



**Town of Hermon**

**Public Safety Building Meeting Room**

**May 4, 2017**

**Council Meeting**

**7:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**\*\*\* Televised live on Cable Channel 97.2 \*\*\***

Council Meetings may be viewed live online and are archived after the meeting  
has taken place – check hermon.net for link.

**\*\*\*ALL ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE COUNCIL ACTION\*\*\***

**I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON**

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Thomas led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Anne Freeman, Donna Ellis, Steve Thomas, Doug Sinclair, Jeanne Jacques, John Snyer and Steve Watson

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Town Manager Howard Kroll, Town Clerk Ruth A. Nickerson, Michelle Thayer, Gary Gonyar, Patricia Duran, Donna Pulver, Alden Brown, Scott Pelletier, Carol Lackedy, Tony Reynolds and Deb Farnham

**IV. REVIEW CONSENT CALENDAR: REGULAR BUSINESS, APPOINTMENTS, SIGNATURES, And APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

WARRANTS. –SIGN May 5, 2017

QUIT CLAIMS. – SIGN M/L 022-030-000 / Account #1779



**Councilor Freeman moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Councilor Snyer seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

*The motion carries.*

## **V. NEWS, PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

### **• School Budget Presentation by Superintendent Duran**

Before beginning her Budget Presentation, Superintendent Duran introduced to the Council and those in attendance, Gary Gonyar. Mr. Gonyar will be the Hermon School Superintendent as of July 1, 2017.

Mrs. Duran told how she and the School Committee have worked very, very hard to be able to present this budget. Mrs. Duran passed out a detailed budget to the Council and then summarized the document as she spoke.

The Council was informed that EPS, Essential Programs and Services, is determined by the State. She clarified that the State defines EPS as the Essential Programs and Services required for an adequate education. The School will receive \$176,090.29 less from the State this year for funding EPS. Additionally, the increase in insurance premiums this year is significant.

The total School Budget is up 1.7% or \$440,801.93. School Funding consists of eleven cost centers. In response to Chair Thomas, Mrs. Duran stated that originally the budget was up \$600,000 but the committee was able to reduce that amount by using reserve account funding. Mrs. Duran then informed the Council that should the State increase the amount they will fund the school, any extra monies received would be returned to the reserve fund.

Chair Thomas affirmed that the average cost per student across the state is \$11,000. In Hermon, the average cost per student is \$9,400, pointing out that the School Budget is not excessive in any way.

While concluding her presentation to the Council, Superintendent Duran stated that 25% of the entire high school participates in JROTC. In addition, because there have been at least six additional ways to earn college credit while in high school recently established, the Bridge Year Program is struggling with enrollment.

All in attendance were invited by Mrs. Duran to call her or stop by her office with any questions regarding the school budget. She then thanked the Council for their time and support.

## **VI. PUBLIC ITEMS OR COMMENTS (*Items Not Already on Agenda*)**

**Carol Lackedy**, Volunteer Director of the Neighbors Supporting Neighbors Food Pantry, addressed the Council. She informed the Council of how passionate she has been over the last 10 years to make sure there is no one hungry in our community. She came to the Council to explain the *National Association of Letter Carriers* Food Drive. The Food Cupboard was first invited to participate in this food drive in 2010. Ms. Lackedy told of the specifics regarding the collection of food from this food drive over the years. She shared her concern that the food collected in Hermon was not staying wholly in Hermon. She



asked the Town Manager and Council to assist her in convincing the Association that it is only fair Hermon food stays in Hermon. The Council agreed it would be in the best interest of the community to try and help keep Hermon's food in Hermon. They also agreed it is a good idea to in the future plan our own independent food drive that weekend and not worry about the food collected by the United Way and NALC.

## **VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **#1. Hold Public Hearing – Zone Change Request M/L 047-081-000**

Chair Thomas asked Manager Kroll to explain this request. Mr. Kroll told how this section of land is being considered for Residential A status as part of an upcoming subdivision plan for Map 47 Lot 81.

**Chair Thomas opened the Public Hearing at 7:47pm. He opened the floor to receive any comment regarding the requested zone change. There were no comments or questions. The Public Hearing closed at 7:48pm.**

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

## **IX. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS**

### **A. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **#2. Consider approving Zone Change Request**

**Councilor Jacques moved to approve R16-17-73. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. The motion was accepted without doubt.**

*The motion carries.*

*\*(R16-17-73 is attached for review.)*

#### **#3. Schedule Public Hearing – FY2017-2018 Budget**

**Councilor Freeman moved to schedule a Public Hearing on May 18, 2017 to receive comment from the public regarding the proposed FY 2017-2018 Budget. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was accepted without doubt.**

*The motion carries.*

### **B. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **#4. Schedule Public Hearing – Sports Arena Liquor License**



**Councilor Watson moved to schedule a Public Hearing on May 18, 2017 to hear comment regarding the Sports Arena's Liquor License. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was accepted without doubt.**

*The motion carries.*

**C. WORKSHOPS**

None

**D. OTHER ITEMS (from Table Package)**

None

**X. APPOINTMENTS**

None

**XI. MANAGER STATUS REPORT:**

**Manager Kroll** thanked his staff for their assistance putting the budget together and then asked the Council to please come see him if they had questions, concerns or comments regarding the proposed budget for FY 17-18.

**XII. FINAL PUBLIC ITEMS OR COMMENT (Items Not Already on Agenda)**

None

**XIII. COUNCIL ITEMS:**

**Councilor Sinclair** asked who was doing the paving at the sidewalk project on Route #2. The Manager stated that Wellman paving was selected as a subcontractor for Gardner Construction.

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None

**XV. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Councilor Freeman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:54pm. Councilor Jacques seconded the motion. With no objection the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Ruth A. Nickerson, CCM**  
Town Clerk