

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: October 20, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.

Town Hall Meeting Room

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman
Samuel Haupt, Selectman
Edward Munch, Selectman
Terry Walker, Recording Secretary
Bruce Cullett, Police Chief
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Nanette Mone, Board of Health

Public Attendees:

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 10/14/2025.

Selectman Leach motion to approve 10/14/2025 minutes pending changes, Selectman Haupt second, 3-0.

Item 6: Update from Departments:

Highway Department:

- Superintendent Russell submitted the quarterly reimbursement for \$677,456.69 to MassWorks and the balance of \$322,543.00 will be used on speed signs and guardrails on Route 143. This project is being completed with the \$1,000,000 MassWorks grant that was awarded to the town.
- Superintendent Russell completed the Expression of Interest (EOI) for culverts on North Road, Mongue Road and Route 143. He is waiting for a call from Alison Dixon to discuss the project. Foresight Engineering will be submitting an estimate on the project for the design. The design needs to be submitted with the grant.
- Justin mentioned that the transfer station inspection will be on October 21st at 10:45 a.m. Selectman Munch will be available for the inspection.
- Since Mirabito was awarded the county bid, they will be installing propane tanks. Superior propane will be contacted regarding the credit due to the town.
- Justin mentioned that the trucks behind the fire house need to be removed since they are a hindrance when plowing snow from the area. Selectman Leach asked Selectman Haupt to have Chief Cawthron take care of the trucks.

Police Department:

Chief Cullett mentioned that the firearms training for October has been rescheduled for November 1st on Curtin Road. The EMPG grant will be submitted for reimbursement and Bruce has asked TA Walker to provide copies of venter warrants.

Board of Health:

Nanette Mone mentioned that the Rural Equity grant funds need to be used by December 31st. She needs to know how many people are in need of gift cards. Selectman Leach instructed Nanette to meet with Bonny DiTomasso, COA Director, to get names of people in need.

Maintenance:

Ed Munch mentioned that he applied sealant to the walls in the meeting room and once the walls are cured, he will paint the walls. He explained that he removed the baseboards, will power wash them at his house and paint all the baseboards.

Selectman Leach:

Selectman Leach gave an overview of the zoom meeting with Civic Plus which hosts the town website, Town Administrator Walker and Town Clerk Leach. Selectman Leach mentioned that the upgrade for a basic standard format will cost \$4,800 per year beginning in FY27. The current website will not be hosted after FY26, an upgrade and migration are necessary. Chief Cullett asked for reasons for the drastic increase and suggested getting quotes from other hosts.

Selectman Haupt:

Selectman Haupt mentioned that he understood the issues with the Assessors from the 9/22/2025 Executive session have been resolved. Selectman Haupt is requesting the 9/22/2025 Executive Session minutes be placed on next week's agenda for approval.

Town Administrator:

TA Walker mentioned that Plumbing Inspector, Tim Martin, met with her today and she assisted Tim in gaining access to his email and he is also set up with Permiteyes.

A letter was received from Eversource, and they will be upgrading the town buildings with a smart meter which is the latest technology for submitting data safely and securely. The town does not need to take any action at this time.

Item 7: Discussion and possible vote on Highway Driver/Laborer hourly rate: Highway Superintendent Russell mentioned that Erik Crofton has been a highway employee for 7 years and recommended a raise for Erik. Justin also mentioned that after Mark Beddard resigned there is a \$4,700 balance to fund a raise for Erik. Selectman Haupt didn't have a problem as long as the raise was within the budget. Selectman Munch supported Erik's increase to \$28.52 per hour. Selectman Leach motion to increase Erik Crofton to \$28.52 per hour, Selectman Munch second, 3-0.

Item 8: Discussion and possible vote on quotes for Town Hall Sewer Line replacement: Selectmen Leach felt that replacement of the septic line would be a better way to go. The quote from Goddard Excavation was for replacing the Town Hall septic line for \$4,000 and Mr. Rooter for installing a septic liner for \$3,500. Selectman Leach motion to hire Goddard Excavation, Selectman Haupt second, 3-0. It was noted that a portion of the septic line replacement was requested when the MIIA Risk management grant was written. The grant must be approved before the work is completed and MIIA pays the vendors directly.

Item 9: Discussion and possible vote on updating Town Policies: Selectman Haupt mentioned that some of the policies were not dated. Selectman Leach mentioned that he has not had a chance to read all the policies. Selectman Munch

suggested reviewing one policy each week at the BOS meetings. The BOS agreed that next week they will review the Highway Department policy, also the firewood distribution policy and free fill.

Item 10: Public Input: N/A

Item 11: Adjourn: Selectman Leach made a motion to adjourn the 10/20/2025 BOS Meeting, Selectman Haupt second, Vote 3-0. The 10/20/2025 BOS Meeting adjourned at 6:37 P.M.

