

**Town of Peru**  
Selectboard meeting, DRAFT minutes  
402 Main Street  
May 20, 2026  
**5:30PM**

Board members in attendance: Laurie Gayda, Ben Foltz, Andy Dahlstrom  
Other visitors: Road Foreman Wayne Blanchard, Assistant Clerk Harriet Dahlstrom,  
Town Clerk Melinda Beebe

Meeting Call to Order: Dahlstrom called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Review / Approve Minutes, from 05/06/2026: Moved by Gayda, seconded by Foltz; all voted in favor.

Request To Change Agenda: Assistant Clerk requested that agenda include consideration of two new items: an announcement about convening the Peru Board of Civil Authority to hear a third round of reappraisal grievances, and a proposal for reducing Town fees for dog licensing and Town Center rental. SB Chair moved to accept the additional agenda items, Gayda seconded; all voted in favor.

Public Comment: none

New Business:

1) BCA: The Board of Civil Authority is made up of the Town Clerk, Selectboard, and all Justices of the Peace. Assistant Clerk Dahlstrom explains why the BCA will be called to hold hearings as part of the property reappraisal process. Additional information for the BCA hearings and reappraisal-related action will be announced after the deadline—May 26—for the third round of reappraisal appeals.

2) Licensing fees: Clerk Beebe and Assistance Clerk Dahlstrom offer a proposal for a reduction to earlier levels of two Town fee schedules that were raised without a clear rationale. Clerk Beebe has found that the significant increase in the Town Center rental fee has reduced requests and building use, which is not the goal. Beebe and Dahlstrom explained the necessary fees for dog licensing, and advocate a fee schedule that allows the Town to break even and keep the fee close to the cost of processing the licenses.

Foltz moves to accept both proposed fee schedules, seconded by Gayda; all vote in favor.

3) Town website: Assistant Clerk Dahlstrom and Tracy Black (not in attendance but advocating via letter to the SB) propose to spruce up the Town website. They recommend considering a change of web host, and consultation with the Town of Londonderry Town Administrator following their new website launch. Gayda moves to give the Assistant Clerk and Tracy Black authority to do their research and offer a cost estimate to the Selectboard for a change of web host to Revise. Foltz seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

4) Preview of traffic calming visit by Bennington County Regional Commission Senior Transportation Planner Mark Anders: May 26, 2pm at Town Office. Dahlstrom explains that Anders will visit as part of the Bennington County Regional Commission offer to assist Peru in its consideration of traffic data and traffic calming measures. No proposal is expected yet from the BCRC; the meeting with Anders will be to discuss a plan to act on the Town's perennial traffic woes.

5) Selectboard, annual signing of Roads and Bridges documents for VTrans.

Dahlstrom offers the Selectboard two documents for signing: the annual documentation required by VTrans that allows the Town to participate in paving and structure grants. Dahlstrom shares the road news of the day, which is that Peru was just awarded a paving grant for South Rd. The paving proposal and grant request were for \$285k; in an 80%:20% split grant, the Town stands to be reimbursed \$228k for the paving project.

Road Foreman:

1) South Rd culvert and paving project update: Blanchard gives an update on meetings with State representatives and Hunter Excavating for culvert installation. Hunter has offered to complete the culvert work for \$12k. Blanchard has already purchased the culverts, for roughly \$9k.

2) Information about maintenance offer from Overhead Door Co of Rutland.

After Blanchard shared an offer from ODC for inspection and upkeep of the overhead door at the Town Garage and Firehouse, Foltz moved to authorize Blanchard to accept that offer and schedule maintenance on the building's six doors. Motion seconded by Dahlstrom; all voted in favor.

Other Business:

Review Bills and Approve Payments:

Adjourn: Gayda moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:07pm, seconded by Dahlstrom. All voted in favor.