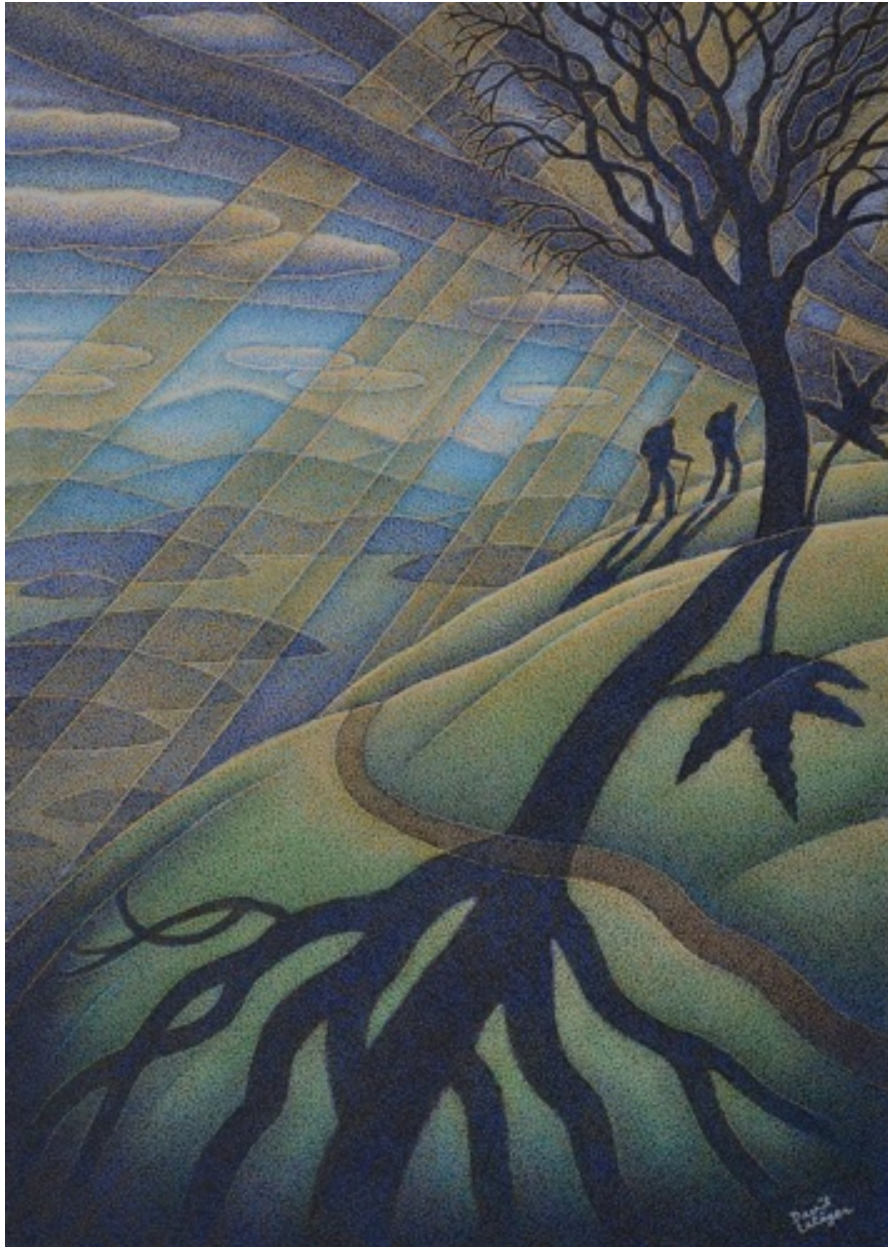


2020
Annual Report

Town of Peru, Vermont
Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020



Town Report also available online at peruvt.org

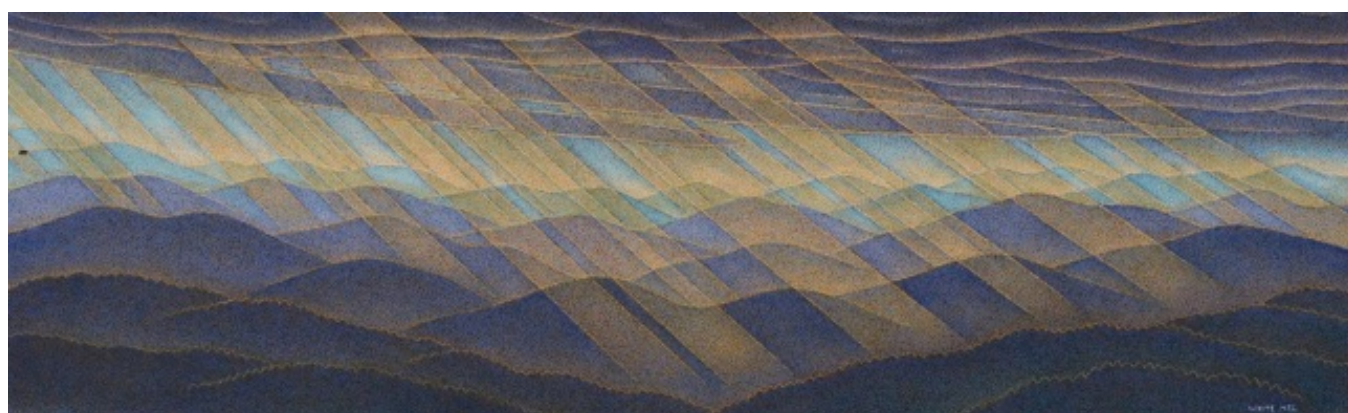
Please note Town Meeting occurs by Australian Ballot on Tuesday March 2, 2021

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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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire	911
Rescue	911
State Police	802.722.4600
Mountain Valley Medical Center	802.824.6901
First Town Constable, Mike Gayda	802.238.4991
Animal Control Officer, Pat Salo	802.688.4020
Fire Warden, Chuck Black	802.824.6793

SCHOOLS

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

VERMONT STATE LEGISLATURE

Senators:	
Brian Campion	e-mail: bcampion@leg.state.vt.us 802.753.7705
Richard Sears	e-mail: rsears@leg.state.vt.us 802.442.9139
Representative:	
Linda Joy Sullivan	e-mail: lsullivan@leg.state.vt.us 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 2021 – WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Peru are hereby warned and notified that the following articles will be voted by **Australian Ballot** on March 2nd, 2021 at the Peru Town Hall between the hours of 9 AM and 7 PM and that there will be an online informational meeting on March 1st, 2021 at 7 PM.

The online **information session** can be accessed using the following information, also available at peruvt.org

Time: March 1, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95704848031?pwd=OUtqQmV5OEJUbdZ0cDIBQ0dHQ114UT09>

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 957 0484 8031

Passcode: 629505

Article 1: To elect a Town Moderator

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

- A. Town Clerk for a term of one year;
- B. Town Treasurer for a term of one year;
- C. Selectboard member for a term of three years;
- D. Lister for a term of three years;
- E. Auditor for a term of three years;
- F. Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years;
- G. First Constable for a term of one year;
- H. Second Constable for a term of one year;
- I. Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year;
- J. Grand Juror for a term of one year;
- K. Trustee of Public Funds for a term of one year;

Article 3:

- A. Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses for the 2021-2022 fiscal year of \$926,275, of which \$616,650 shall be raised by taxes and \$309,625 by non-tax revenues?
- B. Shall the voters establish the date of payment of such taxes as July 1st, 2021 through September 30th, 2021.

Article 4: Shall the Voters authorize the Treasurer to collect current taxes?

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

	AMOUNT
Bennington County Conservation District	\$300
BROC Community Action	\$200
Cemetery Commission	\$5,000
The Collaborative	\$750
Center for Restorative Justice	\$300
Flood Brook Athletic Association	\$1,000
Green Up Vermont	\$50
Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad	\$4,000
Mountain Valley Health Council	\$3,000
Neighborhood Connections	\$1,000
Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE)	\$150
Rural Fire Protection Task Force	\$100
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging	\$200
Vt. Ctr. Of Independent Living	\$140
Bennington County Coalition for Homeless	\$500
Visiting Nurse & Hospice	\$2,700
Bennington County Child Advocacy Ctr.	\$500
South Londonderry Free Library	<u>\$1,000</u>
TOTAL REQUESTS	\$20,890

Article 6: Shall the voters approve 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 voters approve combining the New Pavement Reserve Fund with a balance of \$69,429.66 and the Highway Resurface Fund with a balance of \$61,383.89 plus any accrued interest into a new Reserve Fund called the Highway Surfacing Fund?

Article 8: Shall the voters approve combining the Village Green Reserve Fund with a balance of \$5,243.45 and the Peru Park Reserve Fund with a balance of \$2,907.01 plus any accrued interest into a new Reserve Fund called the Town Park Reserve Fund?

Article 9: Shall the Town of Peru vote a sum of money not to exceed \$200,000 to construct a multi-use pavilion on the Town Green.

