

# 2024 Annual Report

Town of Peru, Vermont  
Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024



Town Report also available online at [peruvt.org](http://peruvt.org)  
Please note Town Meeting occurs on Tuesday March 4, 2025

Table of Contents

Community Information..... 4

Peru Town Meeting 2024 – WARNING..... 5

**Town of Peru Officials..... 6**

    Elected Town Officers..... 6

    Select Board Appointed Town Officers..... 7

    Other Town Positions..... 7

**Town of Peru Reports..... 8**

    Select Board Report..... 8

    Clerk’s Report..... 8

    Audit Report..... 9

    Board of Listers Report..... 9

    Zoning Administrative Officer’s Report..... 11

    Cemetery Commissioner’s Report..... 11

    Peru Cemetery Commission Balance Sheet..... 12

    First Constable’s Report..... 13

    Fire Department Report..... 13

    Fire Warden Report..... 13

    Road Commissioner’s Report..... 13

    Animal Control..... 14

    Peru Fair Scholarship Report..... 15

    Peru Fair Report..... 16

**Community Reports..... 17**

    Londonderry Solid Waste Group..... 17

    Mountain Towns Recreation..... 18

    Green Mountain National Forest..... 19

    Southern Vermont Communications Union District..... 20

    Taconic & Green Regional School District..... 21

**Town of Peru Annual Budget & Financial Statements..... 21**

    Annual Budget..... 22

    Statement of Net Position..... 27

    Statement of Activities..... 28

    Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds..... 29

    Statement of Cash Receipts & Cash Disbursements – Governmental Funds..... 30

    Balance Sheet – Non-Major Governmental Funds..... 31

    Statement of Cash Receipts & Cash Disbursements – Non-Major Governmental Funds..... 32

    Balance Sheet – Non-Major Capital Project Funds..... 33

**Funding Requests to the Town of Peru..... 33**

    South Londonderry Free Library..... 33

    Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless..... 35

VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force.....	36
My Community Nurse Project.....	37
Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE).....	38
Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad.....	39
Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire.....	40
VT Center for Independent Living.....	41
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging.....	42
Center for Restorative Justice.....	43
Neighborhood Connections.....	44
Green Up Vermont.....	45
The Collaborative.....	46
Burr & Burton Letter from Headmaster.....	47



Artwork courtesy of Karol Allen Arts.

## **Community Information**

### **Peru Town Office**

402 Main Street  
P.O. Box 127 Peru, VT 05152

Open: Tues & Thurs 8:30am – 4:00pm  
802.824.3065  
[clerk@peruvt.org](mailto:clerk@peruvt.org)

### **Emergency Numbers**

Fire: 911  
Rescue: 911  
State Police: (802) 722-4600  
Mountain Valley Medical Center: (802) 824-6901  
First Town Constable, Mike Gayda (802) 238-4991  
Animal Control Officer, Pat Salo (802) 688-4020  
Fire Warden, Chuck Black (802) 824-6793

### **Schools**

Flood Brook Union School (802) 824-6811  
Burr & Burton Academy (802) 362-1775  
Burr & Burr Mountain Campus (802) 824-4846  
Green Mtn. Union High School (802) 875-2146

### **Peru Post Office**

Window Service: Monday-Friday 9:30am-12:30pm & 1:30pm-4:30pm  
Saturday 8:30am- 11:30am  
Access to PO boxes 24 hours 7 days a week

### **State Officials**

Governor's Action Line (800) 649-6825

### **Vermont State Legislature**

#### **Senators:**

Seth Bongartz (802) 362-1488 e-mail: [sbongartz@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:sbongartz@leg.state.vt.us)  
Robert Plunkett (802) 828-2228 e-mail: [plunkett@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:plunkett@leg.state.vt.us)

#### **State Rep:**

Sandra "Sandy" Pinsonault (802) 828-2228 e-mail: [spinsonault@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:spinsonault@leg.state.vt.us)

### **U.S. Officials**

#### **Senators:**

Bernie Sanders, Burlington office (800) 339-9834  
Peter Welch, Burlington office (802) 863-2525

#### **Congress:**

Becca Balint, Burlington office (802) 652-2450

**Peru Town Meeting 2024 – WARNING**

The legal voters of the Town of Peru are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Peru Town Center on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at the hour of 10:00AM to act on the following articles:

Article 1: To elect a Town Moderator

Article 2: To hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers.

Article 3: To elect Town Officers as the law directs.

Article 4:

- A) To see if the town will vote a tax to defray the expenses of the town for the fiscal year of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 as set forth in the budgets submitted in the 2024 Town Report, subject to such modifications as this meeting may vote.
- B) To authorize the selectmen to set the rate on the 2025 Grand List to meet the budgets voted.
- C) To establish the date of payment of such taxes. Previous years dates July 1- September 30.

Article 5: To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions made by law for payment of taxes to the Town Treasurer.

Article 6: Shall the voters vote a sum of money to the following organizations which serve the community

○ South Londonderry Free Library	\$ 600.00
○ Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless	\$ 500.00
○ Vt. Rural Fire Protection Task Force	\$ 200.00
○ My Community Nurse Project	\$2,500.00
○ Project Against Violent Encounters	\$ 150.00
○ Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad	\$5,250.00
○ Visiting Nurse Assn. of VT/NH	\$2,700.00
○ VT Center for Independent Living	\$ 140.00
○ SW Vermont Council on Aging	\$ 200.00
○ Center for Restorative Justice	\$ 300.00
○ Neighborhood Connections	\$3,540.00
○ Green Up Vermont	\$ 50.00
○ The Collaborative	\$ 750.00
○ Peru Cemetery Commission	<u>\$5,000.00</u>

**TOTAL** **\$21,880.00**

Article 7: To see if the town will vote a veteran’s exemption to include an amount up to \$30,000. The State of Vermont currently provides a maximum exemption of \$40,000 with the first \$10,000 provided by the state. The total exemption is deducted from the appraised value of the parcel.

Article 8: To see if the town will vote to construct a 22x36 timber frame pavilion on the town green at a cost not to exceed \$95,000 dollars.

Article 9: To transact any other business that may properly come before this meeting.

Dated at Peru, Vermont, January 23, 2025  
Charles Black, Alex Sheets, Ben Foltz  
Peru Select Board

**Town of Peru Officials**

**Elected Town Officers**

<b>Moderator:</b>	Gary Ameden	2025
<b>Town Clerk:</b>	Melinda Beebe	2025
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Cheryl Fox	2025
<b>Select Board:</b>	Chuck Black, Chair	2025
	Alex Sheets	2026
	Ben Foltz	2027
<b>Lister:</b>	Rebecca Williams	2025
	Jack Pennypacker, Chair	2026
	Jay Reichman	2027
<b>Auditors:</b>	Ruth Ann Barrick	2025
	Heidi Healy	2026
	John Livingston	2027
<b>Cemetery Commission:</b>		
	Jeremy LaPan	2025
	Ivanna Reed	2026
	Carl Holcomb	2027
	Beth Knox	2028
	William Crandall, Chair	2029
<b>First Constable:</b>	Mike Gayda	2025
<b>Second Constable:</b>	Josh Witkin	2025
<b>Delinquent Tax Collector:</b>	Tracy Black	2025
<b>Grand Juror:</b>	Ivanna Reed	2025
<b>Trustee of Public Funds:</b>	Josh Witkin	2025

**Justices of the Peace\*:**

Gary Ameden, Tracy Black, Ivanna Reed, Karen Utiger, and Olivia Rukat

\*Terms: February 1, 2023 thru January 31, 2026

**Select Board Appointed Town Officers**

	<u>Term Expires</u>
<b>Planning Commission:</b>	
Lucas Hughes	2025
(vacant)	2025
Andy Dahlstrom	2026
Jim Jordan	2026
LJ Petra	2027
Mike Gayda	2027

**Zoning Board:**

David Utiger	2025
Charles Howard	2025
Chuck Black	2026
Josh Witkin	2026
Peter Bradford, Chair	2027

**Zoning Administrator:** William Goodwin

**Sexton:** Carl Holcomb

**Town Service Officer:** Melissa O'Brien

**Health Officer:** Mike Gayda

**Deputy Health Officer:** Josh Witkin

**Road Commissioner:** Chuck Black

**Emergency Managers:** Chuck Black and Mike Gayda

**Other Town Positions**

**Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer:** Rhonda Kilburn

**Road Foreman:** Wayne Blanchard

**Road Crew:** Brian Bills

## Town of Peru Reports

### Select Board Report

The repair to the town garage was completed with new insulation and sheetrock. The basement of the town center underwent a major mold remediation effort.

The Audit was completed and steps are being taken to implement the changes suggested. The results of the audit gives the town an accurate baseline going forward. The budget template reflects the changes that were suggested by the audit company.

Traffic continues to be an issue, all over town. Speeding and ignoring stop signs are the major complaints. The board did a traffic study on Main St. and posted the results.

There will be a seat on the board opening up this year. A perfect opportunity for new blood and a change of direction.

The Peru Select Board  
Chuck Black  
Alex Sheets  
Ben Foltz

### Clerk's Report

#### Vital Statistics: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Marriages: 1  
Births: 3  
Deaths: 6  
Burials: 1

#### Liquor Licenses: May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025

\*THE TOWN OF PERU DOES NOT RECEIVE ANY PORTION OF THIS FEE

Type	Cost	Quantity	Total
First Class Outside Consumption	20	0	\$0
First Class Restaurant/Bar	\$115	7	\$805
Outside Consumption*	\$20	3	\$60
Special Events - Manufacturer*	\$35	3	\$105
Tobacco	\$0	0	\$0
Second Class*	\$70	0	\$0
Third Class - Restaurant/Bar*	\$1,095	4	\$4,380
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$5,350</b>

## **Audit Report**

The town auditors conducted our audit of fiscal year 7/1/2023 - 6/30/2024 by reconciling bank statements throughout the year and using the audit checklist provided by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. This checklist provides a thorough approach to examining the internal controls and the accounts of all town officers and all other persons authorized by law to draw orders on the town treasurer. The town also underwent a full audit

In our opinion, the financial statements presented in the Town Report present fairly the financial position of the Town of Peru as of June 30, 2024.

