

**PERU BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**  
**Town Hall Community Center, 3 EAST MAIN RD**  
**Monday, August 4, 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 7-14-25 and 7-21-25
6. Update from Departments
7. Discussion and possible vote on Cemetery Fees provided by the Cemetery Commission
8. 6:30 Discussion and possible vote on appointing Colette Davis to the Historical Commission
9. 6:30 Discussion and possible vote on appointing Colette Davis to the Cemetery Commission
10. 6:45 Interview Edward Munch for the Building Maintenance position
11. 7:00 Interview Gene Darby for the Building Maintenance position
12. Discussion and possible vote on Transfer Station dumpster
13. Discussion and possible vote to borrow money (SAAN )for the Massworks-Chapter 90 project
14. Discussion and possible vote on re-appointment of the Election Workers: Sara Adams; Beth Bigelow; Kathy Borden; Katie Boucher; Margaret Chieffo; Darryl Darby; George, Greule ;Sharon Greule; Linda Kellogg; Terry Kellogg; James Kenney; Jamie Leach; Cathy MacPhail, Branden Mascolo; Nanette Mone; Irene Morrison; Amy Pharmer; Becky Mary Scott; Cassidy Scott; Grahm Sturz; Peggy White; Gladys Wheeler; David Whiting
15. Review and Approve accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll Warrants
16. Public Input
17. Review and possible vote on appointing a Candidate for the Building Maintenance position
18. 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.



Chairman

Posted July 31, 2025 @ 5:50pm Kim Leach ,Town Clerk  
Official posting: Peru Town website: [www.townofperuma.com](http://www.townofperuma.com).

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: August 4, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.**

Town Hall Meeting Room

Verne Leach, Chair, Selectman

Ed Munch, Selectman

Sam Haupt, Selectman

Justin Russell, Highway Super

Public Attendees: Doug Haskins, Jim Kenney, Coralie Pelkey, Gene Darby

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

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

**Item 3: State Recording status:** 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 7/14/25 and 7/21/25:**

Item tabled.

**Item 6: Update of Departments:**

Highway – Mr. Russell reported that Peru will see a substantial increase in Chapter 90 funding which was increased to \$333,418.00. The solid waste district invoice for 2026 was received, which is the same as last year, \$3178.48. He stated that Sunrise Village is in the process of being reclaimed to be followed with a binder, then topcoat possibly next week depending on the heat. He asked to discuss an appropriate wage for the open highway department position currently being advertised. He noted the present wage is \$26.52 per hour for existing employees. He mentioned that there were 4 current applicants of which only 2 were qualified because of the requirement for a CDL. Mr. Russell opined that \$23.00 was too low. The Board discussed offering \$24-\$25 per hour with very little wiggle room; however, with a hoisting license \$.50 higher and consideration of a merit increase at the end of the fiscal year. A brief discussion followed regarding creative ideas that Towns can use to help with retention.

ACO – Mr. Leach reported that with regard to a prior animal complaint an inspection was conducted that revealed no violations and a conversation was conducted with 2 abutters who had no complaints. The state inspector and BOH had no violations. He is in the process of preparing a report.

Police - Chief Cullett submitted a written report in lieu of his attendance, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein.

COA - Ms. DiTomasso submitted a written report in lieu of her attendance, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein.

**Item 7: Discussion and possible vote on Cemetery Fees provided by the Cemetery Commission**

Jim Kenney reported that in response to a request to document fees, a schedule was presented for posting on the Town website. Select Board members requested certain clarifications which were provided. Mr. Leach noted that payments should be made through the Town for the Sextant. Mr. Kenney was referred to the Town Treasurer. Mr. Kenney stated the Commission is discussing other fees and policy changes to be considered in the future.

**Item 8: 6:30 Discussion and possible vote on appointing Colette Davis to the Historical Commission**

Item tabled.

**Item 9: 6:30 Discussion and possible vote on appointing Colette Davis to the Cemetery Commission**

Item tabled.