Dated at Peru, Vermont, January 20, 2021

Minutes of Town Meeting, Peru, VT. March 3, 2020

Peru's Moderator, Gary Ameden, called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Gary welcomed everyone to the 2020 Peru Town Meeting. Gary asked all those who are new to the community or to Town Meeting to stand and introduce themselves. The following guests joined us this year: Laurie Cabis, The Collaborative. Claire Stetson and Kyle Isherwood. The Mountain Campus Spring 2020 students. Andy Dahlstrom, Head of Mountain Campus. Claudia Harris. 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 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. Gary asked if there was any discussion or comments. Ivanna Reed moved. Seconded by Gary Sharon. Discussion – Jay Ouellette corrected the Clerk's Report – We did have one birth in 2019. Iyla Marie Ouellette was born on June 25, 2019. Barbara Pierce thanked everyone who writes the report and we are lucky to have this type of government. Barbara suggested more communication between residents and Selectboard with the goal of positive growth and visions for our community. Jon Mowry reminded the community that the Selectboard meets every other week to conduct town business and invited everyone to attend to help share community needs and ideas as well as to hear what the Selectboard's priorities are.

Discussion regarding the Constable's Report ensued with clarification from community members, Selectboard and Stewart Beattie. Bob Stelz questioned what security measures do exist that add to the safety of the town. Todd referenced his conversation with State Police and their increased presence in the area over the past year.

Sally Ogden thanked David Utiger for his wonderful artwork.

Gary asked if those assembled were ready to accept reports of various officers. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

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

Moderator: Todd Williams, Selectboard Chair, asked for nominations for Town Moderator. Alex Sheets nominated Gary Ameden and Gary Sharon seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Gary asked if all are in favor. Motion passed by voice vote.

- Moderator - 1 year Gary Ameden

Town Clerk: Jon Mowry nominated Jennie Freeman and Jay Ouellette seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Tracy Black and seconded by Chuck Black. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Town Clerk - 1 year Jennie Freeman

Treasurer: Jon Mowry nominated Donna Williams and Karen Utiger seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Chuck Black and seconded by Jay Ouellette. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Town Treasurer - 1 year Donna Williams

Selectboard: Jay Ouellette nominated Todd Williams and Jon Mowry seconded. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Chuck Black and seconded by Gary Sharon. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Selectboard - 3 year Todd Williams

Lister: Tracy Black nominated Jack Pennypacker and Todd Williams seconded. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Jay Ouellette and seconded by Chuck Black. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Lister - 3 year Jack Pennypacker

Auditor: Karen Utiger nominated Alex Sheets and Tracy Black 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.

- Auditor - 3 year Alex Sheets

Cemetery Commission: Todd Williams nominated Jeremy Lapan and Tracy Black seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Jay Ouellette and seconded by Alex Sheets. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote. Gary asked for additional nominations. Alex Sheets nominated Tim Britton and Jay Ouellette seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved. Motion passed.

- Cemetery Commission 5 years Jeremy Lapan
 Tim Britton

First Constable: Ivanna Reed nominated Stewart and Gary Sharon seconded the motion. Stewart declined the nomination. Jon Mowry nominated Mike Gayda and Todd Williams seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Gary Sharon and seconded by Jay Ouellette. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- First Constable - 1 year Mike Gayda

Second Constable: Chuck nominated Chris Felion and Alex Sheets seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Todd Williams and Jay Ouellette. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Second Constable - 1 year Chris Felion

Delinquent Tax Collector: Karen Utiger nominated Tracy Black and Todd Williams seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Jay Ouellette and seconded by Gary Sharon. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Delinquent Tax Collector - 1 year Tracy Black

Grand Juror: Tracy Black nominated Hope Richardson. Hope declined. Susan Bradford nominated Ivanna Reed and Alex Sheets seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Alex Sheets and seconded by Jay Ouellette. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Grand Juror - 1 year Ivanna Reed

Town Agent: Donna Williams nominated Tracy Black and Sally Ogden seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Jay Ouellette and seconded by Jon Mowry. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

- Town Agent - 1 year Tracy Black

Trustee of Public Funds: Tracy Black nominated Mike Gayda and Alex Sheets seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations Proposition B was moved by Jay Ouellette and seconded by Gary Sharon. 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, 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.

Alex Sheets made a motion to move the article and Jay Ouellette seconded. All in favor; motion passed by voice vote.

Bob Stelz inquired as to the additional funds collected from delinquent taxes and why they do not all go to the town. The only compensation for the delinquent tax collector in Peru is through the penalty percentage. There is no other compensation by the town. The town does receive the interest collected which is 1% per month. Jay Ouellette questioned the reasons why people do not pay their taxes. The response was that people may not be able to do so, or simply do not do so. No other questions or comments on the budget.

b) To authorize the Select Board to set the rate on the 2020 Grand List to meet the budgets voted. Alex Sheets made a motion to move the article and Jay Ouellette 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. Alex Sheets made a motion to move the article and Jay Ouellette 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. Ivanna Reed made a motion to move the article and Gary Sharon 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

Jon Mowry made a motion to move the article and Ivanna Reed seconded. Gary asked if there were any comments or discussion. All in favor; motion passed with a voice vote.

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.

Tracy Black made a motion to move Article 6 and Gary Sharon seconded. All in favor; motion passed by a voice vote.

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.

Alex explained that effectively towns come together to form the CUD and that allows those towns to seek federal grants for a feasibility study. The question being examined is whether we can create a municipal internet service provider giving us more influence over the infrastructure of our internet. Jay Ouellette questioned what impact this could have on property values in the future. Jon Mowry responded we are considering this as it seems that it should only have positive effects. People would not be obligated to use the service.

Alex Sheets made a motion to pass Article 7 and Tracy Black seconded. All in favor; motion passed with a voice vote.

Article 8: To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting. *\$10,000 exemption for personal property tax.* Jack Pennypacker explained the policy that has been in place for 10 years. The town needs to vote to continue the contract for this exemption for another 10 years, to the year 2030. Because this article was not warned, the moderator said the town may not vote on it at Town Meeting. Jay Ouellette made a motion to overrule the moderator. Juliette Britton seconded. Jack Pennypacker was asked to read the motion again and it was voted on. Tracy Black seconded the motion. All in favor to pass Article 8; motion passed with a voice vote.

Peru Recreational Park Committee – Hope Richardson shared that there is a committee consisting of Olivia Rukat, Karen Utiger, Gail Acosta and herself to help revitalize the park on North Rd. The committee has discussed leveling the fields, acquiring new a soccer goal, volleyball court, and 2 pickleball courts. This effort would serve all age groups of the community.

Ivanna Reed thanked the folks who built the skating rink in town.

Tracy Black proposed that we develop a vision for a pavilion on the town green. Collaborate efforts and visions for this community space that has brought great enthusiasm and interest this winter. Juliette reminded us that there may be a survey from 5 years ago about what the town wanted for this space. Todd added that he couldn't agree more with what Tracy is saying. It will only help the more people that come together. Todd thanked Olivia, Hope, Gail and Karen who have started this movement, as well as the folks who started the skating rink effort.

Mountain Valley Health Center - Dr. Fox and Elsie Smith spoke to residents regarding

the Health Center's services that continue to serve our mountain town communities regardless of the challenges facing Springfield Hospital. Thank you for supporting the clinic. Barbara Pierce asked about preparation for Corona Virus. Dr. Fox said please stay at home and call. Wash hands frequently. It's going to spread. It's infectious. If you have a fever and you have been traveling, call us. Treatment recommendations are changing regularly.

Ivanna Reed inquired as to why Peru doesn't start the meeting earlier than 10:00.

Jon Mowry followed up as Selectboard member, reminding folks that if they are active in attending meetings, then more individuals will be involved in decision making for funding and new projects. He encouraged people to look at agendas for Selectboard meetings. Show up and share opinions.

Currently there are two positions on the Planning Commission to be appointed by the Selectboard.

Bennington County Regional Commission – Peru is seeking one or two representatives to serve on the BCRC. This committee oversees energy plans, town plans, grant applications.

Selectboard agendas must be posted in three public places - typically PO, website, town office board.

Jay Ouellette spoke up encouraging folks to attend school board meetings.

Jack Pennypacker questioned salt reduction areas. Todd explained general efforts by the town to utilize less salt for environmental purposes and potential benefits to maintaining pavement.

Discussion ensued regarding placement and effectiveness of speed bumps in town as well as the redesigning of the entrances to town off of the highway.

Juliette asked about street light on South Road. We could happily say that there is a light there!

Alex expressed thanks and gratitude for Pastor Margaret's years of service to our community.

Stewart inquired about plans for road repair for road coming in from the west side. Todd responded we need a town wide estimate due to many roads in poor quality. We do not have enough funds in our resurfacing funds at the moment, and we would want to

strategically plan before just resurfacing.