Ruth Ann Barrick, Heidi Healy, John Livingston

## **Board of Listers Report**

**Grand List:** Each year, the primary role of the Listers is to maintain a fair and equitable Grand List for the purposes of taxation. The Listers establish a Grand List specifying the value of each taxable property as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Preliminary Grand List must be filed with the Town Clerk on or before June 4<sup>th</sup>. Grievance hearings must begin no later than June 19<sup>th</sup> and the final Grand List must be lodged with the Town Clerk by July 25<sup>th</sup>. This year there are 722 parcels in Peru, including 396 structures with land (including residential and commercial properties), 271 condominiums and 54 parcels with open land. No parcel formally grieved their assessments this year. All concerns were resolved at our pre-grievance level.

**Equalization Study Results:** Sales continued to be well above the appraised values. Sales trends are measured by the state using two statistical measures, the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) and Coefficient of Dispersion (COD). Each is measured by a three-year running average. This year the CLA is 59.21% and our COD is 22.47%. A CLA below 100% indicates that our town appraisal values are less than fair market value. A high COD indicates that some taxpayers are paying more than their fair share, and some are paying less than their fair share. The threshold for a reappraisal is 20%. Since our COD is above 20%, we contacted the New England Municipal Resource Center, who conducted our last reappraisal in 2015, and initiated the process. They are now conducting the town-wide reappraisal. To date, 110 parcels have been re-appraised. It is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2026. For more information about the re-appraisal process, please visit the town website, [peruvt.org](http://peruvt.org).

**Use Value Appraisal Program (Current Use):** Owners of agricultural and forest land may be eligible to have land taxed at the lower “use value” rate by enrolling in the Current Use Program. At least 25 acres are required for enrollment, excluding a 2-acre house site. We currently have 36 parcels enrolled in the Current Use program. For additional information and to file an application electronically, please go to <http://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/curent-use>

**Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment Claim (Form HS-122):** By Vermont law, property owners whose homes meet the definition of a Vermont homestead must file a Homestead Declaration each year., 32 V.S.A. Statute 5410. Many people file their Homestead Declaration at the same time that they file their Vermont Income Tax return. However, if you apply for an extension or if you are not required to file a Vermont Income Tax return, the Homestead Declaration must still be filed. Penalties apply after the April deadline. For additional information and to file electronically, please go to: <http://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>.

Veterans Exemption: Veterans who own their home and declare a Vermont homestead may be eligible for a property tax exemption. We currently have two veterans registered for this exemption. For additional information and requirements, please go to: [www.veterans.vermont.gov](http://www.veterans.vermont.gov).

Board of Listers: As a board, we must abide by changing state statutes and fixed and constrained timetables. We are here to assist you with any questions or concerns that you may have. The Board of Listers meets on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 AM. If you have any questions or concerns about the appraisal of your property, feel free to call, stop in, or send us a letter with your concerns. Most issues are handled in April or May by a Pre-Grievance process. If you wish to formally grieve the assessed value of your property, please submit a letter in May describing the basis for your Grievance. The formal Grievance Day will be held in the first two weeks of June.

FINALLY, ANOTHER PLEA TO THE PERU COMMUNITY: Normally, the Board of Listers is comprised of three members. Currently, there are two listers who take care of regular business, one of whom will not be continuing after Town Meeting this year. If you would like to offer your services for this vital role, which is a part-time paid, elected position, please consider “volunteering”.

The Board of Listers  
Jack Pennypacker, Chair  
Jay Reichman  
Rebecca Williams

## Zoning Administrative Officer's Report

There were 16 zoning permit applications received in 2024.

The permits issued fell into the following categories:

### **One and Two-Family Homes**

New One or Two-Family Homes	4
Additions	2
Accessory Structures	5
Accessory Dwellings	0
Primitive Camps	1
Permit Extensions	0
Appeals/Variances/Conditional	0
Ponds	0

### **Commercial and Multifamily**

Conditional Use Decision	0
Site Plan Review	0
Signs	2
Permit Extensions	0
Appeals/Variances	0
Agricultural	0

### **Subdivisions and Boundary Line Adjustments**

Minor Subdivision (2 lots)	1
Major Subdivision (more than 2 lots)	0
Boundary Line Adjustment	0

None of the permits issued required a hearing before the Zoning Board of Adjustment, or site plan review before the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission also finished up work on a new set of bylaws and started working on updating the Town Plan in 2024.

The Zoning Administrator is the point person for the PC/ZBA. He is usually at the Town Hall on Thursday after 11:00, and he monitors his emails ([zoning@peruvt.org](mailto:zoning@peruvt.org)) on other days. Feel free to contact him with any questions.

Respectfully submitted:

Mike Gayda

Andy Dahlstrom

Lucas Hughes

LJ Petra

Jim Jordan

Will Goodwin - Zoning Administrator

### Cemetery Commissioner's Report

The maintenance of Peru's three cemeteries; the Village Cemetery, North Cemetery and Stone Cemetery has been ongoing through the year consisting of mowing/trimming grass, removal of leaves, filling in grave depressions and grave stone maintenance. There was one burial this year.

We had two dead trees removed from the North Road Cemetery and one removed from the Village Cemetery this year. We are in the process of getting quotes to survey one acre of the new section of the Village Cemetery. We are expecting to have the surveying completed this summer.

The next meeting for the commission will be May 1, 2025 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
William Crandall, Chairman  
Peru Cemetery Commissioner

### Peru Cemetery Commission Balance Sheet

Checking Account Balance, July 1, 2023		<u>\$ 25,072.93</u>
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>		
Interest	\$	205.01
Dividends	\$	2,157.41
Plot Purchase	\$	400.00
Perpetual Care	\$	400.00
Town Appropriation	\$	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$	<u>8,162.42</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>		
Maintenance	\$	6,596.15
Total Disbursements:	\$	<u>6,596.15</u>
Checking Account Balance, June 30, 2024	\$	26,639.20
<b>Assets Owned:</b>		
Berkshire Bank Municipal NOW (Checking Account)	\$	26,639.20
Mutual Funds and Stock (at Market Value)	\$	<u>193,465.00</u>
Total Assets	\$	220,104.20

Note: All Revenue over Expenditures in the Checking Account are dedicated to Perpetual Care.

### **First Constable's Report**

This is my fourth year acting as Constable with the help of my assistant Constable Josh Witkin. The number of noise complaints associated with short term renters seems to have decreased now that the town has initiated the Short Term Renters program. I would also like to strongly remind us all to drive prudently and slowly, particularly on Hapgood Pond Road and in town.

Please feel free to phone me or text at 802.238.4991 if you require assistance.

Cordially,  
Mike Gayda

### **Fire Department Report**

The Peru Fire Dept. responded to 49 calls in 2024 breakdown is as follows: 5 Motor vehicle accidents, 19 still alarms, (these are calls that originate from automatic alarm systems), 4 wires down, 5 elevator alarms, 2 smoke reports, 1 CO alarm, 1 odor investigation, 2 structure fires, 8 agency assist/mutual aid calls, 2 wildland fires, 1 tree in the road, and 1 false alarm.

Through our fundraising the Fire Company bought \$18,428 worth of equipment and donated it to the town.

Chuck Black, Fire Chief

### **Fire Warden Report**

64 fire permits were issued this year. Burning permits are needed when there is no snow on site, and only unpainted/untreated wood may be burned.

Chuck Black, Chief/Fire Warden

### **Road Commissioner's Report**

The year was spent doing routine maintenance, grading, ditching, roadside mowing, plowing and sanding. Two projects funded by the VTrans Grants in Aid Program were completed. These projects are funded by 80% state funding, with a 20% town match. The culvert at the south end of Lovers Lane was replaced with a VTrans structure grant, with the same funding mechanism. Again, a shout out to Wayne Blanchard and Brian Bills for their efforts.

Chuck Black  
Road Commissioner

## Animal Control

The State of Vermont requires that **all** dog/wolf-hybrid owners license their pets. Current rabies vaccination certificates are required at the time of licensing.

Total licenses sold 2024: 81

Revenue to Peru:	\$	505.00*
Revenue to State VT		<u>561.00</u>
<b>Total Revenue 2023</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,066.00 *Including late fees</b>

2024 Fees:		<u>Before April 1<sup>st</sup>:</u>	<u>After April 1<sup>st</sup>:</u>
Neutered/Spayed	\$	16.00	\$ 21.00
Unaltered Male/Female	\$	24.00	\$ 29.00

Puppies must be registered by six months of age. New dogs to households may be registered any time without a late fee assessed.

Please be advised that Peru has an Animal Control Ordinance. Section #3 prohibits animals from roaming and Section #4 prohibits animals from creating a nuisance. Our Animal Warden, Patrick Salo cell # 802-688-4020, should be contacted to handle any complaint regarding problem animals, if your dog has gone missing or if a stray has been seen.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rhonda Kilburn  
Assistant Town Clerk

### Animal Control Officer

The Animal Control Officer is responsible for the enforcement of the Vermont State Laws pertaining to animals. The officer responds to complaints of violations of Animal Control laws by telephone and police dispatch. The officer also investigates complaints of vicious, diseased, neglected or abused animals. Impounded animals are cared for at the officer's kennel. Unclaimed animals are carefully evaluated before being placed for adoption.