**Item 12: Discussion and possible vote on Transfer Station dumpster (prior to interviews below due to time)**

Item was placed on hold after a brief discussion recommending purchase of a paper dumpster for \$8,350.00 pending confirmation of the available funds.

**Item 10: 6:45 Interview Edward Munch for the Building Maintenance position**

Mr. Munch referred to the presented resume noting his many years of experience in the position of a maintenance man and prior project experience with Wasserman Development Corporation as well as working in a number of businesses involved with landscaping. In addition to the listed items, he identified painting experience and history of supervising other contractors. He did advise that he did not have either an electrical or plumbing license. He answered further questions from the Board.

**Item 11: 7:00 Interview Gene Darby for the Building Maintenance position**

Mr. Darby provided a letter of interest in the position noting he had recently retired from Crane having worked in maintenance and the machine shop including some plumbing. He had an unrestricted construction supervisor's license although it had expired after Covid. He had experience showing fire suppression vendors around the various Crane warehouses. He answered further questions from the Board.

**Item 16: Public Input:**

Coralie Pelkey explained that Mountain Market was scheduled for October 10-11, 2025, and they would be conducting a wood raffle of a cord donated by Kenny Hall. She asked about items in the Community room as space for vendors and the band was needed. Separately, Ms. Pelkey expressed concern about the power lines located at the "triangle" on lower North Rd. at Weeks Rd. where the lines go through an old way. Mr. Russell explained that dirt "road" is not a public way and is up to the utility to maintain the way to protect the power lines. The recommendation was made for concerned parties to reach out to Eversource.

Doug Haskins expressed concerns about the operation of a "non-profit" day camp at the end of Strong Rd. known as "Eagle Eye."  
He saw a bus there and was concerned about sanitary facilities, etc. He was referred to the Board of Health and Building Commissioner.

Item 13: Discussion and possible vote to borrow money (SAAN) for the Mass Works-Chapter 90 Project

Mr. Russell clarified that the Article should just reference Mass Works. Mr. Leach moved to execute the Note; Mr. Munch seconded; Voted 3-0.

Item 14: Discussion and possible vote on re-appointment of the Election Workers

Mr. Haupt moved to approve all the individuals listed on the agenda as a slate; Mr. Munch seconded; Voted 3-0.

Item 15: Review and Approve accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll Warrants

Conducted in the normal course.

Item 17: Review and possible vote on appointing a candidate for the Building Maintenance position

Board members excluding Mr. Munch had a brief discussion regarding both candidates after which Mr. Leach requested the matter be placed on hold until a future meeting.

Item 18: Adjourn

Mr. Leach moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Munch seconded. Vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:56.

Articles Used:

- Email from Bruce Cullet
- Email from B. Ditomasso
- Email from J. Kenny
- Resume from Ed Munch
- Letter of interest from Gene Darby
- Promissory Note

TBD

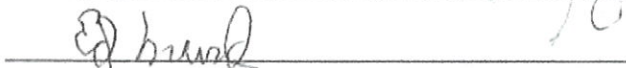
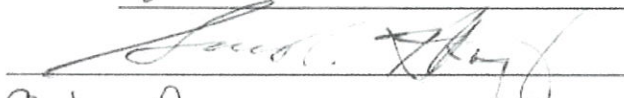
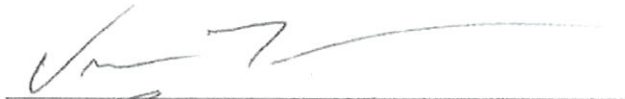
*Respectfully submitted:*

*Sam Haupt*

Verne Leach, Chairperson

Sam Haupt, Selectman

Ed Munch, Selectman



Date Approved: 9/2/2025

Received 9-3-2025  
Kim Leach, Town Clerk



Next week

From Bruce Cullett <BCullett@townofperuma.com>

Date Wed 7/30/2025 11:33 AM

To Town Administrator <townadmin@townofperuma.com>; Select Men <selectman@townofperuma.com>; Ed Munch <kinderhaus1@verizon.net>; Sam Haupt <shaupt@townofperuma.com>

All,

I will be out next week. Mike will be taking care of office hours Monday evening.

