

2019  
Annual Report

Town of Peru, Vermont  
Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019



Town Report also available online at [peruvt.org](http://peruvt.org)

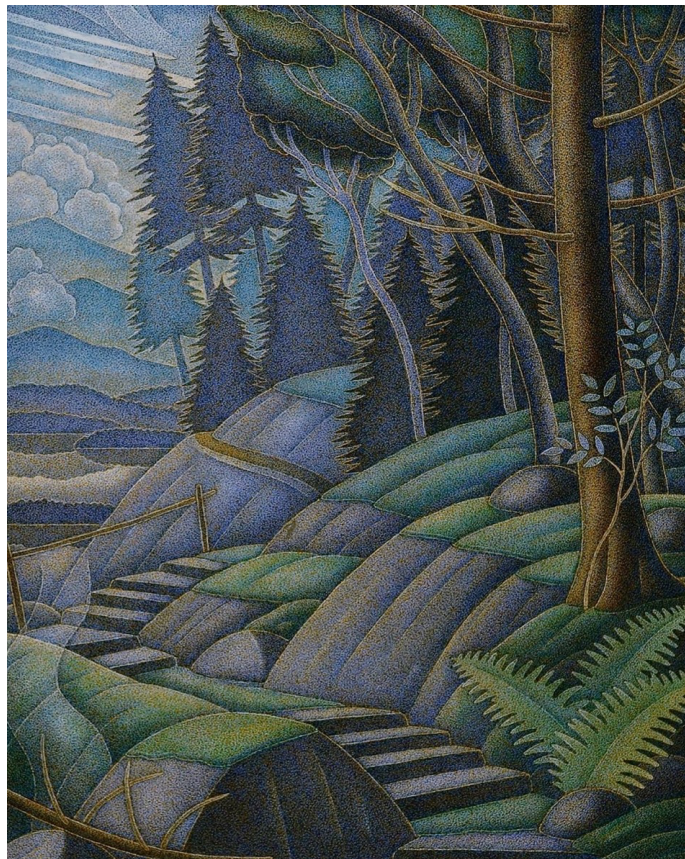
Please note Town Meeting occurs at 10AM on Tuesday March 3, 2020

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Artwork courtesy of David Utiger.

## **Community Information**

PERU TOWN OFFICE  
P.O. Box 127 Peru, VT 05152

Open: Tues & Thurs 8:30am – 4:00pm  
802.824.3065  
[peruclerk@gmail.com](mailto:peruclerk@gmail.com)

### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

Fire	911
Rescue	911
State Police	802.722.4600
Mountain Valley Medical Center	802.824.6901
First Town Constable, Stewart Beattie	802.824.3494
Animal Control Officer, Pat Salo	802.688.4020
Fire Warden, Chuck Black	802.824.6793

### **SCHOOLS**

Flood Brook Union School	802.824.6811
Burr and Burton Academy	802.362.1775
Burr and Burton Mountain Campus	802.824.4846
Green Mountain Union High School	802.875.2146
<b><u>PERU POST OFFICE</u></b>	<b><u>Hours of Operation:</u></b> 802.824.5472

Window Service:	Monday-Friday 9:30-12:30PM & 1:30-4:30PM
	Saturday 8:30AM-11:30AM
Lobby Open:	Access to Boxes 24 hours, 7 days a week

### **STATE OFFICIALS**

Governor's Action Line	800.649.6825
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### **VERMONT STATE LEGISLATURE**

Senators:		
Brian Campion	e-mail: <a href="mailto:bcampion@leg.state.vt.us">bcampion@leg.state.vt.us</a>	802.753.7705
Richard Sears	e-mail: <a href="mailto:rsears@leg.state.vt.us">rsears@leg.state.vt.us</a>	802.442.9139
Representative:		
Linda Joy Sullivan	e-mail: <a href="mailto:lsullivan@leg.state.vt.us">lsullivan@leg.state.vt.us</a>	802.768.8668

### **FEDERAL OFFICIALS**

Senator Patrick Leahy, Burlington Office	800.642.3193
Senator Bernie Sanders, Brattleboro Office	802.254.8732
Congressman Peter Welch, Burlington Office	802.652.2450

**Townscape Preservation Board:**  
Susan Bradford, Barbara Ardell, Sally Ogden, Gail Acosta



## Peru Town Meeting 2020 – WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Peru are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Peru Town Center on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at the hour of 10:00AM to act on the following articles:

Article 1: To hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers.

Article 2: To elect Town Officers as the law directs.

Article 3: To see if the town will vote a tax to defray the expenses of the town for the fiscal year of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, as set forth in the budgets submitted in the 2019 Town Report, subject to such modifications as this meeting may vote. To authorize the selectmen to set the rate on the 2020 Grand List to meet the budgets voted. To establish the date of payment of such taxes. Previous years dates July 1- September 30.

Article 4: To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions made by law for payment of taxes to the Town Treasurer.

Article 5: Shall the voters vote a sum of money to the following organizations which serve the community

Bennington County Child Advocacy Ctr.(petition)	\$ 500.00
Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless	\$ 500.00
Project Against Violent Encounters	\$ 150.00
Mountain Valley Medical Center	\$3000.00
Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad	\$4000.00
Visiting Nurse Assn. of VT/NH	\$2700.00
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	\$1000.00
Green Up Vermont	\$ 50.00
The Collaborative	\$ 750.00
Flood Brook Athletic Association	\$1000.00
Peru Cemetery Commission	\$5000.00
Rural Fire Protection Task Force	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
 TOTAL	 \$ 19,890.00

Article 6: 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 7: Shall the Town of Peru enter into a communications union district (CUD) to be known as the Southern Vermont Communication Union District, under the provisions of 30 V.S.A. Ch. 82?

Article 8: To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Dated at Peru, Vermont January 22, 2019

Todd Williams, Jon Mowry, Charles Black - Peru Selectboard



## **Minutes of Town Meeting, Peru, VT. March 5, 2019**

Peru's Moderator, Gary Ameden, called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Gary welcomed everyone to the 2019 Peru Town Meeting. Gary asked all those who are new to the community or to Town meeting to stand and introduce themselves. Emily Cowles, a representative for the Collaborative, and Joy Kitchell from the Bennington County Child Advocacy Center both stood and introduced themselves. The middle school children who were present needed prompting but finally Ryder Ouellette, Lily Birch, Dylan Poddick, and Maizie Rukat all introduced themselves. Gary asked all to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Warning:** As read by Gary- The legal voters of Peru are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Peru Town Center on Tuesday March 5, 2019 at the hour of 10:00am to act on the following articles:

**ARTICLE 1:** To hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers. Gary asked if there was any discussion or comments. Stewart Beattie commented that in the Selectboard minutes from January the Fire Department stated they received a donation and there was no mention of it in the Fire Department or Selectboard reports. Chuck Black explained that the donation was received 2 years ago from an estate totaling \$200,000. The check was made payable to the Peru Volunteer Fire Co. and not to the Town of Peru Fire Department. Therefore, the donation was private money and not tax payer dollars. Alex Sheets made a motion to accept the reports as written and John Maher seconded. Gary asked if those assembled were ready for the question. All in favor, motion passed.

**ARTICLE 2:** To elect Town Officers as the law directs.

**Moderator:** Todd Williams, Selectboard Chair, asked for nominations for Town Moderator. Iwanna Reed nominated Gary Ameden and Sally Ogden seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Grant Braddish and seconded by Garry Sharon all in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Moderator - 1 year Gary Ameden

**Town Clerk:** Barbara Petra nominated Jill Braddish and John Maher seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Chuck Black and seconded by Garry Sharon. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Town Clerk - 1 year Jill Braddish

**Treasurer:** Barbara Petra nominated Donna Williams and Sally Ogden seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Chuck Black and seconded by Ben Freeman. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Town Treasurer - 1 year Donna Williams



**Selectboard:** Lucy Maher nominated Chuck Black and Rebecca Williams seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Karen Utiger and seconded by Jay Ouellette. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Selectboard - 3 year                      Chuck Black

Gary explained that Gail Acosta has resigned from the Selectboard leaving a position open to complete her term. He opened up the meeting for nominations. Alex Sheets nominated Jon Mowry and Rebecca Williams seconded. Hearing no other nominations, Proposition B was moved by Jay Ouellette and seconded by Ben Freeman. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

**Lister:** Jack Pennypacker nominated Rebecca Williams and Grant Braddish seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Alex Sheets and seconded by Garry Sharon. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Lister - 3 year                      Rebecca Williams

**Auditor:** Karen Utiger nominated Regina McGuire and John Maher seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Alex Sheets and seconded by Iwanna Reed. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Auditor - 3 year                      Regina McGuire

**Cemetery Commission:** Stewart Beattie nominated Will Crandell and Iwanna Reed seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Alex Sheets and seconded by Garry Sharon. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Cemetery Commission 5 years                      William Crandall

**First Constable:** Garry Sharon nominated Stewart Beattie and Michael Bacon seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Jay Ouellette and seconded by Sally Ogden. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- First Constable - 1 year                      Stewart Beattie

**Second Constable:** Todd Williams nominated Chis Felion and Iwanna Reed seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Todd Williams and seconded by Alex Sheets. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Second Constable - 1 year                      Chris Felion

**Delinquent Tax Collector:** LJ Petra nominated John Maher and Donna Williams seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Alex Sheets and seconded by Garry Sharon. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Delinquent Tax Collector - 1 year      John Maher

**Grand Juror:** Todd Williams nominated Hope Richardson and Jay Ouellette seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Todd Williams and seconded by Jay Reichman. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Grand Juror - 1 year      Hope Richardson

**Town Agent:** Jay Ouellette nominated Tracy Black and Barbara Petra seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Grant Braddish and seconded by John Maher. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Town Agent - 1 year      Tracy Black

**Trustee of Public Funds:** Grant Braddish nominated Mike Gayda and Barbara Petra seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Todd Williams and seconded by Jay Ouellette. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Trustee of Public Funds - 1 year      Mike Gayda

### **ARTICLE 3:**

a) To see if the town will vote to defray the expenses of the town for the fiscal year of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as set forth in the budgets submitted in the 2018 Town Report, subject to such modifications as this meeting may vote. Iwanna Reed moved to accept the motion and Garry Sharon seconded. All in favor, motion passed by voice vote.

b) To authorize the selectmen to set the rate on the 2019 Grand List to meet the budgets voted. Jay Ouellette made a motion to move the article and Grant Braddish seconded. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

c) To establish the date of payment of such taxes. Previous years dates July 1-September 30. Iwanna Reed made a motion to move the article and Sally Ogden seconded. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions made by law for payment of taxes to the Town Treasurer. Jay Ouellette made a motion to move the article and Karen Utiger seconded. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 5:** Shall the voters vote a sum of money to the following organizations which serve the community

Bennington County Child Advocacy Ctr.(petition)	\$ 500.00
Project Against Violent Encounters	\$ 150.00
Mountain Valley Medical Center	\$3,000.00
Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad	\$4,000.00
Visiting Nurse Assn. of VT/NH	\$2,700.00
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
Peru Cemetery Commission	\$4,500.00
Green Mtn. Club-Bromley lookout	\$1,000.00
Rural Fire Protection Task Force	<u>\$ 100.00</u>

Total	\$19,890.00
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Gary asked if there were any comments or discussion. Peter Berman asked on behalf of the South Londonderry Library that the Town reinstate their yearly contribution in the amount of \$1000.00 as the request was received too late to be included in the Town report. Gary, as Chairman, ruled this as an inappropriate amendment. Jay Ouellette made a motion to overrule the Chairs decision and Peter Berman seconded. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote. Peter Berman made a motion to amend article 5 to include \$1000.00 for South Londonderry Library with an appropriations total of \$20,890.00 and Stewart Beattie seconded. All in favor of opposed amendment; motion passed with a voice vote.