Chuck Black made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jay Ouellette seconded the motion. All in favor. Gary adjourned the meeting at 11:26am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennie Freeman
Peru Town Clerk
Dated March 3, 2020



Elected Town Officers

Moderator:	Gary Ameden	<u>Term Expires</u> 2021
Town Clerk:	Jennie Freeman	2021
Treasurer:	Donna Williams	2021
Select Board:	Jon Mowry, Chair	2021
	Chuck Black	2021
	Todd Williams	2022
Lister:	Brian Goodro	2021
	Rebecca Williams	2022
	Jack Pennypacker, Chair	2023
Auditors:	Karen Utiger	2021
	Regina McGuire	2022
	Alex Sheets	2023
Cemetery Commission:		
	Stewart Beattie, Chair	2021
	Carl Holcomb	2022
	Tim Britton	2023
	William Crandall	2024
	Jeremy Lapan	2025
First Constable:	Mike Gayda	2021
Second Constable:	Christopher Felion	2021
Delinquent Tax Collector:	Tracy Black	2021
Grand Juror:	Ivanna Reed	2021
Town Agent:	Tracy Black	2021
Trustee of Public Funds:	Mike Gayda	2021
Taconic & Green Regional School District		
	Jane Worley	2021
Justices of the Peace*:		
	Gary Ameden, Tracy Black, Will Crandall, Karen Utiger, Olivia Rukat	
	* Terms: February 1, 2021 thru January 31, 2023	

Select Board Appointed Town Officers

Planning Commission:	<u>Term Expires</u>
LJ Petra	2021
Mike Gayda	2021
Peter Robertson	2022
Lucas Hughes	2022
Stewart Beattie, Chair	2023
Andy Dahlstrom	2023
Jim Jordan (appointed)	2023

Zoning Board:

Peter Bradford, Chair	2021
David Utiger	2022
Charles Howard	2022
Chuck Black	2023

Zoning Administrator: William Goodwin

Sexton: Carl Holcomb

Town Service Officer: Melissa O'Brien

Health Officer: Dr. Roger Fox

Deputy Health Officer: Mike Gayda

Road Commissioner: Todd Williams

Emergency Manager: Chuck Black and Todd Williams

Other Town Positions

Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer: Stephanie Hoffman

Road Foreman: Wayne Blanchard

Road Crew: Brian Bills

Select Board Report

The Select Board worked hard this year to keep Board meetings accessible to the public and to continue conducting the business of the Town despite the COVID pandemic. In addition to handling much routine business, the Select Board undertook a few major initiatives including purchasing a mowing tractor for mowing the roadsides, crack-sealing all of the paved roads in the town, repaving a section of Hapgood Pond Road, and having significant repairs of rot and water damage fixed on the Town Center and Community House. Efforts are also underway with the Bennington County Forester to plan and complete a timber harvest in Town Forest on Rock Bottom Lane.

The purchase of a new tractor and roadside mower will save significant expenditures on rental equipment, as well as letting the Town choose to mow on our own schedule and to mow twice per summer. This should help to limit the spread of the invasive cow parsnip.

Some discussion continued with the Select Board regarding the future of the Town Park and Town Green, but major decision making was postponed until the Town is able to convene larger groups to elicit ideas and feedback.

The Board meets Wednesdays at 5 PM. Agendas are always available in advance on the Town website and public input is always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Mowry, Chuck Black, Todd Williams

Clerk's Report

Vital Statistics: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

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

Liquor Licenses: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

First Class Restaurant/ Bar:	3 @	\$115 =	\$345
First Class Hotel:	0 @	\$ 0 =	\$ 0
Second Class:	2 @	\$ 70 =	\$140
Outside Consumption:	5 @	\$ 0 =	\$ 0*
Tobacco:	0 @	\$ 0 =	\$ 0*
Special Events:	4 @	\$ 0 =	\$ 0*
Third Class:	3 @	\$ 0 =	\$ 0*
Cater License:	0 @	\$ 0 =	\$ 0*
Request to cater:	3 @	\$ 0 =	\$ 0*
Total:			\$485

*Town receives no part of fee collected

Audit Report

The town auditors conducted our audit of fiscal year 7/1/19 - 6/30/20 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, 2020.

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 731 parcels in Peru, including 400 structures with land (including residential and commercial properties), 267 condominiums and 62 parcels with open land. From April 2019 to April 2020, there were seventy-one property transfers in the town, and currently from April 2020 to November, 2020 forty-five property transfers. No parcel owners formally grieved their assessments this year. Seven grievances were resolved at the pre-grievance level.

EQUALIZATION STUDY RESULTS: We are pleased to report that the results from the 2019 State Equalization Study for Peru are a Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) of 103.95%. 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 14.32%. 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 128 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.

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 we have received applications for land subdivisions and building projects. We are currently working on how the new trend of large short time rentals of private dwellings affect the use of those properties and neighbors.

The Planning Commission has 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.

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 Dalstrom
Lucas Hughes
L J Petra
Mike Gata
Jon Mowry

Zoning Board of Adjustment Report

No report at the time of publication.

Zoning Administrative Officer's Report

Peru's old zoning permits are now filed by parcel I.D., instead of by date. This will make life much easier for anyone who needs something from the files. This project took a while, because the permits from the seventies did not have any addresses on them!

Last Year I issued the following permits:

- 5 for small additions
- 4 for small accessory buildings
- 1 for an inground pool
- 1 for a garage
- 1 for a commercial sign for Bromley Village
- 1 for a new house.
- 1 extension of a house permit.

I also wrote 3 letters of zoning compliance for law firms, and one for a bank.

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

Peru Cemetery Commission Balance Sheet

Checkbook Balance, 6/30/2019	\$ 2,371.29
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RECEIPTS:

Interest	\$ 24.59
Dividends	\$ 1,240.19
Plot Purchase	\$ 2,700.00
Perpetual Care	\$ 2,700.00
Town Appropriation	\$ 4,500.00

Total Receipts	\$ 11,164.78
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DISBURSEMENTS:

Maintenance	\$ 6,484.73
Other	\$ -

Total Disbursements:	\$ 6,484.73
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Checkbook Balance, 6/30/20	\$ 4,680.05
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Assets Owned:

Berkshire Bank Municipal NOW	\$ 49,322.28
Mutual Funds and Stock (at Market Value)	\$ 102,436.55
Total Assets	\$ 151,758.83

Note: With the exception of the balance of \$ 4,860.05 in the checking account all monies and investments of the Cemetery are dedicated to its perpetual care.

First Constable's Report

This is my first year acting as Constable. I am happy to report the tranquility and serenity of the Town of Peru continues unabated. I would like to remind us all to drive prudently and slowly.

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

Cordially,
Mike Gayda

Fire Department Report

The Peru Fire Dept. responded to 45 calls in 2020 breakdown is as follows: 8 Motor vehicle accidents, 19 still alarms, (these are calls that originate from automatic alarm systems), 3 wires down, 1 chimney fire, 3 structure fires, 8 agency assist/mutual aid calls, 2 wild land fires, and 1 false alarm.

Through our fundraising the Fire Company bought \$153,377 worth of equipment and donated it to the town. This includes the payment for the new truck which is scheduled to be delivered in March.

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 2020-2021 the town received a grant to do a culvert inventory. This has helped us to better understand where we need to improve the size and integrity of some culverts.

There were many loads of gravel applied to Rock Bottom and Halstead Lanes, as well as the North Road Extension.

During the summer, the highway department cleaned ditches, graded roads, as needed, put out speed humps, mowing roadsides, among many other things. The town resurfaced a portion of Hapgood Pond Road from Anderson Road to the Landgrove town line. We had crack sealing done on all paved roads as well. I really hope that with the “salt reduction areas” in our cold sections of asphalt, we can preserve the lifetime of our pavement.

The town purchased a new John Deere tractor with an “over the rail” mower. Owning our own equipment will help ensure that we can keep the roadsides cut when we like. The town is also hopeful to get ahead of the poison parsnip issue with the added equipment.



Animal Control

DOG LICENSES: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

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 2019-20: 92

Revenue to Peru: \$ 570.00*

Revenue to State VT: \$ 350.00

Total Revenue 2019-20: \$920.00

2019-20 Fees:	<u>Before April 1st:</u>	<u>After April 1st :</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,

Stephanie Turner Hoffmann, 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 and Peru Fair Scholarship Report

Due to the Covid Pandemic and Vermont State regulations the 2020 Peru Fair was cancelled. The decision to cancel the Fair was made in early June when it appeared that State Regulations would carry thru the Fall. The intent, at the time of the cancellation, was a one year “pause” with the hope that the climate will be more settled allowing us to return in 2021.

Due to the 2020 Cancellation of the Fair, The Peru Fair Scholarship Fund did not receive any funding for 2020. The current balance on 1/20/2020 as reported by Berkshire Bank is \$41,612.78. This balance will decrease by \$11,000.00 as January checks were mailed on 1/20/21 to the schools for the Upperclassman and 2 February Freshman. The final balance once those checks clear will be \$31,612.78.