Updates for BOS meeting

- New trailer is registered. Skid unit and stokes basket is mounted on UTV. Justin has agreed to wire the electric starter on skid unit to UTV and install auxiliary lights when he has time. I spoke with Assistant Fire Chief about lettering for new trailer and showed him UTV/skid unit. Asst. Chief indicates FD is working on new patch design. Plan is to incorporate PD patch, FD patch and Emergency Management/ town seal into graphics for the trailer. Will continue to update.
- All members of PD have received POST recertifications. Copies of updated certifications provided to TA.
- Livescan fingerprint machine is up and running.

Thanks,  
Bruce

Sincerely,

Bruce W. Cullett  
Chief of Police / EMD

Peru Police Dept.  
3 East Main Road, #106  
Peru, MA 01235  
Pct. 413-655-8377  
Fax: 413-655-2144



## July COA Activity

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COA Director

Town Administrator

, Select Men

, Sam Haupt

Mon, Aug 4, 2025, 4:24 PM

Good Afternoon,

In accordance with our discussion on July 7 following my appointment, I wanted to provide you with my July COA summary of activities.

### **Consumers Served:**

One Consumer assisted in his home on 3 dates in July

One Consumer assisted in his home on 1 date in July and 2 dates by phone

One consumer assisted by phone

### **Number of Hours of Assistance provided to Consumers in person or by phone:**

5 hours

### **Number of hours of assistance provided and training completed during office hours:**

6 hours

### **Training completed in July:**

7/9 Phone training with Adam Frank, Council on Aging Grants Program Director/ Executive Office of Aging and Independence (AGE)

Summary:

Formula Grant to Peru is primarily used to aid seniors and their caregivers and the use of funds are determined by the COA Director. The Formula grant is designed to award \$16/ per senior but may be issued as a lump sum twice a year in smaller towns.

7/24 ZOOM meeting with Kelly Burke, Mass Councils on Aging Certified Director

Summary:

Provided New Director training including dates throughout the year and conference in Falmouth 10/22-10/24.

Set up MYCOA info HUB to access a portal for available training, programs available and billing invoices.

Also discussed SIG grants ( Service Incentive Grants) which can be applied for in April and are awarded by need.

7/8 Contacted Local COA Directors including Hinsdale COA CO-Chairs Jim and Jill for input.

Obtained COA Cellphone from Bruce Cullett and COA laptop from Terry (IT training at Town Hall).

Thank You,  
Bonny DiTomasso  
COA Director

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**[EXTERNAL] Burial Costs from the Cemetery Commission**

From jimkenney21@gmail.com <jimkenney21@gmail.com>

Date: Sun 1/27/2025 12:42 PM

To: Select Men <selectman@townofperuma.com>

Cc: Town Administrator <townadmin@townofperuma.com>; Darryl Darby <maddforwhitetail@aol.com>; Gladys Wheeler <gladwheeler@aol.com>; James Kenney <jimkenney21@gmail.com>

Hello, Verne,

**As requested, I'm providing the burial costs which can be put on the town's web-page. The following text is an excerpt from the draft minutes of the Cemetery Commission's most recent meeting:**

Discussion of cemetery related fees to be posted on town's webpage: The Selectboard has requested that the Cemetery Commission provide a list of burial-related charges which will be posted on the town's webpage. J. Kenney will provide the following:  
Burial permit for deaths that occur in Peru, currently \$10, paid to the Town Clerk  
The Cemetery Sexton fee, currently \$75, and paid to the Sexton by the Funeral Director or family  
Gravesite preparation, currently \$400 for casket burial, \$250 for urn burial and paid to the contractor by the Funeral Director or family  
Installation of the corner markers, currently \$100 and paid to the contractor by the family.  
Corner markers are currently purchased by the family.

Since corner markers are required to mark allocated burial plots, a new fee will be proposed to the Selectboard for the purchase and installation of corner markers by the Cemetery Sexton.