John Birch questioned the funding of the Cemetery Commission. Stewart explained that the Cemetery Commission can only use the interest earned from the perpetual care fund and the Commission asks the Town to defray the maintenance costs.

Gary asked for a vote on the article as amended. All in favor; motion passed with a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 6:** To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.



Iwana Reed inquired about changing the Clerk and Treasurer's terms from 1 to 3 years for continuity. Barbara Petra replied that there has been continuity regardless of the 1 year term.

Sally Ogden thanked the road crew for a fabulous job and stated the bumpy roads are not their fault.

Alex Sheets thanked Gail Acosta for her years of service on the Selectboard.

Jay Reichman questioned last year's minutes. He inquired if article 7 was passed as there was no mention of it in the minutes. The general consensus was that it had passed.

Jim Potter raised his concern regarding the traffic speed through town and is adamant that this issue needs to be addressed before someone is hurt. Jim suggested a crosswalk in the center of town and more signage. Todd explained that the Selectboard is trying to be proactive on the issue. Todd has spoken with the DMV officer to show more of a presence in town and has reached out to the DOT engineer to change approaches coming in and out of town. Jim Jordan expressed his concern as well and added that traffic coming in the direction of Hapgood Pond Road is a big part of the problem. Jon Mowry suggested that the Selectboard also look into changing that approach into Town as well. Ben Freeman pointed out that the fast driving is not happening by the people in this room and we should not bicker between each other but collectively find a solution.

Jennie Freeman read the mission statement of the Kelton Family Fund and informed those present that there is money available if anyone is interested in spearheading a project. Curious parties should come into the office and inquire about grant guidelines.

Bob Stelz suggested that the Selectboard consider the need for an independent auditor.

Alex Sheets made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jay Ouellette seconded the motion. All in favor; Gary Adjourned the meeting at 10:58am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jill Braddish  
Peru Town Clerk  
Dated March 6, 2019

## Elected Town Officers

<b>Moderator:</b>	Gary Ameden	<u>Term Expires</u> 2020
<b>Town Clerk:</b>	Jennie Freeman (appointed)	2020
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Donna Williams	2020
<b>Select Board:</b>	Todd Williams, Chair	2020
	Jon Mowry (appointed)	2021
	Chuck Black	2022
<b>Lister:</b>	Jack Pennypacker, Chair	2020
	Brian Goodro	2021
	Rebecca Williams	2022
<b>Auditors:</b>	Alex Sheets	2020
	Karen Utiger	2021
	Regina McGuire	2022
<b>Cemetery Commission:</b>		
	Jeremy Lapan (appointed)	2020
	Stewart Beattie, Chair	2021
	Carl Holcomb	2022
	Robert Stelz	2023
	William Crandall	2024
<b>First Constable:</b>	Stewart Beattie	2020
<b>Second Constable:</b>	Christopher Felion	2020
<b>Delinquent Tax Collector:</b>	John Maher	2020
<b>Grand Juror:</b>	Hope Richardson	2020
<b>Town Agent:</b>	Tracy Black	2020
<b>Trustee of Public Funds:</b>	Mike Gayda	2020
<b>Taconic &amp; Green Regional School District</b>		
	Jay Ouelette	2020
<b>Justices of the Peace*:</b>	Gary Ameden, Tracy Black, Will Crandall, Karen Utiger, Olivia Rukat	
	* Terms: February 1, 2019 thru January 31, 2021	

## Select Board Appointed Town Officers

<b>Planning Commission:</b>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Stewart Beattie, Chair	2020
Andy Dahlstrom (appointed)	2020
Paul Myers	2020
LJ Petra	2021
Mike Gayda	2021
Peter Robertson	2022
Lucas Hughes	2022

### **Zoning Board:**

John Acosta	2020
Chuck Black	2020
Peter Bradford, Chair	2021
David Utiger	2022
Charles Howard	2022

**Zoning Administrator:** William Goodwin

**Sexton:** Carl Holcomb

**Town Service Officer:** Margaret Dawedeit

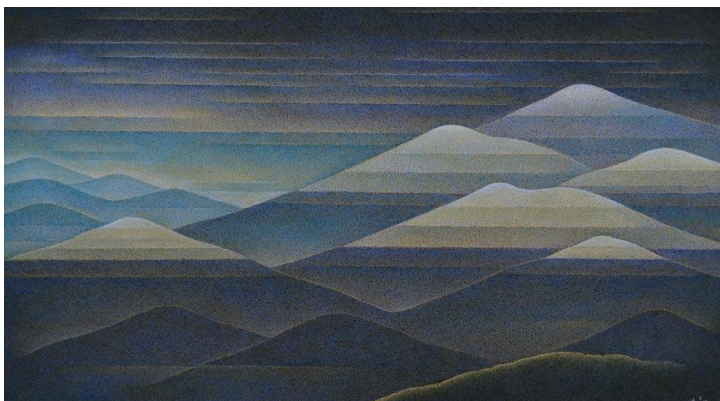
**Health Officer:** Dr. Roger Fox

**Deputy Health Officer:** Mike Gayda

**Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer:** Stephanie Hoffman

**Road Foreman:** Wayne Blanchard

**Road Crew:** Brian Bills





## Select Board Report

During the Fiscal Year of 2019-2020 the Town installed a new section of parking and added additional parking at the Town Green.

The Select Board held a meeting inquiring about the future of the Town Park on the North Road. We had some interested residents that wanted to see the Park improved. They created a "Park Committee" and have proposed the field be leveled out, parking added and the potential of a Pickle ball court. The committee would like to start improving once the town's people have approved their spending.

After many years as Assistant Clerk and Clerk, Jill Braddish has moved on. Jennie Freeman has stepped into the Clerk's position and the Town has welcomed Stephanie Turner Hoffman as our new Assistant Clerk.

The Select Board dealt with many other issues which came before the board.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Todd Williams, Chuck Black, Jon Mowry

## Clerk's Report

**Vital Statistics:** July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Marriages: 2  
Births: 0  
Deaths: 5  
Burials: 4

**Liquor Licenses:** July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

First Class Restaurant/ Bar:	4@	\$115 =	\$460
First Class Hotel:	0@	\$115 =	\$ 0
Second Class:	2@	\$ 70 =	\$140
Outside Consumption:	4@	\$ 0 =	\$ 0*
Tobacco:	1@	\$ 0 =	\$ 0*
Special Events:	4@	\$ 0 =	\$ 0*
Third Class:	3@	\$ 0 =	\$ 0*
Cater License:	1@	\$ 0 =	\$ 0*
Request to cater:	5@	\$ 0 =	\$ 0*
Total:			\$600

\*Town receives no part of fee collected

## Audit Report

The town auditors conducted our audit of fiscal year 7/1/18 - 6/30/19 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.

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, 2019.

Karen Utiger, Regina McGuire, Alex Sheets



## 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 purpose of town taxation. The Listers establish a Grand List specifying the value of taxable property as of April 1st. The Preliminary-Grand List must be filed with the Town Clerk on or before June 4th. Grievance hearings must begin no later than June 19th and the final Grand List must be lodged with the Town Clerk by July 25th. This year, there are 733 parcels in Peru, including 400 structures with land (including residential and commercial properties), 267 condominiums and 63 parcels with open land. One new house was built during the 2019 fiscal year. From April 2018 to April 2019, there were eighty-seven property transfers in the town, and currently from April 2019 to November, 2019 41 property transfers. Four parcel owners formally grieved their assessments this year. Thirty-four grievances were resolved at the pre grievance level. Three were appealed to the BCA and their appeals were denied.

**EQUALIZATION STUDY RESULTS:** We are pleased to report that the results from the 2018 State Equalization Study for Peru are a Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) of 100.7%. The Common Level of Appraisal represents the measure of how close a municipality's local appraisals are to the actual fair market value. Our Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) is 17.55%. This is the measure of uniformity of appraisals for all properties on the Grand List. The Vermont Department of Taxes has rated our scores as very good. For additional information please go to: <http://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/understanding-property-taxes>.

**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, but there are some special eligibility criteria for smaller active agricultural parcels. Farm buildings can also be enrolled in the program. We currently have 35 parcels enrolled in Current Use. For additional information and to file an application electronically, please go to: <http://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/current-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. § 5410. Many people file their Homestead Declaration at the same time they file their Vermont Income Tax return. However, if you apply for an extension or even 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. Currently, there are 130 Homestead



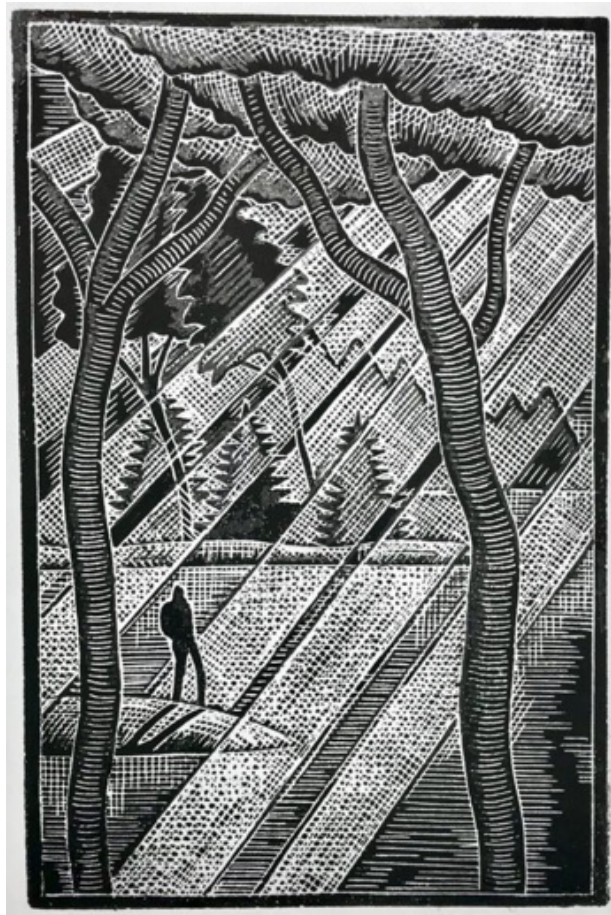
declarations. For additional information and to file electronically, please go to:  
<http://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>

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

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 morning at 9:00AM. 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 by a Pre-Grievance process in April and May. 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 within the first two weeks of June.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Board of Listers

Jack Pennypacker, Chair  
Brian Goodro  
Rebecca Williams



## Planning Commission Report

This year the projects that are still in the works are Bromley's expansion plans on the old Best Farm and a solar project on the north west hill of the large parking lot between the parking lot access road and route 11. We also have received other applications for land subdivisions and building projects.