In 2020 the Peru Fair Scholarship was pleased to award \$1000 to each of the 13 recipients, which represented 4 high school graduates and 9 upperclassmen. All but 2 high school graduate awards were mailed to their respective schools in November 2020 and the upperclassmen awards, and 2 High school graduate awards were mailed in January 2021.

While it is hard to know the exact number of participants on a year-by-year basis, it appears as though the number of recipients is expected to increase for the 2021 school year. The Peru Fair Committee continues to evaluate the amount of the scholarship taking into consideration the balance in the bank, the number of students expected to graduate over the course of the next 3-5 years as well as our ability to successfully have the Fair under the current climate.

Vermont Department of Health

At the Vermont Department of Health our twelve Local Health District Offices around the state provide health services and promote wellness for all Vermonters. More info on your local health office can be found here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/local>

COVID-19

2020 has been a challenging year for Vermonters. However, the Vermont Department of Health has been recognized as a national leader in managing the virus. This is what the Health Department has done in your community:

- COVID-19 Testing:
 - Since May 2020, the Health Department has provided no-cost Covid-19 testing. Through November 17, 2020, the Vermont Department of Health has held 509 testing clinics, testing 40,796 Vermonters. This important work helps to identify the spread of Covid-19 and is just one of the many ways your Health Department is promoting and protecting the health of Vermonters.
 - Statewide, 224,284 people have been tested as of November 30, 2020
- COVID-19 Cases:
 - As of November 25, 2020, Vermont had the fewest cases of COVID-19 and the lowest rate of cases per 100,000 population of all 50 states.
 - Statewide, as of November 30, 2020, there have been 4,172 cases of COVID-19
- Even more up-to-date information can be found on the Health Department's website: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/currentactivity>

Additional Programs

In addition to the COVID-19 response, the Health Department has programs such as influenza vaccinations and WIC.

- Flu Vaccinations: Protecting people from influenza is particularly important in 2020, as the flu may complicate recovery from COVID-19. (Data is as of November 17, 2020)
 - Approximately 213,00* Vermonters have been vaccinated against the flu this season *(Due to technology outages, flu vaccinations given are underreported by approximately 25%-33%.)
- WIC: The Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Education and Food Supplementation Program remains in full effect, though much of the work that was done in person is now being done remotely through TeleWIC. (Data is as of October 20, 2020)
 - 11,308 infants, children, and pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding people were served by WIC in Vermont, either in traditional format or TeleWIC

Londonderry Solid Waste Group

COVID-19 and Solid Waste has been the focus of everything so why should trash be any different? During the COVID-19 state of emergency, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) asks the public to please take the following precautions when visiting solid waste facilities and drop offs. Only visit if you are healthy, keep it simple, only bring waste that can't wait like trash and food scraps, minimize the number of trips, practice social distancing by keeping 6 feet of space between other customers and staff, and please wear a mask. Keep yourself and the staff healthy.

Vermont's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation makes manufactures 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. Legislation for packaging will be the next focus for EPR. This will offer financial relief for the collection, hauling and processing of packaging materials.

Household Hazardous Waste Events: If you missed our two events this past year, visit londonderryvt.org/recycle and click on the A-Z list for information on how to dispose of *architectural paints, alkaline and rechargeable batteries and cell phones, mercury thermostats, fluorescent bulbs, prescription medications and electronics*. Londonderry Group members can also dispose of materials at the Rutland County Solid Waste District, but there are charges involved. For more information, visit <https://www.rcswd.com/hhw/>.

Food Scrap Ban: As of July 1, 2020, food waste has been banned from disposal in landfills. Residents, institutions, businesses and schools should divert their food waste by contracting with their haulers, bringing food to the transfer station, composting at home, feeding food scraps to domestic animals, donating to food banks and reducing the amount purchased to avoid wasting food. Haulers are required to offer collection for businesses, schools, institutions, and apartments of four units or more so contact your hauler for assistance if you're in one of these categories.

Single Use Plastics: After July 1, 2020, stores and food service establishments are no longer providing *plastic carryout bags* at check-out. Plastic bags are allowed in stores and food service establishments for certain materials (e.g., fruits, vegetables, nuts, coffee, hardware items, frozen foods, meat, fish, prescription medications) or for laundry, dry cleaning, and other large garments. Stores and food service establishments may provide paper carryout bags at check-out for a minimum of \$0.10 each. Food service establishments will no longer offer *plastic stirrers* to customers. *Plastic straws* may still be given to customers, but only upon request. Stores and food service establishments will no longer provide or sell food or beverage containers made of expanded *polystyrene* (known as Styrofoam) including plates and cups, trays, egg cartons, and take-out containers. Expanded polystyrene is still allowed for trays used to package uncooked meat, fish, poultry, or seafood, products packaged out-of-state or packaged for sale out-of-state.

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>

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

Southern Vermont Communication Union District (SoVT CUD)

Southern Vermont Communications Union District (SoVT CUD) was voted into existence in March 2019 by 12 towns in Bennington County. We have since grown to 13 towns: Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Landgrove, Londonderry, Manchester, Peru, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Shaftsbury, Sunderland, Woodford.

In less than a year we have:

- Been awarded grants totaling \$190,000, plus \$12,000 awarded to Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) to support our efforts,
- Conducted a utility pole survey to lay the groundwork for fiber optic network construction,
- Entered into a teaming agreement with Tilson, a network technology company, Green Mountain Power (GMP), and others to seek federal grants for rural broadband.

While the bid for federal rural broadband grants was not successful, we did build relationships with Tilson and GMP that continue to enhance and inform our development.

In June 2020 we were awarded a \$60,000 Broadband Innovation Grant (BIG) from the state of Vermont to undertake a feasibility study of building a fiber optic network in Bennington County. Preliminary results from that study suggested we need to grow in size and merge or collaborate with the also newly formed Deerfield Valley CUD in Windham County in order to be financially viable. Such a collaboration has been in the minds of people in both counties from inception. We are currently redirecting our feasibility study to evaluate a two-county solution for getting broadband to our under-served.

In September we were awarded a \$100,000 COVID relief grant to accelerate our network deployment plans. That was used to conduct a utility pole survey in our most under-served towns, Sandgate, Rupert, Peru, Dorset. A pole survey is a necessary first step toward network design and construction. Each pole we intend to hang fiber on must be evaluated in several measures, such as:

- Does the pole need replacement or reinforcement?
- Will other telecom lines need to be moved to accommodate ours?
- Is the pole in a favorable position to branch to a residence?

COVID relief money has allowed us to start early the design work for fiber optic network construction.

The Vermont Community Foundation (VCF) donated \$30,000 to SoVT CUD and the other CUDs for operating expenses. This money was sorely needed and greatly appreciated. Previously, SoVT CUD volunteers who had been giving so generously of their time were also giving their money for basic operating expenses like teleconferencing software and filing fees.

In December, the FCC awarded \$16B for rural broadband in its Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) reverse auction. Consolidated Communications (CCI) and SpaceX received significant awards in our area. This has changed the landscape significantly. Many areas that we had hoped to serve are now obligated to CCI and SpaceX. Our two-county feasibility study is working to create financial models to evaluate this new landscape.

All the representatives, alternates, and officers of SoVT CUD have given mightily to this effort and deserve respect and gratitude. They have made for an impressive first year.



Town of Peru, Budget

	Actual	Authorized	Proposed
	19/20	20/21	21/22
Income			
3000 · REVENUE			
316 · State of VT- Current Use	20,664.00	17,500.00	17,500.00
318 · Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	10,444.23	9,000.00	9,000.00
322 · Beverage License	1,035.00	550.00	550.00
324 · Dog and Marriage License	623.00	850.00	850.00
326 · Zoning Permits	933.40	1,500.00	1,500.00
328 · Hunting/Fishing Licenses	6.00	25.00	25.00
332 · Town Clerk Fees	16,977.50	10,000.00	10,000.00
334 · Rental of Equipment	25.00	75.00	75.00
336 · Rental of Facilities	90.00	75.00	75.00
338 · Highway- State of VT	51,147.84	40,000.00	40,000.00
340 · Interest Earned	6,021.53	4,300.00	4,300.00
344 · Misc Income	145.15	750.00	750.00
346 · Green Mountain Forest	53,006.60	40,000.00	40,000.00
Total 3000 · REVENUE	161,119.25	124,625.00	124,625.00
Surplus to be applied to tax rate	185,000.00	185,000.00	185,000.00
(To Be) Raised by taxes	552,017.91	586,900.00	616,650.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$898,137.16	\$896,525.00	\$926,275.00
4000 · ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			
400 · Town Clerk	13,638.71	17,600.00	17,600.00
401 · Treasurer	13,123.38	15,500.00	15,500.00
402 · Asst Town Clerk	9,284.36	9,300.00	9,300.00
403 · Asst Treasurer	1,855.05	3,100.00	3,100.00
404 · Select Board	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
405 · Auditors	1,176.25	1,500.00	1,500.00
406 · Listers	1,944.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
407 · Planning Commission	1,108.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
408 · Memberships / Training	4,695.00	3,800.00	5,000.00
408.5 · Consulting	445.50	400.00	400.00
409 · Legal Services	1,682.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
410 · Town Report & Delivery	229.65	1,500.00	1,500.00
411 · Town Meetings	123.09	250.00	250.00
412 · Election Expense	77.97	300.00	300.00
413 · Comp & Liability Insurance	19,463.74	25,000.00	25,000.00
414 · Admin Misc/Travel	65.20	1,500.00	1,500.00
415 · Zoning Board of Adjustment	0.00	500.00	500.00
416 · Zoning Administrator	2,370.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
417 · Zoning Board/Administrator Misc	30.00	100.00	100.00
418 · Delinquent Tax Collector	10,444.23	12,000.00	12,000.00
Total 4000 · ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	86,756.13	114,350.00	115,550.00

