



Treasurer: John Maher nominated Donna Williams and Lucy Maher seconded. No other nominations, proposition B moved by Grant Braddish with Roberta Baker seconding. All in favor, motion passed.

- \* Town Treasurer – 1 year Donna Williams

Selectboard: Gary stated one was seat was available. Peggy Powell nominated Bob Stelz. David Farnum seconded this nomination. John Maher nominated Chuck Black and Sarah Perry seconded. Bob called for a paper ballot. Gary set forth the request by asking at least seven people in favor of a paper ballot to stand and be counted. This quickly occurred with more than seven people standing.

Results of paper ballot: Total of 58 votes cast

- \* Bob Stelz 21
- \* Chuck Black 37

Gary declared Chuck Black the elected Selectboard member.

- \* Seleboard – 3 year Chuck Black

Lister: Jack Pennypacker nominated Rebecca Williams and Lucy Maher seconded. No other nominations, proposition B moved by Vickie Beattie with Jill Braddish seconding. All in favor, motion passed.

- \* Lister – 3 year Rebecca Williams

Auditor: Chuck Black moved to nominated Melinda Beebe. Alex Sheets seconded. No other nominations, proposition B moved by John Maher and Grant Braddish seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

- \* Auditor – 3 year Melinda Beebe

Cemetery Commission: David Farnum moved to nominate Stewart Beattie with Gary Sharon seconding. No other nominations, proposition B moved by Gary Sharon and Grant Braddish seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

- \* Cemetery Commission – 5 years Stewart Beattie

First Constable: Bob Stelz nominated Stewart Beattie with John Maher seconding. No other nominations, proposition B moved by Vickie Beattie, Cindy Mowry seconding. All in favor, motion passed.

- \* First Constable – 1 year Stewart Beattie

Second Constable: Jack Pennypacker nominated Chris Felion and Bob Stelz seconded. No other nominations, proposition B moved by Grant Braddish and Alex Sheets. All in favor, motion passed.

- \* Second Constable – 1 year Chris Felion

Delinquent Tax Collector: Deke Jamieson moved to nominate John Maher. Rebecca Williams seconded. Proposition B moved by Cindy Mowry, Ben Freeman seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

- \* Delinquent Tax Collector – 1 year John Maher

Grand Juror: Margaret Cobb nominated Hope Richardson and John Maher seconded. Proposition B moved by Todd Williams, Gary Sharon seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

- \* Grand Juror – 1 year Hope Richardson

Town Agent: John Maher nominated Tracy Black with Ben Freeman seconding. Proposition B moved by Vickie Beattie, John Maher seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

- \* Town Agent – 1 year Tracy Black

Trustee of Public Funds: John Maher moved to nominate Ben Freeman. Jack Pennypacker seconded. Proposition B moved by Cindy Mowry, Jill Braddish seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

- \* Trustee of Public Funds – 1 year Ben Freeman

### **ARTICLE 3:**

- a) To see if the Town will vote a tax to defray the expenses of the Town and the School District for the fiscal year of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, as set forth in the budgets submitted in the 2016 Town Report, subject to such modifications as this meeting may vote.

Chuck Black moved the motion and Gary Sharon seconded.

Jon Mowry stated the Town is not voting on the School District budget which already passed at the annual Flood Brook Union School meeting in February. Charlie Howard pointed out that the Selectboard worked extensively on preparing the budget at a number of meetings. He then stated the budget had four misprints in the Town Report that required correction.

Corrections:

- 1) Page 44, line 432 Copier Expense – \$5,400.00  
The Town will be purchasing a new copier.
- 2) Page 45, line 626 Landfill - \$30,000.00
- 3) Page 47, line 853 Municipal Planning Grant - \$2,000.00 (insert)
- 4) Page 47. Line 908 Capital Expense - \$10,000.00 (insert)

Total Expense - \$809,075.00 (page 47)

Amount To Be Raised by Taxes - \$524,100.00 (page 43)

Discussion ensued pertaining to, how to avoid these mistakes in the future and Selectboard budget meetings. Both Charlie and Todd encouraged everyone to take notice of the posted agendas that details the subjects to be discussed. They also suggested looking at the Town website, Peruvt.org, and attending Selectboard meetings.

Chuck Black made a motion to increase the amount of surplus to be applied to the tax rate from the budgeted amount of \$150,000 to \$170,000. Morgan Devlin seconded the motion. Discussion followed including - this motion would help to keep the taxes lower, has the Town ever dipped into the surplus and we should save this money for a rainy day.

Gary ruled for a voice vote asking those in favor of the motion to stand and then those opposed. The motion was defeated.

Gary repeated the Article 3A question “Does the Town vote to support the proposed budget of \$524,100?” All in favor, motion moved.

- b) To authorize the Selectmen to set the rates on the 2016 grand list to meet the budgets voted. John Mowry moved the motion, with Grant Braddish seconding. All in favor, motion carried.
- c) To establish the date of payment of such Taxes. Previous year’s dates: July 1 – September 30. Jay Ouelette moved the motion and Alex Sheets seconded. All in favor motion passed.

