. Since the parents arrived 1.5 hours before the camp opened there were traffic issues.

Assessors:

Assessor, Jon Mejias asked permission to attend Assessor 200 classes in Shrewsbury, MA. The BOS agreed that Jon could attend classes. Jon mentioned that it was less expensive to stay in a hotel for \$129.00 per night rather than commute. The BOS were in agreement that Jon take classes and stay in a hotel.

Town Administrator:

- TA Walker mentioned that Renatus had met with COA Director, and the COA computer is a windows 8, it is not capable of getting updates and using the outdated computer is a security risk. The COA computer was not working and Renatus disposed of it. COA Director Bonny DiTomasso is using a spare computer but plans to purchase a new one. The COA formula grant from the state has a balance of \$31,000.
- Today, July 21st, TA Walker mentioned she received an invoice from Fire Tech and Safety dated June 16, 2025. This is an invoice from a prior fiscal year, and the Fire Department does not have funding to encumber the total

of \$1,499.40. TA Walker wants suggestions on how to pay this invoice. Fin Com Chairperson Cullett wants to know how we can stop this issue. Selectman Munch felt that all the department heads should be reminded and not overspend their budgets.

- TA Walker asked BOS permission to take a vacation from August 15th to August 22nd. The Board asked TA Walker to send an email with dates for their approval.

Selectman Leach asked TA Waker for a follow up on moving accounting computer to Town Administrator office. Selectman Leach felt that Board of Health Agent, Valerie Bird, could use the accounting office as the BOH office. Out of courtesy, TA Walker spoke with Treasurer Wendling and Treasurer Wendling disagreed with moving the accounting office. Ms. Wendling stated that she uses the accounting office at times and if the Treasurer and Accountant changed hands, they would need office space. Selectman Leach asked TA Walker how she felt. TA Walker stated that she and Treasurer Wendling have an excellent work relationship. Since the Treasurer has been working in Peru for over 20 years, TA Walker wants to respect her decision and not move accounting computer into the TA's office. At a prior BOS meeting, the board agreed that Board of Health Agent, Valerie Bird, could set up an office in the town hall meeting room.

Selectman Munch suggested utilizing the basement for storing town records.

Treasurer Wendling had an update on advertising for the Highway laborer position.

Country Journal \$68.00 per week

IBerkshire \$199.00 per month

Indeed

United Tractor Trailer School post for free

Berkshire Eagle

7 days for \$676.60

4 days for \$545.20

2 days for \$457.60

Display Ad for \$1,066.75

BOS agreed not to advertise in the Berkshire Eagle. Although they want to advertise in all the other places mentioned.

Item 7: Update on Transfer Station dumpster: Selectman Munch gave an update transfer station dumpster. The district owns dumpsters and will be voting on which towns get a dumpster. The board mentioned that they will have Highway Superintendent Russell get prices and purchase a dumpster rather than pay a rental fee to Casella. This was placed on hold.

Item 8: Discussion and possible vote on approving a Basketball court at the park, per Doug Haskins request: Doug Haskins marked the area and moved 10 feet from the pavilion. Doug realizes he will need to wait until the driveway is paved. Selectman Leach motion to approve basketball court, Selectman Haskins second, 3-0.

Item 9: Review and Approve accounts payable, Treasury Warrants: V02-2026

Item 10: Public Input: Paul Bianco, 23 Bonny Lane wanted to know if the BOS had information about the horse issue next to his property. Mr. Bianco just let the Board of Health office and was told this is a Board of Selectman issue. The property next door has tree stumps near his property and unresolved issue with 11 horses abutting his property. Mr. Bianco wants something done since 1 horse needs 2 acres and the neighbor has 11 horses. Mr. Bianco also has an issue with the smell of manure. Board of Health Agent, Valerie Bird told Mr. Bianco she visited the property and could not smell anything. Animal Inspector Verne Leach will stop by and check to see if Mr. Bianco's neighbor is within the law. Animal Inspector Leach said after the inspection he will contact the State Inspector. Selectman Haupt stated that if the State Inspector determines a nuisance, then the Board of Selectman can deem the horses a nuisance. Mr. Bianche feels that the manure factory will devalue his property. Also, the noise from a donkey, geese, and barking dogs is not why he moved to the country. Selectman Munch mentioned that once they talk to the State Inspector, they will make an

appointment with Mrs. Price. Selectman Munch stated that Verne Leach is the Animal Inspector, and the Board of Selectmen must abide by the law.

Bruce Cullett questioned the 2024 proposed by law changes with BRPC. Selectman Haupt mentioned BRPC will begin working on Bylaw changes in the fall. Short term rentals and AirBnB rentals are some of the topics.

Item 11: Adjourn: Selectman Leach made a motion to adjourn the 7/21/2025 BOS Meeting, Selectman munch second, Vote 3-0. The 7/21/2025 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:08 P.M.

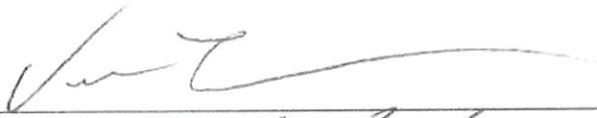
Articles used:

7/7/2025 minutes

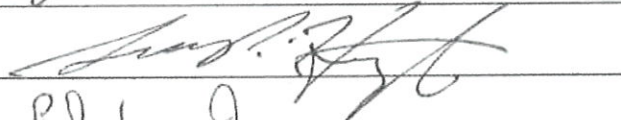
Warrant: V02-2026

Terry Walker
Recording Secretary

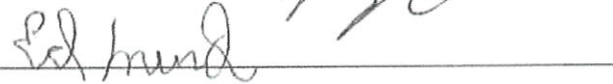
Verne Leach, Chairman



Samuel Haupt, Selectman



Edward Munch, Selectman



Date Approved: 9/2/2025

Received 9-3-2025
Kim Leach, Town Clerk