4200 · OFFICE EXPENSE

420 · Tax Bills	0.00	450.00	450.00
421 · Document Books	302.04	1,000.00	1,000.00
422 · Dog Tags & Registration	70.28	125.00	125.00
423 · Paper, Envelopes & Supplies	261.35	1,000.00	1,000.00
424 · Postage	1,303.44	1,500.00	1,500.00
425 · Office Misc/Supplies	729.15	800.00	800.00
426 · Bank Fees	71.48	100.00	100.00
428 · Media/Advertising	744.88	1,200.00	1,200.00

Total 4200 · OFFICE EXPENSE	3,482.62	6,175.00	6,175.00
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4300 · OFFICE EQUIPMENT EXPENSE

432 · Copier Expense	291.23	1,000.00	1,000.00
434 · Computer Expenses	8,438.33	9,000.00	9,000.00
436 · Equipment, furniture & fixtures	159.99	4,200.00	4,200.00
438 · Miscellaneous	61.04	250.00	250.00

Total 4300 · OFFICE EQUIPMENT EXPENSE	8,950.59	14,450.00	14,450.00
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4400 · TOWN CENTER UTILITIES

440 · Electricity	1,652.05	2,000.00	2,000.00
442 · Telephone/Internet	807.70	1,500.00	1,500.00
444 · Heating Fuel	3,144.19	4,000.00	4,000.00
446 · Furnace Maintenance	0.00	750.00	750.00
447 · Security Monitoring System	384.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
448 · Propane	98.85	300.00	300.00

Total 4400 · TOWN CENTER UTILITIES	6,086.79	9,550.00	9,550.00
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4500 · TOWN CENTER JANITORIAL

450 · Janitor Services	500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
453 · Supplies	45.19	200.00	200.00

Total 4500 · TOWN CENTER JANITORIAL	545.19	2,700.00	2,700.00
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4600 · TOWN CENTER MAINTENANCE

463 · Supplies	0.00	500.00	500.00
464 · Capital Improvement/Maintenance	2,842.52	10,000.00	10,000.00

Total 4600 · TOWN CENTER MAINTENANCE	2,842.52	10,500.00	10,500.00
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4700 · COMMUNITY HOUSE MAINTENANCE

473 · Supplies	0.00	150.00	150.00
474 · Electricity	291.85	500.00	500.00
475 · Capital Improvement/Maintenance	1,292.50	15,000.00	15,000.00
476 · Propane	157.12	250.00	250.00

Total 4700 · COMMUNITY HOUSE MAINTENANCE	1,741.47	15,900.00	15,900.00
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4800 · TOWN GARAGE

480 · Electricity	1,975.71	2,300.00	2,300.00
481 · Heating Fuel/Propane	2,183.26	4,000.00	4,000.00
482 · Supplies	181.95	500.00	500.00
484 · Uniform(contract services)	1,979.43	2,400.00	2,400.00
485 · Capital Improvement/Maintenance	6,140.70	14,000.00	14,000.00
486 · Telephone	558.04	500.00	500.00

Total 4800 · TOWN GARAGE	13,019.09	23,700.00	23,700.00
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5100 · PAYROLL TAXES/BENEFITS

512 · Soc Sec/Medicare Tax	13,304.40	16,000.00	16,000.00
517 · VT Dept of Employment & Trainin	0.00	250.00	250.00
518 · County Tax	17,612.56	20,000.00	20,000.00
Total 5100 · PAYROLL TAXES/BENEFITS	30,916.96	36,250.00	36,250.00

6200 · GENERAL SERVICES

626 · Landfill	20,591.07	25,000.00	25,000.00
628 · Street Lighting	1,916.49	3,500.00	3,500.00
634 · Constable Expense	120.56	400.00	400.00
636 · Animal Warden	2,710.88	3,500.00	3,500.00
Total 6200 · GENERAL SERVICES	25,339.00	32,400.00	32,400.00

7000 · HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT

700 · Gasoline	70.67	200.00	250.00
701 · Oil	2,312.19	3,000.00	3,000.00
702 · Diesel	14,335.44	20,000.00	20,000.00
703 · Small Tools	770.70	2,500.00	2,500.00
704 · Radio Repairs	0.00	500.00	500.00
705 · Street Signs	928.21	2,000.00	2,000.00
706 · Truck #1-Maint/Repairs	5,574.51	4,500.00	4,500.00
708 · Truck #2-Maint/Repairs	4,295.10	4,500.00	4,500.00
710 · Chipper Maint./Repairs	0.00	500.00	500.00
710.5 · Truck #3 Maint/Repairs, Supplie	29.89	3,500.00	3,500.00
712 · Grader-Maint/Repairs	29.15	5,800.00	8,300.00
714 · Sander-Maint/Repairs	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
716 · Small Equip-Maint/Repairs	707.22	500.00	500.00
718 · Backhoe-Maint/Repairs	17.21	5,000.00	6,000.00
719.5-Roadside Mower/Maint/Repair	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Total 7000 · HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT	29,070.29	53,500.00	58,550.00

7200 · SUMMER ROADS (CLASS 2&3)

721 · Culverts	186,885.00	5,000.00	8,000.00
722 · Cal Chloride	4,583.57	7,000.00	7,000.00
724 · Resurfacing Crushed Gravel	41,141.40	22,000.00	22,000.00
725 · Contract Services	9,460.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
726 · General Maintenance	8,638.87	2,000.00	2,000.00
727 · Labor -1st Employee	25,922.78	26,500.00	26,500.00
727.5 · OT Labor-1st Employee	0.00	600.00	600.00
728 · Labor -2nd Employee	17,628.53	20,000.00	20,000.00
728.5 · OT Labor-2nd Employee	0.00	500.00	500.00
729 · Equipment Rental	6,260.00	10,000.00	1,500.00
Total 7200 · SUMMER ROADS (CLASS 2&3)	300,520.15	103,600.00	98,100.00

7400 · WINTER ROADS (CLASS 2&3)

741 · Plow and Chains	1,673.32	4,000.00	4,000.00
743 · Contract Services	0.00	1,250.00	1,250.00
744 · Sand	24,931.20	28,000.00	35,000.00
745 · Salt	29,858.55	46,000.00	46,000.00
746 · Labor -1st Employee	25,436.40	27,000.00	27,000.00
747 · Labor-2nd Employee	17,443.20	19,000.00	19,000.00
748 · Overtime -1st Employee	5,763.79	9,500.00	9,500.00
749 · Overtime-2nd Employee	2,563.20	6,500.00	6,500.00
750 · General Maintenance	90.16	500.00	500.00

Total 7400 · WINTER ROADS (CLASS 2&3)	107,759.82	141,750.00	148,750.00
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7700 · BRIDGES

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

Total 7700 · BRIDGES	2,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
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7900 · HIGHWAY

791 · Bereavement	0.00	300.00	300.00
792 · Health Insurance	42,378.08	42,000.00	45,000.00
793 · Retirement	6,107.42	8,000.00	8,000.00
794 · Vacation Days	6,416.96	5,000.00	6,500.00
794.5 · Holidays Paid	3,693.60	5,000.00	5,000.00
794.8 · Sick Days	1,090.87	3,000.00	3,000.00

Total 7900 · HIGHWAY	59,686.93	63,300.00	67,800.00
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8000 · MISCELLANEOUS

800 · Approp -Comm Agencies	20,890.00	22,000.00	22,000.00
803 · Select Board Discretionary Fund	2,338.04	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	25,000.00
807 · Highway Resurface Fund	26,000.00	35,000.00	50,000.00
808 · Fire Engine Fund	25,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
809 · Village Green	2,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
810 · Highway Equip Fund	75,000.00	75,000.00	75,000.00
811 · Peru Park	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
817 · Digitize Maps	2,000.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
818 · Document Restoration & Pres.	0.00	0.00	0.00
852 · Town Tree Maintenance	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00

Total 8000 · MISCELLANEOUS	181,228.04	212,900.00	230,400.00
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9000 · FIRE DEPT

