



Town of Hermon

Public Safety Meeting Room

November 2, 2017

Town Council Meeting

7:00 PM

MINUTES

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: Steve Thomas, Doug Sinclair, Jeanne Jacques, John Snyder, Steve Watson, Donna Ellis and Tim McCluskey

Members Absent: Other

Others Present: Town Manager Howard Kroll, Town Clerk Ruth A. Nickerson, Assessor/CEO Joshua Berry and Fire Chief Frank Roma

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

MINUTES. -APPROVE October 5, 2017 and October 19, 2017

WARRANTS. -SIGN November 2, 2017

RESOLVES. -SIGN FR17-18-31

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

The motion carries.

V. NEWS, PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

None



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

Assessor/Code Enforcement Officer Josh Berry spoke to the Council, telling how he is also a resident of Hermon. He told how a couple of years ago data verification forms were mailed to 10% of the property owners in town. This past week, the same form was mailed to the remaining 90% of property owners. This information will be used as we continue working to conclude the current revaluation that is taking place. Mr. Berry thanked the staff that has been assisting him, Cindy Pellett, Lil Smith and Brittany Duel. He affirmed that the time frame set by the Council for completing the revaluation will be met. When it is complete all property owners will receive a letter stating both the old and new assessments. Additionally, property owners are encouraged to discuss their valuation with the assessor.

Fire Chief Frank Roma serves as the Emergency Management Director for the Town of Hermon. He informed the Council of how proud he is of the Fire Department and the citizens of Hermon. On Monday, October 30 our community was hit hard with hurricane strength winds. It is four days later and there are still several homes that have not had their power returned. Power should be restored 100% by this weekend. Chief Roma told how there were more than 25 calls for service received between 8am and 3pm. We are thankful for no injuries, especially with the school busses that were trapped in between fallen trees on the roads. Chief Roma commended the excellent relationship that exists between his crew and the public works crew. Together the crews were able to do a complete assessment of the damage created by the storm. 46 structures received damage. All forms have been completed and submitted. Should this storm be deemed a Federally Funded Emergency the Town will be reimbursed for its recovery expenditures. Chief Roma affirmed that the Town will have a town wide storm debris pickup. If you have trees, brush and branches and can get it to the curb, we will pick it up during the week of November 13. For this storm the church served as the shelter. Over 100 people met up at the church, with 4 spending the night. Additionally, we have served a dozen residents here at the Fire Department with water and showers.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

IX. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS

A. OLD BUSINESS



#1. Review and Approve 2017/2018 Council Goals.

The Town Manager informed the Council that Council Goal #1 is to complete the in house revaluation. Goal #2 is to amend the sewer ordinance. He then told how the remaining goals had been amended to meet the Council expectation set at the last Council Meeting.

Councilor Jacques stated that updating the AV equipment used to record and broadcast the Council Meetings should be considered. She asked if there were alternatives to the current setup, adding that a cost effective delivery and up to date equipment and technology would make the whole process less cumbersome. Councilor Jacques also asked about the cost and the effectiveness of the town newsletter, *The Hermon Connection*. Conversation took place regarding the cost of producing *The Hermon Connection*, and the advertising that takes place within it.

Evaluating the AV equipment was added as goal #32.

Evaluating the operating costs of *The Hermon Connection* was added as goal #33.

The Council briefly discussed the idea of a developing a track that could be used by the community as a goal.

Councilor McCluskey suggested that the goals be slightly more generic, rather than so specific.

Councilor Jacques moved to approve R17-18-24. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The motion carries.

*(R17-18-24 is attached for review.)

#2. Consider option to sell municipal interest in PERC.

The Town Manager shared the opinion he received from Jim Katsificas regarding selling the Town's share in PERC. He also told how Bob Knutson recently called to remind us that we are not obligated to sell our share. If we do sell our share, there will be no profit or dividend available to us in the future. PERC has retired a significant amount of debt and has obtained several new contracts. Out of the 83 communities that make up the MRC, 53 have sold their share in PERC. Manager Kroll informed the Council that a decision must be made by December 15, 2017. He then spoke about the commitment the Town has made to maintain a contractual relationship with PERC, and encouraged that we stay invested to show our support. Chair Thomas informed the Council that PERC will in fact have no debt come the first of the New Year, and that they will be in good shape. He told the Council that he is inclined to not sell and that it makes sense to hold onto the shares we have. The Council concurred.