The Bromley expansion project while still in the planning stage will be a major addition to Peru with the potential addition of 200 condominium units, chairlift and trails.

The Planning Commission has also been working with the Bennington County Regional Commission on a comprehensive town energy plan to comply with Act 174, 2016. This plan is a long-range State-mandated plan for the elimination of fossil fuels from our energy diet. This plan will have both wind and solar resource maps to aid in the siting of future wind and solar projects.

At this time, we would like to acknowledge the Passing of Hal Wilkins our Zoning Administrator who has represented this commission in a very diligent way in the administering Peru's Bylaws and other duties he elected to take on to help the people of Peru. Also, to introduce you to our new Zoning Administrator Will Goodwin who is currently getting up to speed in his new position.

If you have a project in the Town of Peru, stop in the Town Office and check with the Zoning Administrator to see if it needs a permit. Some of the projects that require a permit are any new construction, as well as changes to existing buildings, changes of use, subdivisions of property and customary home industry. Copies of the Peru Town Bylaws are available at the town office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peru Planning Commission

Stewart Beattie, Chairman  
Peter Robertson  
Andy Dahlstrom  
Lucas Hughes  
L J Petra  
Mike Gayda  
Jon Mowry



## Zoning Board of Adjustment Report

Application#	Name	Adjustment Requested	Result
2223	John O'Herron	Variance	Granted
2215	Bromley Village Assoc	Variance	Denied

## Zoning Administrative Officer's Report

For those of you who haven't heard Hal Wilkins died with his loving family at his side on September 13, 2019 following a short battle with cancer. I took over his job in November; I am a former Peru resident, who now lives in Weston. Last year Hal and I issued the following permits:

New Home Permits:	3
Residential Additions/Alterations:	3
Change of Use:	0
Accessory Structure Permits:	3
Permit Extensions:	1
Permit Amendments:	0
Variances:	0
Sign:	0
Subdivision Decision:	0
Agricultural Building:	0
Zoning Compliance (Bianchi) Letters:	1
Zoning Appeals:	0

Respectfully Submitted Will Goodwin



### **Cemetery Commissioner's Report**

Maintenance of Peru's three cemeteries, Village Cemetery, North Cemetery and Stone Cemetery has been on going through the year consisting of mowing and trimming grass, removal of leaves, cleaning and adjusting stones.

As with last year's low interest rates, income from accounts that we can only use the interest from for perpetual care is down. Due to the age of the trees in the cemeteries there has been more and expensive pruning required. Therefore, the Cemetery Commission is requesting that the appropriation from the Town be increased to \$5,000.00, so we can continue to adequately maintain the cemeteries and complete repairs as they become necessary.

The price of per gravesite is \$300.00 and the mandatory perpetual care fee is \$300.00. (nonrefundable)

To purchase a plot or for other Cemetery information, the Cemetery Commission meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 pm from May thru November at the Town Office.

Anyone wishing to make burial arrangements or installation of stones and markers please contact Carl Holcomb at 802-824 3932.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peru Cemetery Commission

Stewart Beattie, Chairman, William Crandall, Secretary, Carl Holcomb, Sexton  
Bob Stelz, Jeremy LaPan

## Peru Cemetery Commission Balance Sheet

Checkbook Balance, 6/30/18	<u>\$ 2,539.82</u>
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### RECEIPTS:

Interest	\$ 22.68
Dividends	\$ 1,264.12
Plot Purchase	\$ 1,000.00
Perpetual Care	\$ 1,200.00
Town Appropriation	<u>\$ 3,700.00</u>

Total Receipts	<u>\$ 7,186.80</u>
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### DISBURSEMENTS:

Maintenance	\$ 4,815.51
Other	<u>\$ -</u>

Total Disbursements:	<u>\$ 4,815.51</u>
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Checkbook Balance, 6/30/19	<u><u>\$ 2,371.29</u></u>
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### Assets Owned:

Berkshire Bank Municipal NOW	\$ 44,642.23
Mutual Funds and Stock (at Market Value)	<u>\$ 105,367.74</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 150,009.97</u></u>

Note: With the exception of the balance of \$ 2,371.29 in the checking account all monies and investments of the Cemetery are dedicated to its perpetual care.

## First Constable's Report

At the last years town meeting the towns people expressed the need for more police presence in the village area due to more events going on, stop sign violators and highspeed traffic. I agree that this is necessary for the safety of people of Peru in the village area.

However this did not come to pass! You the people of Peru, passed the budget in which the board of selectmen lowered the Constable funding from \$1,200.00 to \$400.00!

At \$400. that is \$200. Per Constable – divide by 12 months \$16.66 per month per Constable. With the low rate of \$10.78 per hour, this leaves \$5.88 for mileage at \$.545 per mile equals about 10 miles.

So each Constable is allotted **1 HOUR & 10 MILES PER MONTH.**

## People of Peru is this how to increase the police presence in Peru?

If you see something suspicious around you, be sure to note license plate numbers and time of day and location, or if you need assistance please call me at **824-3494** and the State Police, we are now covered by Shaftsbury at **802-442-5421** we will be happy to assist you.

Respectfully submitted,

Stewart N. Beattie, First Constable

## Fire Department Report

The Peru Fire Dept. responded to 38 calls in 2019. Call breakdown is as follows: 8 Motor vehicle accidents, 12 Still alarms, (these are calls that originate from automatic alarm systems), 5 wires down, 1 chimney fire, 1 structure fire, 2 agency assist calls, and 9 requests for mutual aid.

Through our fundraising the Fire Company bought \$11,047.00 worth of equipment and donated it to the town. Through the dogged determination of Mike Gayda the town received a \$60,000.00 grant from FEMA that allowed the dept. replace all our Self Contained Breathing Apparatus with new state of the art units (8).

The Fire Dept. has ordered a new Pierce 4WD pumper to replace the existing 29 year-old Pierce 4WD truck. The new truck's contracted price is \$389,260.00. Since the Town's Fire truck replacement fund has \$235,000.00 available at this time, the Fire Company has voted to use up to \$150,000.00 of its own funds for the purchase of the truck. These funds

came from a generous donation of \$258,514.00 from the estate of Ellen Marie Whitney. By combining these funds a payment of \$350,00.00 was made at the time the contract was signed, resulting in a \$14,000.00 pre-payment discount.

Since basic firefighting training has become more and more time consuming, it is the intent of the Fire Company to use funds from the estate to create a training fund to be used to pay new and existing members to attend additional training.

The process of shopping for and purchasing this new truck has made it clear to the Fire Dept. and the Selectboard that the current amount of money to the fire truck replacement fund is inadequate and the Dept. has asked the Selectboard to raise the annual contribution to \$40,000.00. The current replacement schedule for the department's trucks is every 30 years. Since the dept. maintains 3 trucks, a truck will need to be replaced on average 1 every 10 years. The \$40,000 per contribution to the fire truck fund should make approximately \$400,000 available at that time.

With 14 active members, the Peru Volunteer Fire Company has been very successful at attracting and training new members, and it is the continued financial support from the town that makes this possible.

Chuck Black, Chief, Peru Fire Dept.

### **Fire Warden Report**

62 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, Fire Warden

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

During the Fiscal Year of 2019-2020 the town finalized a Structures Grant which paid for 90% of the total cost to install a concrete box culvert at Little Michigan Road near the Town Line. This work was completed in the summer of 2019.

The Town received a Better Backroads Grant to re-line a steep portion of ditch on the North Road Extension with large diameter stone to help keep the integrity of the ditch as well as the road.

Stumps were removed from the intersection of Anderson and Hapgood Pond Roads. There were many loads of gravel applied to Moss Brook and North Road.



The Town has rented a roadside mower twice during the summer and it appears that this will help keep the invasion of Poison Parsnip to a minimum.

The Town took delivery of the new International CV truck to replace the old F550.  
Respectfully Submitted, Todd Williams, Road Commissioner



## Animal Control

DOG LICENSES: July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

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 2018-19:	92
Revenue to Peru:	\$ 767.00*
Revenue to State VT:	<u>\$ 440.00</u>
Total Revenue 2018-19:	\$1,207.00

2020 Fees:	<u>Before April 1<sup>st</sup>:</u>	<u>After April 1<sup>st</sup>:</u>
Neutered/Spayed	\$ 12.00	\$ 17.00
Unaltered Male/Female	\$ 20.00	\$ 29.00

\*Including late fees

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 against creating a nuisance. Our Animal Warden, Patrick Salo (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,

Jennie Freeman, 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 officers' kennel. Unclaimed animals are carefully evaluated before being placed for adoption.

The Animal Control Department makes every effort to insure 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 provides 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 Report

Over 6000 people attended this year's Peru Fair held on September 28. As a result, we are pleased to report that a contribution of \$16,000 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.

In spite of parking challenges and a threat of rain, it turned out to be a perfect fall day and a big success for attendees and vendors alike. Attendance was substantially above recent levels. 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 2020.