901 · Fire Dept. Insurance	6,362.26	9,000.00	9,000.00
902 · Radios and Dispatch	16,517.00	17,000.00	17,000.00
903 · Assoc. Dues and School Fees	150.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
904 · Engine and Equipment Maint	1,435.21	4,000.00	4,000.00
906 · Propane	1,409.16	3,000.00	3,000.00
907 · Misc. and Supplies	1,676.39	500.00	500.00
908 · Capital Improvement/Maintenance	4,023.19	10,000.00	10,000.00
909 · Payroll	6,118.36	6,000.00	6,000.00

Total 9000 · FIRE DEPT	37,691.57	52,000.00	52,000.00
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	\$898,137.16	\$896,525.00	\$926,275.00
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Town of Peru General Fund - Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, Appropriations and Changes in Fund Balance

		AUTHORIZED	ACTUAL
REVENUE		19-20	19-20
300	Taxes	\$ 580,700.00	\$ 594,520.99
	Surplus applied to Tax Rate	185,000.00	
316	State of VT Current Use	17,500.00	20,664.00
318	Penalties Delinquent Taxes*	9,000.00	10,444.23
322,324,325	License/ Dog, Beverage\Marriage	1,400.00	1,658.00
326	Zoning Permits	1,500.00	933.40
328	Hunting/Fishing Licenses	25.00	6.00
332	Town Clerk Fees	10,000.00	16,977.50
334	Rental of TC Equipment	75.00	25.00
336	Rental of Facilities	75.00	90.00
338	State Aid Highways	40,000.00	51,147.84
340	Interest Income	4,300.00	6,021.53
344	Misc. Income	750.00	145.15
346	Green Mountain National Forest	40,000.00	53,006.60
Total Revenue		<u>890,325.00</u>	<u>755,640.24</u>
EXPENDITURES	(See itemized accounts)		
400-418	Administration	114,350.00	86,756.13
420-438	Office/Equipment	17,125.00	12,433.21
440-487	Total Buildings	62,350.00	24,235.06
512-519	Taxes and Assessments	37,050.00	30,916.96
626-638	General Services	39,400.00	25,339.00
700-796	Highway & Roads	384,150.00	499,537.19
901-910	Fire Department	52,000.00	37,691.57
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		<u>706,425.00</u>	<u>716,909.12</u>
APPROPRIATIONS			
803	Discretionary Fund	2,500.00	2,338.04
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	25,000.00	25,000.00
809	Village Green	2,500.00	2,500.00
810	Highway Equipment Fund	75,000.00	75,000.00
817	Digitized Maps	2,400.00	2,000.00
852	Town Tree Maintenance	3,000.00	0.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		<u>163,900.00</u>	<u>160,338.04</u>
WARNING ARTICLES			
800	Appropriations Community Services	<u>20,000.00</u>	<u>20,890.00</u>
TOTAL, Exp.,Approp.,Warning		<u>890,325.00</u>	<u>898,137.16</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		<u>0.00</u>	<u>(\$142,496.92)</u>
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE			
Opening Fund Balance, July 1, 2019			<u>415,590.09</u>
Ending Fund Balance, June 30, 2020			<u>\$273,093.17</u>

Balance Sheets

	General Fund	Special Funds	Trust & Agency	Total
Assets				
Municipal NOW	\$260,929.60	\$546,793.92	\$49,322.28	\$857,045.80
Petty Cash	150.00			150.00
Stock/Mutual Funds			102,436.55	102,436.55
Delinquent Taxes Receivable	17,428.44			17,428.44
Prepaid Expense (Cota & Cota)	1,835.89			1,835.89
Total Assets	<u>\$280,343.93</u>	<u>\$546,793.92</u>	<u>\$151,758.83</u>	<u>\$978,896.68</u>
Liabilities				
Accrued Payroll & Payroll Taxes	\$7,250.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,250.76
Total Liabilities	<u>7,250.76</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>7,250.76</u>
Fund Balance				
Appropriated		546,793.92	147,078.78	693,872.70
Unappropriated	273,093.17		4,680.05	277,773.22
Total Fund Balance	<u>273,093.17</u>	<u>546,793.92</u>	<u>151,758.83</u>	<u>971,645.92</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	<u>\$280,343.93</u>	<u>\$546,793.92</u>	<u>\$151,758.83</u>	<u>\$978,896.68</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	Restoration & Preservation	New Pavement	TOTAL
REVENUE											
From General Fund	\$75,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$4,243.00	\$22,500.00	\$160,243.00
Interest Income	62.82	18.44	68.74	0.20	9.77	1.42	1.95	38.77	0.75	83.35	286.21
FEMA Grant			1,503.80								1,503.80
Donation Received						50.00					50.00
TOTAL REVENUE	75,062.82	26,018.44	26,572.54	0.20	9.77	51.42	2,501.95	5,038.77	4,243.75	22,583.35	162,083.01
EXPENDITURES											
Chaves							464.00				464.00
RK Miles							293.22				293.22
Londonderry Hardware							15.36				15.36
Clark's Truck	84,052.00										84,052.00
New Fire Truck			200,000.00								200,000.00
Check To Kelton Fund to Close				4,526.75							4,526.75
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	84,052.00	0.00	200,000.00	4,526.75	0.00	0.00	772.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	289,351.33
Revenues in Excess of Expenditures (Deficit)	(8,989.18)	26,018.44	(173,427.46)	(4,526.55)	9.77	51.42	1,729.37	5,038.77	4,243.75	22,583.35	(127,268.32)
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	0.00	163,126.33	674,062.24
Fund Balance June 30, 2020	\$150,019.47	\$61,370.21	\$36,721.38	\$0.00	\$19,206.05	\$2,861.15	\$5,542.07	\$81,120.16	\$4,243.75	\$185,709.68	\$546,793.92

Statement of Taxes Raised & Distributed

Grand Lists:

Municipal Grand List	\$2,230,679.21	
Billed at x	<u>0.2631</u>	
	\$586,891.70	
Less Credit	<u>\$1,985.00</u>	\$584,906.70
Resident		
Education Grand List	421,116.00	
Billed at x	<u>1.5423</u>	
	\$649,487.21	
Less Credit	<u>191,349.52</u>	458,137.69
Non-Resident		
Education Grand List	1,720,238.00	
Billed at x	<u>1.5661</u>	
	\$2,694,064.73	<u>2,694,064.73</u>
		3,737,109.12
State Adjustment based on final education Grand List		-26,884.78
Post Grand List Adjustments (late-filed HS122, errors & omissions, etc)		<u>5,714.54</u>
Total Tax Raised		<u><u>\$3,715,938.88</u></u>

Distribution of Taxes:

State Education Fund-Peru School District-FBUS	\$3,166,417.89
General Fund	<u>549,520.99</u>
Total	<u><u>\$3,715,938.88</u></u>

Statement of Delinquent Taxes

Balance, 6/30/19	\$21,994.65
Collected	<u>-18,113.18</u>
Sub Total	3,881.47
Delinquent	<u>13,546.97</u>
Balance, 6/30/20	<u><u>\$17,428.44</u></u>

Funding Requests to the Town of Peru

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless

Dear Selectors,

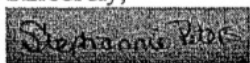
Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless (BCCH) respectfully asks to be placed on the March 2021 Town Meeting ballot for funds in the level-funded amount of \$500. The voters of Peru have generously voted to support BCCH in the past and we hope they will do so again in the coming year.

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. BCCH operates two year-round shelters to serve Bennington County; 966 Main for individual adults and Thatcher House, a family shelter with 9 units. 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 referrals.

This past year has been unique in both challenges and success. The COVID-19 pandemic involved several months of daily pivoting with our services and our shelters. With a dual goal of keeping those we shelter healthy and also continuing to provide services, we worked tirelessly with the State of Vermont's OEO and Department of Health to stay current and abide by health protocols as they developed and continually evolved. We also immediately kept our 966 Main shelter open 24/7. Our major successes during this global crisis included intense partnerships with other local entities as well as expanding staffing to include an Outreach Case Manager position to serve those being sheltered in motels by Economic Services. We also had great success in supporting several individuals and families to obtain permanent housing during the pandemic.

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 your continued support of 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.

We are accredited by the National Children's Alliance every five years to ensure that best practices are continually applied. Although our prevention programming has been limited this year due to COVID-19, we continue to work with, and support, children and families during investigations of sexual abuse and egregious physical abuse.

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. We hope to find a spot in your community for a small pinwheel garden in April- hopefully, you will spot a bit of color.
- Hosting Just Bike! Justice for kids. This year our event was a virtual one allowing participants to log their miles anyway that was fun for them: bike, walk, run, paddle, or swim.
- 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 Conservation District



Bennington County Conservation District

Promoting rural livelihoods and protecting natural resources in southwestern Vermont

November 2, 2020

RECEIVED

NOV 05 2020

TOWN OF PERU

**Board of
Supervisors**

Chair
Jim Henderson
(Sandgate)
375-9461

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

Dear Select Board members:

Josh Carvajal
(Bennington)
490-6163

Thank you very much for your support for the Bennington County Conservation District (BCCD) in 2020. I write to request that the Town again appropriate the sum of \$300 to support the conservation district's programs in the new year.