The Animal Control Department makes every effort to ensure that all functions of the department are carried out in the most economical manner with cost savings in mind, while providing the highest degree of professional service to the townspeople and providing assistance to the community so that animals and people can co-exist safely and peacefully.

Unlicensed dogs: The Animal Control Officer is responsible for the enforcement of the dog licensing laws. A dog without tags will be considered unlicensed and unvaccinated and fines may be issued.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Salo  
Animal Control Officer  
200 VT Rte. 30, Bondville, VT 05340  
Phone: (802)297-1032 Cell: (802)688-4020

## **Peru Fair Scholarship Report**

The Peru Fair Scholarship Fund is fortunate to have received continued funding from the success of the Peru Fair. In 2024 the Peru Fair contributed \$25,000.00 to the Scholarship Fund. The current balance on 1/13/2024 as reported by Berkshire Bank is \$40,923.78. This balance will decrease by \$17,000.00 as January checks were mailed on 1/05/25 to the schools for the Upperclassman and one graduating High School student. The final balance once those checks clear will be \$23,923.78.

In 2023 the Peru Fair Scholarship was pleased to award \$1000 to each of the 28 recipients, which represented 8 high school graduates and 17 upperclassmen. The high school graduate awards were mailed to their respective schools in August 2024 and the upperclassmen awards were mailed in January 2025.

While it is hard to know the exact number of participants on a year-by-year basis, it appears as though the number of recipients is expected to remain the same for the 2025 school year. The Peru Fair Committee continues to evaluate potentially raising the amount of the scholarship amount taking into consideration the balance in the bank coupled with the number of students expected to graduate over the course of the next 3-5 years.

Laurie Gayda - Peru Fair President



## Peru Fair Report

About 6000 people attended this year's Peru Fair held on September 28. As a result, we are pleased to report that a contribution of \$25,000 was made to the Peru Fair Scholarship Fund, enabling each full-time Peru student pursuing a higher education beyond high school to receive a scholarship of \$1,000 per year.

It was a perfect fall day and a big success for attendees and vendors alike. Attendance was more than last year's turnout. None of this would have been possible without the volunteer efforts of over 70 area residents and the support of numerous local businesses.

We always welcome new volunteers and committee members. In addition to raising funds for the educational advancement of our young people, the Fair is a wonderful catalyst for bringing the Town together in a common pursuit. We will be working toward another successful fair in 2025.

Laurie Gayda - Peru Fair President

### PERU FAIR FINANCIAL REPORT 2024

Receipts	2024
Balance on Hand 01/01/2024	\$7805.75
Exhibitors Fees	\$14,111.60
Gates (includes some Wagon Sales)	\$42,568.84
Wagon Sales	\$1241.00
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>\$65,727.19</b>
Disbursements	
Stationary/Website	\$1636.50
Advertising	\$0.00
Postage/Post office box	\$82.00
Bank Charges	\$63.04
Entertainment	\$8312.40
Bus/Transportation	\$10,157.50
Sanitation	\$1380.00
Wagon Merchandise	\$1747.50
Security	\$8483.30
Setup	\$584.92
Donation to Scholarship	\$25,000.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$57,447.16</b>
<b>Cash on Hand</b>	<b>\$8280.03</b>

Ruth Ann Barrick - Peru Fair Treasurer

## Community Reports

### Londonderry Solid Waste Group

2025 Transfer Station Stickers are available and required to access the Londonderry Transfer Station. You can purchase one at any of the five-member town offices in person or on-line at [londonderryvt.org](http://londonderryvt.org). 2025 Residential Stickers are \$15, Commercial Stickers are \$40. Punch cards can also be purchased by mail.

As of mid-December, The Londonderry Hardware Store no longer sold punch cards needed to pay for disposal of trash and recycling. The punch cards are sold at the town offices of Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru, Weston and Windham. Each town office has their own hours so check before you go.

Punch cards are available with 5 punches per card for \$10, or 10 punches for \$20. Household trash disposal will be as follows:

- 1 punch: Up to 13-gallon bag
- 2 punches: Up to 33-gallon bag
- 3 punches: Up to 50-gallon bag
- Larger/bulkier items will be paid for by an appropriate number of punches. Visit [www.londonderryvt.org](http://www.londonderryvt.org) for pricing.

Before going to the Transfer Station, be sure you have enough punches remaining on your card/s to pay for disposal.

Vermont state mandates that each Solid Waste Entity collect recyclables. Beginning in 2018 facilities were able to charge for this service. If you would like more information see: <https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wmp/SolidWaste/Documents/2018-Leg-Changes-Summary-UR-Bottle-Bill.pdf> In 2023 recycling services to collect, haul and process these materials cost over \$69,000. There hadn't been a charge for recycling since the change in the law. Starting in mid-December it costs 1-punch for each time you bring your recyclables to the Transfer Station Recycling Center.

In the spring the Transfer Station will undergo a much-needed electric upgrade to bring in 3 phase power. This will allow for the eventual installation of a compactor for recyclables. When all is in place, we will go to a zero-sort recycling system so you will no longer need to separate your paper from your containers. Until that happens, please remember to sort your trash from your recyclables and your paper from your containers. There have been several times over this past year when people put trash and other non-recyclables in the recycling containers. This contaminates the whole 30-yard container. If in doubt, please ask the attendant.

The Londonderry Group ran two Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events in 2024 serving 104 cars in June and 81 cars in October. The 2025 dates will be the 1st Saturday in June and the 1st Saturday in October. You can find out what to bring and what not to bring to a Hazardous Waste Collection Event by viewing the flier at <https://www.londonderryvt.org/recycletransfer/hazardous-special-waste/>

Electronics Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation assigns producers greater responsibility for the end-of-life management of the products they introduce into the Vermont market. We ran an Electronics Collection in May of 2024 with great success collecting over 11,000 pounds of electronics

and corded items. The EPR law made this collection free to anyone in Vermont. Watch the website for the 2025 Electronics collection date

If you have questions, want to join the Londonderry Group's email list to receive alerts about special collections (hazardous waste & electronics), or if your school or business is interested in learning about ways to handle solid waste, organics, recyclables, and other materials please contact [recycle@londonderryvt.org](mailto:recycle@londonderryvt.org).

## **Mountain Towns Recreation**

### **Youth Sports**

With over a year in the books we have consolidated all youth sport registration and communication, allowed our great non-profit boosters to shift focus on growing the programs versus running them, and our participation numbers were up from last year.

The Flood Brook Athletic Association (FBAA) has fully handed over the reins for Basketball, Baseball, and Softball, while still supporting the program by both teaching me and providing financial support to help keep registration costs low. FBAA sponsored our new MTR basketball jerseys, reserved access to 802 Turf for pre-season baseball/softball practices, and purchased new material for the baseball/softball fields at Pingree Park. Thank you FBAA for your continued support!

West River Sports Association (WRSA) has been equally supportive, educating me to the functionality of both the youth soccer and Nordic programs. WRSA remains very active in the Nordic program and continues to maintain the soccer fields and any necessary gear for those two sports. They also invited FBAA and MTR to help and benefit from their annual fundraising extravaganza hosted at Magic Mountain in June: The Mtn. Town Get Down!

### **Community Recreation**

2024 was a research and foundational year when it comes to the community at large. I can honestly say most of my focus was on the youth sports programs and the Londonderry Parks so the programs that have existed would not falter. But along the way, I have been learning steadily about the different players and projects in our five-town region.

Our original website was free and perfect for youth sports, but it lacked the necessary format to promote local recreation, hence the recent upgrade.

[www.mountaintownsrecreation.org](http://www.mountaintownsrecreation.org)

Whether you are registering for a youth sport, looking into adult pickup sports, or want to learn about local recreation opportunities and groups, MTR is an ever-evolving source. You can also find us on Facebook – “Mountain Towns Parks & Recreation (unofficial Town Page)”

We had a consistent group for kickball on Fridays throughout the summer and a few attempts at a softball pickup day as well. We’re hoping to build on that momentum as well as expand our offerings outside of organized sports and clubs. These activities will continue and grow with more participation, so please reach out if you would like to get involved.

Also, please don't hesitate to contact me with any feedback or ideas.

Liam Elio – [recdirector@londonderryvt.org](mailto:recdirector@londonderryvt.org) – 802-824-3356 ex 8

### **Green Mountain National Forest**

The employees of the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) depend heavily on support from many municipalities, volunteers, partners, and contractors. The Forest would like to take this time to thank you and your community for the support and interest that you have shown in helping with the management of the approximately 400,000-acre GMNF. The GMNF is proud to be a part of Vermont and your town. It is truly one of Vermont's treasures and the largest contiguous public land area in the state. Forest staff work hard to achieve quality public land management under a sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of all people -- people in your town as well as all of the visitors who come to Vermont every year. This has been another exciting year for us, and we have worked hard to support new opportunities on the National Forest that benefit the people and communities that we serve. The following is a brief summary of what happened in your National Forest throughout the past year:

#### **Peru**

In partnership with GMC, a caretaker hosted visitors and maintained the Griffith Lake Tenting Area, Peru Peak Shelter, and surrounding trails. Trail bridge repairs were completed on the Stone Place and Utley Brook trails in partnership with VMBA and VYCC. At Hapgood Pond Recreation Area students from Burr and Burton Academy assisted Forest Service staff in removing a damaged trail bridge and repairing a washed-out pathway between the campground and day use area. This pathway and bridge were affected by flooding in July 2023. Additionally, at Hapgood, projects funded by the Great American Outdoors Act are underway and include improving accessible fishing access and repairs to the bathhouse.

## Southern Vermont Communications Union District

January 2025

To our Member Towns and their Residents:

The Southern Vermont Communications Union District (SoVT CUD) has had another busy and successful year.