Laurie Gayda - Peru Fair President

### Receipts

Balance on Hand 01/01/2019	<b>\$5,645.56</b>
Exhibitors Fees	\$12,806.70
Gates	\$29,728.00
Wagon Sales	\$3,398.19
Raffle	\$595.00
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>\$52,173.45</b>

### Disbursements

Stationary	\$1,103.28
Bank Fees	\$23.64
Advertising	\$6,001.42
Postage	\$248.45
Entertainment	\$3,528.00



Bus/Transportation	\$6,465.00
Sanitation	\$1,550.00
Wagon	\$2,630.55
Raffle	\$298.00
Security	\$5,003.22
Setup	\$2,900.26
Marketing	\$660.00
Insurance	\$570.00
Donation to Scholarship	\$16,000.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$46,981.82</b>
<b>Cash on Hand</b>	<b>\$5,191.63</b>

Ruth Ann Barrick - Peru Fair Treasurer

### Peru Fair Scholarship Report

The Peru Fair Scholarship Fund is fortunate to have received continued funding from the success of the Peru Fair. In 2019 the Peru Fair contributed \$16,000.00 to the Scholarship Fund. The current balance on 1/4/2020 as reported by Berkshire Bank is \$50,612.78. This balance will decrease by \$7000.00 as January checks were mailed on 12/31/19 to the schools for the Upperclassman. The final balance once those checks clear will be \$43,612.78.

In 2019 the Peru Fair Scholarship was pleased to award \$1000 to each of the 13 recipients, which represented 6 high school graduates and 7 upperclassmen. The high school graduate awards were mailed to their respective schools in August 2019 and the upperclassmen awards were mailed in December 2019.

While it is hard to know the exact number of participants on a year-by-year basis, it appears as though the amount of recipients is expected to increase for the 2020 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.

## **Londonderry Solid Waste Group**

**Vermont's Extended Producer Responsibility** legislation makes manufacturers of products like Computers, Batteries, Paint, Mercury Light Bulbs and Mercury Thermostats take responsibility for their products at the end of their useful life. To find year-round drop-offs call 1-855-63-CYCLE or go to VTrecycles.com.

**Trash and Recycling** collection, processing and disposal has presented challenges. Several landfills closed leaving less options of where to dispose of trash. Only one landfill remains in Vermont. In addition, the recycling commodity markets remain near all-time historical lows due to the impact of *National Sword* – an initiative imposed by the Chinese government which banned the import of Mixed Paper and Mixed Plastics where much of the United States had been sending these materials. This presents opportunities to create recycling markets in the U.S. which may eventually enable us to recycle these materials here rather than ship them overseas.

**Be Careful What You Put Down the Drain:** Many materials, especially household hazardous waste, should NOT be poured down the drain, either to a septic tank or field. These chemicals are toxic, will kill the organisms that break down waste, and will enter surface and groundwater supplies. Flushing prescription drugs down the toilet should also be avoided as these have been shown to harm fish and amphibians. Visit

<http://www.londonderryvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Cloggers- full-brochure-FINAL.pdf>

**Sharps:** Needles, syringes and other sharps should not be thrown away loose in the trash since they could injure anyone handling the trash. Follow these tips for safe disposal: Carefully put needles or syringes into an empty plastic bottle marked #2 HDPE on the bottom, that also has a screw-on lid. Laundry detergent and softener bottles are good examples. Label the container with the warning: “DO NOT RECYCLE!” Dispose of the sharps container in your household trash. DO NOT put this bottle in your recycling. For more information on disposal and what to do if you are pricked by a needle or syringe, download the Vermont Department of Health's sharps disposal flier [http://healthvermont.gov/adap/documents/sharps\\_disposal\\_flyer.pdf](http://healthvermont.gov/adap/documents/sharps_disposal_flyer.pdf).

**Food Scraps:** Beginning July 1, 2020 Vermont law bans food scraps from the trash. If you compost at your home, you can still put meat and bones in your trash. Food scraps, including meat and bones, are accepted at the Londonderry Transfer Station.

**Outreach:** The LSWG reached out to schools and businesses in 2019 providing guidance on recycling, disposal of hazardous materials and diverting food scraps and organics from the landfill. 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).

### **Southern Vermont Communication Union District (SoVT CUD)**

The SoVT CUD Task Force is working to bring modern high-speed Internet service (fiber) to under-served areas of the Bennington County region.

By creating the Southern Vermont Communication Union District (SoVT CUD), we aim to take advantage of the recently passed “broadband bill”, Act 79. This bill encourages the formation of CUDs and provides money for feasibility studies to help them succeed.

A CUD is a governance structure (like a water or wastewater district) allowing multiple towns to band together to attack their Internet problems as a region. Recent history has shown that neither the State nor the federal government are going to solve the rural Internet problem for us, and it is too big for one town. Multiple towns working together is the proven solution.

The first CUD in Vermont was ECFiber and it is a huge success. Serving 27 towns in east central Vermont, they are providing super high-speed Internet directly to homes in rural areas. In partnership with ValleyNet, an Internet service provider (ISP), they have blazed the trail that the rest of us hope to follow.

Twelve towns are represented on our task force, and all 12 selectboards have voted to place the question on the ballot. (Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Landgrove, Manchester, Pownal, Peru, Rupert, Sandgate, Shaftsbury, Sunderland, Woodford).

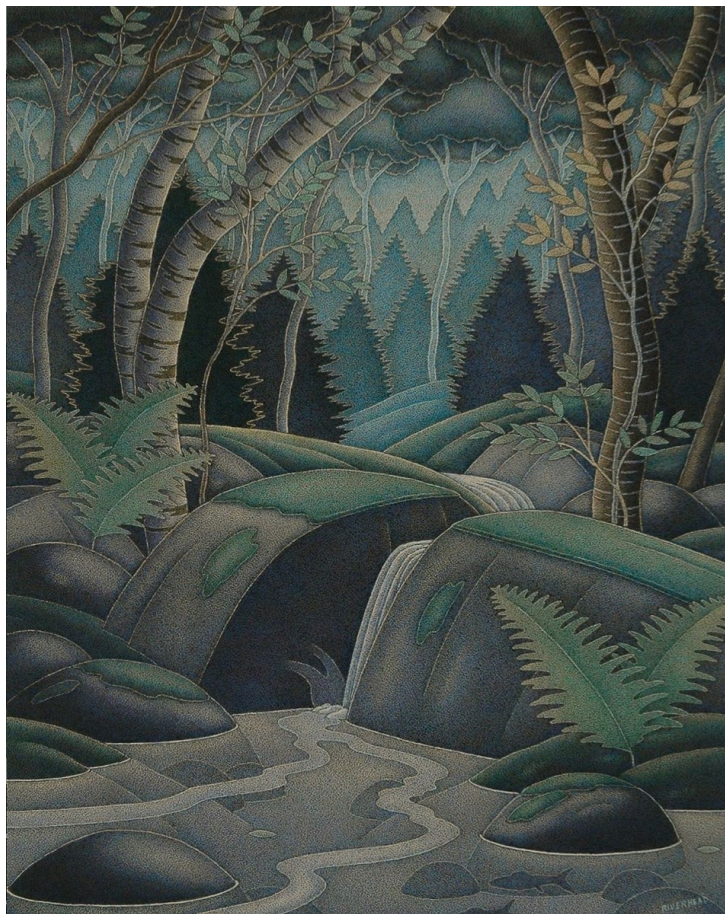
Key things to know about joining a CUD:

1. **Joining a CUD will not raise taxes, ever.** By state law, tax money cannot be used to pay for communication infrastructure. The build-out will be paid for with grants, donations, and service fees. Most of the funding will come from the subscribers who buy the Internet service.

2. Your town's only real responsibility to the CUD is to appoint a representative and an alternate to the governing board. The governing board will run the CUD, define its rules and policies, and contract an ISP to provide service.
3. This is how the State wants us to solve this problem, and CUDs are forming all over the state, including Windham County, the Northeast Kingdom, and other areas.

Don't let your town get left behind. Vote 'yes' to join the Southern Vermont Communication Union District.

For more information, please contact Tim Scoggins; [sbtim@jacksonresources.com](mailto:sbtim@jacksonresources.com); 530 330 5262.



<b>Town of Peru, Budget</b>	<b>Actual 18/19</b>	<b>Authorized 19/20</b>	<b>Proposed 2020/2021</b>
<b>3000 · REVENUE</b>			
316 · State of VT- Current Use	20,055.00	17,500.00	17,500.00
318 · Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	9,514.50	9,000.00	9,000.00
322 · Beverage License	610.00	550.00	550.00
324 · Dog & Marriage Licenses	780.00	850.00	850.00
326 · Zoning Permits	1,589.50	1,500.00	1,500.00
328 · Hunting/Fishing Licenses	9.00	25.00	25.00
332 · Town Clerk Fees	14,736.60	10,000.00	10,000.00
334 · Rental of Equipment	32.00	75.00	75.00
336 · Rental of Facilities	151.00	75.00	75.00
338 · Highway- State of VT	49,844.50	40,000.00	40,000.00
340 · Interest Earned	5,221.31	4,300.00	4,300.00
344 · Misc. Income	236.50	750.00	750.00
346 · Green Mountain Forest	51,482.20	40,000.00	40,000.00
<b>Total 3000 · REVENUE</b>	<b>154,262.11</b>	<b>124,625.00</b>	<b>124,625.00</b>
Surplus to be applied to tax rate	150,000.00	185,000.00	185,000.00
(To be) Raised by taxes	444,132.80	580,700.00	586,900.00
<b>Total · EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$748,394.91</b>	<b>\$890,325.00</b>	<b>896,525.00</b>
<b>4000 · ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>			
400 · Town Clerk	14,262.58	17,600.00	17,600.00
401 · Treasurer	12,288.03	15,500.00	15,500.00
402 · Asst. Town Clerk	6,635.98	9,300.00	9,300.00
403 · Asst. Treasurer	3,282.48	3,100.00	3,100.00
404 · Select Board	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
405 · Auditors	929.75	1,500.00	1,500.00
406 · Listers	2,466.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
407 · Planning Commission	1,020.50	3,000.00	3,000.00
408 · Memberships / Training	3,859.90	3,800.00	3,800.00
408.5 · Consulting	517.00	400.00	400.00
409 · Legal Services	97.50	3,000.00	3,000.00
410 · Town Report & Delivery	1,694.40	1,500.00	1,500.00
411 · Town Meetings	72.84	250.00	250.00
412 · Election Expense	92.77	300.00	300.00
413 · Comp & Liability Insurance	21,653.50	25,000.00	25,000.00
414 · Admin Misc/Travel	256.04	1,500.00	1,500.00
415 · Zoning Board of Adjustment	292.00	500.00	500.00
416 · Zoning Administrator	6,261.09	6,000.00	6,000.00
417 · Zoning Board/Administrator Misc	116.00	100.00	100.00
418 · Delinquent Tax Collector	9,514.50	12,000.00	12,000.00
<b>Total 4000 · ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>	<b>90,312.86</b>	<b>114,350.00</b>	<b>114,350.00</b>

