

2022
Annual Report

Town of Peru, Vermont
Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022



Town Report also available online at peruvt.org
Please note Town Meeting occurs on Tuesday March 7, 2023

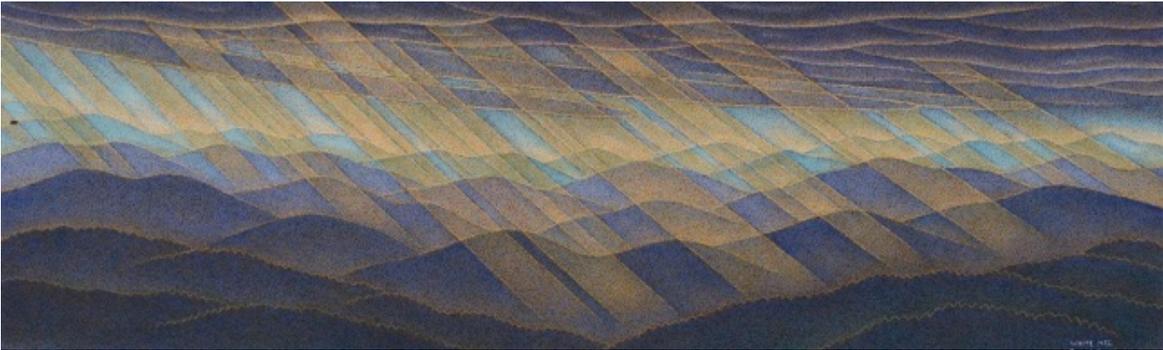
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Artwork courtesy of David Utiger.



Community Information

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

Open: Tues & Thurs 8:30am – 4:00pm
802.824.3065
clerk@peruvt.org

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

PERU POST OFFICE

Hours of Operation:

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

STATE OFFICIALS

Governor's Action Line	800.649.6825
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VERMONT STATE LEGISLATURE

Senators:

Brian Champion	e-mail: bcampion@leg.state.vt.us	802.753.7705
Richard Sears	e-mail: rsears@leg.state.vt.us	802.442.9139

Representative:

Mike Rice	e-mail: mrice@leg.state.vt.us	802.828.2228
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FEDERAL OFFICIALS

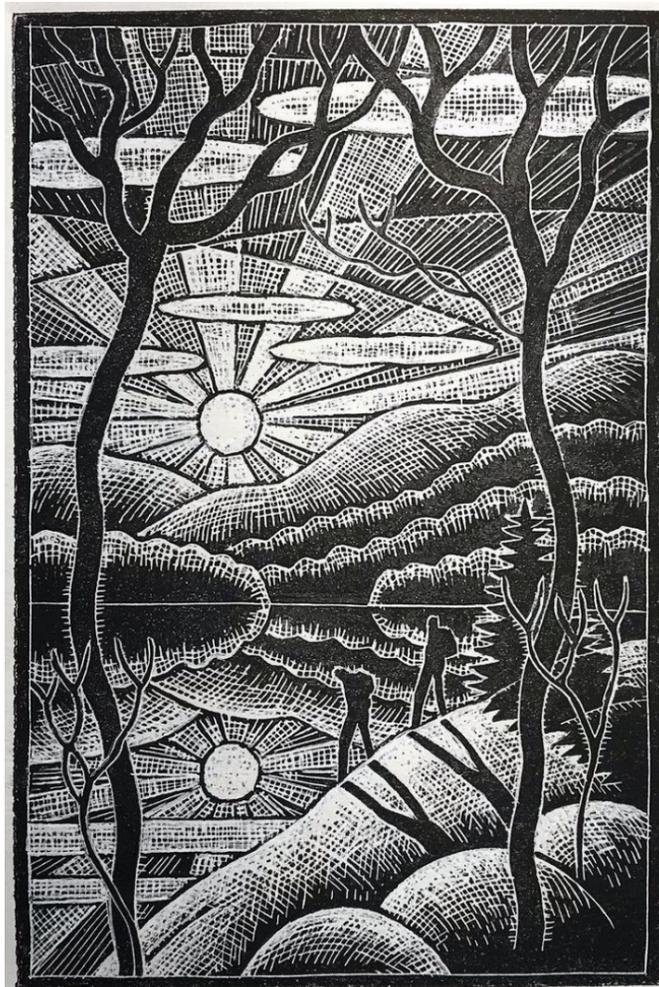
Senator Bernie Sanders, Burlington Office	802.862.0697
Senator Peter Welch, Washington, DC Office	202.224.4242
Congressman Becca Balint, Burlington Office	802.652.2450

Expression of Gratitude

The Town of Peru would like to take an opportunity to acknowledge and thank some people who have donated their time, equipment, expertise, and people power in keeping Peru a wonderful town to live in.

Mark Wright and his crew from Rugg Valley Landscaping has been maintaining the plantings at the Town Center and the Peru Congregational Church for many years. In the spring there is the removal of the winter worn debris, a bit of mulch allowing the perennials to sprout and brighten our days. Through the summer there will be visits to weed and refresh. In the fall, the plantings get their trims for the approach of winter.

In October 2022, due to a State funded grant and monies from a Town reserve fund, a playground was installed at the Peru Park on North Road. The installation required a power auger and cement mixer. This equipment was very generously donated to the effort by Larry Brown Enterprises. Speaking of the playground installation, it could not have accomplished without the great crew of community volunteers and the fire departments pump truck which provided the water for the cement and clean up.



Peru Town Meeting 2023 – WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Peru are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Peru Town Center on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at the hour of 10:00AM to act on the following articles:

Article 1: To elect a Town Moderator

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

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

Article 4:

- A) To see if the town will vote a tax to defray the expenses of the town for the fiscal year of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, as set forth in the budgets submitted in the 2022 Town Report, subject to such modifications as this meeting may vote.
- B) To authorize the selectmen to set the rate on the 2023 Grand List to meet the budgets voted
- C) To establish the date of payment of such taxes. Previous years dates July 1-September 30.

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

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

- Bennington County Child Advocacy \$500.00
- Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless \$500.00
- Bennington County Conservation District \$300.00
- BROC \$200.00
- Center for Restorative Justice \$300.00
- Flood Brook Athletic Association \$1,000.00
- Green Up Vermont \$50.00
- Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad \$5,000.00
- Mountain Valley Health Council \$3,000.00
- Neighborhood Connections \$3,000.00
- Peru Cemetery Commission \$5,000.00

- Project Against Violent Encounters \$150.00
- Rural Fire Protection Task Force \$100.00
- South Londonderry Free Library \$1,000.00
- SW Vermont Council on Aging \$200.00
- The Collaborative \$750.00
- Visiting Nurse Assn. of VT/NH \$2,700.00
- VT Center for Independent Living \$140.00

TOTAL \$23,890.00

Article 7: Shall the Town of Peru raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$13,000.00 for the purpose of funding in part, a full time position of Mountain Towns Recreation Director to be hired by The Town of Londonderry, pursuant to an inter local agreement as established in 24 V.S.A . 4901.

Article 8: 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 9: To transact any other business that may properly come before this meeting.

Dated at Peru, Vermont, January 21, 2023
 Todd Williams, Jon Mowry, Charles Black
 Peru Select Board



Minutes of Informational Meeting, Peru, VT. February 28, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Jon welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the other selectboard member present, Chuck Black.

Zoom Logistics

Jon informed all present on the process for communicating via the Zoom meeting as well as the options for asking questions and/or contributing.

Due to the extension of last year's law, allowing remote Town Meetings, the selectboard felt that it was prudent to hold this year's meeting once again via Zoom. Everyone is hopeful that next year's meeting will be held in person as has been the long-standing tradition.

Polls are open for in person voting March 2, 2022, from 9am – 7pm

This is an informational meeting to respond to questions and comments about the articles on the ballot this year. General Business will be discussed at the end. This meeting is considered a meeting of the selectboard. No motions can be made, and Articles cannot be modified as they are at an in person meetings.

Selectboard meetings happen twice a month. The public is always welcome. Please attend if you have anything you would like to discuss or share. Agendas are posted inside and outside at the town office, at the post office, at Bromley Market and on the town website.

We do have a critical situation concerning positions that are open in Peru. We would appreciate hearing from anyone who would be able to take on the opportunity to serve their community in one of these positions. Please contact the town office (802-824-3065) for more information.

Questions about town business are welcome after the Article 8 discussion.

Review and discuss Article 1: To elect a Town Moderator

Public comment – None

Questions - None

Gary Ameden is the only candidate for Town Moderator. No questions.

Review and discuss Article 2: To elect all Town Officers as the law directs

Town Clerk for a term of one year.

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 two years.
- E. Auditor for a term of three years.
- F. 1 Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years.
- G. 1 Cemetery Commissioner for a term of one year.
- H. 1 Cemetery Commissioner for a term of four years.
- I. First Constable for a term of one year.
- J. Second Constable for a term of one year.
- K. Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year.
- L. Grand Juror for a term of one year.
- M. Trustee of Public Funds for a term of one year.