Consolidated Communications, Inc. (CCI) completed construction of the fiber network in Bennington County in September 2023, which was funded by a grant from Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB). Since the completion of the network, the CUD and CCI have continued to meet on a regular basis to discuss operational concerns and quarterly network performance reports. The CUD has also significantly advanced its sustainability planning through the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with Otter Creek and Lamoille CUDs and the development of a joint sustainability plan.

In July of 2024, SoVT, Otter Creek, and Lamoille CUDs executed a Memorandum of Understanding and jointly developed a ten-year sustainability plan which was presented to the VCBB. The sustainability plan outlines a transition to a tri-CUD model of joint compliance administration and oversight of CCI. The plan was approved by the VCBB and agreed to by CCI, which also agreed to fund the administration and compliance costs of the CUDs from 2027-2034!

SoVT CUD recently secured \$220,000 in Preconstruction Grant funding from the VCBB to cover operational expenses in 2025 and 2026, including funding for a federal single audit to take place in 2025. Throughout 2025 and 2026, SoVT CUD will work with Otter Creek and Lamoille CUDs to transition to joint compliance administration and advance governance and succession planning.

SoVT CUD has also continued to explore solutions for the remaining hardest to reach addresses that constitute Phase 3. These addresses are primarily located in Arlington and Pownal and are unserved according to state data. In discussions with VCBB staff, it was decided that SoVT CUD's remaining addresses would be incorporated into the state administered Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD).

SoVT CUD meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM. Please join us and learn more at [sovtcud.net](http://sovtcud.net).

Sincerely,

Terrence Dorsey, Chair

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

## Taconic & Green Regional School District

Our full annual report is available at your Town Clerk's office or online at [www.brsu.org/page/annual-and-town-reports](http://www.brsu.org/page/annual-and-town-reports). We hope you will read about the important issues facing our nine town district and give us your thoughts, especially regarding elementary school reorganization and the possible regional middle school. When you get to the section on the budget, please note that Vermont has income sensitivity that reduces the property tax on primary residences for many people. Income sensitivity can also reduce renters' taxes.

Before the Annual District Meeting, which will be held at Flood Brook School in Londonderry on February 25<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 until 7 p.m. we are hosting an informal get-acquainted time with board members and some of our Senators and Representatives. There will be refreshments. At 7, the formal meeting begins with floor votes including the election of the District Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer.

As always, voting on the budget, reserve funds, and high school tuition will be by Australian Ballot on Town Meeting Day, March 4<sup>th</sup>. **You will not automatically receive an absentee ballot.** If you want to vote by mail, you must request a mail ballot from your Town Clerk.

Developing a budget was only one of our tasks. On a statewide level, we are still contending with the performance of the State Agency of Education, including its mistakes in counting students and its delay in enforcing the anti discrimination rules that took effect in 2022. I represented our part of the state on a Vt. School Boards Association task force that sought to analyze and improve the Agency's performance. Our report is at <https://link.vtvsba.org/FINALTaskForce.pdf>.

Locally, the big issues this year were a possible middle school serving all nine towns and a reorganization of the elementary schools. We thank all the people who attended public forums about this in the fall. We held one at each of our five schools and one for staff. Most of those who spoke favored a regional middle school but there were concerns including whether we can afford it. Most of those who spoke wanted to keep all five elementary schools open. The Superintendent has shown this is not a very reasonable long term prospect as enrollments decline and buildings become more expensive to maintain as they age – unless the district is willing to pay much more to provide high quality education at the same time. We anticipate further pressure from the Governor to reduce the number of staff per student by closing one or more of the schools. Vermont has the highest number of school employees per student in the entire country.

If you want to know more about how we operate or comment on our work, please attend one of our meetings either remotely or in person. We also welcome comments and questions by letter or email. We meet at least monthly. We usually begin at 6:30 p.m. and aim to end by 8:30. There is a ten minute public comment period at the beginning. Agendas, minutes, and information on how to attend remotely are available on the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union website, [www.brsu.org](http://www.brsu.org).

Herbert G. Ogden

Board Chair

# Town of Peru Annual Budget & Financial Statements

## Annual Budget

	Actual 23/24	Authorized 24/25	Proposed 25/26
Income			
3000 · REVENUE			
Property Taxes	0	0	0
Interest On Delinquent Taxes	3,810	0	4,000.00
Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	8,152	9,000	9,000.00
State of Vermont- Current Use	18,863	20,000	18,000.00
State of Vermont-PILOT	3,544	0	3,500.00
Education Billing Fee Retained	8,304	0	8,000.00
Beverage Licenses	600	600	600.00
Dog and Marriage Licenses	1,045	850	900.00
Hunting/Fishing Licenses	0	25	0.00
Zoning Permits	4,757	3,000	3,000.00
Short Term Rental Fees	6,200	0	6,000.00
Town Clerk Fees	11,848	12,500	12,500.00
Rental Equipment	181	75	75.00
Rental of Facilities	175	75	200.00
Highway State of Vermont	54,984	55,000	55,000.00
Interest Earned	447	10,000	500.00
Miscellaneous Income	222	500	250.00
Green Mountain Forest	57,218	50,000	50,000.00
Civil Fines	78		0.00
Reappraisal Grant Income	<u>7,049</u>		<u>7,000.00</u>
<b>Total 3000 · REVENUE</b>	<b>187,477.00</b>	<b>161,625</b>	<b>178,525.00</b>
Surplus to be applied to tax rate	255,000.00	250,000	350,000.00
(To Be) Raised by taxes	<u>676,487.25</u>	<u>620,485</u>	<u>566,920.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>931,487.25</b>	<b>1,032,110</b>	<b>1,095,445.00</b>
4000 · ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			
400 · Town Clerk	16,574.64	18,000	18,480.00
401 · Treasurer	19,642.99	15,500	16,275.00
402 · Asst Town Clerk	18,126.38	13,300	13,965.00
403 · Asst Treasurer	1,324.16	4,100	4,100.00
404 · Select Board	5,000.00	5,000	5,000.00
405 · Auditors	612.63	1,500	1,500.00
406 · Listers	3,454.83	4,000	4,000.00

407 · Planning Commission	1,021.59	2,500	3,000.00
408 · Memberships / Training	6,907.00	7,000	7,250.00
408.5 · Consulting	3,225.00	2,500	3,000.00
409 · Legal Services	1,654.68	3,000	3,000.00
410 · Town Report & Delivery	1,654.68	2,400	2,000.00
411 · Town Meetings	0.00	250	250.00
412 · Election Expense	0.00	300	300.00
413 · Comp & Liability Insurance	25,945.50	25,000	30,000.00
414 · Admin Misc/Travel	466.99	500	600.00
415 · Zoning Board of Adjustment	166.00	500	500.00
416 · Zoning Administrator	6,860.45	7,500	8,000.00
417 · Zoning Board/Administrator Misc	0.00	100	100.00
418 · Delinquent Tax Collector	<u>10,807.17</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>12,000.00</u>
Total 4000 · ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	123,444.69	122,950	133,320.00
4200 · OFFICE EXPENSE			
420 · Tax Bills	0.00	1,000	450.00
421 · Document Books	1,403.53	1,000	1,500.00
422 · Dog Tags & Registration	95.55	125	125.00
423 · Paper, Envelopes & Supplies	1,183.04	1,700	1,500.00
424 · Postage	985.95	1,500	1,500.00
425 · Office Misc/Supplies	0.00	800	500.00
426 · Bank Fees	193.42	200	250.00
427 Short Term Rentals	586.00		500.00
428 · Media/Advertising	<u>682.00</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>
Total 4200 · OFFICE EXPENSE	5,129.49	7,525	7,525.00
4300 · OFFICE EQUIPMENT EXPENSE			
432 · Copier Expense	673.55	1,000	1,000.00
434 · Computer Expenses	13,654.85	15,000	11,000.00
436 · Equipment, furniture & fixtures	539.87	1,000	2,500.00
438 · Miscellaneous	<u>143.20</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>150.00</u>
Total 4300 · OFFICE EQUIPMENT EXPENSE	15,011.47	17,250	14,650.00
4400 · TOWN CENTER UTILITIES			
440 · Electricity	1,593.47	2,000	2,000.00
442 · Telephone/Internet	1,127.28	1,500	1,500.00
444 · Heating Fuel	4,054.54	6,000	5,000.00
446 · Furnace Maintenance	0.00	750	750.00
447 · Security Monitoring System	198.00	1,000	1,000.00
448 · Propane	<u>0.00</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total 4400 · TOWN CENTER UTILITIES	6,973.29	11,550	10,250.00

4500 · TOWN CENTER JANITORIAL			
450 · Janitor Services	2,923.00	3,000	3,500.00
453 · Supplies	<u>255.13</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>250.00</u>
Total 4500 · TOWN CENTER JANITORIAL	3,178.13	3,200	3,750.00
4600 · TOWN CENTER MAINTENANCE			
463 · Supplies	0.00	500	500.00
464 · Capital Improvement/Maintenance	<u>1,955.52</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>35,000.00</u>
Total 4600 · TOWN CENTER MAINTENANCE	1,955.52	5,500	35,500.00
4700 · COMMUNITY HOUSE MAINTENANCE			
473 · Supplies	0.00	105	150.00
474 · Electricity	296.80	500	500.00
475 · Capital Improvement/Maintenance	0.00	15,000	10,000.00
476 · Propane	<u>1,062.61</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>350.00</u>
Total 4700 · COMMUNITY HOUSE MAINTENANCE	1,359.41	15,955	11,000.00
4800 · TOWN GARAGE			
480 · Electricity	2,103.54	2,300	2,300.00
481 · Heating Fuel/Propane	3,665.55	4,000	4,000.00
482 · Supplies	365.68	500	500.00
484 · Uniform(contract services)	2,076.63	2,400	2,500.00
485 · Capital Improvement/Maintenance	49,254.10	14,000	10,000.00
486 · Telephone	<u>646.72</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>700.00</u>
Total 4800 · TOWN GARAGE	58,112.22	23,900	20,000.00
5100 · PAYROLL TAXES/BENEFITS			
512 · Soc Sec/Medicare Tax	17,626.04	25,000	25,000.00
517 · VT Dept of Employment & Training	0.00	250	250.00
518 · County Tax	42,893.69	30,000	50,000.00
Total 5100 · PAYROLL TAXES/BENEFITS	60,519.73	55,250	75,250.00
6200 · GENERAL SERVICES			
626 · Landfill	63,754.07	65,000	70,000.00
628 · Street Lighting	2,017.10	2,500	3,000.00
634 · Constable Expense	205.05	400	400.00
636 · Animal Warden	3,383.63	6,000	4,000.00
637 Recreation Director	<u>3,796.00</u>	<u>9,200</u>	<u>10,000.00</u>
Total 6200 · GENERAL SERVICES	73,155.85	83,100	77,400.00
7000 · HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT			