<b>4200 · OFFICE EXPENSE</b>			
420 · Tax Bills	400.00	450.00	450.00
421 · Document Books	7,356.56	1,000.00	1,000.00
422 · Dog Tags & Registration	84.81	125.00	125.00
423 · Paper, Envelopes & Supplies	882.49	1,000.00	1,000.00
424 · Postage	1,047.62	1,500.00	1,500.00
425 · Office Misc/Supplies	811.39	800.00	800.00
426 · Bank Fees	0.00	100.00	100.00
428 · Media/Advertising	493.40	1,200.00	1,200.00
<b>Total 4200 · OFFICE EXPENSE</b>	<b>11,076.27</b>	<b>6,175.00</b>	<b>6,175.00</b>
<b>4300 · OFFICE EQUIPMENT EXPENSE</b>			
432 · Copier Expense	327.38	1,000.00	1,000.00
434 · Computer Expenses	4,634.80	5,500.00	9,000.00
436 · Equipment, furniture & fixtures	2,845.49	4,200.00	4,200.00
438 · Miscellaneous	0.00	250.00	250.00
<b>Total 4300 · OFFICE EQUIPMENT EXPENSE</b>	<b>7,807.67</b>	<b>10,950.00</b>	<b>14,450.00</b>
<b>4400 · TOWN CENTER UTILITIES</b>			
440 · Electricity	1,469.27	2,000.00	2,000.00
442 · Telephone	890.32	1,500.00	1,500.00
444 · Heating Fuel	3,880.23	4,000.00	4,000.00
446 · Furnace Maintenance	75.00	750.00	750.00
447 · Security Monitoring System	886.96	1,000.00	1,000.00
448 · Propane	156.79	300.00	300.00
<b>Total 4400 · TOWN CENTER UTILITIES</b>	<b>7,358.57</b>	<b>9,550.00</b>	<b>9,550.00</b>
<b>4500 · TOWN CENTER JANITORIAL</b>			
450 · Janitor Services	1,525.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
453 · Supplies	0.00	200.00	200.00
<b>Total 4500 · TOWN CENTER JANITORIAL</b>	<b>1,525.00</b>	<b>2,700.00</b>	<b>2,700.00</b>
<b>4600 · TOWN CENTER MAINTENANCE</b>			
463 · Supplies	108.24	500.00	500.00
464 · Capital Improvement/Maintenance	7,775.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Total 4600 · TOWN CENTER MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>7,883.24</b>	<b>10,500.00</b>	<b>10,500.00</b>
<b>4700 · COMMUNITY HOUSE MAINTENANCE</b>			
470 · Maintenance	48.00	0.00	
473 · Supplies	0.00	150.00	150.00
474 · Electricity	272.50	500.00	500.00
475 · Capital Improvement/Maintenance	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
476 · Propane	238.25	250.00	250.00
<b>Total 4700 · COMMUNITY HOUSE MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>558.75</b>	<b>15,900.00</b>	<b>15,900.00</b>
<b>4800 · TOWN GARAGE</b>			
480 · Electricity	1,996.02	2,300.00	2,300.00
481 · Heating Fuel/Propane	3,667.39	4,000.00	4,000.00
482 · Supplies	298.17	500.00	500.00
484 · Uniform(contract services)	1,909.06	2,400.00	2,400.00
485 · Capital Improvement/Maintenance	4,654.04	14,000.00	14,000.00
486 · Telephone	417.24	500.00	500.00
<b>Total 4800 · TOWN GARAGE</b>	<b>12,941.92</b>	<b>23,700.00</b>	<b>23,700.00</b>



**5100 · PAYROLL TAXES/BENEFITS**

512 · Soc Sec/Medicare Tax	13,531.01	16,000.00	16,000.00
517-VT Dept.of Employment and Training		250.00	250.00
518 - County Tax	17,290.96	20,000.00	20,000.00
519 - Payroll Processing Fee	226.00	800.00	0.00
<b>Total 5100 · PAYROLL TAXES/BENEFITS</b>	<b>31,047.97</b>	<b>37,050.00</b>	<b>36,250.00</b>

**6200-GENERAL SERVICES**

626 · Landfill	21,595.49	32,000.00	25,000.00
628 · Street Lighting	1,776.36	3,500.00	3,500.00
634 · Constable Expense	274.89	400.00	400.00
636 · Animal Warden	2,798.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
<b>Total 6200 · GENERAL SERVICES</b>	<b>26,444.74</b>	<b>39,400.00</b>	<b>32,400.00</b>

**7000 · HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT**

700 · Gasoline	74.71	200.00	200.00
701 · Oil	2,504.49	2,500.00	3,000.00
702 · Diesel	18,760.97	20,000.00	20,000.00
703 · Small Tools	1,194.25	2,500.00	2,500.00
704 · Radio Repairs	0.00	500.00	500.00
705 · Street Signs	1,440.20	2,000.00	2,000.00
706 · Truck #1-Maint/Repairs	15,480.94	4,500.00	4,500.00
708 · Truck #2-Maint/Repairs	4,490.19	4,500.00	4,500.00
710 · Chipper Maint/Repairs	0.00	500.00	500.00
710.5 · Truck #3 Maint/Repairs	337.68	3,500.00	3,500.00
712 · Grader-Maint/Repairs	2,491.33	5,800.00	5,800.00
714 · Sander-Maint/Repairs	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
716 · Small Equip-Maint/Repairs	283.72	500.00	500.00
718 · Backhoe-Maint/Repairs	1,058.20	5,000.00	5,000.00
<b>Total 7000 · HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>48,116.68</b>	<b>53,000.00</b>	<b>53,500.00</b>

**7200 SUMMER ROADS (CLASS 2&3)**

721 · Culverts	1,036.00	38,000.00	5,000.00
722 · Cal. Chloride	3,397.60	7,000.00	7,000.00
724 · Resurfacing Crushed Gravel	23,600.00	22,000.00	22,000.00
725 · Contract Services	1,419.16	10,000.00	10,000.00
726 · General Maintenance	6,516.32	2,000.00	2,000.00
727 · Labor -1st Employee	24,317.10	25,000.00	26,500.00
727.5 · OT Labor-1st Employee	19.90	600.00	600.00
728 · Labor -2nd Employee	18,943.24	18,000.00	20,000.00
728.5 · OT Labor-2nd Employee	84.75	500.00	500.00
729 · Equipment Rental	14,473.15	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Total 7200 · SUMMER ROADS (CLASS 2&amp;3)</b>	<b>93,807.22</b>	<b>133,100.00</b>	<b>103,600.00</b>

**7400-WINTER ROADS (Class 2&3)**

741 · Plow and Chains	2,228.22	4,000.00	4,000.00
743 · Contract Services	0.00	1,250.00	1,250.00
744 · Sand	36,758.00	28,000.00	28,000.00
745 · Salt	51,807.40	40,000.00	46,000.00
746 · Labor -1st Employee	23,797.41	27,000.00	27,000.00
747 · Labor-2nd Employee	16,702.21	19,000.00	19,000.00
748 · Overtime -1st Employee	6,785.90	9,500.00	9,500.00
749 · Overtime-2nd Employee	3,234.63	6,500.00	6,500.00
750 · General Maintenance	81.94	500.00	500.00

<b>Total 7400 · WINTER ROADS (CLASS 2&amp;3)</b>	<b>141,395.71</b>	<b>135,750.00</b>	<b>141,750.00</b>
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**7700- BRIDGES**

775 - Materials	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
776- Construction		2,500.00	2,500.00

<b>Total 7700 · BRIDGES</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>
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**7900 · HIGHWAY**

791-Bereavement	106.12	300.00	300.00
792 · Health Insurance	36,437.53	38,000.00	42,000.00
793 · Retirement	7,593.69	8,000.00	8,000.00
794 · Vacation Days	3,451.83	5,000.00	5,000.00
794.5 · Holidays Paid	4,496.86	4,500.00	5,000.00
794.8 · Sick Days	1,346.02	3,000.00	3,000.00

<b>Total 7900 · HIGHWAY</b>	<b>53,432.05</b>	<b>58,800.00</b>	<b>63,300.00</b>
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**8000- MISCELLANEOUS**

800 · Approp -Comm Agencies	16,590.00	20,000.00	22,000.00
803 · Select Board Discretionary Fund	333.69	2,500.00	2,500.00
805 · Reappraisal	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
806 · New Pavement Reserve	22,500.00	22,500.00	22,500.00
807 · Highway Resurface Fund	26,000.00	26,000.00	35,000.00
808 · Fire Engine Fund	22,500.00	25,000.00	40,000.00
809 · Village Green	2,500.00	2,500.00	3,500.00
810 · Highway Equip Fund	75,000.00	75,000.00	75,000.00
811* Town Park			2,000.00
817 · Digitize Maps	0.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
818-Document Restoration			0.00
852 · Town Tree Maintenance	1,400.00	3,000.00	3,000.00

<b>Total 8000 · MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>171,823.69</b>	<b>183,900.00</b>	<b>212,900.00</b>
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**9000 · FIRE DEPT**

901 · Fire Dept. Insurance	6,704.75	9,000.00	9,000.00
902 · Radios and Dispatch	16,036.00	17,000.00	17,000.00
903 · Assoc. Dues and School Fees	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
904 · Engine and Equipment Maint	5,655.94	4,000.00	4,000.00
906 · Propane	2,918.81	3,000.00	3,000.00
907 · Misc. and Supplies	17.00	500.00	500.00
908 · Capital Improvement/Maintenance	5,113.75	10,000.00	10,000.00
909 · Payroll	6,416.32	6,000.00	6,000.00

<b>Total 9000 FIRE DEPT</b>	<b>42,862.57</b>	<b>52,000.00</b>	<b>52,000.00</b>
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<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b>748,394.91</b>	<b>890,325.00</b>	<b>896,525.00</b>
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**Town of Peru General Fund - Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, Appropriations and Changes in Fund Balance**