Total cost: TBD.

**Please let me know if any other info is needed.**

**Jim**

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Jim Kenney  
46 South Road Extension  
Peru MA 01235

617-999-7852

**Edward F. Munch**

**44 West Main Rd.**

**Peru, MA. 01235**

**Education**

**Stockbridge School of Agriculture**

**University of Massachusetts**

**Amherst, MA.**

**Experience**

**Maintenance Man** at Country Road Retirement Village

Hindsdale, MA. for the past 25 years.

melissa

**Construction:** worked for Wasserman Development Corp. of Cambridge, MA.

Building Rolling Hills Condominiums in Lenox, MA. and April Lane low income project in Pittsfield, MA.

**Town Maintenance:** helped maintain Peru Town Hall whenever called upon since 1986.

**Building Design:** designed and built my own house. Maintain other houses that belong to me.

**Knowledge:** have a working knowledge of carpentry, plumbing and electrical systems.

I AM INTERESTED IN THE BUILDING  
MAINTENANCE AND GROUNDS PERSON, POSITION.  
THANK YOU

7-26-2025  
Mered. Dwyer 413-655-2142

RECEIVED  
JUL 26, 2025  
Kim Leach  
TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF PERU

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Certificate of Town Clerk

Note Number(s): 349

## Town Treasurer's Record

Town of PERU

1. Date of Town Meeting Authorizing Loan CHAPTER 44 SECTION 6A

2. Purpose of Loan ROAD

*Note: Attach a Municipal Purpose Loan Form for lines 1 to 7 for all multiple purpose loans.*

3. Total Amount of Loan Authorized \$ 1,000,000.<sup>00</sup>

4. Amount of Previous New Issues of this Loan \$ 0.00

5. Paydowns on this Issue (if required) \$ 0.00

6. Amount of this Issue \$ 1,000,000.<sup>00</sup>

7. Balance of this Loan Unissued \$ 0.00

*Note: Amount Authorized minus Previous New Issues minus This Issue (New Money) equals Unissued Balance.*

8. Issue Date AUGUST 8, 2025 Date Due JANUARY 8, 2026

9. Payable to bank ESB

10. Payable at bank ESB

11. Rate of Interest 4.15 % Payable at maturity  
*(Annually, semi-annually or at maturity)*


12. Signed by [Signature], Town Treasurer

TO THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTS: THIS CONSTITUTES OUR AUTHORIZATION TO DELIVER THE NOTE(S), WHEN CERTIFIED, TO THE PURCHASER(S) SPECIFIED ON LINE 9 ABOVE.

COUNTERSIGNED AND APPROVED BY:

[Signature]  
Edward March  
[Signature]

Selectmen  
and a  
majority  
thereof

In the presence of: Kim a Leach, Town Clerk  (complete right side)

Town of  
Peru, Massachusetts



Office of the Treasurer/Tax Collector, 3 East Main Rd, Suite 101, Peru, Massachusetts 01235 •Tel: (413) 655-0072, Ext. 1 •Fax: (413) 655-2759

No. 349

\$ 1,000,000.<sup>00</sup>

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Town of PERU

Date of Issue August 8, 2025

For Value Received, the inhabitants of the Town of PERU by  
their Treasurer, hereto duly authorized by vote of said Town passed on \_\_\_\_\_

or by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 6A, or both,

promise to pay to bank ESB or order

at bank ESB

the sum of One million and <sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> Dollars

on January 8, 2026, with interest at an annual rate of 4.15% payable at maturity.

Countersigned and Approved

[Signature]

Edmund Munnell

[Signature]

Majority of  
the Board of  
Selectmen

Signed

[Signature]

Treasurer

Town of PERU

**Town Seal**

To be affixed here

I certify that this note was countersigned and approved by the Selectmen in my presence.

8-4-2025

Date

[Signature]

Town Clerk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of Revenue, Boston

I hereby certify that this note appears to have been duly issued in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws per the attached Director of Accounts Approval Letter.