Public Comment: None

Questions: None

There are candidates on the ballot for all these positions except for an Auditor and for a Lister

Review and discuss Article 3:

- A. Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses for the 2022-2023 fiscal year of \$927,125, of which \$545,000 shall be raised by taxes and \$382,125 by non-tax revenues.
- B. Shall the voters establish the date of payment of such taxes as July 1st, 2022, through September 30th, 2022?

Public Comment: None

Questions: None

Review and Discuss Article 4: Shall the voters authorize the Treasurer to collect current taxes?

Public Comment – None

Questions – None

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

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	\$5000
Mountain Valley Health Council	\$3000
Neighborhood Connection	\$1000
Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE)	\$150
Rural Fire Protection Task Force	\$100
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging	\$200
VT Center for Independent Living	\$140
Bennington County Coalition for Homeless	\$500
Visiting Nurse and Hospice	\$2,700
Bennington County Child Advisory Ctr.	\$500
South Londonderry Free Library	\$1,000
Total	\$21,890

Public Comment – None

Questions – None

Review and Discuss 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.

Public Comment – None

Questions – None

Review and Discuss Article 7: Shall the voters approve closing the Sewer and Land Reserve Fund with a balance of \$19,215 plus any accrued interest, and moving the money into the General Fund?

Public Comment – Discussion on the status of Peru’s Sewer and Land Reserve. Jon advised that Peru does not have a need for a Sewer and Land Reserve, hence the request to put that monies into the General Fund

Questions: None

Review and discuss Article 8: Shall the voters indicate support for the concept of a Regional Field House at the Dana Thompson Memorial Recreation Park in Manchester, with the understanding that towns would participate in its construction costs under a formula based on a combination of grand List, population, and distance, in exchange for a

special use status for those who live or own a second home in the Town of Peru. This article is advisory in nature and does not bind the town to further action.

Public comment – None

Questions – Ivanna Reed asked if there would be an inside pool at the facility. Cindy Gubb, Representative for the Northshire Community Field House advised there would not be at this point in the project. Much research went into this decision, and it is just not financially feasible at this time. Ivanna Reed also asked if the \$325,500 going to the Capitol Construction Fund will be raised by taxes. She was advised that “Yes” the funds would ultimately be raised by taxes. Tucker Murphy inquired as to what will happen if not all towns vote to go ahead. Cindy Gubb advised the powers that be would revise plans and come at it from a different perspective. Ivanna Reed asked about the timeline for beginning construction, Cindy Gubb stated that construction could start as early as this fall.

Discuss other non-binding business:

Jon Mowry spoke to the fact that the Town of Peru needs numerous people to fill vacant positions in our town government. Most importantly Listers, Auditors & Planning Commission members. Ivanna Reed asked if there are job descriptions on the town web page. Jon Mowry states that anyone who is already serving in any of these positions would be willing to discuss what the job entails, or the State of Vermont website would be another resource.

ARPA

Jon Mowry advised that the restrictions regarding how our ARPA money (\$120,000) can be spent have been eased significantly. Suggestions are welcome as to the spending of these monies. Tucker Murphy suggests we put a form online at the town website to gather input from residents.

Comcast

Jon Mowry is looking for someone to be a point person for the acquisition of Internet for those in Town who don't have service and would like it. John Murphy states he will check in with John Stichter as he was the point person for the North Road group last fall. Ivanna Reed inquired about the Southern Vermont Communication District. Jon states we do belong to this group but have not been well represented. Jon asked Ivanna if she would consider being our representative. Ivanna replied she would investigate this further and get some more information about the SVCD.

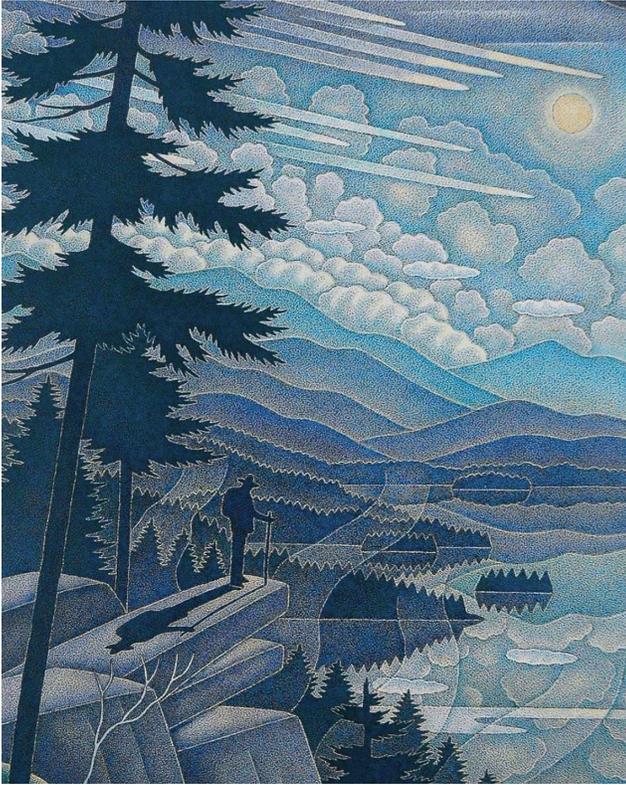
Traffic

Ivanna Reed expressed great concern about the speed of trucks as well as people not stopping at the stop signs in the village of Peru. Jon Mowry let Ivanna know that if she

should write a letter that the selectboard could review, approve & sign, he would send it to the powers that be.

Jon Mowry made a motion to adjourn, Chuck Black seconded it. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 7:47PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Melinda M. Beebe
Town Clerk
Town of Peru



Elected Town Officers

		<u>Term Expires</u>
Moderator:	Gary Ameden	2023
Town Clerk:	Melinda Beebe	2023
Treasurer:	Donna Williams	2023
Select Board:	Todd Williams	2023
	Jon Mowry, Chair	2024
	Chuck Black	2022
Lister:	Rebecca Williams	2022
	Jack Pennypacker, Chair	2023
	vacant	
Auditors:	Alex Sheets	2023
	Josh Witkin	2024
	vacant	2025
Cemetery Commission:		
	Melinda Beebe	2023
	William Crandall, Chair	2024
	Jeremy LaPan	2025
	Ivanna Reed	2026
	Carl Holcomb	2027
First Constable:	Mike Gayda	2023
Second Constable:	Josh Witkin	2023
Delinquent Tax Collector:	Tracy Black	2023
Grand Juror:	Ivanna Reed	2023
Trustee of Public Funds:	Josh Witkin	2023

Justices of the Peace*:

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

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

Select Board Appointed Town Officers

Planning Commission:	<u>Term Expires</u>	
Andy Dahlstrom		2023
Jim Jordan		2023
LJ Petra		2024
Mike Gayda		2024
Lucas Hughes		2025
(vacant)		2025

Zoning Board:		
Chuck Black		2023
Peter Bradford, Chair		2024
Charles Howard		2025
David Utiger		2025

Zoning Administrator: William Goodwin

Sexton: Carl Holcomb

Town Service Officer: Melissa O’Brien

Health Officer: Mike Gayda

Deputy Health Officer: Josh Witkin

Road Commissioner: Todd Williams

Emergency Manager: Chuck Black and Todd Williams

Other Town Positions

Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer: Barbara Petra

Road Foreman: Wayne Blanchard

Road Crew: Brian Bills

Select Board Report

The Peru Select Board continued to meet regularly this year to conduct the town's business, oversee some ongoing projects, and tackle some new ones. Projects completed in the last year include the timber harvest in the Town Forest on Rock Bottom Lane, insulating the attic of the firehouse, additional road crack sealing and pigeon-proofing the South Road garage. Thanks to the organization of Barbara Petra and Jane Worley, and the hard work of a dozen or so volunteers, the installation of a new playground in the Town Park on North Road is nearing completion. With the addition of a couple of parts that were missing and bark mulch, the playground should be open in early spring. The town has contracted for the installation of a new roof on the town garage and is waiting on the contractor.

The Select Board continues to seek ideas for spending the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds received over the last two years. The Town has received around \$100,000 dollars and is seeking interesting projects on which to spend the funds that will help build community or improve our town. A committee has been formed to come to the select board with ideas. Please reach out for more information.

Our town government continues to have several open positions and seeks volunteers to fill them. Like many towns in the state, we are struggling to find people willing to get involved and put in the time. In particular, the town has been operating for the last year with only two out of three auditors and two out of three listers. These are important positions and anyone interested in getting involved should stop by the Town Office for information.

Residents will no doubt be dismayed this year to see a significant increase in property taxes, so we wanted to take time to explain the increase. Increased taxes this year can be traced to three factors: an unusual surplus last year which caused lower-than-expected taxes, inflation-driven spending increases, and a significant drop in the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) for Peru based on property sales. Many Vermonters pay property taxes based on their income due to the Income Sensitivity system and should feel less impact.

As was explained in last year's Select Board Report, There was a large one-time surplus in 2022 that was applied to last year's budget. That caused a lowering of last year's taxes which otherwise would not have happened, and makes this year's increase seem larger.

Because of inflation, the Town has seen some expenses increase significantly over the last year and has had to budget accordingly for next year. Some of the most significant increases are related to road maintenance and include fuel, sand, and salt.