		AUTHORIZED	ACTUAL
REVENUE		18-19	18-19
300	Taxes	\$ 579,400.00	\$ 594,965.15
	Surplus applied to Tax Rate	150,000.00	
316	State of VT Current Use	17,500.00	20,055.00
318	Penalties Delinquent Taxes*	9,000.00	9,514.50
322,324,325	License/ Dog, Beverage	1,400.00	1,390.00
326	Zoning Permits	1,500.00	1,589.50
328	Hunting/Fishing Licenses	25.00	9.00
332	Town Clerk Fees	10,000.00	14,736.60
334	Rental of TC Equipment	75.00	32.00
336	Rental of Facilities	75.00	151.00
338	State Aid Highways	40,000.00	49,844.50
340	Interest Income	4,300.00	5,221.31
344	Misc. Income	750.00	236.50
346	Green Mountain National Forest	40,000.00	51,482.20
Total Revenue		<u>854,025.00</u>	<u>749,227.26</u>
EXPENDITURES	(See itemized accounts)		
400-418	Administration	119,850.00	90,344.86
420-438	Office/Equipment	21,525.00	18,883.94
440-487	Total Buildings	60,550.00	30,267.48
512-519	Taxes and Assessments	36,250.00	31,050.41
626-638	General Services	40,200.00	26,444.74
700-796	Highway & Roads	343,750.00	336,734.44
901-910	Fire Department	51,500.00	42,862.57
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		<u>673,625.00</u>	<u>576,588.44</u>
APPROPRIATIONS			
803	Discretionary Fund	2,500.00	333.69
805	Reappraisal	5,000.00	5,000.00
806	New Pavement Reserve	22,500.00	22,500.00
807	Highway Resurface Fund	26,000.00	26,000.00
808	Fire Engine Fund	22,500.00	22,500.00
809	Village Green	2,500.00	2,500.00
810	Highway Equipment Fund	75,000.00	75,000.00
812	Digitized Maps	2,400.00	
852	Town Tree Maintenance	2,000.00	1,400.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		<u>160,400.00</u>	<u>155,233.69</u>
WARNING ARTICLES			
800	Appropriations Community Services	<u>20,000.00</u>	<u>16,590.00</u>
TOTAL, Exp.,Approp.,Warning		<u>854,025.00</u>	<u>748,412.13</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		<u>0.00</u>	<u>\$815.13</u>
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE			
Opening Fund Balance, July 1, 2018			414,774.96
Ending Fund Balance, June 30, 2019			<u>\$415,590.09</u>

## Balance Sheets

	General Fund	Special Funds	Trust & Agency	Total
Assets				
Municipal NOW	\$397,968.93	\$674,062.24	\$44,642.23	\$1,116,673.40
Petty Cash	150.00			150.00
Stock/Mutual Funds			105,367.74	105,367.74
Delinquent Taxes Receivable	21,994.65			21,994.65
Total Assets	<u>\$420,113.58</u>	<u>\$674,062.24</u>	<u>\$150,009.97</u>	<u>\$1,244,185.79</u>
Liabilities				
Accrued Payroll & Payrol Taxes	\$4,523.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,523.49
Accounts payable				
Total Liabilities	<u>4,523.49</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,523.49</u>
Fund Balance				
Appropriated		674,062.24	147,638.68	821,700.92
Unappropriated	415,590.09		2,371.29	417,961.38
Total Fund Balance	<u>415,590.09</u>	<u>674,062.24</u>	<u>150,009.97</u>	<u>1,239,662.30</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	<u>\$420,113.58</u>	<u>\$674,062.24</u>	<u>\$150,009.97</u>	<u>\$1,244,185.79</u>

## Special Funds, Statement of Revenues, Expenditures & Changes in Fund Balance

	Equipment	Highway Resurface/Bridges	Fire Engine Equipment	Kelton Family Comm. Fund	Sewer Land	Peru Park	Village Green	Re-Appraisal	New Pavement	TOTAL
<b>REVENUE</b>										
From General Fund	\$75,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$22,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$22,500.00	\$153,500.00
From State of VT -Grant		48,000.00								48,000.00
Interest Income	43.20	19.26	94.27	1.33	9.60	1.41	0.94	35.65	70.73	276.39
From Kelton Family Fund				5,006.00			2,250.00			7,256.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	75,043.20	74,019.26	22,594.27	5,007.33	9.60	1.41	4,750.94	5,035.65	22,570.73	209,032.39
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>										
Bank Fee					25.00					25.00
Glebe Mtn. Garden							2,266.12			2,266.12
Londonderry Hardware							129.22			129.22
Fuller Sand and Gravel		62,023.70								62,023.70
VT Recreational & Surfacing		19,923.25								19,923.25
Grants from Kelton Family Fund				3,830.00						3,830.00
RK Miles/Frost							510.36			510.36
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	0.00	81,946.95	0.00	3,830.00	25.00		2,905.70			88,707.65
Revenues in Excess of Expenditures (Deficit)	75,043.20	(7,927.69)	22,594.27	1,177.33	(15.40)	1.41	1,845.24	5,035.65	22,570.73	120,324.74
Fund Balance June 30, 2018	83,965.45	43,279.46	187,554.57	3,349.22	19,211.68	2,808.32	1,967.46	71,045.74	140,555.60	553,737.50
Fund Balance June 30, 2019	\$159,008.65	\$35,351.77	\$210,148.84	\$4,526.55	\$19,196.28	\$2,809.73	\$3,812.70	\$76,081.39	\$163,126.33	\$674,062.24



## Statement of Taxes Raised & Distributed

### Grand Lists:

Municipal Grand List	\$2,240,562.54	
Billed at x	0.2586	
	<u>\$579,409.47</u>	
Less Credit	<u>\$3,092.66</u>	\$576,316.81
Education Grand List	Resident 419,080.00	
Billed at x	1.4718	
	<u>\$616,801.94</u>	
Less Credit	<u>177,231.23</u>	439,570.71
Education Grand List	Non-Resident 1,730,493.61	
Billed at x	1.5739	
	<u>\$2,723,623.89</u>	<u>2,723,623.89</u>
		\$3,739,511.41
State Adjustment based on final education Grand List		-14,806.56
Post Grand List Adjustments (late-filed HS122, errors & omissions, etc)		<u>24,529.26</u>
Total Tax Raised		<u><u>\$3,749,234.11</u></u>

### Distribution of Taxes:

State Education Fund-Peru School District-FBUS	\$3,154,268.96
General Fund	<u>594,965.15</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>\$3,749,234.11</u></u>

## Statement of Delinquent Taxes

<b>Balance, 6/30/18</b>	\$8,031.78
Collected	<u>(6,588.54)</u>
Sub Total	1,443.24
Delinquent	<u>20,551.41</u>
<b>Balance, 6/30/19</b>	<u><u>\$21,994.65</u></u>

## Funding Requests to the Town of Peru

### Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless

Town of Peru

Dear Selectors,

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless (BCCH) respectfully asks to be placed on the March 2020 Town Meeting ballot for funds in the amount of \$500. The voters of Peru have generously voted to support BCCH in the past and we hope they will do so again in the coming year.

BCCH gratefully acknowledges the Town of Peru's support for Bennington County families and individuals experiencing Homelessness. BCCH strives to prevent and end homelessness by providing emergency overnight shelter, short term emergency housing, and transitional housing. We are committed to providing more than just a bed. Our programming provides the building blocks necessary for people to become self-sufficient so that they may sustain permanent housing and remain independent. Because we strive for sustainable solutions, clients are required to participate in coordinated case management with our staff and partner agencies. *Other* offerings include life skills classes, employment readiness coaching, budgeting and credit repair.

BCCH currently houses 65 people each night in our two shelter facilities: 966 Main Emergency Shelter, Thatcher House Family Shelter. Of the 298 individuals we served last year, almost 52 were children in families. By day, 966 Main operates as a drop-in center where those in need can gain access to clothing, bedding, and personal care products. They are also able to utilize the kitchen and bathroom facilities, meet with a case manager, and use the computers to search and apply for employment opportunities.

A portion of the BCCH annual budget is made up of state grants. The remainder of the budget is made up of town funding appropriations, foundation grants, and donations from our community. Town participation is a crucial part of our annual budget and it is our hope that the Town of Peru will include BCCH on the March ballot for town funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Stephannie Peters  
Executive Director

*Bennington Coalition for the Homeless*

## Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse

To the Citizens of the Town of Peru,

On behalf of the Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse (dba Bennington County Child Advocacy Center), I would like to thank you for supporting our organization this year. The support you give our organization allows us to continue to provide support to victims and community members living in the Peru community.

In October 2019 we were awarded re-accreditation by the National Children's Alliance following an extensive application and site review process. Accredited Child Advocacy Centers must undergo a re-accreditation process every five years to ensure that best practices are continually applied.

We support the Town of Peru by:

- Providing direct services to children and families upon the commencement of an alleged child abuse case, for as long as needed, regardless of the judicial outcome. For victims and their non-offending family, we provide support for up to three years, or sometimes longer, depending on the judicial process and the needs of the family.
- Providing direct services to adult victims of sexual abuse, for as long as needed, regardless of the judicial outcome.
- Housing a child-friendly interview room and a private family waiting room.
- Serving as a resource to any adult working with children.
- Holding several community awareness events during the month of April. We have continued the #Benningtongoesblue campaign, Clothesline Project, Candlelight Vigil, and our pinwheel garden.
- Hosting Just Bike! Justice for kids. In late September we host this event to bring families together for a walk/bike event.
- Collecting and repairing bikes through our Bike Drive for kids in foster care/ kinship care.

We respectfully ask for your continued support this year in the amount of \$500.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joy Kitchell, Executive Director

## Bennington County Child Advocacy Center & Special Investigation Unit

December 12, 2019

Dear Peru Selectboard:

The Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse (DBA: Bennington County Child Advocacy Center and Special Investigations Unit) would like to request continue funding support/appropriations in the amount of 500.00 from the Town of Peru for 2020.

The Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse, established in 1989, is a non-profit, nationally accredited agency that provides support to all Bennington County residents. We were created to: help children and their families begin the process of healing after a child has been a victim of sexual abuse or egregious physical abuse; conduct quality investigations; reduce stress and trauma to the victim; and protect the victim in the community. Because of our continued efforts, we can anticipate and respond to the needs of children and their families more effectively, lessen the stress of the court process, and increase access to resources needed by the family.

### What We Do

- Provide direct services to children and families upon the commencement of an alleged child abuse case, for as long as needed, regardless of judicial outcome.
- Provide direct services to adult victims of sexual abuse, for as long as needed, regardless of judicial outcome.
- House a child-friendly interview room and a private family waiting room.
- Ensure that our investigators and case coordinator stay abreast of current best practices
- Maintain a Multi-Disciplinary Team, which, promotes cooperative efforts between disciplines: law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, medical, mental health, victim advocacy, schools and child advocacy center staff.
- Provide school and community outreach.
- Serve as a resource to any adult working with children.

The Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse appreciates your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact me at if you there is an interest.