700 · Gasoline	223.89	750	500.00
701 · Oil	1,805.03	3,500	2,500.00
702 · Diesel	16,102.40	30,000	25,000.00
703 · Small Tools	2,850.24	1,000	1,500.00
704 · Radio Repairs	0.00	500	500.00
705 · Street Signs	288.96	2,000	2,000.00
706 · Truck #1-Maint/Repairs	7,985.91	7,500	4,500.00
708 · Truck #2-Maint/Repairs	11,231.09	7,500	4,500.00
710 · Chipper Maint./Repairs	0.00	500	500.00
710.5 · Truck #3 Maint/Repairs, Supplies	434.94	0	1,000.00
712 · Grader-Maint/Repairs	2,275.00	7,500	7,000.00
714 · Sander-Maint/Repairs	0.00	1,000	1,000.00
716 · Small Equip-Maint/Repairs	313.18	500	500.00
716.5 · Sweeper-Repairs/Maintenance	8.93	3,000	3,000.00
717.5 · Lawn Mower	0.00	500	500.00
718 · Backhoe-Maint/Repairs	1,789.24	6,000	5,000.00
719.5-Roadside Mower/Maint/Repair	<u>2,052.87</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,500.00</u>
Total 7000 · HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT	47,361.68	73,750	62,000.00
7200 · SUMMER ROADS (CLASS 2&3)			
721 · Culverts	740.00	4,000	5,000.00
722 · Cal Chloride	0.00	5,000	7,000.00
723. Crushed Stone	10,437.00	4,000	5,000.00
724 · Resurfacing Crushed Gravel	5,448.00	22,000	22,000.00
725 · Contract Services	3,478.75	6,000	7,500.00
726 · General Maintenance	1,596.48	2,000	2,000.00
727 · Labor -1st Employee	32,596.36	33,000	36,000.00
727.5 · OT Labor-1st Employee	624.39	600	500.00
728 · Labor -2nd Employee	25,213.95	24,000	27,000.00
728.5 · OT Labor-2nd Employee	76.96	500	500.00
729 · Equipment Rental	<u>300.00</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total 7200 · SUMMER ROADS (CLASS 2&3)	80,511.89	102,100	113,500.00
7400 · WINTER ROADS (CLASS 2&3)			
741 · Plow and Chains	4,706.25	4,000	6,000.00
743 · Contract Services	0.00	1,000	1,000.00
744 · Sand	38,403.00	41,000	40,000.00
745 · Salt	24,418.80	40,000	30,000.00
746 · Labor -1st Employee	29,554.46	28,000	33,000.00
747 · Labor-2nd Employee	23,367.15	22,000	25,000.00
748 · Overtime -1st Employee	5,235.27	9,500	9,500.00
749 · Overtime-2nd Employee	3,309.28	6,500	6,500.00
750 · General Maintenance	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500.00</u>

Total 7400 · WINTER ROADS (CLASS 2&3)	128,994.21	152,500	151,500.00
7700 · BRIDGES			
775 · Materials	0.00	1,000	1,000.00
776 · Construction	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500.00</u>
Total 7700 · BRIDGES	0.00	3,500	3,500.00
7900 · HIGHWAY			
791 · Bereavement	0.00	300	300.00
792 · Health Insurance	50,868.19	58,000	72,000.00
793 · Retirement	10,985.03	10,000	15,000.00
794 · Vacation Days	6,695.58	8,000	8,000.00
794.5 · Holidays Paid	4,152.24	5,000	6,000.00
794.8 · Sick Days	<u>2,614.60</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total 7900 · HIGHWAY	75,315.64	84,300	104,300.00
8000 · MISCELLANEOUS			
800 · Approp -Comm Agencies	23,890.00	24,780	0.00
803 · Select Board Discretionary Fund	2,556.00	3,000	3,000.00
805 · Reappraisal	5,000.00	5,000	5,000.00
807 · Highway Surfacing	50,000.00	50,000	50,000.00
808 · Fire Engine Fund	42,000.00	42,000	42,000.00
810 · Highway Equip Fund	75,000.00	75,000	100,000.00
811 · Peru Park Reserve Fund	5,500.00	5,500	5,500.00
818 · Document Restoration & Pres.	1,858.00	4,000	4,000.00
852 · Town Tree Maintenance	<u>62.75</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total 8000 · MISCELLANEOUS	205,866.75	211,280	212,500.00
9000 · FIRE DEPT			
901 · Fire Dept. Insurance	7,866.75	6,000	9,000.00
902 · Radios and Dispatch	18,767.00	18,500	20,000.00
903 · Assoc. Dues and School Fees	0.00	2,500	1,500.00
904 · Engine and Equipment Maint	4,642.49	7,000	7,000.00
906 · Propane	1,549.76	2,000	2,500.00
907 · Misc. and Supplies	0.00	500	500.00
908 · Capital Improvement/Maintenance	1,600.00	10,000	10,000.00
909 · Payroll	<u>10,171.28</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>12,000.00</u>
Total 9000 · FIRE DEPT	44,597.28	58,500	62,500.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>931,487.25</b>	<b>1,032,110</b>	<b>1,095,445.00</b>

# Statement of Net Position

Exhibit A

TOWN OF PERU, VERMONT  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>	
Cash	\$ 1,267,366
Investments	<u>193,465</u>
Total Assets	<u>1,460,831</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
Payroll Withholdings Payable	<u>9,449</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>9,449</u>
<u>NET POSITION</u>	
Restricted:	
Cemetery	220,104
Eligible ARPA Uses	70,607
Restoration & Preservation	10,511
Unrestricted	<u>1,150,160</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 1,451,382</u>

# Statement of Activities

Exhibit B

TOWN OF PERU, VERMONT  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES - MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

		Program Cash Receipts			Net (Disbursements)/ Receipts and Changes in Net Position
	Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions		Governmental Activities
<b>Functions/Programs:</b>					
<b>Governmental Activities:</b>					
General Government	\$ 242,555	\$ 36,652	\$ 7,049	\$	(198,854)
Public Safety	54,587	78	0		(54,509)
Highways and Streets	630,824	0	54,984		(575,840)
Culture and Recreation	4,796	0	0		(4,796)
Solid Waste	63,754	0	0		(63,754)
Cemetery	6,597	800	0		(5,797)
<b>Total Governmental Activities</b>	<b>\$ 1,003,113</b>	<b>\$ 37,530</b>	<b>\$ 62,033</b>		<b>(903,550)</b>
<b>General Receipts:</b>					
Property Taxes					686,596
Penalties and Interest on Delinquent Taxes					11,962
Payments in Lieu of Taxes					60,762
General State Grants					18,863
Unrestricted Investment Earnings					35,364
Other					222
<b>Total General Receipts</b>					<b>813,769</b>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>					<b>(89,781)</b>
<b>Net Position - July 1, 2023</b>					<b>1,541,163</b>
<b>Net Position - June 30, 2024</b>				<b>\$</b>	<b>1,451,382</b>

# Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds

Exhibit C

TOWN OF PERU, VERMONT  
STATEMENT OF MODIFIED CASH BASIS ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
JUNE 30, 2024

	General Fund	Highway Resurface/Bridges Fund	Highway Equipment Fund	Cemetery Fund	Non-Major Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Cash	\$ 810,259	\$ 259,999	\$ 36,046	\$ 26,639	\$ 134,423	\$ 1,267,366
Investments	0	0	0	193,465	0	193,465
Due from Other Funds	0	50,000	75,000	0	47,500	172,500
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 810,259</b>	<b>\$ 309,999</b>	<b>\$ 111,046</b>	<b>\$ 220,104</b>	<b>\$ 181,923</b>	<b>\$ 1,633,331</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>						
<b>Liabilities:</b>						
Payroll Withholdings Payable	\$ 9,449	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 9,449
Due to Other Funds	170,870	0	0	0	1,630	172,500
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>180,319</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,630</b>	<b>181,949</b>
<b>Fund Balances:</b>						
Restricted	70,607	0	0	220,104	10,511	301,222
Committed	101,211	309,999	111,046	0	169,782	692,038
Assigned	250,000	0	0	0	0	250,000
Unassigned	208,122	0	0	0	0	208,122
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>629,940</b>	<b>309,999</b>	<b>111,046</b>	<b>220,104</b>	<b>180,293</b>	<b>1,451,382</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$ 810,259</b>	<b>\$ 309,999</b>	<b>\$ 111,046</b>	<b>\$ 220,104</b>	<b>\$ 181,923</b>	<b>\$ 1,633,331</b>