Most significant in causing an increase in this year's taxes, is the drop in Peru's CLA as calculated by the State of VT. The CLA is a value that compares the sale prices of properties in town to the values of those properties on the town's Grand List. This year, the CLA is .79, which means properties in Peru sold at values way above those they were appraised at on the Grand List. Based on this, a house worth \$100,000 would be taxed by the state as if it were worth around \$126,000 ($100,000 / .79$). This is designed to penalize towns that undervalue property and help those whose property values have decreased, but it can cause sharp changes in times like these when property values increase quickly. Having a CLA below .80 will, by law, also mean that Peru will have to do a complete property reappraisal in the next year.

The Select Board meets at 6:30 on the first and third Wednesday of the month, and we always love to have residents attend.

The Peru Select Board

Jon Mowry

Chuck Black

Todd Williams

Clerk's Report

VITAL STATISTICS: JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2022

MARRIAGES: 4
BIRTHS: 3
DEATHS: 5
BURIALS: 5

LIQUOR LICENSES: MAY 1, 2022 – APRIL 30, 2023

FIRST CLASS RESTAURANT / BAR:	1 @	\$115.00	=	\$115.00
FIRST CLASS HOTEL:	0 @	\$115.00	=	\$00.00
FIRST CLASS COMMERCIAL CATERER	2 @	100.00	=	\$200.00
OUTSIDE CONSUMPTION:	0 @	\$20.00	=	00.00*
TOBACCO:	1 @	\$0.00	=	00.00*
THIRD CLASS:	1 @	\$1095.00	=	\$1095.00*
TOTAL				\$ 1,410.00

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

Audit Report

The town auditors conducted our audit of fiscal year 7/1/21 - 6/30/22 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, 2022.

Alex Sheets, Josh Witkin

Board of Listers Report

GRAND LIST: Each year, the primary role of the Listers is to maintain a fair and equitable Grand List for the purposes of taxation. The Listers establish a Grand List specifying the value of each taxable property as of April 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 725 parcels in Peru, including 395 structures with land (including residential and commercial properties), 270 condominiums and 55 parcels with open land. No parcel formally grieved their assessments this year. All concerns were resolved at our pre-grievance level

EQUALIZATION STUDY RESULTS: Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, it has become a seller's market. This year (4/1/21 - 3/31/22) has continued to be a seller's market with sale values well above the appraised values. Sales trends are measured by the state using two statistical measures, the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) and Coefficient of Dispersion (COD). Each is measured by a three-year running average. Last year, our CLA was 88.66% and our COD was 15.86%. This year the CLA was 78.24% and our COD was 88.18%. A CLA below 100% indicates that our town appraisal values are less than fair market value. A high COD indicates that some taxpayers are paying more than their fair share and some are paying less than their fair share. A CLA less than 85% or a COD greater than 120% necessitates a town wide reappraisal. Since our CLA is now below 85%, we are required by the state to carry out a town-wide reappraisal. We have contacted New England Municipal Resource Center who conducted our last reappraisal in 2015 to initiate the process. We anticipate this may take time as many towns are in the same situation, but as long as we have a plan in place, the state will give us that time.

USE VALUE APPRAISAL PROGRAM (CURRENT USE): Owners of agricultural and forest land may be eligible to have land taxed at the lower "use value" rate by enrolling in the Current Use Program. At least 25 acres are required for enrollment, excluding a 2

acre house site. We currently have 36 parcels enrolled in the Current Use program. For additional information and to file an application electronically, please go to <http://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/curent-use>.

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

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

BOARD OF LISTERS: As a board, we must abide by changing state statutes and fixed and constrained timetables. We are here to assist you with any questions or concerns that you may have. The Board of Listers meets on Wednesday 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 in April or May by a Pre-Grievance process. If you wish to formally grieve the assessed value of your property, please submit a letter in May describing the basis for your Grievance. The formal Grievance Day will be held in the first two weeks of June.

FINALLY ANOTHER PLEA TO THE PERU COMMUNITY: Normally, the Board of Listers is comprised of three members. Since June, 2021 we have operated with only two board members and we would love to recruit a third. If YOU would like to volunteer your services for this vital role, please contact the Town Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,
The Board of Listers

Jack Pennypacker, Chair
Rebecca Williams

Zoning Administrative Officer's Report

During 2022, a total of 22 land use applications were received, 0 applications were carried over from 2021. 2 of these applications were referred to the Planning Commission for Site Plan Review, 3 were sent to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for variances, and 17 were reviewed by the Zoning Administrator.

A total of 22 applications were issued Zoning Permits in the following categories:

- 5 New Single-Family Dwellings
- 8 Residential Additions or Alterations
- 3 Residential Accessory Structures
- 1 Home Business
- 1 Accessory Dwellings
- 2 Primitive Camps
- 0 New Commercial Buildings
- 1 Light Industry
- 0 Commercial Additions/Alterations/Change of Use
- 0 Sign
- 0 Ponds
- 0 Boundary Line Adjustments
- 1 Planned Residential District Subdivision
- 0 Permit extensions
- 0 Appeal of Zoning Administrator's Decision
- 0 Notices of Violations Issued for Zoning non-compliance

Zoning Administrator, Will Goodwin, can be reached by emailing zoning@peruvt.org, or by calling 802-824-3065. He is at the Peru Town Offices most Thursday afternoons.

Cemetery Commissioner's Report

The maintenance of Peru's three cemeteries, the Village Cemetery, North Cemetery and Stone Cemetery has been ongoing through the year consisting of mowing/trimming grass, removal of leaves, taking down hazardous trees and grave stone maintenance.

The Cemetery Commission is still struggling with a lack of participation from its board members not attending the meetings this seems to be a problem for a lot of town positions so we are not alone in our struggles.

The next meeting for the commission will be May 4, 2023 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,
William Crandall, Chairman
Peru Cemetery Commissioner

Peru Cemetery Commission Balance Sheet

Checking Account Balance, July 1, 2021	\$ 51,237.56
RECEIPTS:	
Interest	\$ 11.38
Dividends	\$ 1,608.12
Plot Purchase	\$ 1,200.00
Perpetual Care	\$ 1,200.00
Town Appropriation	\$ 5,000.00
Total Receipts	\$ 9,019.50
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Maintenance	\$ 5,349.49
Transfer Perpetual Care Funds to Investment Acc	\$ 32,700.00
Total Disbursements:	\$ 38,049.49
Checking Account Balance, June 30, 2022	\$ 22,207.57
Assets Owned:	
Berkshire Bank Municipal NOW (Checking Account)	\$ 22,207.57
Mutual Funds and Stock (at Market Value)	\$ 164,334.76
Total Assets	\$ 186,542.33

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

First Constable's Report

This is my third year acting as Constable with help of my assistant Constable Josh Witkin. Other than a couple of noise calls associated with short term renters, I am happy to report that Peru has remained relatively quiet during these times. I would like also to remind us all to drive prudently and slowly, particularly on Hapgood Pond Road and in town.

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

Cordially,
Mike Gayda

Fire Department Report

The fire dept. responded to 54 calls in 2022. The calls break down as follows, 2 DHART LZ setup, 12 mutual aid requests, 5 agency assist calls, 6 motor vehicle accidents, 21 still alarms (automatic fire alarms), 2 chimney fires, 1 smoke in building call, 1 CO alarm, 1 car fire and 2 tree on the wires calls.

Through our fundraising and donations, the Fire Company purchased \$8750 of new equipment and donated it to the town.

Chuck Black, Fire Chief

Fire Warden Report

49 burning permits were issued in 2022. As a reminder, only untreated wood is burnable under VT statute.

Chuck Black, Fire Warden

Road Commissioner's Report

General Maintenance – included grading roads, clean up town trees from side roads, brush cutting, lawn mowing, and roadside mowing.

Culverts were replaced on North Road and Lovers Lane.

Grant work completed on North Road. Ditch cleaning, replacing culverts, stone line ditching, re-slope, seed and hay.

Ditch work on Moss Brook Rd, Catlin Road, Anderson Road, Savage Road, Russal Road.

Resurfacing roads on Russal Road, Little Michigan Road, Anderson Road, North Road, Lovers Lane, Savage Road, and Moss Brook Road.

Respectfully Submitted,
Todd Williams
Road Commissioner



Animal Control

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

Total licenses sold 2022: 94

Revenue to Peru:	\$ 783.00*
Revenue to State VT	\$ <u>470.00</u>
Total Revenue 2022	\$ 1,253.00
*Including late fees	

2022 Fees:	<u>Before April 1st</u>	<u>After April 1st</u>
Neutered/Spayed	\$ 12.00	\$ 17.00
Unaltered Male/Female	\$ 20.00	\$ 29.00

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Petra
Assistant Town Clerk

Animal Control Officer

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

The Animal Control Department makes every effort to ensure that all functions of the department are carried out in the most economical manner with cost savings in mind, while providing the highest degree of professional service to the townspeople and

providing assistance to the community so that animals and people can co-exist safely and peacefully.

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

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



Peru Fair and Peru Fair Scholarship Report

Over 5000 people attended this year's Peru Fair held on September 24th. As a result, we are pleased to report that a record contribution of \$30,000 was made to the Peru Fair Scholarship Fund, enabling each full-time Peru student pursuing a higher education beyond high school to receive a scholarship of \$1,000 per year.