Councilor Jacques moved to approve FR17-18-33. Councilor Watson seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote resulted in 0 Yeas and 7 Nays.

The motion failed.

B. NEW BUSINESS

#3. Consider authorization of expenditure from Jackson Beach Reserve Account.

The Town Manager told how the cost to purchase and install a guardrail at the upper parking lot at Jackson Beach was approved at the Annual Town Meeting as part of the Capital Improvement Plan. Allen Farm Fence will do the work. He asked for authorization to expend the funds.

Councilor Jacques moved to approve FR17-18-33. Councilor Watson seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The motion carries.

***(FR17-18-33 is attached for review.)**

#4. Consider authorization of expenditure from Sewer Maintenance Reserve Account.

The Town Manager explained that the cost to clean and service the Propane Lane Pump Station was approved at the Annual Town Meeting as part of the Capital Improvement Plan. A brief conversation took place regarding how this pump station originally came to be. The Manager affirmed it was the original developer of Propane Lane.

Councilor Jacques moved to approve FR17-18-34. Councilor Ellis seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The motion carries.

***(FR17-18-34 is attached for review.)**

#5. Consider authorization of expenditure from Cemetery Reserve Account.

The Manager told how he and the Cemetery Sexton have agreed that there are several stones in Snow's Corner Cemetery and Pleasant Hill Cemetery that need to be cleaned and repaired. Additionally, there is a stone at Snow's Corner that was broken and the Town needs to replace. The cost to replace that stone is \$150.00. The Council discussed the process used to determine which stones need attention. The Manager suggested a maintenance schedule be established. Councilor McCluskey offered that an annual inventory be taken with photos that would allow us to itemize, organize and develop a routine. The Town Manager reminded the Council that there are individuals in Town who have expressed an interest in developing a Cemetery Committee. The Council agreed to add the development of a Cemetery Committee to the 17/18 Council goals.

Councilor Jacques moved to approve FR17-18-35. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The motion carries.

***(FR17-18-35 is attached for review.)**



#6. Consider authorization of expenditure from Highway Reserve Account.

The Town Manager informed the Council of a mishap at the Odlin Rd. /Coldbrook Rd intersection. A truck hauling a mobile home did not clear the light arm and ripped it down. It had to be repaired, reset, and rewired, including the cameras. The Manager reminded the Council that MDOT will be doing a project here next year and the entire light and camera system will be replaced then. Councilor Sinclair asked why the person who ripped the wire down is not responsible for paying to repair it. The Manager stated he would look into it.

Councilor Jacques moved to approve FR17-18-36. Councilor Watson seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The motion carries.

**(FR17-18-36 is attached for review.)*

#7. Consider awarding bid for 2010 Ford Crown Victoria Cruiser

Three bids were received for the purchase of the 2010 Crown Vic. Chair Thomas opened the bids during the meeting. The bids were as follows: Jason Forbes - \$700.00, Matt Scruton - \$727.01, Corey Fitch - \$1050.00.

The Council awarded the bid to the most advantageous bidder in a condition as is with no guarantees.

Councilor Sinclair moved to approve FR17-18-37. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The motion carries.

**(FR17-18-37 is attached for review.)*

C. WORKSHOPS

None

D. OTHER ITEMS (from Table Package)

None

X. APPOINTMENTS

None



XI. MANAGER STATUS REPORT:

Monday's storm was very trying. Thank you to Public Works, Police, Fire, Ambulance and Town Staff; an additional Thank You to Pomeroy's Logging, Gardner Construction, Tim Richardson, Sr. and Don Pelletier.

Veteran's Day is tomorrow. Thank you to all veterans and your families.

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

None

XIII. COUNCIL ITEMS:

Councilor Snyer stated that Hermon High School fall sports have been excellent. Boy's Cross Country, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer and Football all had phenomenal seasons. All Hermon games were well attended and the football stadium has been packed!

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

XV. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Ellis moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm. **Councilor Sinclair** seconded the motion. **With no objection, Chair Thomas** adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth A. Nickerson, CCM
Town Clerk