Stewart asked to revisit Article 2, specifically the election of a Selectboard member. It is a conflict of interest for a person to be a Selectboard member and Auditor. Gary stated the Selectboard would appoint a new auditor. Stewart also commented on the Community House requiring upgrades to be compliant with fire safety guidelines.

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions made by law for payment of taxes to the Town Treasurer. Grant Braddish moved the motion and John Maher seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote a sum of money to the following organizations which serve the community?

Mountain Valley Medical Clinic	\$3,200.00
Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad	\$1,000.00
Visiting Nurse Association of VT/NH	\$2,700.00

South Londonderry Free Library	\$1,000.00
Bennington County Conservation District	\$300.00
BROC	\$200.00
VT Center for Independent Living	\$140.00
SW Vermont Council on Aging	\$200.00
Center for Restorative Justice	\$300.00
Neighborhood Connections	\$1,000.00
Green Up Vermont	\$50.00
The Collaborative	\$750.00
Flood Brook Athletic Association	\$1,000.00
West River Sports Association	\$635.00
Project Against Violent Encounters	\$150.00
Peru Cemetery Commission	\$3,000.00
The Partnership	\$2,000.00
Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless	\$500.00
Rural Fire Protection Task Force	\$100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,225.00</b>

Alex Sheets made a motion to reduce the amount by \$2,000.00 stating The Partnership did not follow the correct procedures for requesting appropriation moneys. Juliette Britton described The Partnership as a reorganization of The Chamber of Commerce to promote destination marketing and economic development and suggested everyone look at the brochure at hand. Jay Ouelette noted, from his previous experience, that The Chamber is a big asset to small business. Grant discerned that this is a new request and the Town has not given to the Chamber in the past. Discussion continued. Stewart Beattie asked to increase the Peru Cemetery Commission request by \$500.00 stating \$3,500.00 had been the amount in the solicitation letter. Discussion followed concerning the procedures to adhere to when submitting an appropriation request. After considerable discussion Gary asked the question "Will the Town vote to approve \$18,725.00 for appropriations?" All in favor, motion passed.

**ARTICLE 6:** To transact other business that may properly come before the meeting. Jon Mowry, the Town's RED School Board Representative, said the school budget can be found in the Flood Brook Union School Annual report. This budget passed at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting. The budget is lower because special education spending decreased and the number of students has increased. He also discussed per pupil spending, property yield and the tax rate being based on the total State wide education spending. He also informed those present about Act 46. A major implication is the requirement to consolidate school districts that have less than 900 students. So, an Act 46 study committee is forming and will involve representatives from Danby, Dorset,

Manchester, Mt Tabor, Sunderland, and the Mountain Towns RED. This committee will figure out various details, benefits, obstacles and implications involved in this possible merger. If we don't do anything the State gets to make the decision for us. Everyone thanked Jon for his hard work and dedication.

Ben Freeman, the Headmaster at Burr & Burton's Mountain Campus, representing Burr & Burton, mentioned the letter from Mark Tashjian in the Town report and suggested important information is noted within. He indicated the increase in the budget this year as compared to last year was only 1.88%. He also thanked the Town for supporting Burr & Burton.

David Francomb and Stacy Stratton, from the Green Mountain National Forest, presented an update of projects and timber, recreation, wildlife, and fisheries management, in the Town of Peru. They are working on a number of timber management projects including the Pumphouse, Mad Tom and Cook Brook Stewardship sales. Stacy provided a detailed map of the harvest activities that is available for viewing in the Town Office. Two sections of the Hapgood Nature Trail have been relocated with a new bridge built and plans to repair the dam. Both David and Stacy are new to the Manchester office and welcome visits and or phone calls.

Grant thanked Charlie for his service, dedication, hard work, and conscientious and judicious behavior as a Selectboard member.

Jack thanked Peggy Powell for her many years of thoughtful devotion, commitment to integrity, and ability to pitch in as a team member as a Peru Lister.

Dr Roger Fox, in his 40<sup>th</sup> year serving the mountain community as the first doctor at Mountain Valley Health Council MVHC, thanked the Town for supporting the clinic. MVHC, one of the last free standing clinics, joined Springfield Medical Care Systems in December of 2015 in order to provide broader access to high quality services and improve financial security.

Charlie discussed the Red Cross Center project Kevin Beattie, as Londonderry's Emergency Management Director, is recommending. FEMA has contributed monies in the form of a grant to launch the project which would house an emergency shelter at Flood Brook Union School. Kevin is asking Peru to contribute \$3,700.00 towards the purchase of a generator and the Peru Selectboard supports the idea.

An update on Johnny Seesaws was presented by Margaret Cobb with information obtained from Ryan Prins, the current owner. His plan is to open December of 2017 with a new facility that would house a restaurant and a distillery. Plus, the out buildings

will be renovated and available for reservations. Two renditions of the land and facility will be at the Town office for viewing.

Alex Sheets made a motion to adjourn at 12:06PM. All in favor, Gary Ameden concluded the Town meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Cobb  
Peru Town Clerk  
Dated March 20, 2016

Selectboard, Moderator and/or Justice of the Peace

Todd Williams  
Gail Acosta  
Chuck Black