After a 2 year pause due to Covid, the 2022 Peru Fair was back in action. Blessed with a perfect fall day, excitement and smiles the Fair was a big success for attendees and vendors alike. Attendance was substantially above recent levels. None of this would have been possible without the volunteer efforts of over 70 area residents and the support of numerous local businesses.

We always welcome new volunteers and committee members. In addition to raising funds for the educational advancement of our young people, the Fair is a wonderful catalyst for bringing the Town together in a common pursuit. We will be working toward another successful fair in 2023

Laurie Gayda - Peru Fair President

Receipts

Balance on Hand 01/01/2022	\$2,424.15
Exhibitors Fees	\$12,286.27
Gates (includes Wagon Sales)	\$49,085.60
Wagon Sales	\$185.80
Total receipts	\$63,981.82

Disbursements

Stationary/Website	\$1,083.17
Advertising	\$1,559.00
Postage	\$70.00
Entertainment	\$4,814.00
Bus/Transportation	\$8,501.50
Sanitation	\$1,380.00
Wagon	\$1,525.00
Security	\$5,793.97
Setup	\$1,606.49
Donation to Scholarship	\$30,000.00
Total Disbursements	\$56,333.13
Cash on Hand	\$7,648.69

Ruth Ann Barrick - Peru Fair Treasurer

Londonderry Solid Waste Group

2023 Transfer Station Stickers are available and required to access the Londonderry Transfer Station. You can purchase one at any of the five-member town offices in person or on-line from londonderryvt.org

Please be mindful of how you separate recyclables and put them in the proper bay. If in doubt, ask the attendant. They're there to help.

In 2022 the Londonderry Transfer Station collected 400.31 Tons of Municipal Solid Waste (trash) and 784.32 of Construction and Demolition Waste and bulky trash items. In 2022 we recycled 172 tons of co-mingled containers, 139 tons of mixed paper, 16.43 tons of cardboard, 196 tons of scrap metal, 7.71 tons of textiles, 3.23 tons of redeemable bottles and cans and 66.66 tons of food scraps.

The Londonderry Solid Waste Group (LSWG) held two Hazardous Waste Collection Events in 2022. If you missed them or would like to be part of the 2023 collections, they will be held on the first Saturday in June and the first Saturday in October. You can find information about what to and what not to bring at

<https://www.londonderryvt.org/recycletransfer/hazardous-special-waste/> In 2022 the LSWG collected hazardous materials from 158 households.

Vermont currently has Manufacturer-Sponsored battery, electronics, paint, mercury light bulbs and mercury thermostat programs. To find locations for free disposal go to VTrecycles.com or call 1-855-63-cycle. This legislative session the Vermont Product Stewardship Council is working with legislators to promote an Extended Producer Responsibility bill for household hazardous waste.

Sharps: If you use sharps including needles and need to dispose of them know that sharps can't be recycled and are dangerous if not disposed of properly. Use a heavy-duty laundry detergent or bleach container with a screw top. **DO NOT** use soda or water bottles. Carefully put used sharps in the container with the needle end down. Label the container with the warning: **DO NOT RECYCLE! DO NOT** fill the container full. When the container is ready for disposal, screw the cap on tightly and cover the top with strong tape, like duct tape. Dispose of the container with household trash. **DO NOT** put this container in recycling.

Two important dates are coming that impact the sale and distribution of mercury-containing bulbs in Vermont. Screw based - **Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs)** will be banned from sale starting **February 17, 2023**. General-purpose – **Four Foot (4') Linear Fluorescent Tubes** will be banned from sale starting **January 1, 2024**. Fluorescent lightbulbs contain mercury (which is toxic to humans), so they cannot

go in the trash. Find a free bulb-recycling drop-off near you at <https://www.lamprecycle.org/>

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

Green Mountain National Forest

The employees of the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) depend heavily on support from many municipalities, volunteers, partners, and contractors. The Forest would like to take this time to thank you and your community for the support and interest that you have shown in helping with the management of the approximately 400,000-acre GMNF. Receiving several million outdoor recreation enthusiast visits annually, these visitors seek enjoyment in a natural setting while providing critical benefit to our local economies. The GMNF is proud to be a part of Vermont and your town. It is truly one of Vermont's treasures and the largest contiguous public land area in the state. Forest staff work hard to achieve quality public land management under a sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of all people -- people in your town as well as all of the visitors who come to Vermont every year. This has been another exciting year for us, and we have worked hard to support new opportunities on the National Forest that benefit the people and communities that we serve.

As mentioned in our Town Report last year, we are in the process of building a new Forest Supervisor's Office in Mendon which we expect to be open for staff and visitors in the coming year. The former Rutland-based headquarters (231 North Main Street) for the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests has transitioned to a full-time virtual work schedule which will continue until our new office is completed on U.S. Route 4 in Mendon, Vermont. While our main phone number (formally for the Rutland Office) will remain the same (802) 747-6700, our mailing address has changed to: USDA Forest Service, Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests, PO Box 220, Rutland, VT 05702. Please use this new mailing address and also visit our website for a current listing of Forest Service employees who can assist you throughout this temporary transition: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3838044.pdf.

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

The Southern Vermont Communications Union District, a political subdivision of the State of Vermont, is a multi-municipal organization working to solve the longstanding rural broadband connectivity challenges in its fourteen member towns. Since forming in March of 2020, the CUD has grown to include Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Landgrove, Londonderry, Manchester, Peru, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Shaftsbury, Sunderland, Winhall, and Woodford.

SoVT CUD has had a very busy, and successful third year. The CUD worked with its partner, Consolidated Communications Inc. (CCI) to submit an application to the Act 71 Construction Grant Program, which was successfully funded in the amount of \$9,009,085. The CUD also signed a Master Services Agreement with CCI to begin construction of a fiber network in the CUD's service territory. In June, the CUD and CCI celebrated the [launch of Phase 1 of CCI's three-phase buildout in Bennington County](#), and in August, the [first customer was connected to the new fiber network](#). **All 14 towns in the CUD are expected to be covered by the end of 2023.**

CCI, in consultation with the CUD, has developed the following three-phase construction plan for the CUD territory:

- **Phase 1:** Now Complete! This phase is financed by CCI as part of their Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) obligations and covered most of the Southshire, including Bennington, Woodford, Glastenbury, and part of Pownal and Shaftsbury.
- **Phase 2A:** This phase will be financed by the Act 71 Construction Grant. Set to begin in early 2023 and complete by the end of the year, this phase of the buildout will cover approximately 1,300 unserved and underserved addresses in the CUD's territory. Most of SoVT CUD's territory will be covered at the conclusion of this phase.
- **Phase 2B:** Funded by CCI, the second part of Phase 2 will begin in early 2023 and complete by the end of the year. This portion of the project involves a fiber build to an additional 619 unserved addresses and is part of CCI's RDOF obligations.
- **Phase 3:** The final phase will build out fiber to the "hardest 100" addresses in the CUD's territory, which has since been narrowed to the "hardest 17" addresses.
- Additionally, because of the strong partnership between the CUD and Consolidated, Consolidated has agreed to invest its own capital to cover an additional 4,689 served addresses across the CUD.

By way of closing, we would like to thank the many people and organizations who continue to support our work: the Department of Public Service; the Vermont Community Broadband Board; our elected officials; and the Bennington County Regional Commission. Most importantly, however, we would like to recognize the delegates that you have appointed to the CUD's Governing Board. They have dedicated their time and energy to

solving an immensely difficult problem, and we would not have made the progress that we have made to date without them.

We meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 6:00 PM. Please join us, and learn more at sovtcud.net.

Sincerely,

Eric Hatch, Chair

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Taconic & Green Regional School District

It has been another unusual year in our schools. We are deeply grateful to everyone who works in our District for shouldering extra work, quickly figuring out new ways to do things, and always putting our children's learning first. It has not been easy!

Although we are through the worst of the COVID-related challenges, we are by no means out of the woods. In particular, the pandemic worsened an already existing teacher shortage. Also, the lack of substitute teachers and support staff has been exhausting for many in the schools as well as at home. We have become more aware of the limits and effects of extended remote learning, and we are trying hard to help students regain skills and behaviors that declined during their time at home with little contact with school or with each other.