Tim Duclos
(Rupert)
394-7836

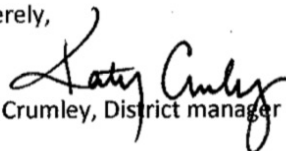
I've enclosed our annual report for the calendar year to date and our financial report for FY 2020. You will see that in the last year we've focused on education and projects related to river and stormwater management, agriculture and forest connectivity.

Jock Irons
(Woodford)
442-2491

Thank you again for helping make these activities possible through your citizens' support for BCCD. We look forward to working with you and for you in 2021.

Rob Terry
(Rupert)
394-7836

Sincerely,


Katy Crumley, District manager

Bennington County Regional Commission

The Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) works with and on behalf of its member municipalities to build strong, resilient, and sustainable communities, to foster economic prosperity, and to promote a high quality of life for residents of the region. The BCRC plays an important role in coordinating work among local governments, state and federal agencies, regional public and nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and private interests.

In addition to its ongoing role in supporting the comprehensive planning work of municipal officials and volunteer boards and commissions, the BCRC serves as a regional center for work in community and economic development, transportation, energy, environmental conservation, water quality, solid waste management, and emergency management. The BCRC regularly conducts and sponsors public meetings and workshops on these topics.

During the past year, the BCRC has worked to implement its comprehensive plan through a variety of programs and cooperative work with member municipalities. Economic development planning in the region has become one of the BCRC's main program areas. Economic development planning at the BCRC, including dedicated staff directed by a committee with representatives appointed by the regional development corporation, supports business retention, growth, and recruitment. The BCRC also has provided support for the Putnam Block project in Bennington's downtown and is cooperating with local and state officials on new redevelopment initiatives in downtowns and village centers. Concern over the state's water quality has led the BCRC to identify and implement local projects that not only reduce stormwater runoff, but also protect roads, bridges, culverts, and private property. Other important accomplishments have included: assistance with updates to several municipal comprehensive plans and land use bylaws, development of municipal energy plans and support for local energy committees, village center and neighborhood development area designations and successful grant applications, implementation of the regional solid waste management plan in cooperation with the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance, and planning for roadway, bicycle and pedestrian, public transportation improvements.

Like everyone, the BCRC has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The office transitioned to remote work and meetings in April and, while staff have recently started spending some time in the office, it generally is easiest to contact us via email (see contacts at www.bcrcvt.org). Fortunately, technology has allowed us to continue work on all of our projects with little interruption in progress. Of course, significant staff resources have been dedicated to providing assistance to businesses and municipalities as they work to navigate the challenges associated with changes to the way operations are conducted, with staffing and revenue disruptions, and to chart a course forward through and beyond the current crisis.

The BCRC is governed by locally appointed commissioners from seventeen area municipalities and commissioners who represent interests ranging from public health to economic development. As of January 2021, our offices will have relocated to 210 South Street in Bennington, and post-pandemic, we expect to have regular office hours at the Manchester Town Offices as well. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of every other month, with frequent special meetings throughout the year (information at: www.bcrcvt.org).

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Sullivan, Director

Bennington Rutland Opportunity Center

December 10, 2020

To the Citizens of the Town of Peru,

On behalf of BROC Community Action and the thousands of people with low-income or living in poverty that we serve throughout Rutland and Bennington Counties, we want to express our thanks and gratitude for supporting us over the years on Town Meeting Day. BROC Community Action assists families and individuals in crisis and help provide a sustainable path forward.


Over the past year, BROC Community Action was available to the residents of the Town of Peru. Whether they need food at the BROC Community Food Shelf, senior commodities, housing counseling, homelessness assistance, weatherization, heating and utility assistance, forms assistance for benefits such as 3SqVT, budget and credit counseling and resources and referrals; we are here.

People come to us cold, hungry, homeless, jobless or facing major health conditions every day. Your town appropriation helps ease the struggle for nearly 10,000 people who seek assistance from us each year as we meet the basic needs of their families and provide a path forward whenever possible.

Respectfully, our appropriation request for the upcoming fiscal year remains \$200.00.

We truly value our collaboration with Peru as we assist those most in need.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Donahue, CEO
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 \$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



The Collaborative

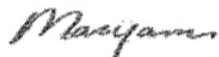
Dear Peru Residents,

The Collaborative appreciates your vote of confidence as you vote for the 2021-22 budget. 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. It was a year of change and uncertainty for everyone, but with you on our team The Collaborative was able to continue to provide healthy opportunities for our youth and young adults, strengthen community connections and increase outreach in the Northshire and mountain communities.

In the town budget we are requesting funds for The Collaborative mission to support substance free middle and high school youth. Just like you, we had to rethink how we do what we do and determine what was at the heart and soul of it. For example, this year, it was connection, community and healthy choices for the Refuse to Use program. We are honored that 337 RTU participants from 8 schools are participating in over 50 virtual or distanced substance misuse and healthy alternative programs. These programs are primarily led by community volunteers who recognize the value of this education in our community. With a focus on healthy choices this project allows for over **50,000** ways for our young people to pick their unique path toward a healthier future. Although our afterschool program cannot meet in person right now we strive to create connections to our families. We have sent home afterschool style activities to families in need and celebrated our annual Harvest Festival by distributing free chili meals to over 100 families. We plan to continue providing connection to our programs through COVID.

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

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@bcnj.org. CRJ is very grateful for your continued support.

Thank you very much.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Leitha Cipriano', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Leitha Cipriano
Executive Director

Flood Brook Athletic Association

FBAA Board Members

President

Sarah Kiefer

Vice President

Harry Lux

Treasurer

Fern Cyr

Basketball Commissioners

Sarah Kiefer

Josh Rourke

Baseball Commissioner

Harry Lux

Members at Large:

Stephen Bergleitner

Dave Kiefer

Dan Long

Jason Marino

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 your consistent 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. Our group is composed 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.

Like every aspect of our lives, the Covid 19 pandemic upended our programming over the last calendar year. We ended our 19-20 basketball program strong with over 80 children engaged in our youth programs in grades K-6. In addition to our annual 5th/6th grade basketball tournament, we added our first (hopefully)

annual middle school tournament with 8 local teams participating. Our plan for spring had been to maintain our robust baseball program, and continue to offer ultimate frisbee, dance, and cross country. Our planning also included introducing a softball program in conjunction with the second year of the resurgence of middle school baseball. We have hope these plans will be able to occur this coming spring.

If anything, this pandemic has reinforced for us how important youth sports are for our children. In order to continue our work with the area youth, we would like to humbly request the taxpayers to consider appropriating \$1000.00 to assist us in continuing to provide these valuable programs. We anticipate that your support will allow us to continue to offer these programs to players at low or no cost, at a time when families need that support most.

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:

Thank you for your past appropriation for Green Up Vermont, your help is crucial to sustain our mission of cleaning up our roads and waterways. Your contribution is greatly appreciated! As Green Up rolls into our 51st year, we are again requesting your continued support for 2021.

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 and stewardship for a litter free environment. Quick litter stats from 2020: Nearly 14,000 volunteers, 241 tons of litter and over 9,000 tires were collected.

Most importantly, amidst a global pandemic, Vermonters felt Green Up Day was the one event that shouldn't ever be cancelled and found safe ways to continue this civic service to their communities.

Mark your calendar for Green Up Day 2021, May 1st and help us celebrate 51 years of keeping Vermont green! Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or comments. I look forward to working with you again. Thank you!

Kate Alberghini
Executive Director



Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad

Dear Select Board:

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

Due to the generosity of our member towns and community members, no one is billed for our services; however, we do have significant expenses totaling \$275,602 in this year of Covid-19.

Again, we ask for the same donation as last year of \$10,000.00.

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 2020 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,

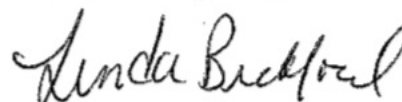
Elsie Smith, Co-President



Skip Raymond, Co-President



Linda Bickford, Director



Neighborhood Connections

Re: Appropriation Request for 2021

Dear Select Board:

Neighborhood Connections, Inc. is a community-based nonprofit serving nine towns in southern Vermont, including Peru. We focus on helping people who feel they have nowhere else to turn, many of whom have fallen through the cracks of larger governmental support systems. They may be experiencing poor physical or mental health, inadequate housing, food insecurity, or a myriad of other challenges. They often endure more than one of these difficulties at a time.

Throughout 2020, while the entire world was on edge, our doors remained open during the height of the pandemic. When many other resources seemed inaccessible, our staff and volunteers connected with individuals and families, helping them navigate through countless crises, and assisted them with tackling unforeseen hardships such as unemployment, homelessness, abrupt school closures, and unexpected childcare needs.