# Statement of Cash Receipts & Cash Disbursements – Governmental Funds

Exhibit D

TOWN OF PERU, VERMONT  
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS  
AND CHANGES IN MODIFIED CASH BASIS FUND BALANCES  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	General Fund	Highway Resurface/Bridges Fund	Highway Equipment Fund	Cemetery Fund	Non-Major Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>						
Property Taxes	\$ 686,596	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 686,596
Penalties and Interest on Delinquent Taxes	11,962	0	0	0	0	11,962
Intergovernmental	141,658	0	0	0	0	141,658
Charges for Services	8,660	0	0	800	0	9,460
Permits, Licenses and Fees	24,528	0	0	0	3,542	28,070
Investment Income	467	54	44	34,771	28	35,364
Other	222	0	0	0	0	222
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<u>874,093</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>35,571</u>	<u>3,570</u>	<u>913,332</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>						
General Government	237,155	0	0	0	5,400	242,555
Public Safety	54,587	0	0	0	0	54,587
Highways and Streets	359,531	0	0	0	0	359,531
Culture and Recreation	4,796	0	0	0	0	4,796
Solid Waste	63,754	0	0	0	0	63,754
Cemetery	0	0	0	6,597	0	6,597
Capital Outlay:						
Highways and Streets	43,163	15,680	212,450	0	0	271,293
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>	<u>762,986</u>	<u>15,680</u>	<u>212,450</u>	<u>6,597</u>	<u>5,400</u>	<u>1,003,113</u>
<b>Excess/(Deficiency) of Cash Receipts Over Cash Disbursements</b>	<u>111,107</u>	<u>(15,626)</u>	<u>(212,406)</u>	<u>28,974</u>	<u>(1,830)</u>	<u>(89,781)</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources/(Uses):</b>						
Transfers In	0	50,000	75,000	5,000	49,600	179,600
Transfers Out	(179,600)	0	0	0	0	(179,600)
<b>Total Other Financing Sources/(Uses)</b>	<u>(179,600)</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>49,600</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balances</b>	(68,493)	34,374	(137,406)	33,974	47,770	(89,781)
<b>Fund Balances - July 1, 2023</b>	<u>698,433</u>	<u>275,625</u>	<u>248,452</u>	<u>186,130</u>	<u>132,533</u>	<u>1,541,163</u>
<b>Fund Balances - June 30, 2024</b>	<u>\$ 629,940</u>	<u>\$ 309,999</u>	<u>\$ 111,046</u>	<u>\$ 220,104</u>	<u>\$ 180,293</u>	<u>\$ 1,451,382</u>

# Balance Sheet – Non-Major Governmental Funds

Schedule 2

TOWN OF PERU, VERMONT  
 COMBINING SCHEDULE OF MODIFIED CASH BASIS ASSETS,  
 LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES  
 NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
 JUNE 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Projects Funds	Total
	Restoration & Preservation Fund		
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash	\$ 12,141	\$ 122,282	\$ 134,423
Due from Other Funds	0	47,500	47,500
Total Assets	\$ 12,141	\$ 169,782	\$ 181,923
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>			
Liabilities:			
Due to Other Funds	\$ 1,630	\$ 0	\$ 1,630
Total Liabilities	1,630	0	1,630
Fund Balances:			
Restricted	10,511	0	10,511
Committed	0	169,782	169,782
Total Fund Balances	10,511	169,782	180,293
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 12,141	\$ 169,782	\$ 181,923

# Statement of Cash Receipts & Cash Disbursements – Non-Major Governmental Funds

Schedule 3

TOWN OF PERU, VERMONT  
 COMBINING SCHEDULE OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS  
 AND CHANGES IN MODIFIED CASH BASIS FUND BALANCES  
 NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Fund Restoration & Preservation Fund	Capital Projects Funds	Total
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>			
Permits, Licenses and Fees	\$ 3,542	\$ 0	\$ 3,542
Investment Income	3	25	28
Total Cash Receipts	3,545	25	3,570
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>			
General Government	5,400	0	5,400
Total Cash Disbursements	5,400	0	5,400
Excess/(Deficiency) of Cash Receipts Over Cash Disbursements	(1,855)	25	(1,830)
<b>Other Financing Sources:</b>			
Transfers In	2,100	47,500	49,600
Total Other Financing Sources	2,100	47,500	49,600
Net Change in Fund Balances	245	47,525	47,770
Fund Balances - July 1, 2023	10,266	122,257	132,523
Fund Balances - June 30, 2024	\$ 10,511	\$ 169,782	\$ 180,293

## Balance Sheet – Non-Major Capital Project Funds

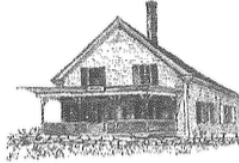
Schedule 4

TOWN OF PERU, VERMONT  
 COMBINING SCHEDULE OF MODIFIED CASH BASIS ASSETS,  
 LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES  
 NON-MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS  
 JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>Fire Engine Equipment Fund</u>	<u>Peru Park Reserve Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>			
Cash	\$ 117,003	\$ 5,279	\$ 122,282
Due from Other Funds	<u>42,000</u>	<u>5,500</u>	<u>47,500</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 159,003</u>	<u>\$ 10,779</u>	<u>\$ 169,782</u>
<b><u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</u></b>			
Liabilities:	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Fund Balances:			
Committed	<u>159,003</u>	<u>10,779</u>	<u>169,782</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>159,003</u>	<u>10,779</u>	<u>169,782</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 159,003</u>	<u>\$ 10,779</u>	<u>\$ 169,782</u>

## Funding Requests to the Town of Peru

### South Londonderry Free Library



**South Londonderry Free Library**

15 Old School Street | P.O. Box 95  
South Londonderry, VT 05155  
www.sflibrary.org | (802) 824-3371 | librarian@sflibrary.org

December 18, 2024

To the Selectboard and Residents of Peru,

This past year the South Londonderry Free Library has navigated changes and made many improvements. We have worked hard to secure funding to expand our services as the community is responding positively to our programming and resources. Some highlights of the year include:

- Our summer reading program changed to all-ages and featured generous gifts from the community as prizes
- Monthly children's art and book giveaway programs thanks to a continuing grant from the Stratton Foundation
- Four new STEAM adventure backpacks for at-home learning thanks to a grant from the Vermont Department of Libraries
- The Vermont State Archives gave us a student intern to assist in digitizing our collection of Everett Vaile glass plate photograph negatives from the 1890s-1930s
- A brand new Friends of the Library group that has brought many new volunteers into our ranks
- Upgraded our online catalog system and sharing resources with Jamaica Library
- And, for the first time, we are offering physical library cards!

This year the Library saw over 3100 visits, had 89 new members join, and lent out over 4,600 books, audio books, and e-books. We also continue to provide indispensable technology services to all, such as 24/7 access to Wi-Fi, public computer access, printing/copying capabilities, and general tech support.

We are requesting \$600 from Peru to help cover general operating costs. Thank you for your consideration in continuing financial support to the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeline Helsler - Director/Librarian

Library Trustees

Jinwha Jo, Gale Kuhlberg, Diana Pagnucco, David Shade, Mimi Wright, and Sunny Wright

*The mission of the South Londonderry Free Library is to foster opportunities for lifelong learning by providing open access to a wide range of materials and services for people of all ages in our rural communities.*

## Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless



P.O. Box 4736 Bennington, VT 05201

(802) 440-2487

<http://www.bcchvt.org>

December 16, 2024

Dear Peru Selectboard Members,

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless (BCCH) continues to operate 24/7, 365 days a year, to serve the needs of those in Bennington County experiencing homelessness. BCCH is grateful for the town of Shaftsbury's support for families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

The winter months are upon us and both locations are most often full, with a waiting list for families. In addition to providing shelter, we serve many others experiencing homelessness through drop-in services for those in need. Our services range from the use of our kitchen, laundry, and bathrooms to providing a safe, warm space for those in need during the day or providing someone in need with toiletries, blankets, clothing, and takeout meals. Those who come in to warm up are also given the opportunity to meet with a case manager, apply for services, and receive housing and employment assistance.

In 2024, we provided shelter and services to over 300 people between our two locations. In addition, we have served well over 150 adults and children through our day services, donation rooms, and community outreach services.

In the past year we have further strengthened relationships with our community partners, including but not limited to: Shires Housing, Turning Point, Greater Bennington Community Services, Economic Services, Department of Children and Family Services, Sunrise, Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union, Bennington Police Department, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, and United Counseling Services. We were able to enhance safety measures at our congregate shelter location with additional support staff and have three full-time case managers assisting our individuals and families staying at our two locations. These positions are supported by an increased HOP grant through OEO. Furthermore, this grant has afforded us to hire an additional full-time Community Outreach Coordinator/Case Manager for those not sheltered by BCCH. These milestones enable us to increase the success rate of guests' employment, housing, and so much more.

While it is still a struggle to house adult individuals, we have had more success this past year, and we are thrilled at the number of families that we have been able to permanently house over the past year.

Revenue from Municipalities:

Shaftsbury - \$5,000  
Bennington - \$25,000  
Arlington - \$500  
Peru - \$500  
Dorset - \$1,000  
Rupert - \$500

While so much good has been happening at BCCH, we need your continued support due to the many costs not covered under our HOP grant. While BCCH also pursues and obtains other grants and donations, they are just not enough to cover all BCCH's expenses. Your ongoing support is necessary with all the continued rising costs of food, necessities.... everything!

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide anything else.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roxanne M Carelli".