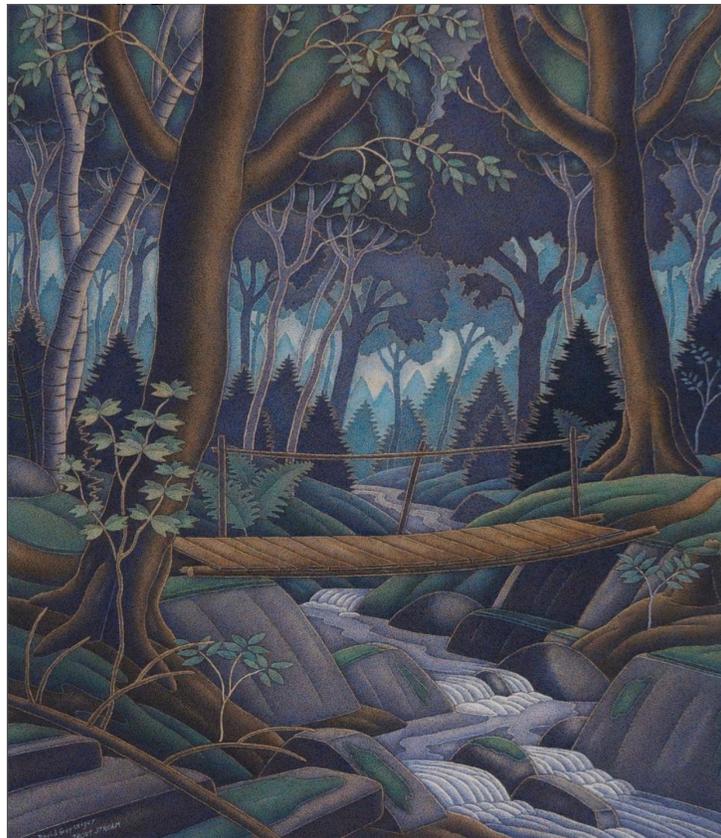
Our focus has primarily been on ensuring that the Superintendent has adequate structures and supports to deliver the best possible education for all the students in our District. We are a Policy Governance board, so we do not micromanage details like bus routes and lunch menus. Instead, we emphasize creating clear, ambitious, and achievable expectations for student outcomes.

In 2021, we asked for input on several fundamental questions about the purpose of schools in today's world and what the District should strive for. Over 600 people gave us their opinions, helping us revise District goals and policies (available on our District website). One topic that has lasting interest is whether it makes educational and financial sense to establish a single middle school for all nine towns in our District. We need input on this and will create opportunities for community engagement. We also publicize our meetings on electronic bulletin boards like Front Porch Forum and in the local print media, and our part of the Supervisory Union website can be used for comments. Public input is important, and we wish we had more!

Our proposed budget would result in a lower overall tax rate for all sending towns – if property values had not shot up. When property values rise, our towns' Common Level of Appraisal falls. This increases the tax bills for people who do not benefit from income sensitivity. The increase in the value of residential real estate has more than canceled out

the decrease in the base tax rate, so tax bills are up. More details on the budget and related tax rates are at www.brsu.org or in our printed report, available from the supervisory union office (802) 362-2452 or your Town Clerk. Everyone is invited to attend any of our monthly board meetings in person or on Zoom, or to reach out directly with any questions or concerns.

We are glad that the state's careful response to the pandemic has enabled us to resume the usual Annual District Meeting on February 28th, with floor votes including the election of the District Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer. As always, voting on the budget, reserve funds, and high school tuition will be by Australian Ballot on March 7th at your normal polling place or earlier by mail. **You will not automatically receive an absentee ballot.** If you want to vote by mail, you must request a mail ballot from your Town Clerk. Please do this by Monday, March 6, 2023 or go to your Town Clerk and pick up a ballot.



Town of Peru, Budget

	Actual 21/22	Authorized 22/23	Proposed 23/24
3000 · REVENUE			
315-Long View Cash Bond			
316 · State of VT- Current Use	22,237.50	20,000.00	20,000.00
318 · Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	10,308.53	9,000.00	9,000.00
322 · Beverage License	1,035.00	550.00	550.00
324 · Dog License&Marriage Lic	589.00	850.00	850.00
326 · Zoning Permits	3,387.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
328 · Hunting/Fishing Licenses	1.50	25.00	25.00
332 · Town Clerk Fees	16,368.48	10,000.00	10,000.00
334 · Rental of Equipment	145.00	75.00	75.00
336 · Rental of Facilities	133.00	75.00	75.00
338 · Highway- State of VT	57,740.04	40,000.00	40,000.00
340 · Interest Earned	6,602.70	4,300.00	4,300.00
344 · Misc Income	84,016.35	750.00	750.00
346 · Green Mountain Forest	53,707.60	40,000.00	40,000.00
Total 3000 · REVENUE	256,271.70	127,125.00	127,125.00
Surplus to be applied to tax rate (To Be) Raised by taxes	185,000.00	255,000.00	155,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$898,137.16	\$927,120.00	987,275.00
4000 · ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			
400 · Town Clerk	13,288.50	17,600.00	17,600.00
401 · Treasurer	13,703.41	15,500.00	15,500.00
402 · Asst Town Clerk	9,821.50	13,300.00	13,300.00
403 · Asst Treasurer	3,454.50	4,100.00	4,100.00
404 · Select Board	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
405 · Auditors	948.68	1,500.00	1,500.00
406 · Listers	2,498.70	4,000.00	4,000.00
407 · Planning Commission	644.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
408 · Memberships / Training	3,395.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
408.5 · Consulting	405.00	400.00	400.00
409 · Legal Services	1,053.50	3,000.00	3,000.00
410 · Town Report & Delivery	1,438.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
411 · Town Meetings	0.00	250.00	250.00
412 · Election Expense	0.00	300.00	300.00
413 · Comp & Liability Insurance	16,544.25	25,000.00	25,000.00
414 · Admin Misc/Travel	49.92	500.00	500.00
415 · Zoning Board of Adjustment	155.00	500.00	500.00
416 · Zoning Administrator	6,520.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
417 · Zoning Board/Administrator Misc	0.00	100.00	100.00
418 · Delinquent Tax Collector	9,684.48	12,000.00	12,000.00

Total 4000 · ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	88,604.44	120,550.00	120,550.00
4200 · OFFICE EXPENSE			
420 · Tax Bills	440.00	450.00	450.00
421 · Document Books	400.34	1,000.00	1,000.00
422 · Dog Tags & Registration	90.23	125.00	125.00
423 · Paper, Envelopes & Supplies	675.06	1,000.00	1,000.00
424 · Postage	1,114.38	1,500.00	1,500.00
425 · Office Misc/Supplies	1,323.52	800.00	800.00
426 · Bank Fees	315.35	100.00	100.00
428 · Media/Advertising	420.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Total 4200 · OFFICE EXPENSE	4,778.88	6,175.00	6,175.00
4300 · OFFICE EQUIPMENT EXPENSE			
432 · Copier Expense	512.79	1,000.00	1,000.00
434 · Computer Expenses	13,199.80	11,000.00	11,000.00
436 · Equipment, furniture & fixtures	110.99	4,200.00	4,200.00
438 · Miscellaneous	0.00	250.00	250.00
Total 4300 · OFFICE EQUIPMENT EXPENSE	13,823.58	16,450.00	16,450.00
4400 · TOWN CENTER UTILITIES			
440 · Electricity	1,702.22	2,000.00	2,000.00
442 · Telephone/Internet	1,086.44	1,500.00	1,500.00
444 · Heating Fuel	3,036.16	4,000.00	4,000.00
446 · Furnace Maintenance	326.82	750.00	750.00
447 · Security Monitoring System	195.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
448 · Propane	159.72	300.00	300.00
Total 4400 · TOWN CENTER UTILITIES	6,506.36	9,550.00	9,550.00
4500 · TOWN CENTER JANITORIAL			
450 · Janitor Services	2,056.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
453 · Supplies	493.83	200.00	200.00
Total 4500 · TOWN CENTER JANITORIAL	2,549.83	2,700.00	2,700.00
4600 · TOWN CENTER MAINTENANCE			
463 · Supplies	132.22	500.00	500.00
464 · Capital Improvement/Maintenance	1,932.19	10,000.00	10,000.00
Total 4600 · TOWN CENTER MAINTENANCE	2,064.41	10,500.00	10,500.00
4700 · COMMUNITY HOUSE MAINTENANCE			
473 · Supplies	0.00	150.00	150.00
474 · Electricity	291.67	500.00	500.00
475 · Capital Improvement/Maintenance	446.27	15,000.00	15,000.00
476 · Propane	146.92	350.00	350.00
Total 4700 · COMMUNITY HOUSE MAINTENANCE	884.86	16,000.00	16,000.00