Sincerely,

Joy Kitchell, Executive Director



## Bennington County Conservation District

The mission of the BCCD is to promote rural livelihoods and protect natural resources in southwestern Vermont. Our work in fiscal year 2019 included:

Hiring a new district manager, Katy Crumley, after Shelly Stiles' retirement. Katy brings experience in wildlife and land management, as well as experience working on small organic farms. She is excited to continue the district's mission and add value to our communities.

With help from the Bennington and N. Bennington public works and roads crews, completing the construction of a boardwalk for floater access in Greenberg Headwaters Park in Bennington. We also partnered with the Town of Bennington and Shelly Stiles (previous BCCD district manager) to research the possibility of connecting Headwaters Park with the old One World Conservation property.

Partnering with the Town of Shaftsbury to complete under road drainage and culvert replacement with ditching, on Trumble Hill. Additional culverts and ditches in need of replacement were identified on Kelly Stand Rd. with the assistance of the road foreman. Cost estimates and scope of work were created for this project.

Found funding for the Town of Rupert, to install best management practices and protect water quality at its garage site.

With the considerable help of an EcoAmericorps member, headquartered at BCCD, we implemented the work plan for the Batten Kill Watershed Comprehensive Invasive Species Management Association (CISMA). Projects included invasive species treatments on several public and privately owned parcels; workshops; newspaper articles; and much social media outreach.

Providing agriculture technical assistance to farmers in Bennington County, to develop nutrient management plans, conduct soil and water samples and direct farmers to applicable resources.

Completing a Trees for Streams planting at Merck Forest and Farmland Center, Rupert, to reduce sediment and nutrient run-off into Mill Brook/White Creek. Planting occurred with the partnership of Merck Forest staff and Burr and Burton Academy students. An additional planting was completed on private property along the Battenkill, in conjunction with our CISMA partners. Future buffer plantings are scheduled for Spring 2020, in conjunction with CISMA and the Battenkill Watershed Alliance.

Assisting with the development and review of the new 5-year Deerfield Basin 12 plan.

Secured funding for stormwater system improvements at the Arlington school and library complex. Deliverables include four, 100% designs detailing these improvements.

Aided Bennington College in the organization and hosting of an Emerald Ash Borer workshop.

Working closely with USFS Green Mountain National Forest, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, our regional planning commission, many municipalities, and several local and regional non-profit organizations to further our congruent missions.



## Bennington Rutland Opportunity Center

To the Citizens of the Town of Peru,

On behalf of BROOC Community Action and the thousands of people with low income or living in poverty that we serve in Rutland and Bennington counties, I want to personally thank you for supporting us as a budget line item over the years. BROOC Community Action continues to experience many people seeking our programs and services each day.

Over the past year, BROOC Community Action assisted 1 Peru resident who had their needs met including food at our Community Food Shelf, case management and counseling and budget counseling through our Community Services department.

Despite these outcomes BROOC Community Action has achieved for the residents of the Town of Peru over the past year, there is still more work to do. People come to us cold, hungry, homeless, jobless or facing major health conditions every day. Your appropriation helps ease the struggle for more than 10,000 people who seek assistance from us each year as we meet the basic needs of their families and provide a path forward.

***Respectfully, our appropriation request for the upcoming year is \$200.00.***

We value our partnership with Peru to assist those most in need.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Donahue, CEO  
[tdonahue@broc.org](mailto:tdonahue@broc.org)

## Cemetery Commission

As with last year's low interest rates, income from accounts that we can only use the interest from for perpetual care is down. Due to the age of the trees in the cemeteries there has been more and expensive pruning required. Therefore, the Cemetery Commission is requesting that the appropriation from the Town be increased to \$5,000.00, so we can continue to adequately maintain the cemeteries and complete repairs as they become necessary.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peru Cemetery Commission

Stewart Beattie, Chairman

Dec. 2019

Dear Peru Residents,

The Collaborative appreciates your vote of confidence as you vote for the 2020-21 budget. In 2019, The Collaborative marked **twenty years** of providing quality afterschool care for families with children attending Flood Brook School. Since 1999, we have grown from a small after school program to an organization providing a wide range of individual, youth, and family programs focused on preventing youth substance use, supporting working families and creating a healthy community.

In the town budget we are requesting funds to support The Collaborative Extended Day Program, Collaborative Camp and the Refuse to Use program. Over half of FBS students are enrolled in the Extended Day Program. Each day students utilize the high-quality state licensed after school care, where they enjoy an engaging activity, snack, and homework help. Over one hundred campers this year at our Flood Brook School based summer camp participated in interactive activities while enjoying our local outdoor environment. Swim lessons are available for each camper for no additional charge at Collaborative Camp. We work hard to make these services available to all families regardless of ability to pay the tuition. During the 2019-2020 school year and summer camp, we provided nearly \$7,000 in scholarships. Over 400 students participated in The Refuse to Use Program which included more than eight hours of hands-on education about refusal skills, activity alternatives, and the risk and harms of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use for each student.

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

Sincerely,



Maryann Morris

Executive Director

## Center for Restorative Justice

Dear Selectboard,

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 have any questions or need any additional information, I can be reached at 447-1595 or email [leitha@bcrl.org](mailto:leitha@bcrl.org). CRJ is very grateful for your continued support.

Thank you very much.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leitha Cipriano", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Leitha Cipriano  
Executive Director

## Flood Brook Athletic Association

### **FBAA Board Members**

#### **President**

Sarah Kiefer

#### **Vice President**

Harry Lux

#### **Treasurer**

Fern Cyr

#### **Secretary**

Jessica Clapp

#### **Basketball Commissioners**

Sarah Kiefer

Josh Rourke

#### **Baseball Commissioner**

Harry Lux

#### **Members at Large:**

Stephen Bergleithner

Linda Ewens

Rachel Febbie

Dave Kiefer

Jason Klezos

Dan Long

Jason Marino

Lini Mazumdar

Jay Ouellette

Dear Residents, Taxpayers, and Peru Town Select Board,

The Flood Brook Athletic Association (FBAA) would like to thank all of the residents, taxpayers, and the Town's Select Board for all your support over the years for our programs. FBAA is a volunteer run, nonprofit organization, whose mission is to provide high quality and inclusive opportunities for our local youth to participate in affordable athletic programs. We are committed to providing athletic experiences that promote individual and team skill development, collaborative teamwork, and perseverance. We are comprised of volunteers who are dedicated to organizing our programs, raising funds for uniforms and equipment, and contributing to the maintenance of the dugouts, fields, and scoreboards at Flood Brook School and Pingree Park.

In the past year, FBAA has rejuvenated our middle school baseball program, doubled the number of athletes in our PreK-6 baseball program, introduced ultimate frisbee, dance, and cross country clubs, and, in collaboration with BRSU, replaced the two main hoops at Flood Brook School. We also installed a solar scoreboard at Pingree Park. We continue to offer a robust basketball program with 75 players currently registered for the upcoming season in grades K-6. Combined, our programs had over 200 youth

participants over the course of the last school year.

In order to continue our work with the area youth, we would like to humbly request to the residents, taxpayers and Peru Town Select Board to consider appropriating \$1000.00 to assist us in continuing to provide these valuable programs.

In closing, we would like to thank the residents of Peru, our players' parents and families, the volunteer coaches and referees, and the local businesses who sponsor our programs for supporting our organizational activities and our local youth. We are very grateful for the community support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Flood Brook Athletic Association Board



## Green Up Vermont

Dear Town:

10/14/2019

Thank you for your past appropriation for Green Up Vermont, your help is crucial to sustain our mission of cleaning up our roadways and waterways. Your contribution is greatly appreciated! As Green Up rolls into our 50th year, we are again asking for your continued support for 2020.

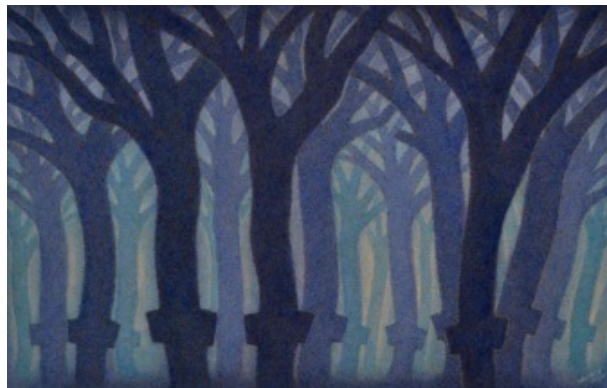
For your convenience, below is an invoice in the amount you appropriated last year. Please note that many towns allocate money through their Road Line budget each year. The amount requested is based on town population:

- 0- 1,000: \$50
- 1001 - 2000: \$100
- 2001 - 3000: \$150
- 3001 – 4,000: \$200
- 4,001 up: \$300

Green Up Vermont is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to promote and organize a statewide clean-up day, always the first Saturday in May, and to raise public awareness for a litter free environment. Quick litter stats from 2019: 43 tons of litter and over 2,100 tires were collected. This data is from only about half of our participating towns that filed post-Green Up reports. We will be striving to obtain better statistics for 2020.

Mark your calendar for Green Up Day 2020, May 2nd and help us celebrate 50 years of keeping Vermont green! Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or comments. As the new Executive Director, I look forward to working with you. Thank you!

Kate Alberghini  
Executive Director  
Green Up Vermont  
802-229-4586 | [greenup@greenupvermont.org](mailto:greenup@greenupvermont.org)





## Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad

Dear Select Board:

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

Our dedicated squad of about forty members is available day and night for emergency calls. We are licensed EMS professionals on many levels who undergo extensive training, initially to gain our respective CPR, EMR, EMT, AEMT and Paramedic licenses, then to maintain them with additional hours of training on a bi-annual basis. Our rescue truck, MCI trailer and ambulances are equipped with medical equipment according to state and national standards. We stand ready to serve our communities at a moment's notice with no personal compensation whatsoever.

No one is ever billed for our services; however, we do have significant expenses. This year we purchased a four-wheel drive ambulance with a power load cot to get us to the scene safely on snowy roads and to help save our backs while lifting patients. All EMS equipment is very expensive. The new ambulance cost approximately \$290,000.00, and hopefully will last eight to ten years.

Again, we ask for the same donation as last year of \$4,000.00.

Sincerely,

LQRS Executive Committee

## Mountain Valley Medical Center

Dear Select Board:


As you know when Mountain Valley joined Springfield Medical Care Systems, we became part of a Federally Qualified Health Center and this means all our patients are entitled to the medical care they need regardless of their ability to pay.

