

TOWN HALL 3 EAST MAIN ROAD PERU, MA 01235

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: June 22, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.

Town Hall Community Center

Verne Leach, Chair Selectman
Edward Munch, Selectman
Samuel Haupt, Selectman
Terry Walker, Recording Secretary
Bruce Cullett, Police Chief
Justin Russell, Highway Superintendent
Bonny DiTomasso, COA Director
Jonathon Mejias, Assessor

Public Attendees: Tina Barrington, Mark Toporoff-Camp Danbee

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: Discussion and possible vote on reorganizing the Board of Selectmen: Selectman Haupt nominated Selectman Munch as Chairman, Selectman Leach second, 3-0.

Item 6: Review and Approve BOS Meeting Minutes for 6/8/2026: Selectman Munch motion to approve 6/8/2026 minutes pending changes, Selectman Leach second, 3-0.

Item 7: Update from Departments:

Police Department:

- Chief Cullett mentioned that the balance of the police department expense account will be used for UTV parts.
- Chief Cullett wanted to discuss, at the next meeting, the aluminum ramp behind the town hall. Possibly donate it or sell at Auctions International.
- Police Chief contract-Town Counsel has reviewed the contract, and Hinsdale will be signing on Wednesday. The Peru BOS will sign Chief Cullett's contract after Hinsdale signs the revised contract.

Highway Department:

- Superintendent Russell mentioned he will be installing concrete base before signs are installed.
- He received a check from Cintas for \$251.54 which he will turn over to the Town Treasurer.
- Building Maintenance Account-Justin asked if the remaining funds could be carried over to be used on gravel for the parking lot. BOS agreed that the funds could be carried forward.

- Justin asked if he could carry over remaining vacation days into the new fiscal year. Selectman Haupt motion to allow Superintendent Russell to carry unused vacation days into July, BOS agreed.
- The BOS agreed to allow Superintendent Russell to have Highway Department mini splits serviced.

COA Director:

Bonny DiTomasso, COA Director mentioned that she has received Farmer's Marke Coupons. The criteria to qualify for coupons depends on age and annual income.

Bonny explained that Peru is no longer part of the Hill Town CDC program. It was suggested that C.J. Hoss from BRPC be contacted for Peru seniors be kept on the list for funding.

Treasurer:

Selectman Munch was concerned about where the Stabilization Fund was invested and what the rate of interest the Stabilization Fund is earning. Treasurer Wendling mentioned that the Stabilization Fund was invested at the East Hampden Saving Bank earning 1% interest. Selectman Munch suggested a higher paying CD and looking into different banks.

Selectman Haupt:

Sam mentioned that that the pilot Commission will hold a discussion open to the public at the Berkshire Innovation Center in Pittsfield, MA. All town officials are welcome to attend.

Selectman Leach:

Selectman Leach mentioned that Shana LeCours does not want to be reappointed as an Assessor.

Selectman Leach also mentioned that live training for the new website will be available for all departments. He also mentioned that not all the data has been transferred from Civic Plus to Town Web. Selectman Munch will contact Town Clerk Leach about attending a BOS meeting to discuss training and updating the website.

Assessor:

- Jonathon Mejias mentioned that he has received his certification in professional assessing.
- Building Permits are printed and Patriots will be coming soon to assist the assessors.
- LA13A was submitted last week and approved. This is the first step in setting the tax rate.
- 107 inspection letters were mailed out, and several inspections will be completed this week.
- Assessor Mascolo has completed course 101 in Assessing.
- Jonathon would like to use his vacation time the first full week in July. Unanimous vote by the BOS for Jonathon to use his extra vacation days the first week of July.

Verne Leach, Animal Inspector,

Verne Leach, Animal Inspector, mentioned that the Police Chief should notify the Animal Inspector regarding animal complaints. Chief Cullett stated that when the complaint is cruelty to animals the Police Department gets involved as well as the Animal Control Office. ACO, Leach mentioned that Police Chief Cullett should not send emails to his selectman email only ACO. Chief Cullett mentioned he sent to both email addresses to assure Verne received the email.

Item 8: Discussion and possible vote on a License to Operate for Camp Danbee: Since all inspections have been completed, Selectman Munch motion to grant license to operate for Camp Danbee, Selectman Laech second, 3-0.

Item 9: Discussion on the Green Communities Designation Grant Funds: Chief Cullett suggested new thermostats to be placed in locked cages. Placed on hold.

Item 10: Discussion and possible vote on making Conservation Commission a Special Municipal Employee position:

Selectman Leach motion to make Conservation Commission a Special Municipal Employee position, Selectman Haupt second, 3-0.

Item 11: Discussion and possible vote on moving forward with pursuing legal action on 0 Pierce Road, parcel 30-0-02:

Superintendent Russell believes the town owns the parcel. Placed on hold.

Item 12: Discussion and possible vote to reappoint the following positions: Logan Brooks as Fire Inspector, Edward Munch as a Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Member, Samuel Haupt for Woodlands partnership of Northwest Massachusetts, George Greule for Parks and Recreation, Michael Hunt as a Police Officer, Terry Walker as Recording Secretary, Terry Walker as the Town Administrator, Caryn Wendling as Tax Collector, Caryn Wendling as Treasurer, Wally Morrison as Veterans Grave Officer and Bonny DiTomasso on the Zoning Board of Appeals:

Selectman Munch reappoints all on list Selectman Leach second, 3-0

Selectman Leach motion to reappoint Edward Munch as a Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Member, Selectman Haupt second, 2-0. Selectman Munch recused himself.

Item 13: Review and Approve accounts payable, Treasury Warrants, Payroll warrants: V26-2026

Item 14: Public Input:

Tina Barrington asked how people are contacted to receive farmer's market coupons. Bonny mentioned that the residents are notified on the town website, phone calls and emails. Tina compared how Hinsdale COA sends a newsletter asking the residents how many coupons they need and wondered why Peru COA didn't do something similar. Selectman Munch directed Tina Barrington to meet with COA Director, Bonny DiTomasso, in her office and speak directly to her. Discussion ended.

Item 15: Adjourn: Selectman Leach made a motion to adjourn the 6/22/2026 BOS Meeting, Selectman Munch second, Vote 3-0. The 6/22/2026 BOS Meeting adjourned at 7:19 P.M.

Articles used:

6/8/2026 minutes
Warrant: V26-2026
Camp Danbee License to operate
Appointment letters

Terry Walker
Recording Secretary

Verne Leach, Chairman

Samuel Haupt, Selectman

Edward Munch, Selectman

Date Approved: 7/6/26



Received 7-13-2026
Kim Leach, Town Clerk

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Peru**

LICENSE # 2026-01

FEE: \$100.00

**This is to Certify that Camp Danbee, Route 143, Peru, MA is
hereby granted a license to operate a Camp.**

*This License is granted in conformity with the Statutes and ordinances relating
thereto, and expires 6/22/2027, unless sooner suspended or revoked.*

Select Board's Approval

By signing below, the Peru Select Board members validate this establishment's license through
June 22, 2027, after which time the license expires.

Signed _____

Date _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

This document must be posted in a readily visible place on your premises at all times.