4800 · TOWN GARAGE			
480 · Electricity	2,084.06	2,300.00	2,300.00
481 · Heating Fuel/Propane	3,100.91	4,000.00	4,000.00
482 · Supplies	334.92	500.00	500.00
484 · Uniform(contract services)	2,117.91	2,400.00	2,400.00
485 · Capital Improvement/Maintenance	11,418.38	14,000.00	14,000.00
486 · Telephone	625.27	700.00	700.00
Total 4800 · TOWN GARAGE	19,681.45	23,900.00	23,900.00
5100 · PAYROLL TAXES/BENEFITS			
512 · Soc Sec/Medicare Tax	14,740.68	16,000.00	16,000.00
517 · VT Dept of Employment & Trainin	0.00	250.00	250.00
518 · County Tax	34,494.19	20,000.00	40,000.00
Total 5100 · PAYROLL TAXES/BENEFITS	49,234.87	36,250.00	56,250.00
6200 · GENERAL SERVICES			
626 · Landfill	31,773.44	35,000.00	35,000.00
628 · Street Lighting	2,096.58	3,500.00	3,500.00
634 · Constable Expense	75.30	400.00	400.00
636 · Animal Warden	3,889.75	3,500.00	3,500.00
Total 6200 · GENERAL SERVICES	37,835.07	42,400.00	42,400.00
7000 · HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT			
700 · Gasoline	293.01	250.00	750.00
701 · Oil	2,729.89	3,000.00	3,000.00
702 · Diesel	18,400.13	20,000.00	30,000.00
703 · Small Tools	1,888.22	1,000.00	1,000.00
704 · Radio Repairs	0.00	500.00	500.00
705 · Street Signs	9.67	2,000.00	2,000.00
706 · Truck #1-Maint/Repairs	3,042.04	4,500.00	4,500.00
708 · Truck #2-Maint/Repairs	4,955.33	4,500.00	4,500.00
710 · Chipper Maint./Repairs	7,720.49	500.00	500.00
710.5 · Truck #3 Maint/Repairs, Supplie	4.74	0.00	0.00
712 · Grader-Maint/Repairs	1,016.70	8,300.00	8,300.00
714 · Sander-Maint/Repairs	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
716 · Small Equip-Maint/Repairs	188.56	500.00	500.00
716.5 · Sweeper-Repairs/Maintenance	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
717.5 · Lawn Mower	117.45	500.00	500.00
718 · Backhoe-Maint/Repairs	3,441.87	6,000.00	6,000.00
719.5-Roadside Mower/Maint/Repair	1,742.60	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total 7000 · HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT	45,550.70	57,050.00	67,550.00
7200 · SUMMER ROADS (CLASS 2&3)			
721 · Culverts	6,350.40	8,000.00	8,000.00
722 · Cal Chloride	6,118.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
723. Crushed Stone	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
724 · Resurfacing Crushed Gravel	21,895.85	22,000.00	22,000.00

725 · Contract Services	500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
726 · General Maintenance	471.76	2,000.00	2,000.00
727 · Labor -1st Employee	30,332.86	27,030.00	33,000.00
727.5 · OT Labor-1st Employee	0.00	600.00	600.00
728 · Labor -2nd Employee	21,136.40	20,400.00	24,000.00
728.5 · OT Labor-2nd Employee	0.00	500.00	500.00
729 · Equipment Rental	25.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total 7200 · SUMMER ROADS (CLASS 2&3)	86,830.27	101,530.00	111,100.00
7400 · WINTER ROADS (CLASS 2&3)			
741 · Plow and Chains	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
743 · Contract Services	2,000.00	1,250.00	1,250.00
744 · Sand	33,591.60	37,000.00	37,000.00
745 · Salt	20,577.29	40,000.00	40,000.00
746 · Labor -1st Employee	23,458.16	27,540.00	28,000.00
747 · Labor-2nd Employee	18,486.40	19,380.00	22,000.00
748 · Overtime -1st Employee	5,429.61	9,500.00	9,500.00
749 · Overtime-2nd Employee	3,386.70	6,500.00	6,500.00
750 · General Maintenance	592.35	500.00	500.00
Total 7400 · WINTER ROADS (Class 2&3)	107,522.11	145,670.00	148,750.00
7700 · BRIDGES			
775 · Materials	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
776 · Construction	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Total 7700 · BRIDGES	0.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
7900 · HIGHWAY			
791 · Bereavement	0.00	300.00	300.00
792 · Health Insurance	45,900.85	45,000.00	50,000.00
793 · Retirement	11,029.78	9,000.00	13,000.00
794 · Vacation Days	3,498.70	6,500.00	6,500.00
794.5 · Holidays Paid	3,940.80	5,000.00	5,000.00
794.8 · Sick Days	2,746.08	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total 7900 · HIGHWAY	67,116.21	68,800.00	77,800.00
8000 · MISCELLANEOUS			
800 · Approp -Comm Agencies	20,890.00	22,000.00	22,000.00
803 · Select Board Discretionary Fund	2,950.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
805 · Reappraisal	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
807 · Highway Surfacing	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
808 · Fire Engine Fund	40,000.00	40,000.00	42,000.00
810 · Highway Equip Fund	75,000.00	75,000.00	75,000.00
811 · Peru Park Reserve Fund	7,359.50	5,500.00	5,500.00
818 · Document Restoration & Pres.	-214.00	2,100.00	2,100.00
852 · Town Tree Maintenance	1,120.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total 8000 · MISCELLANEOUS	202,105.50	205,600.00	207,600.00
9000 · FIRE DEPT			

901 · Fire Dept. Insurance	7,254.25	9,000.00	9,000.00
902 · Radios and Dispatch	17,947.81	18,500.00	18,500.00
903 · Assoc. Dues and School Fees	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
904 · Engine and Equipment Maint	2,599.71	7,000.00	7,000.00
906 · Propane	2,227.13	3,000.00	3,000.00
907 · Misc. and Supplies	611.61	500.00	500.00
908 · Capital Improvement/Maintenance	19,390.78	10,000.00	10,000.00
909 · Payroll	14,058.04	10,000.00	16,000.00
Total 9000 · FIRE DEPT	<u>64,089.33</u>	<u>60,500.00</u>	<u>66,500.00</u>
Total Expense	\$799,177.87	\$927,125.00	987,275.00

Town of Peru General Fund - Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, Appropriations and Changes in Fund Balance

	Highway Equipment	Highway Resurfacing/Bridges	Fire Engine Equipment	Peru Park Reserve Fund	Re-Appraisal	Restoration & Preservation	TOTAL
REVENUE							
From General Fund	\$75,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00	0.00	\$172,000.00
Interest Income	20.51	38.62	7.83	2.04	17.51	2.14	88.65
Sale of 2002 International Truck	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Clerk Recording Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,405.00	3,405.00
Grant (Match) from General Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,773.00	0.00	0.00	7,773.00
TOTAL REVENUE	76,520.51	50,038.62	40,007.83	9,775.04	5,017.51	3,407.14	184,766.65
EXPENDITURES							
Playground Equipment & Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,195.46	0.00	0.00	13,195.46
Digitized Maps	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,050.00	7,050.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,195.46	0.00	7,050.00	20,245.46
Revenues in Excess of Expenditures (Deficit)	76,520.51	50,038.62	40,007.83	(3,420.42)	5,017.51	(3,642.86)	164,521.19
Fund Balance July 1, 2021	96,895.94	188,339.00	36,955.85	10,779.92	86,155.19	11,419.44	430,545.34
Fund Balance June 30, 2022	\$173,416.45	\$238,377.62	\$76,963.68	\$7,359.50	\$91,172.70	7,776.58	\$595,066.53

Balance Sheets

	General Fund	Special Funds	Peru Cemetery	Total
Assets				
Cash	\$580,973.99	\$587,293.53	\$22,207.57	\$1,190,475.09
Petty Cash	150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
Stock/Mutual Funds	0.00	0.00	164,334.76	164,334.76
Delinquent Taxes Receivable	47,863.32	0.00	0.00	47,863.32
PeruPark Advance State Match		7,773.00		7,773.00
Prepaid Expenses	869.76	0.00	0.00	869.76
Total Assets	\$629,857.07	\$595,066.53	\$186,542.33	\$1,411,465.93
Liabilites				
Over Payment Payroll Tax Liabilities	-322.78			-322.78
Funds in Escrow Timber Sale	12,927.03	0.00	0.00	12,927.03
Unexpended ARPA Grant	53,171.52	0.00	0.00	53,171.52
Total Liabilites	65,775.77	0.00	0.00	65,775.77
Fund Balance				
Appropriated	0.00	595,066.53	186,542.33	781,608.86
Unappropriated	564,081.30	0.00		564,081.30
Total Fund Balance	564,081.30	595,066.53	186,542.33	1,345,690.16
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$629,857.07	\$595,066.53	\$186,542.33	\$1,411,465.93

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

REVENUE		AUTHORIZED 21-22	ACTUAL 21-22
300	Taxes	\$ 586,900.00	\$ 627,243.37
	Surplus applied to Tax Rate	185,000.00	
316	State of VT Current Use	17,500.00	22,237.50
318	Penalties Delinquent Taxes*	9,000.00	10,308.53
320,322,324	License/ Dog, Beverage\Marriage	1,400.00	1,624.00
326	Zoning Permits	1,500.00	3,387.00
328	Hunting/Fishing Licenses	25.00	1.50
332	Town Clerk Fees	10,000.00	16,368.48
334	Rental of Equipment	75.00	145.00
336	Rental of Facilities	75.00	133.00
338	State Aid Highways	40,000.00	57,740.04
340	Interest Income	4,300.00	6,602.70
344	Misc. Income	750.00	84,016.35
346	Green Mountain National Forest	40,000.00	53,707.60
Total Revenue		<u>896,525.00</u>	<u>883,515.07</u>
EXPENDITURES (See itemized accounts)			
400-418	Administration	115,550.00	88,604.45
420-438	Office/Equipment	20,625.00	18,602.46
440-487	Total Buildings	62,350.00	31,041.35
512-519	Taxes and Assessments	36,250.00	49,234.87
626-638	General Services	32,400.00	37,835.07
700-796	Highway & Roads	376,700.00	307,019.29
803	Discretionary Funds	2,500.00	2,950.00
852	Town Tree Maintenance	3,000.00	1,120.00
901-910	Fire Department	52,000.00	64,089.33
Total Expenses		<u>701,375.00</u>	<u>600,496.82</u>
Reserve Accounts			
805	Reappraisal	5,000.00	5,000.00
807	Highway Resurface Fund	50,000.00	50,000.00
808	Fire Engine Fund	40,000.00	40,000.00
810	Highway Equipment Fund	75,000.00	75,000.00
811	Peru Park	2,000.00	11,079.43
818	Document Restoration & Pres.	0.00	(214.00)
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		<u>172,000.00</u>	<u>180,865.43</u>
WARNING ARTICLES			
800	Appropriations Community Services	22,000.00	20,890.00
TOTAL, Exp.,Approp.,Warning		<u>895,375.00</u>	<u>802,252.25</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		<u>0.00</u>	<u>\$81,262.82</u>
Opening Fund Balance, July 1, 2021			\$482,818.48
Ending Fund Balance, June 30, 2022			<u><u>\$564,081.30</u></u>