Roxanne M Carelli  
Executive Director of Operational Development and Shelter Services.  
[roxanne.carelli@bcchvt.org](mailto:roxanne.carelli@bcchvt.org)  
518-577-4177

## VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force

Dear Board of Selectpersons, Town Clerks and Auditors:

On behalf of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force, I am writing to request your support for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection (RFP) Program, formerly called the Dry Hydrant Grant Program. The RFP program helps Vermont communities protect lives, property, and natural resources by enhancing fire suppression resources. Program Manager and Engineering Technician Troy Dare helps local fire departments identify appropriate sites for dry hydrants and other rural water supply systems, designs installations, and finds financial resources to support the costs of construction. During the **27+ years** of the program, **1,224 grants** totaling over **\$2.9 million** have been provided to Vermont towns for the installation of new rural fire protection systems, as well as for replacements and repairs.

The Rural Fire Protection Program is managed by the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD). VACD is the membership association of Vermont's fourteen Natural Resources Conservation Districts, whose mission is to work with landowners and communities to protect natural resources and support the working landscape throughout the state.

The Rural Fire Protection Grant Program offers State grant awards up to \$10,000 per project. Additional Federal funding can provide an additional \$5,000-\$10,000 per project for more expensive special case projects. New rural fire protection systems, along with repair, replacement, relocation, upgrades of existing systems, drafting site development, and bridge mounted dry hydrants are eligible for grant funding on an ongoing basis. And we now consider applications from Vermont towns and fire departments on a revolving basis throughout the year rather than just once a year.

The annual expense of the Rural Fire Protection Program in FY 2023 was **\$227,662** of which **\$105,483** was paid in grants to support the construction and repair of **13 rural fire protection projects** throughout Vermont. The remaining budget covered site assessments, project design and program oversight. Most of our funding comes from the Division of Fire Safety of the Vermont Department of Public Safety, through annual appropriations by the Vermont Legislature. In addition, the program receives support from the US Forest Service through the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. Unfortunately, these grants do not completely cover the costs of the program. Therefore, we are respectfully requesting that you include a \$200 appropriation in your town budget to support the Rural Fire Protection Program. In FY 2023, we received **\$9,150** in town appropriations from **90 towns**. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support.

**235** Vermont communities have benefitted from the Rural Fire Protection program. Our goal is to extend this support to all Vermont towns and continue to assist local fire departments in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life, and damage to property and natural resources, thereby improving the safety and welfare of Vermont communities.

Enclosed please find the financial reports for the Rural Water Supply Grant Program, as well as an invoice and W-9 from VACD in case they are required. VACD's tax form 990 is also available upon request. Please feel free to contact me, Troy Dare, or Jill Arace, Executive Director of VACD, with any questions you may have. Our contact information is provided below. If you would like to receive this appropriation request by mail instead of by email, please contact Troy Dare.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Troy Dare, Program Manager & contact person for Town Appropriation business  
Vermont Rural Fire Protection Program  
(802) 828-4582 | dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com

Jill Arace, Executive Director  
Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)  
(802) 496-5162 | jill.arace@vacd.org

### **Rural Fire Protection Task Force Members:**

Bill Sanborn, Chair, Town of Maidstone  
Walter Bothfeld, Jr., Cabot Volunteer Fire Department  
Tyler Hermanson, VT Enhanced 9-1-1  
Mike Greenia, Vermont Division of Fire Safety, Department of Public Safety  
Dan Dilner, VT Forest Parks & Recreation  
Haley Pero, Senator Bernie Sanders Office

## My Community Nurse Project

My Community Nurse Project  
PO Box 57  
Weston VT 05161

Board: William Hoyt, Joel Kuhlberg, Gloria Dawson, Jessica Clapp, Kieran McKenna

Dec.1, 2024

Dear Clerk of the Board and Members of the Town Board,

My Community Nurse Project is a non-profit agency in its sixth year of serving residents of the mountain towns including Andover, Weston, Peru, Landgrove, Londonderry, South Londonderry. Its mission is to provide care and advocacy to the folks residing on the mountain. MCNP employs one full time advanced practice nurse and one part time nurse. Our services are offered at no charge to the patient. The agency is funded COMPLETELY BY THE GENEROUS DONATIONS from community members and the towns. We respectfully ask for support from the town of Peru.

Each year we have provided services to a larger number of patients. We began in 2019 with 8 patients and now serve between 40 and 45 patients, managing approximately 10-12 home visits weekly. As our population becomes older, the need has become greater for compassionate and professional nursing care and support. We have tried to fill the gap in services that occurred last year when our towns were eliminated in the service map of the VNA VT/NH. We do, however work closely with Hospice services from the VNA and Bayada. We have developed trusting relationships with hospitals and medical centers and receive referrals from PCP's, medical specialists, attorneys, therapists, friends and neighbors.

Please consider supporting us this year in your town budget. We respectfully request town support in the amount of \$2500. This will go a very long way in allowing us to continue taking care of those in our community whom we refer to as "our national treasures". Thank you for your consideration and generosity.

With a grateful heart,



Regina Downer RN, MS  
Director and Nurse Advocate, MCNP

The Members of the MCNP Board

enc: Profit/Loss Statement

# Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE)



**PROJECT AGAINST  
VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS**

Mailing: P.O. Box 227, Bennington, VT 05201  
Physical: 102 Dewey St, Bennington, VT 05201  
Office: 802.442.2370 | Hotline: 802.442.2111  
[www.pavebennington.org](http://www.pavebennington.org)

11/26/2024

Town of Peru,

PAVE has spent the last year building community with the survivors we support in hopes of creating a strong, resilient group of people with lived experience who have broken the cycle of abuse. We have been blessed to be able to continue to provide emergency support, housing and advocacy and also long-term support with survivors after the crisis of fleeing has ended.

Our 24/7 emergency hotline is often the open door for survivors looking to flee from violent relationships need to leave. Powered by PAVE Advocates and dedicated volunteers the hotline fielded over 1000 calls. Our Emergency Shelter, the first stop for many survivors who are working to rebuild their lives, provided over 110 individuals with safe, free housing. Ongoing case management was able to aide 25 individuals with obtaining long term housing support vouchers.

PAVE's collaboration with local law enforcement generated approximately 100 referrals and led to 60 protection orders for survivors. Our work with local early childhood centers, schools and other youth organizations allowed us to reach close to 300 youth with a message of healthy relationships.

As we move forward into the new year, we are happy to announce we will be hiring a new Advocate to our team. This Advocate will focus on providing support to those who have been sexually assaulted. This support will especially focus on the outlying towns in Bennington County, where accessing medical care in Bennington maybe a challenge. Support and financial assistance will be made available through this new Advocacy position to help survivors of Sexual Assault access the services they deserve.

Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE) is requesting level funding this year from the Town of Peru in the amount of \$150.00. We greatly appreciate the support the town provides to PAVE.

With Gratitude,

*Lindsay*

Lindsay Brillon, M.Ed. LSW  
Executive Director



**PAVE Budget Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

<b>Income</b>	
Contributions - Indiv, Bus, Group	66,553
Contributions - Towns	9,000
Grant Income	636,137
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>711,690</b>

PAVE is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and your donation is fully tax deductible, less the value of any goods or services received. PAVE does not appraise the value of gifts. Our tax ID number is 03-0285583.

**Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad**

Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad  
P.O. Box 911 Londonderry, VT 05148

November 14, 2023

Town of Peru  
P.O. Box 127  
Peru, VT 05152

Via email: [peruclerk@gmail.com](mailto:peruclerk@gmail.com), [alexsheets@gmail.com](mailto:alexsheets@gmail.com)

Dear Selectboard,

The Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad is proud to provide emergency medical services to the Town of Peru, as well as the towns of Landgrove, Londonderry, Stratton, Weston, Windham and Winhall.

We responded to 681 calls this past year, which is just under our record breaking number of 698 calls. We remain the only all-volunteer rescue squad in the state of Vermont that doesn't charge patients for our transports or services. Our dedicated volunteers don't receive any compensation for the time they spend on training and providing patient care. This is the primary reason our yearly assessments to the towns we serve are so low.

Our expenses continue to rise which is due to the increased costs for medical supplies, State mandates and equipment purchases. Our expenses this year totaled \$206,660.00, an increase of \$10,491.79 over last year's expenses of \$196,168.21. This year we are asking all of the towns for the **same amounts** that they gave last year

This year we are asking the Town of Peru for \$5,250.00

We appreciate your support and look forward to serving your community in 2025.

Sincerely,

The Executive Committee of LVRS

## Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire



Visiting Nurse and  
Hospice for Vermont  
and New Hampshire

December 3, 2024

### Re: Amended VNH funding request

Dear Council Members and Citizens of Peru:

We at the Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) would like to offer our heartfelt thanks for the opportunity to have our appropriation request included in 2025 funding. **VNH respectfully requests \$2,700 which represents level funding from last year's request.**

As an integral part of the community healthcare system, VNH serves to provide our region with essential, home-based care and are pleased to offer interdisciplinary hospice care, long-term personal care, and maternal-child and pediatric services to the residents of Peru. Unfortunately, due to nursing and therapy shortages, we are unable to provide adult home health services at this time (effective since March 2023). Please know that we are working diligently to recruit and rebuild the team needed to reinstate adult home health services that your community depends on.

Last year, VNH provided **66 visits to 2 Peru residents** who were served by our hospice program, which is an increase in home-based visits from last year's report (21 visits in 2023).

Our clinical team and support staff provide assessments, medical care and education to assist people in leading a more self-sufficient and independent life. We also provide support to terminal patients and their families to assure they are comfortable and experience quality of life in their final days. Our patients include the frail, elderly, and disabled often recovering from major surgery or illness as well as children with chronic medical needs. All of our patients benefit by receiving the care they need in the familiarity and comfort of home.

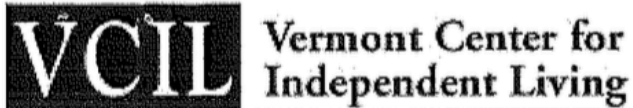
Town funding is critical to offset the rising costs of providing healthcare, particularly in rural communities, that are not fully funded by Medicare, Medicaid and Commercial health insurance. With adequate town funding, we are able to provide an affordable option for home healthcare throughout the communities we serve. To continue meeting this need, we hope your budget will include continued financial support of Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire.

