

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: August 18, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.

Town Hall Meeting Room

Verne Leach, Chair, Selectman
Ed Munch, Selectman
Sam Haupt, Selectman
Bruce Cullett, Police Chief
Nanette Mone, Board of Health

Public Attendees: Colette Davis, Brian Dumas, Dave Dean

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 7/21/2025, 8/4/2025, and 8/11/2025:

Items all tabled.

Item 6: Update of Departments:

ACO – Mr. Leach reported that the Berkshire Humane Society will be forwarding for approval a contract relating to their charges and conditions for holding dogs delivered to their custody by the ACO.

Building Maintenance – Mr. Munch reported that to date he has completed a “semi” walk-around of the Town Hall property and building, identifying high priority items for attention, such as masonry issues, lightening arrestors essentially hanging off the building, entry doors, areas to be power washed and resurfaced, etc. He submitted a time sheet for 4.5 hours for the preceding week and requested approval to purchase some mums, etc. for the front of the building which was approved by consensus of Mr. Leach and Mr. Haupt.

Item 7: Update of Transfer Station Dumpster:

Item placed on hold as available recycling funds and fiscal 2025 & fiscal 2026 fund distributions need to be confirmed.

Item 8: 6:15 Discussion and possible vote on appointing Colette Davis to the Historical Commission:

Ms. Davis enthusiastically expressed interest in both available roles referring the Board to her submitted biographical information and further explaining she had a master’s degree in history, teaching experience, had served on a historical Commission in Kansas, possessed a passion for education and had experience with grant writing. Mr. Munch described some historical features of Peru and a brief discussion followed. Mr. Leach moved to appoint Ms. Davis; Mr. Munch seconded; Voted 3-0.

Item 9: 6:25 Discussion and possible vote on appointing Colette Davis to the Cemetery Commission:

Based on the foregoing information and discussion, Mr. Leach moved to appoint Ms. Davis; Mr. Munch seconded; Voted 3-0.

Item 10: 6:30 Interview Brian Dumas for the Highway Department Truck Driver/Laborer Position:

Mr. Dumas stated he was interested in the position because he is trying to get out of autobody work and would like to get his foot in the door. In addition to autobody experience, he has done mechanical work, welding and other metal fabrication. He has only driven commercial trucks for a few hours but can operate various forms of power equipment and compact tractors. The Board asked about travel from North Adams and Mr. Dumas stated he had reliable transportation even in adverse weather conditions. He understood the job would sometimes involve long hours due to weather events. He has no experience with blacktop or commercial plowing. After a continuing discussion, the Board explained that our Highway Superintendent was not available to participate in the interview and Mr. Dumas agreed to make himself for a future interview. The Board thanked him for coming to Peru and requested that he provide references.

Item 11: 7:00 Interview Dave Dean for the Highway Department Truck Driver/Laborer Position:

Mr. Dean explained that he has maintained his CDL since 2016 and is currently employed by the City of Pittsfield. He is seeking new opportunities because City employees were notified there was no overtime budgeted for fiscal 2026 and his base wage was \$22.15 per hour. He currently lives in Pittsfield and has worked for the City on and off for the last 13 years. He understands the hours required as he currently plows for the City, assists with sidewalk construction and maintenance, patching holes, etc. He generally operated a one ton with a sander as well as front end loaders and other power equipment. After a continuing discussion, the Board explained that our Highway Superintendent was not available to participate in the interview and Mr. Dean agreed to make himself for a future interview. The Board thanked him for coming to Peru and requested that he provide references.

Item 12: Discussion and possible vote on candidates for the Highway Department Truck Driver/Laborer:

Item tabled pending availability of Justin Russell for further interviews.

Item 13: Review and Approve accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll Warrants: V04-2026

Conducted in the normal course.

Item 14: Public Input:

None.

Item 15: Adjourn

Mr. Leach moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Munch seconded. Vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m..

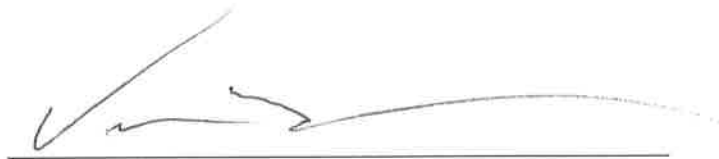
Articles Used:

Biographical Information from Colette Davis
Resume from Brian Dumas
Resume from Dave Dean
Warrant: V04-2026

Respectfully submitted:

Sam Haupt

Verne Leach, Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Verne Leach', written over a horizontal line.

Sam Haupt, Selectman

A horizontal line intended for a signature.

Ed Munch, Selectman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ed Munch', written over a horizontal line.

Date Approved: 9/29/25

Received July 6, 2026
Kim Leach, Town Clerk