Statement of Taxes Raised & Distributed

Grand Lists:

Municipal Grand List		\$2,229,828.62	
Billed at	x	<u>0.2444</u>	
		\$544,970.11	
Less Credit		<u>\$840.00</u>	\$544,130.11

		Resident	
Education Grand List		404,272.00	
Billed at	x	<u>1.6207</u>	
		\$655,203.63	
Less Credit		<u>171,979.94</u>	483,223.69

		Non-Resident	
Education Grand List		1,735,599.97	
Billed at	x	<u>1.6535</u>	
		\$2,869,814.55	<u>2,869,814.55</u>
			3,897,168.36

State Adjustment based on final education Grand List			-11,013.39
Post Grand List Adjustments (late-filed HS122, errors & omissions, etc)			<u>-45,517.24</u>

Total Tax Raised			<u><u>\$3,840,637.73</u></u>
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Distribution of Taxes:

State Education Fund-Peru School District		\$3,213,394.36	
General Fund		<u>627,243.37</u>	
Total			<u><u>\$3,840,637.73</u></u>

Statement of Delinquent Taxes

Balance, 6/30/21	\$47,402.99
Collected	<u>-22,149.19</u>
Sub Total	25,253.80
Delinquent	<u>22,609.52</u>
Balance, 6/30/22	<u><u>\$47,863.32</u></u>

Funding Requests to the Town of Peru

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless

Dear Peru Selectboard,

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless has continued to serve the needs of those in Bennington County experiencing homelessness in 2022. BCCH is grateful for the town of Peru's support for families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

In 2022 we served twenty three families at our family shelter including 46 adults and 45 children. We served 111 individuals at our adult shelter. Additionally, this past year we created a new position for motel outreach and served over sixty individuals placed in local motels.

This last year, we have focused on expanding relationships with community partners including but not limited to GBICS, Sunrise, SVSU, BPD, SVMC, COC, and UCS. Additionally, we were able to increase our grant funding to have two full time case managers for our clients at our adult shelter. This has enabled us to dramatically increase referrals to outside agencies and supports as well as increase the number of applications submitted by and on behalf of clients.

As we look ahead to 2023, we are excited to move into our new family shelter, Norton House, in a partnership with Shires Housing.

We ask for your continued support as we navigate:

- Increased communication from local businesses to help with local encampments
- Zero available motel/hotel rooms within the County
- Increased case management for those whose mental and physical health needs cannot be met in the County.

BCCH currently operates year-round, 24/7, at two different shelter locations. An adult shelter at 966 Main Street, houses sixteen adult guests. Thatcher House Family Shelter at 212 Pleasant Street serves nine families but will soon be replaced by Norton House at 300 Pleasant Street. Especially in the winter months the shelters are at capacity with waiting lists. In addition to providing shelter, we serve many others experiencing homelessness through drop-in services for those in need. Our services range from the use of our kitchen, laundry, bathroom to providing a safe, warm space for those in need during the day or providing someone in need with toiletries, blankets, clothing, or food to take away. Those who come in to warm up are also given the opportunity to meet with a case manager, apply for services, and/or help seeking/applying to housing and/or employment.

Here are the 2021 allocations received from municipalities which hopefully will continue to be received in the coming year:

Bennington: \$25,000

Shaftsbury \$5,000

Arlington \$500

Dorset \$1,000

Peru \$500

Please don't hesitate to reach out if I can provide anything else.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

The Collaborative

Dear Peru Residents,

The Collaborative appreciates your vote of confidence as you vote for the 2023-24 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. 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's mission to support substance free middle and high school youth and for childcare programs that support working families. During our Summer Camp Program 2021 we were able to secure funding that provided over 50 families a week with free services for five weeks of camp. This free program helped to support working families and to prepare students for the year ahead in their return to in person learning.

We are honored and inspired by the 360 RTU participants from 8 schools that are participating in over 50 virtual, asynchronous and in person substance misuse and healthy alternative programs. These programs are primarily led by community volunteers who recognize the value of this education in our community. With a focus on healthy choices this project allows for our young people to pick their unique path toward a healthier future. Our afterschool program meets daily providing a safe supervised space with time for homework, projects, healthy snacks and free play. Our mentor program has students meeting with an adult mentor weekly to encourage great social and recreational connections.

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

December 6, 2022

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

CCOPY

Dear Select Board,

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

I have also enclosed an annual report. If you have any questions or need any additional information, I can be reached at 447-1595 or email leitha@bcjrj.org. CRJ is very grateful for your continued support.

Thank you very much.



Leitha Cipriano
Executive Director

Flood Brook Athletic Association

FBAA Board Members

President

Jason Marino

Vice President

Linda Ewens

Secretary**Treasurer**

Allison Marino

Basketball Commissioner

Linda Ewens

Baseball Commissioner

Jason Marino

Members at Large:

Dave Kiefer

Dan Long

Harry Lux

Jason Saunders

Matt Foley

Rachel Febbie

Sarah Kiefer

Dear Peru 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.

Last year was a great year, and our programs continue to stay strong. Our 21-22 basketball program came back strong as Covid-19 restrictions were lifted. Our baseball, softball, and TBALL numbers grew again, with over 120 athletes, pre-k – 6th grade. We are looking forward to a great year, as basketball season is getting ready to kick off, with over 60 athletes for 22-23 season already, k-6.

If anything, as we come out of the pandemic it has continued to reinforce 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, The Flood Brook Athletic Association Board

Green Up Vermont

Dear Residents of Peru

Thank you for your past appropriation to Green Up Vermont in support of Green Up Day. We had a great turnout with nearly 20,000 volunteers picking up 500 TONS of trash and 14,315 tires from our roads and waterways. This amazing community service and sense of pride keeps our towns not only looking good, but also safe and healthy places to live.

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

As Green Up rolls into our 53rd year, we are again requesting your support for the usual \$50.00 appropriation.

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

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

A large, stylized watermark reading "COPY" is positioned to the right of the table. The letters are bold and have a textured, slightly distressed appearance.

This past Green Up Day we saw the resurgence of gatherings which really gave an amazing boost to communities. Let's keep building strong communities by working together for our beautiful way of life.

Mark your calendar for **Green Up Day 2023, May 6th** and help us celebrate 53 years of keeping Vermont green! Please contact me anytime with any questions or comments. I am honored to serve your community and look forward to working with you again. Thank you so very much!

Kate Alberghini, Executive Director
802-522-7245 • greenup@greenupvermont.org

Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad

Dear Selectboard,

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

This has been a demanding year for our Squad. We responded to a record breaking number of calls, 698 calls this year to last year's 466 calls, a 50% increase. We remain the only all-volunteer rescue squad in the state of Vermont that doesn't charge patients for our services. Our dedicated volunteers don't receive any compensation for the time they spend providing patient care, and this is the primary reason our yearly assessments to the towns we serve are so low.

But we still have significant expenses, and the hurdles posed by the increased calls have resulted in increased costs for medical supplies, diesel fuel and equipment. All of these items need to be kept up-to-date and fully operational in order for us to continue providing the high quality patient care and transport we are known for. Our expenses this year totaled \$194,604.25.

Adjustments were made last year, to each town's yearly assessment based on its annual call volume and its proportionate call volume concerning the seven towns that we serve. As a result, all town assessments have remained the same as last year.

This year we are asking the Town of Peru for \$5,000.00

We appreciate your support and look forward to serving your community in 2023.

Sincerely,

The Executive Committee of LVRS

Mountain Valley Medical Center

Dear Members of the Select Board,

For many years the Town of Peru has been generous in supporting the Mountain Valley Health Council (MVHC). Your support has made it possible for us to sustain our founding vision of treating all patients from our mountain towns, regardless of their ability to pay. The support of all our mountain towns has been essential to the continuing vitality of the Mountain Valley Health Center. I am writing first and foremost to express our deep gratitude for your continuing support that has helped to make all this possible.

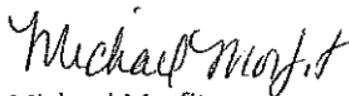
As you know, we have recently passed several important milestones. In 2021, we welcomed a new physician, Dr. Meghan Ward, to the Clinic and to our community. In 2022, we celebrated the many contributions of Dr. Roger Fox, who retired after more than 45 years of service. Most recently, we welcomed Dr. Rachel Bruce to the Clinic as our second full-time resident physician. These milestones are all important indicators of the resilience and sustainability of the Mountain Valley Health Center.