On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your consideration of this request.

With kind regards,

*Martin J. Degen*

Martin J. Degen  
Chief Financial Officer



*People with disabilities working together for dignity, independence, and civil rights*

November 14, 2024

Melinda M. Beebe, Town Clerk  
Town of Peru  
P.O. Box 27  
Peru, VT 05152

Dear Ms. Beebe and voters:

The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL), a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, respectfully requests funding from the Town of Peru for our FY'25.

Annual support from over 140 cities and towns across the State helps VCIL assist Vermonters with disabilities achieve dignified and self-determined lives. VCIL works to serve individuals who can benefit from our direct services as well as to educate and inform members of the community about disability related issues and independent living. Direct services are available to residents of Peru in a number of ways. Peer counselors work with residents in their homes or other locations; small grants for adaptive equipment; Meals on Wheels for people with disabilities under the age of 60; Home Access modifications; individual and systems advocacy and programs for youth. Information, Referral and Assistance is available to all residents by calling VCIL's I-Line, at 1-800-639-1522 (Voice and TTY).

We are requesting \$140.00 from the Town of Peru to continue supporting people with disabilities in the coming year. Enclosed you will find a summary of VCIL's programs and services for the town and a copy of our FY'25 budget.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Launderville". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Launderville  
Executive Director  
[slaunderville@vcil.org](mailto:slaunderville@vcil.org)

**Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging**

**Rutland Office**  
143 Maple St  
Rutland VT, 05701  
(802) 786-5990



**Bennington Office**  
160 Benmont Ave, Suite #90  
Bennington VT, 05201  
(802) 442-5436

December 18, 2024

Town of Peru  
c/o Melinda Beebe  
P.O. Box 127  
Peru, VT 05152

Dear Town Officials,

This is a request from the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging for \$200.00 in funding in your FY26 budget. This is the same level of funding we requested and received last year. If approved, this funding will be used to help support the work we do on behalf of Peru residents.

The enclosed document provides a brief description of the services the Council on Aging provided to older Vermonters in your community over the last year and is designed for use in your town report. Please contact me if you have any questions about any of this information.

We sincerely appreciate the past support that we have received from the town of Peru, and we hope that we can, once again, count on support from your community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemary Greene".

Rosemary Greene,  
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging

Center for Restorative Justice



439 Main St. Suite 2  
Bennington, VT 05201  
Phone 802.447.1595 fax 802.447.6944

November 25, 2024

Peru Select Board  
Town of Peru  
PO Box 127  
Peru, VT 05152

Dear Select Board,

On behalf of The Center of Restorative Justice (CRJ), I am writing to request funding for our agency in the amount of **\$300** for the upcoming year. CRJ is very grateful for the support it receives from the town and looks forward to continuing to serve the residents of Peru in the year ahead.

I have also enclosed an annual report. If you prefer this report emailed to you or have any questions, I can be reached at 447-1595 or email [leitha@bcjrj.org](mailto:leitha@bcjrj.org). CRJ is very grateful for your continued support.

Thank you very much.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leitha Cipriano", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Leitha Cipriano  
Executive Director

## Neighborhood Connections



Mark Reffner  
Board Chairman  
*Weston*

26 November 2024

Ed Magee  
Treasurer  
*Bondville*

Town of Peru  
PO Box 127  
Peru, VT 05152

Pat Cherry  
Secretary  
*Windham*

Dear Selectboard and voters,

Neighborhood Connections respectfully requests **level funding in 2025** in the amounts of **\$2,000** for our general operating expenses, and **\$1,540** for transportation services, for a total of **\$3,540**. We are amenable to combining these into a single line item for simplicity if the town finds that preferable.

Charma Bonanno  
*Weston*

Rusty Davis  
*Weston*

Mat Degan  
*Landgrove*

Dwight Johnson  
*Londonderry*

Jim Linville  
*Weston*

Pat McLaine  
*Windham*

Bob Wells  
*S. Londonderry*

Susie Wyman  
*Londonderry*

-----  
Thom Simmons  
*Executive Director*

For 15 years, Neighborhood Connections has served the “Mountain Towns” of southern Vermont, including Peru. We provide comprehensive case management, benefit application assistance, community meals, health & wellness classes, and a regional transportation system (the “Mountain Town Connector”) which has seen ridership double in the last year to more than 2,500 rides per year. The majority of these rides are for seniors needing transport to medical appointments and other essential services. In addition, we have worked with numerous families impacted by several flooding events over the last two years. Clients are never charged for these services.

Peru residents were assisted by Neighborhood Connections in the following specific ways in 2024:

9 appointments were held between Peru residents and our social worker;

11 individuals were provided with 82 rides to medical appointments & essential services;

8 individuals participated in 51 community meals.

88% of Neighborhood Connection’s budget is met through private charitable donations. We rely on the towns that we serve to help with the remaining 12%. We are grateful for Peru’s historic support, and look forward to continuing to work with our Peru neighbors in 2025!

Sincerely,  
*Thom*

Thom Simmons  
Executive Director

## Green Up Vermont

Dear Residents of Peru

**Thank you** for your past appropriation to Green Up Vermont in support of Green Up Day. We had a great turnout with a 20% increase in volunteers (23,500) who picked up 348 TONS of trash and 15,000 tires from our roads and waterways. This amazing community service and sense of pride keeps our towns not only looking good, but also safe, healthy, and economically vibrant places to live.

Your help is crucial in sustaining this mission of clean environments and teaching our youth to care about and get involved in their communities. Your annual contribution is so appreciated and makes a real impact.

**As Green Up rolls into our 54th year, we are again requesting your support for the usual \$50.00 appropriation.**

The amount requested is based on town population and funds go directly back into your town in the way of supplies, educational tools for your schools, and local promotion for Green Up Day.

<i>Population</i>	<i>\$ Request</i>
• 0- 1,000	\$50
• 1001 - 2000	\$100
• 2001 - 3000	\$150
• 3001 - 4,000	\$200
• 4,001 up	\$300



Empowering healthy youth, families, and communities  
Board: Mark Weikert and Kathleen O'Reilly, Co-Chair · Ann Alford,  
Secretary · Martha Cowles, Treasurer · Meghan Ward, Director  
[www.thecollaborative.us](http://www.thecollaborative.us)

November 2024

Dear Peru Residents,

Your support for The Collaborative and the 2025-26 budget is appreciated. As we celebrate **25 years** of serving our community, we're filled with gratitude for your continued support of **The Collaborative**. Your generosity is instrumental in empowering youth, strengthening families, and fostering a healthier community. In the town budget, we are seeking funds to further The Collaborative's mission by supporting substance-free middle and high school youth and childcare programs for working families.

### A Quarter-Century of Impact

Over the past 25 years, The Collaborative has evolved into a leading organization dedicated to promoting well-being and preventing substance misuse. We've adapted to the changing needs of our community, offering a wide range of programs and services, including,

- **Resilience Through Understanding (RTU):** Fostering leadership skills, building resilience, and promoting healthy choices.
- **Extended Day Services:** Providing afterschool and summer camp support to help families thrive.

This year we are honored and inspired by the 375 RTU participants from 9 schools that are participating in over 50 virtual, asynchronous, and in-person substance misuse and healthy alternative programs. These programs are primarily led by community volunteers who recognize the value of this education in our community. With a focus on healthy choices, this project allows our young people to pick their unique path toward a healthier future.

**We are requesting your approval of \$750** in your town's budget to assist The Collaborative in continuing to provide services to our community. We appreciate your involvement!

**Together, we can make a lasting difference.**

Sincerely,

Maryam Morris  
Executive Director

## Burr & Burton Letter from Headmaster



Burr & Burton  
Academy

OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER

Dear Sending Town Voters:

The Burr and Burton Academy (BBA) Board of Trustees has set BBA's per-pupil tuition rate at \$21,972, a 4.8% increase, for the 2025-2026 school year. Please find below an explanation of the thought process:

- Our educators are the lifeblood of this school. Like most schools, BBA salaries and benefits constitute 75% of our total costs. A 4.8% increase is necessary for salaries to keep pace with inflation while providing healthcare benefits. In addition, we will increase our fundraising efforts and expand our international program to stay financially balanced.
- Cost vigilance has been constant. Several years ago, we changed health insurance suppliers to escape VEHI's high costs, instead adopting a plan that includes significant self-insurance on BBA's part but lowers our premiums. We continually evaluate our course offerings and class sizes, "pruning and grafting" so BBA students have a wide range of opportunities within a responsible economic framework. This year, we paused the Mountain Campus semester program to help manage costs.
- Tuition only covers ~80% of our per-pupil cost. Each year, we raise \$1.5 million in annual fund donations, draw \$1.0 million from our endowment, and generate \$2 million in private tuition from international students. This supplemental revenue provides an additional \$5700 per pupil that enhances our program for all.
- We raise funds privately to support and expand BBA infrastructure. This coming summer, we will invest ~\$5 million in private funds to renovate the Smith Center, turning it into a full-blown Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics facility offering robotics, coding, science Olympiad, engineering, along with math and science; and we will upgrade athletic facilities. In the past year, we added state of the art LED lighting into our theater to support performing arts programming. These investments are critical in ensuring our students have access to high quality educational opportunities, and they come at no cost to taxpayers.

We appreciate our partnership with all of our sending communities, and we remain diligent in our efforts to be fiscally responsible partners while providing the highest quality educational experiences.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark H. Tashjian  
Headmaster

Charley Stevenson  
Chair, Board of Trustees