Mountain Valley Health Center set up an "emergency relief fund" to support patients in our catchment area who are struggling to pay for their medical care. We regularly fund office visits, prescriptions, copays, provide gas cards and many other circumstantial expenses related to medical care. The fund is used only for patients seen at MVHC who live in our catchment area. This money is not used for any care sought outside MVHC or for any non-MVHC patients.

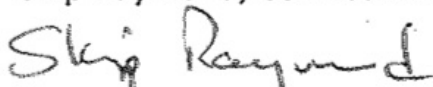
We are asking Peru for \$3,000 appropriation in this year's budget. This amount is based on unrecompensed services we provided to residences in 2019 from our emergency relief fund.

Due to decreases in donations, town appropriation amounts and less compensation for our services rendered added to additional expenses on our physical plant and lab, we are asking all villages we serve to contribute to this fund.

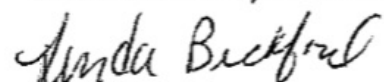
Thank you for your consideration,

  
Elsie Smith, Co-President

Skip Raymond, Co-President



Linda Bickford, Director



## Neighborhood Connections

Dear Select Board:

Neighborhood Connections, Inc. is a community-based nonprofit serving nine towns in southern Vermont, including Peru. Our focus is on people who have fallen through the cracks of governmental support systems. They may suffer from: poor health, inadequate housing, food insecurity, loneliness or depression amongst various other challenges. Too often they experience more than one of these challenges.

In order to enable us to continue providing supports for our neighbors, we are requesting \$1000 from Peru for use in our general operating budget. During the past year Peru residents accounted for over 62 services that were provided by Neighborhood Connections.

Some of the other services provided include (this is not an exhaustive list):

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| *Advocacy and referrals              | *Safety and wellness monitoring                    |
| *Health Services                     | *Access to Mental Health services                  |
| *Food Assistance & Nutrition         | *Applications for Medicare and Medicaid enrollment |
| *Heating crisis and Funds for Repair | *Crisis Intervention                               |
| *Employment Counseling               | *Legal Referrals                                   |
| *Tax Return Assistance               |  |
| *Short-term Financial Assistance     |  |

In addition, we coordinate services voluntarily provided by other organizations and volunteers with whom we partner. These may include home improvements, transportation services, companionship home visits, etc. Coordination with others enables Neighborhood Connections to significantly expand the quantity and range of services that we can offer to those in need.

Neighborhood Connections also provides a "Meeting Place" for a variety of community organizations. In the past year, the Meeting place hosted more than 50 meetings and talks with over 400 attendees. Among the groups using the Meeting Place are Clean & Sober, the Tri-Mountains Lions Club, AARP (for tax assistance), and mental health providers. Since 2014, the Meeting Place has also served as the location for monthly meetings of "Community Partners"- an initiative composed of more than 30 volunteers groups and community-based organizations that come together to share information and strategies on the most effective and efficient ways to meet the needs of the residents of the towns they serve.

We hope you will continue to provide us with the financial support that we need so that we can help our neighbors in need.

With sincerest gratitude,

Delores Barbeau, MD,  
Interim Executive Director

## Protect Against Violent Encounters

Dear Peru Selectboard:

Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE), an agency which serves the needs of victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence, is requesting \$150 from the Town of Peru for the FY 2020.

PAVE is committed to providing compassionate support, practical services and the pathway to healing and safety for countless victims of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout Bennington County. Our organization has grown from a crisis hotline to the multiple and comprehensive support services we now provide. These services include 24-hour hotline, court and social service advocacy, case management, emergency financial assistance, access to legal services, access to emergency housing, supervised visitation, parenting classes, community awareness, school-based prevention education and more.

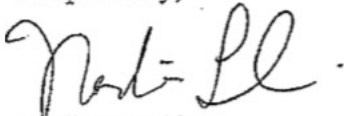
The hotline is still where it often begins for victims accessing our services and our volunteers remain the backbone of the support we offer. In the past year, we provided 2 Peru residents with comprehensive services. Both of those residents made initial contact with us through the emergency hotline. These residents received advocacy services including emotional support, safety planning, court advocacy, case management and housing services. In addition, 1 family with 1 child received supervised visitation services through our Family Time Program.

Domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness among families. Our emergency shelter program provides families with short-term housing and case management services with the goal of obtaining safe, permanent housing. In the past year, we provided 89 adults and 58 children with 3,745 nights of shelter services.

To stop the generational cycle of abuse, we must start early and invest in prevention strategies that provide healthy parent-child relationships, friendships and dating relationships. Through our education and empowerment programs pre-kindergarten to college; Nurturing Parenting classes, Women's Support Groups, Healthy Mind, Body and Family workshops and Financial Literacy Program, we've helped over 3,500 children, teachers and other adults learn new skills and techniques.

We hope the town of Peru will once again be able to support the work of PAVE with a donation of \$150. On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and families served, I thank the residents of Peru for your ongoing support to PAVE. Your support creates greater opportunities for the people impacted by domestic and/or sexual violence who need our services each year.

Respectfully,



Nadia Lucchin  
Executive Director



## 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 of 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, design installations, and find financial support to support the costs of construction. During the **22+ years** of the program, over **1100 grants** totaling **\$2.6 million** have been provided to Vermont towns for installation of new rural fire protection systems, as well as for replacements and repairs.

Over the past several years, the Rural Fire Protection Program has made a successful transition from the Northern Vermont and George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils to the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD). VACD is the membership association of Vermont's fourteen Natural Resources Conservations Districts, whose mission is to work with landowners and communities to protect natural resources and support the working landscape throughout the state.

We have made a number of adjustments to the Rural Fire Protection Grant Program in recent years, including changing the name from Dry Hydrant Grant Program to Rural Fire Protection Program to better reflect the diverse range of projects we support. We have increased the maximum grant award amount from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per project. New Rural Fire Protection systems along with repair, replacement, relocation, upgrades of existing RFP systems, and drafting site development 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 2019 was \$154,325, of which \$63,450 was paid in grants to Vermont communities for construction costs. The remaining budget covers site assessments, project design and program oversight. Most of our funding comes from 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 \$100 appropriation in your town budget to support the Rural Fire Protection Program. Since last year's appropriation request, we have received nearly **\$10,000** in town appropriations from almost **100** towns, with contributions still coming in. We are deeply grateful for this ongoing support.

**215** 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 a summary report for the Rural Water Supply Grant Program, as well as an invoice, W-9 and tax form 990 from VACD in case they are required. 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,



Tom Maclay, Chair



## Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging

Dear Selectmen,

This is a request from the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging for \$200.00 in funding in your FY '21 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 elders.

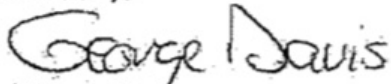
The enclosed document provides a brief description of the services the Council on Aging provided to older Vermonterers in your community over the last year and is designed for use in your town report. Please contact me if you have any questions about any of this information.

I would be glad to arrange for a representative from our agency to appear at any meeting set to discuss this request.

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 dark ink that reads "George Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

George Davis  
Board President

## Vermont Center of Independent Living

Dear Ms. Cobb 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 fiscal year 2019.

Annual support from over 150 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; small grants for adaptive equipment; Meals on Wheels for people 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 help more 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 preliminary FY'20 budget.

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

Sincerely,



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

## Visiting Nurse and Hospice

Dear Selectboard and Citizens of Peru:

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) would like to express our gratitude to the Town of Peru for its longstanding support. Understanding the significant pressures on the town budget, we respectfully ask for your consideration of our request for funding in the amount of \$2,700.

VNH is an integral part of the community healthcare system in Peru. Without the services that we provide, there would be a significant gap in the community's continuum of care. Last year, VNH provided 61 visits to Peru residents of all ages and at all stages of life regardless of ability to pay. As the foremost team of hospice and home health experts for over 140 communities in Vermont and New Hampshire, VNH delivers nursing, hospice and rehabilitation services at home with proven effectiveness, integrity and compassion. Just as local families have counted on us since 1907, you can count on us today.

Our nurses, therapists, and social workers provide assessments, medical care, and education to assist people in maintaining their independence. In addition, we offer regular, free and low-cost blood pressure screenings as well as diabetic and non-diabetic foot care at our community wellness clinics. Patients, particularly our frail elderly and disabled, people with terminal illness, those recovering from major surgery or illness, and children with chronic medical needs, benefit through being able to receive the care they need in the familiarity and comfort of home. We urge you to consider the importance and cost-effectiveness of the work that VNH does to ensure the health and well-being of the community. Home healthcare is significantly less expensive than care provided in institutional settings.

Town funding and other contributions help close the gap between reimbursement for services provided and costs of those services. With adequate town funding, an affordable option for home healthcare is available to all Peru families in need. In order to continue meeting these needs, we urge the Town of Peru to budget 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,



Hilary Davis

Director Community Relations and Development

## Burr & Burton Letter from Headmaster

Dear Sending Town Voters:

We are pleased to submit to you our 2020-2021 sending town tuition of \$17,990, which constitutes a 2.8% increase from the current year. Our tuition for non-sending towns will be \$19,990. This tuition increase will help us to attract and retain outstanding teachers, provide an amazing array of opportunities to students, and remain affordable to our communities.

In reaching this decision, the board of trustees considered the impact of projected salary increases as well as a 12.9% increase in healthcare costs. The tuition increase will *not* cover the full cost of these items; with healthcare costs continuing to escalate, the board of trustees has challenged BBA's leadership to figure out how to stay in balance without passing these costs on to taxpayers. BBA's tuition has increased 2.7% annually over the last decade demonstrating our long-term commitment to maintaining affordability.

In addition to our tuition, we raise close to \$1 million annually to support operations, and we augment annual fundraising with an endowment draw of approximately \$800,000. Through our international program, we attract students from around the globe to enhance cultural diversity and understanding while providing \$3 million in supplemental revenue.

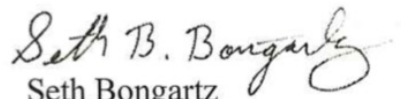
While tuition dollars represent an important source of funds for operations, funding for capital expenditures is raised privately. Private funding has enabled us to create the Target Program, Mountain Campus, the Dene Farm program, invest in sound and projection systems in our Riley Center for the Arts, purchase Steinway pianos, and more. We became an iPad school and have put iPads in the hands of every single student, expanded athletic offerings, constructed a state of the art turf field, renovated our fitness center, and are in the process of building a track and field at the Manchester rec park. In April 2020 we will break ground on Founders Hall, a 25,000 square-foot center for integrated learning.

BBA seeks to be a constant source of strength to our communities, and we are deeply appreciative of the support we receive from these communities.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark H. Tashjian  
Headmaster



Seth Bongartz  
Chair of the Board