Looking ahead to 2023, we are now actively working with North Star Health to find ways to expand the Clinic capacity, allowing us both to respond to very high demand from new patients, and also to offer a broader range of services to our existing patients.

We are now requesting that the Select Board again include \$3000.00 for MVHC in its annual budget submission for approval on Town Meeting Day. Funds from each town will be earmarked first and foremost for the 'emergency relief fund' that supports residents in our catchment area who are struggling to pay for their medical care. This could include funding office visits, prescription costs, co-pay requirements, gas cards to remove impediments to travel for medical appointments. Any unexpended funds would then be used for other MVHC programs, including scholarship and tuition grants for local staff to advance their medical skills and provide an incentive to remain in the area, expanding the range of services as the Clinic and developing special facilities to respond to new demands, such as Covid.

We look forward to continuing a long tradition of community service and community engagement, with the continuing support of the mountain town Select Boards and broader community. Thank you for your consideration.

On behalf of the MVHC Board and Clinic staff,



Michael Morfit
President



Matthew Whitcomb
Director

Neighborhood Connections

Re: Appropriation Request for 2023

Board of Directors:

Dwight A. Johnson
Chairman

Ed Magee
Treasurer

Carolyn Partridge
Secretary

Charma Bonanno

Pat Cherry

Rusty Davis

Jim Linville

Skip Raymond

Mark Reffner

Bob Wells

Susie Wyman

Executive Director:

Nicole Wengerd

Dear Select Board:

In the fall of 2021, after months of evaluating rural transportation resources and challenges, Neighborhood Connections launched the Mountain Town Connector, a program providing free rides in a wheelchair-accessible 12-passenger Ford Transit van. These rides are available to anyone residing in the nine towns that comprise our catchment area. A bonus is the "door through door" service we offer and the opportunity to be linked to other resources through our agency when needed.

To date, we received over 400 requests for rides. With our current staff and volunteers, we have fulfilled over 300 of them, meaning that many of our neighbors, who may have otherwise struggled to get to their necessary appointments, did so with the help of our accommodating drivers. We are looking to expand our capacity over the next year so that fewer ride requests will be unfulfilled, and we can offer additional group rides and social activities.

Since the onset, our program has been financially supported by numerous grantors and donors who believe in our ability to provide this excellent service. As we grow, long-term viability will require collaboration and support from the communities we serve. We believe free community transportation is valuable to the residents of Peru; therefore, we are asking for \$1000 from the town's budget toward growth and sustainability.

Thank you for your continued support.

With sincerest gratitude,



Nicole Wengerd, PhD
Executive Director

Project Against Violent Encounters

In the past year our community has been confronted by issues that bring many of us to despair; drugs, gangs and community violence abound. PAVE stands with our community daily, combatting domestic & sexual violence and promoting hope in our community.

Community violence, as well as substance abuse heavily effect and are entangled with the issue of domestic and sexual violence. One cannot address one concern without bumping up against the other. Therefore, collaboration between community providers is essential in efforts to address these issues.

PAVE continues to provide our core services to survivors which include; emergency housing, crisis hotline, advocacy services for housing and systems navigation, as well as community education. Our shelter provided 5461 nights of safety for survivors and advocates conducted 1138 service sessions in the past year.

In the past year, PAVE provided services to 231 survivors, which equals approximately one new survivor a business day. The highest areas of service utilization were in regards to housing, emotional support, and systems navigation advocacy.

PAVE is asking for level funding this year; \$150.00.

In the coming year PAVE will continue to focus on prevention, collaboration with our community partners, and maintaining our core services. We will strive to bring the hope of nonviolence to our community, while aiding survivors in taking the steps to heal their lives.

On behalf of our board of directors, staff, and the families we served, I thank the Town of Peru for your ongoing support. It allows us to create greater opportunities for those that are impacted by domestic and/or sexual violence, and need our services each year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Brillon, M.Ed. LSW
Executive Director
PO BOX 227
pave@pavebennington.com
[8024422370](tel:8024422370)

Suzanne Kirkpatrick, Board President

South Londonderry Free Library

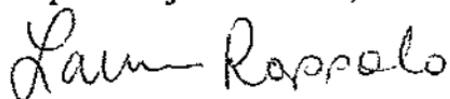
To the Selectboard and Residents of Peru,

2022 has been an exciting and productive year at the South Londonderry Free Library. We served 3,216 visitors who came through our doors, lent out 3,080 books, 1,057 audio/e-books, and added 75 new members to our library family. Beyond books, we have continued to provide indispensable services to all, such as the following: 24/7 Wi-Fi, access to new public computers, printing and copying capabilities, and general tech support. Both residents and visitors to this area stayed connected using our Wi-Fi and computers over 500 times in just this year alone.

The mission of the Library is to foster opportunities for lifelong learning by providing open access to a wide range of materials and services for people of all ages in our rural communities. We are fulfilling that mission by continually offering programming and events for different interests. New books and DVDs are added to the collection monthly. We work with Vermont's ABLE Library (Audio, Braille, Large-Print, and Electronic Book) to provide new and best selling accessible materials. We have been able to obtain 170 books from other libraries when we get a request for titles outside of our collection. Through donations and volunteer efforts, the young adult and childrens' rooms have been updated and new seating areas are sprinkled through the library.

Thank you for your consideration in continuing financial support to the Library. We are actively working on building repairs and will continue to do so to get the building in full operational order. We are requesting \$1,000 from the Town of Peru to help cover some of these costs. A portion, if approved, would also go towards general operating costs. If you don't already have a library membership, please come by sign up today!

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Roppolo - Director/Librarian



Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging

Dear Town Officials,

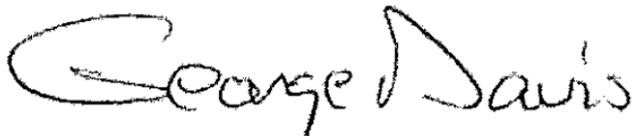
This is a request from the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging for \$200.00 in funding in your FY24 budget. This is the same level of funding we requested and received last year. If approved, this funding will be used to help support the work we do on behalf of Peru residents.

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, slightly slanted style.

George Davis
Board President

Vermont Center of Independent Living

The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL), a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, respectfully requests funding from the Town of Peru for our FY'22.

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

We are requesting \$140.00 from the Town of Peru to 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'23 budget.

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

Sincerely,



Sarah Launderville
Executive Director
slaunderville@vcil.org



Visiting Nurse and Hospice

We at the Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) would like to offer our heartfelt thanks for the opportunity to have our appropriation request included in 2023 funding. VNH respectfully requests \$2,700 appropriation. This represents level funding from last year's request.

As an integral part of the community healthcare system in Peru, VNH serves to breach an otherwise significant gap in the community's continuum of care. Last year, VNH provided 16 visits to 4 residents of all ages and at all stages of life. VNH is also the foremost team of hospice and home health experts for over 140 communities in Vermont and New Hampshire. We deliver nursing, hospice and rehabilitation services at home with proven effectiveness, integrity and compassion. Just as local families have counted on us since 1907, you can count on us today.

Having our patients maintain their independence is key. Our nurses, therapists and social workers provide assessments, medical care and education to assist people in leading a more self-sufficient life. This includes patients who are frail, elderly and disabled, people with terminal illness, those recovering from major surgery or illness and children with chronic medical needs. They all benefit by receiving the care they need in the familiarity and comfort of home.

Town funding is what allows us to bring down the cost of services provided to those in need. With adequate town funding, we are able to provide an affordable option for home healthcare in the community. To continue meeting these needs, we urge the Town of Peru to budget continued financial support of Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire.

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

With kind regards,

Anthony Knox

Anthony Knox
Community Relations Manager
aknox@vnhcare.org
(603) 790-3172

A rectangular stamp with a stylized 'c' in a square on the left and the word 'COPY' in a bold, sans-serif font to its right.

Burr & Burton Letter from Headmaster



December 21, 2022

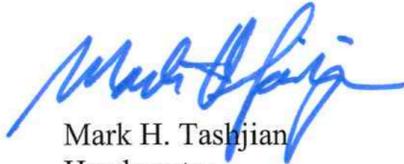
Dear Members of our Sending Towns:

The Board of Trustees of Burr and Burton Academy has set the tuition for the 2023–2024 school year at \$19,987, a 4.1% increase. In reaching this decision, we have sought to balance the challenges of inflation, which has been running at an annual rate of approximately 8%, while maintaining affordability for you. The entire increase will be passed on to our faculty and staff, the lifeblood of our school. It is our goal to help them partially offset the challenge of inflation while they continue to dedicate themselves to each and every student we serve.

Since 1829, Burr and Burton has strived to be the best possible high school for our community. We will continue to raise money privately not only to support annual operations, but also all capital projects. Each year, our fundraising contributes approximately \$1 million toward operating costs, and all of our buildings and grounds have been purchased and built through private philanthropy.

We are extremely grateful to work in partnership with you. Thank you very much for your support.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark H. Tashjian
Headmaster



Edgar T. Campbell
Chair, Board of Trustees