In order to continue providing support for our most vulnerable neighbors, we are requesting \$1000 from Peru for use in our general operating budget. We are requesting the same dollar amount that we received last year, while the breadth of services we provide continues to increase. Peru residents can access these community services (this is not an exhaustive list):

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| *Advocacy and Referrals | *Linkage with Mental Health Services |
| *Food Assistance & Nutrition | *Health Insurance Navigation Assistance |
| *Heating & Fuel Assistance | *Crisis Intervention |
| *Employment Counseling | *Legal Referrals |
| *Tax Return Help | *Housing & Homeless Support Services |
| *Short-term Financial Grants | *Transportation Assistance |
| *Safety & Wellness Monitoring | *Elder Care Support |

Project Against Violent Encounters

Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE) is the only domestic and sexual violence advocacy agency in Bennington County. For nearly 40 years PAVE has provided compassionate support, practical services and the pathway to healing and safety for countless victims of domestic and sexual violence, dating violence and stalking throughout Bennington County.

PAVE has grown from a crisis hotline to the multiple and comprehensive support services we now provide. These services include a 24-hour crisis hotline, court and social service advocacy, case management, emergency financial assistance, access to legal services, emergency shelter, supervised visitation services, parenting classes, community awareness, school-based prevention education and more. We are thrilled to announce the addition of a transitional housing program beginning in 2021.

In the past year, several residents of Peru received comprehensive services through PAVE. In addition to the services listed above, 1 family with 1 child engaged in supervised visitation services through our Family Time Center; this is a critical, often court-ordered service that ensures safe and healthy contact for children with a non-custodial parent.

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 65 adults and 39 children in Bennington County with 5,028 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.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and families served, I thank the residents of Peru for your ongoing support; it allows us to create greater opportunities for the people impacted by domestic and/or sexual violence who need our services each year.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadia Lucchin

Nadia Lucchin, Executive Director

Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE) is a non-profit agency that provides free and confidential services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in Bennington County.

Rural Fire Protection Task Force

November 1, 2020

Re: **Request for Town Appropriation, Vermont Rural Fire Protection Program**

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 **23+ years** of the program, almost **1200 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.

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 Conservation 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 several adjustments to the Rural Fire Protection Grant Program, 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 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 2020 was \$200,432, of which \$107,524 was paid in grants to Vermont communities for construction costs. The remaining budget covered 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

South Londonderry Free Library

Dear Townspeople of Peru,

Throughout these pandemic times the S. Londonderry Free Library has been here for you and yours.

All along we have offered curbside service, free access to downloadable audio and eBooks and free wi-fi availability 24/7 outside of the library building.

To see all of the library's amazing holdings, just go to our website and click on Browse Catalog. Upon request, we will gladly leave books or movies outside for you to pick up.

The library is presently open and we invite you to visit us! You are safer here than going to the grocery store. There is usually 5 or fewer people present at any one time in our spacious House of Books but we ask that you wear a face covering and keep a social distance.

It would be very much appreciated if the Town of Peru could appropriate \$1,000 toward the ongoing expenses and maintenance of this wonderful resource in your community.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Butera, Librarian

Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging

Dear Town Officials,

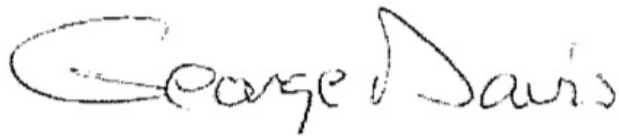
This is a request from the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging for \$200.00 in funding in your FY22 budget. This is the same level of funding we requested and received last year. If approved, this funding will be used to help support the work we do on behalf of Peru residents.

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

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

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "G" and a distinct "D".

George Davis
Board President

Vermont Center of Independent Living

Dear Ms. Freeman and voters:

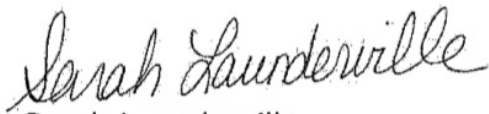
The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL), a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, respectfully requests funding from the Town of Peru for our fiscal year 2019.

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 FY'21 budget.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Launderville".

Sarah Launderville
Executive Director
slaunderville@vcil.org

Vermont Family Network

Dear Select Board,

The mission of the Vermont Family Network is to empower and support all Vermont families of children with special needs. Formed in 2008 when two organizations, the Vermont Parent Information Center (VPIC) and Parent to Parent of Vermont (P2P) merged, Vermont Family Network has collectively served the families of Vermont for more than 30 years and created a virtual "one stop shop" for families of children with special needs and the providers who serve them.

We are writing you today to ask for your support in continuing to serve families in Peru town and throughout the state, with an appropriation of \$250. Traditionally primarily funded through state and federal grants, we find that waning funds threaten to slow our work and minimize the number of families we can support. We are reaching out to communities like Peru town where we have served many families to seek your help. Your appropriation will help ensure the work we are able to do all around the state continues to happen with the same excellence and care that it has for the past 30 years.

We are proud to serve over 1400 families yearly with expert information, referral and assistance services provided by family support consultants located in Williston, Newport and Rutland, an annual conference and much more through our Family Support Program.

Vermont Family Network is also home to Puppets in Education, an educational puppetry team who teach children and parents all around the state about important topics like bullying prevention, child abuse prevention and disability awareness through engaging performances that emphasize compassion, respect, effective leadership and communication. Each year almost 10,000 school children benefit from one of these educational programs.

Thank you so much for your consideration. The funding received will go a long way to ensuring our ability to continue to provide the much needed services to families all across the state. Please feel free to reach out to me at Claire.giroux-williams@vtfn.org, or 802-876-5315, ext. 105 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Claire Giroux-Williams
Development and Communications Manager
Vermont Family Network

Visiting Nurse and Hospice

Dear Selectboard and Citizens of Peru:

Thank you for the opportunity to have Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire's (VNH) appropriation request included in Peru 2021 funding. **VNH respectfully requests a \$2700 appropriation. This represents level funding from last year's request.**

Our nurses, therapists, and social workers provide assessments, medical care, and education to assist people in maintaining their independence. 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 by receiving the care they need in the familiarity and comfort of home. This is especially important during the current crisis. As people self-isolate due to COVID-19, having the benefit of care in the home is even more crucial.

During this time, we have continued to provide care to the community. VNH quickly provided remote patient monitoring and telehealth to our patients in their homes, helping to keep high-risk patients out of the hospitals and clinics. ***These services were provided without reimbursement from Medicare.***

Town funding helps 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. VNH is an essential piece 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 040 visits to Peru residents of all ages and at all stages of life.

In order to continue meeting these needs, 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.

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

With kind regards,



Hilary Davis

Director External Relations and Service Excellence

Burr & Burton Letter from Headmaster

Dear Sending Town School Boards and Residents:

This letter is to announce that Burr and Burton Academy's sending town tuition will increase by 2.8%, to \$18,490, an increase driven primarily by a 10% increase in the cost of medical insurance. In considering our tuition, we share the following thoughts:

As we near Town Meeting Day 2021, we also approach the one-year anniversary of Covid disrupting our lives, shutting down our businesses, and closing our schools. On March 16, 2020, BBA made the decision to shift to remote learning. Because we had been preparing for this possibility, only two days later, we were able to reopen as an online school. We transitioned to online classes, we held virtual meetings, we gathered via zoom and other platforms; we even created an online spring musical, *Hair*, that was amazingly well done. We focused on what we could do rather than what we couldn't, and we culminated the school year with a senior fire truck parade, individual cap-and-gown ceremonies for each senior, and a drive-up commencement at the Bromley parking lot complete with a huge diamond vision screen.

This past fall, we opened the school year using marquee tents as outdoor classrooms, video conferencing technology for every class, enhanced ventilation and cleaning protocols, and an absolute commitment to safely bring students back on campus, in person. We recognized that the steps would be costly (we have incurred over \$500,000 in extraordinary Covid-related expenses this year), and we have met the financial challenges by increased fundraising and tapping our cash reserves. Our entire faculty and staff accepted a salary freeze in recognition of these financial challenges and uncertainties.

We have navigated through the school year operating in hybrid fashion to reduce the density in our classrooms while still encouraging the essential student-teacher bond that is a hallmark of a BBA education. Our teachers have faced extraordinary challenges and have demonstrated flexibility, resilience, and care. Through it all, BBA students are showing an indomitable spirit as they roll with the punches, embrace BBA for what it is today, and struggle - and mostly succeed - with hybrid learning. Their efforts and successes inspire our efforts and successes and remind us what we knew all along: a caring, supportive community is the foundation for great education.

We have done our absolute best to contain costs while meeting the arduous challenges of the current school year. With a Covid vaccine on the horizon, the future is bright, but there is no getting around the 10% increase in healthcare costs, an increase experienced by all schools throughout Vermont.

We sincerely appreciate the tremendous support we have received throughout this school year, and we ask for your support and your vote to continue as an appreciated and valued BBA sending town.

Respectfully submitted



Mark H. Tashjian
Headmaster



Ed Campbell
Chair, Board of Trustees

