

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: September 29 @ 6:00 P.M.**

Town Hall Community Center

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman  
Edward Munch, Selectman  
Terry Walker, Recording Secretary  
Bruce Cullett, Police Chief  
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent  
Caryn Wendling, Treasurer/Collector

Public Attendees: Coralee Pelkey

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

**Item 2: Roll Call:** Chairman Leach present, Selectman Haupt absent, 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 8/18/2025 and 9/22/2025:** Selectman Leach motion to accept 8/18/2025 minutes pending changes, Selectman Munch second, 2-0.  
9/22/2025 minutes on hold

**Item 6: Update from Departments:**

**Police Department:**

Chief Cullett mentioned that training for Otis and Beckett police departments will take place at Bruce Cullett's training range on Curtin Road Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Cullett asked if the BOS had a different area to store the wheelchair ramp. At this time, it is taking up parking space and also hindering the highway department from plowing snow. One possibility is to give COA Director, Bonny DiTomasso, control of the ramp and she may loan it out to someone who needs the ramp.

**Highway Department:**

Superintendent Russell mentioned that he is completing the quarterly report for the MassWorks Grant. The balance is around \$322,000 and this will be used on guardrails and speed signs.

**Town Administrator:**

TA Walker mentioned that the Permiteyes invoice was paid with ATM vote from FY25.

Guardian all work has been completed to the town hall, fire station and highway department and last payment is on tonight's vendor warrant. Attached is certified payroll for the work completed by Guardian.

**Treasurer:**

Treasurer Wendling mentioned that Mark Bedard may have personal and sick time left. She questioned if she had to pay him. She and Highway Superintendent Russell will review time sheets from July 1, 2025, to make sure Mark has been paid for all sick time, and personal days. The Board of Selectmen agreed to pay Mark if he is owed any sick or personal days.

**Item 7: Discussion and possible vote on adding a week of vacation to Highway Superintendent position:** Selectman Leach mentioned that 4 weeks is not unreasonable after ten years and made a motion to allow Highway Superintendent Russell 4 weeks' vacation, Selectman Munch second, 2-0. Superintendent Russell is willing to assist in updating the Highway Department policy for wages and vacation.

**Item 8: Discussion and possible vote on hiring Tim Davis or Cristian Daley for the Highway Driver/Laborer position:** Selectman Leach motion to hire Tim Davis as the new Highway Driver/Laborer position, Selectman Munch second, 2-0. Superintendent Russell asked if the new hire could start on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Both applicants will be notified by Selectman Leach.

**Item 9: Public Input:** Coralee Pelkey would like to have someone give her names of needy families that use wood for heat. If the recipient of the wood raffle writes "give to a worthy recipient" on the ticket, Coralee needs names of veterans, disabled individuals or families that the wood can be donated to. Coralee also wanted to know when the totes will be removed from the community center. The corner is cluttered, and she was told to contact Doug Haskins to have the totes removed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Selectman Leach present, Selectman Munch present, Selectman Haupt absent  
TA Walker and Selectman Leach recording for personal reasons under Exemption E.

**Item 10: Review and Approve accounts payable, Treasury Warrants: V07-2026**

Selectman Leach stated that Assessor Koziara is part-time, works 12 hours per week and he wanted to make sure she was within the perimeter of the policy. Selectman Munch mentioned that they went through this with Sue's vacation last year, and it was decided she should be paid for vacation. Selectman Leach questioned why employees under 20 hours do not have vacation time. The Board did sign Sue Koziara's time sheet.

**Item 11: Adjourn:** Selectman Leach made a motion to adjourn the 9/29/2025 BOS Meeting, Selectman Munch second, Vote 2-0. The 9/29/2025 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:09 P.M.

**Articles used:**

8/18/2025 minutes

Warrant: V07-2026

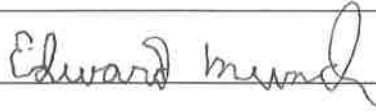
*Terry Walker*  
*Recording Secretary*

Verne Leach, Chairman



Samuel Haupt, Selectman

Edward Munch, Selectman



Date Approved: 10/14/25

Received 10-14-2025  
Kim Leach, Town Clerk