Articles used:

- Minutes from 10/14/2025
- Quotes for Sewer Line
- Letter from Eversource-Smart Meter
- Town policies

Terry Walker
Recording Secretary

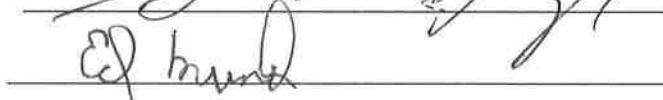
Verne Leach, Chairman



Samuel Haupt, Selectman



Edward Munch, Selectman



Date Approved: 10-27-25

Received 10-27-2025
Kim Leach, Town Clerk

Goddard Excavating Inc

20 Main St
Hinsdale, MA 01235

Tel: 1 (413) 655-4114

CONTRACTOR'S PROPOSAL

Proposal Submitted To: <i>Town of Peru</i>	Job Name: <i>Sewer Line Replacement</i>	Job #
Address: <i>3 E Main Rd</i>	Job Location: <i>Peru Town Hall</i>	Date of Plans:
<i>Peru, MA 01235</i>	Date: <i>10/10/25</i>	
Phone #: <i>413-655-8312</i>	Fax #	Architect

We hereby submit specifications and estimates for: *replacing 4" sewer line from the building to septic tank with 4" sdr 35 pipe. which includes digging, backfilling and topsoiling, seed and straw on all disturb area's.*

We propose hereby to furnish material and labor—complete in accordance with the above specifications for the sum of:

\$14,000.00 Dollars

with payments to be made as follows: *when completed*

Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed only upon written order, and will become an extra charge over and above the estimate. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents, or delays beyond our control.

Respectfully submitted:

Will Goddard

Note—this proposal may be withdrawn by us if not accepted within *30* days.

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL

The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. You are authorized to do the work as specified. Payments will be made as outlined above.

Signature _____

Date of Acceptance: _____

Signature _____

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TOWN OF PERU
3 E MAIN RD STE 100
PERU MA 01235-2901



10/14/2025

RE: Your electric meter is getting an upgrade
Customer service address: 3 E MAIN RD, PERU MA 01235-2900

Dear Town Of Peru,

In the next few months, we will be upgrading your meter to a smart meter with the latest technology, bringing you new levels of control and insights into your energy use. **There is no action required from you at this time.**

What is a smart meter?

A smart meter looks like your current meter, but it will provide near real-time information to you about the energy you use. Data is transmitted safely and securely.

The information collected by your smart meter will be available through your online account or our free mobile app, letting you monitor and manage the energy you use, which can help lower your bill. You'll also see the projected amount of your next bill based on the energy you're using daily in your home or business.

More info and options

You'll receive more information about your new smart meter and what to expect when your meter is upgraded. To learn more about smart meters and their benefits, please visit eversource.com/smart-meters or scan the QR code with your phone's camera.

We look forward to providing you with new insight to help you make choices to manage your energy use.

Sincerely,

Eversource Customer Service



006531 000002088



TOWN OF PERU

3 E MAIN RD STE 100

PERU MA 01235-2901



10/14/2025

RE: Your electric meter is getting an upgrade
Customer service address: 9 E MAIN RD, PERU MA 01235-9261

Dear Town Of Peru,

In the next few months, we will be upgrading your meter to a smart meter with the latest technology, bringing you new levels of control and insights into your energy use. **There is no action required from you at this time.**

What is a smart meter?

A smart meter looks like your current meter, but it will provide near real-time information to you about the energy you use. Data is transmitted safely and securely.

The information collected by your smart meter will be available through your online account or our free mobile app, letting you monitor and manage the energy you use, which can help lower your bill. You'll also see the projected amount of your next bill based on the energy you're using daily in your home or business.

More info and options

You'll receive more information about your new smart meter and what to expect when your meter is upgraded. To learn more about smart meters and their benefits, please visit eversource.com/smart-meters or scan the QR code with your phone's camera.

We look forward to providing you with new insight to help you make choices to manage your energy use.

Sincerely,

Eversource Customer Service



006533 000002088



TOWN OF PERU
3 E MAIN RD STE 100
PERU MA 01235-2901

10/14/2025



RE: Your electric meter is getting an upgrade
Customer service address: 11 E MAIN RD UNIT 11, PERU MA 01235-9261

Dear Town Of Peru,

In the next few months, we will be upgrading your meter to a smart meter with the latest technology, bringing you new levels of control and insights into your energy use. **There is no action required from you at this time.**

What is a smart meter?

A smart meter looks like your current meter, but it will provide near real-time information to you about the energy you use. Data is transmitted safely and securely.

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