



Town of Hermon

Public Safety Meeting Room

December 23, 2019

Special Town Council Meeting

7:00 PM

AGENDA

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair McCluskey led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance

III. ROLL CALL

Members Present: John Snyder III, Douglas Sinclair Sr., Donna Ellis, Charles Lever IV, Steve Thomas and Timothy McCluskey

Members Absent: Anthony “Tony” Reynolds at 6:30PM – arrived at Executive Session approx. 6:40PM

Others Present: Town Manager Howard Kroll, Town Attorney Ed Bearor, Town Clerk Kristen Cushman, Jeanne Jacques, Ron Murphy, Wendy Wiles-Scott, Bill Scott, Donny Pelletier, Chris Cousins, Wayne Bouchard, Ralph Shaw, Bobbie Pelletier, David Quinn, Frank Roma, Mike Simmons, Teddy McLeod, Tim Richardson Jr., Brooke Green, Aaron Spence, Keith Moore, Josh McPherson, Ed Marsh and approximately 14 residents.

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

SIGNATURES. –APPROVE

MINUTES. -APPROVE

WARRANTS. –SIGN

RESOLVES. -SIGN



V. NEWS, PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

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

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

IX. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS:

A. OLD BUSINESS:

B. NEW BUSINESS:

R-19-20-34 Consider terminating Snow Plow contract with JM RAMMS

Chair McCluskey stated there would not be comment on this agenda item.

Residents spoke up “You are not going to allow us to speak; this is a Special Council meeting you called”.

Chair McCluskey stated he did not call the meeting, Town Manager Kroll did.

Wendy Wiles-Scott asked Town Manager Kroll if she could speak. Mr. Kroll said “sure”.

Wendy Wiles-Scott: I’m sure most of you know why I am here. On December 17th, a little after 5 pm, my parents were involved in a car accident on the Newburgh Road about 4/10 of a mile from their home, a road they have traveled for over 40 years, not because of anything they did, but because of the road conditions. Their car is totaled, Dad was lucky but is extremely bruised inside and out, literally head to toe, Mom is still in the hospital and will have a very, very long recovery. We had just come from watching a basketball game at Caravel Middle School on the Irish Road in Carmel. Funny - traveling across the Irish Road we had no problem, down route 2, no problem. Those roads were plowed, sanded, salted, actually had a bare spot or two. The Swan/Newburgh roads, well, nothing. And yes, I know, its two different towns – just an example. When Deputy Quinn called to tell me of the accident he informed me that the Newburgh road was just like a bottle, not plowed, no sand or salt. He called the town’s public works crew to plow, sand, salt so the ambulance could transport my parents. Our crews were out by 1:00 that day and I am told the snowplow contractor had also been called out at about that same time. Apparently, the Swan/Newburgh roads were forgotten. The contractor was called again at 4:13 specifically for those two roads and still never made it. They finally showed up as the accident was being cleaned up but the fire dept had to turn them away because the bed chain was broke and they couldn’t put down any sand or salt. It didn’t matter at that point, our public works dept. had already done it anyway and the accident had already happened. I don’t understand why we are purchasing so much sand and salt when only 1/3 of the town appears to get it. Anyway, I have had to travel



those two roads every day since then. Howard has had to hear me complain about their conditions on last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday because apparently and in my opinion the contractor still wasn't maintaining them. Again, I drove them so yes I am sure they were still not being maintained. Mother Nature stepped in Friday afternoon and helped. There is absolutely no need for this situation. NONE! Mr. Thomas, your wife was in an accident a couple years ago, correct? And that is when you started coming in front of the council with concerns of the Annis Road and Route 2 intersection, correct? And now steps are being taken to make that a safer intersection. Well, my complaint is more than just 1 intersection. My complaint is approximately 2/3rds of the town's winter road conditions. 2/3rds of the town's roads. And this is only a start for my complaining until something gets done. Here are 8 pages of complaints from residents, thus far this winter, that the front office staff records. These pages do not reflect how many more that go directly to Howard, Ralph, the Police or Fire dept's, or any other staff that might hear from a resident. Everyone one of you need to be aware of these complaints. Take a day during or after a storm and ride on Hermon's roads. Better still, sit at the front counter during and after a storm and listen to the residents. Let me read a few.

I appreciate the fact that the tax rate is low BUT sometimes buying the less expensive product is NOT the best deal. Right now, I don't care what it costs to have better maintained winter road conditions in Hermon. I really don't. I don't care if all the mailboxes in town are knocked down as long as the roads are not filled with ice and snow and no one gets hurt. I will say, the next accident that happens because of the contractor not doing the work the town is paying him to do, might result in someone's death, not just broken bones. Then what will you do? It's time for the council to admit they have made a mistake, that this contractor is not a good fit for Hermon. You need to put on your grown up pants and get someone else that will actually care about the safety of the Hermon residents. And by the way - this is my being nice. You do not want to hear what I really, really want to say. Thank you

Jeanne Jacques: Wendy brought up a good point – where is all the sand/salt going? It's not going on road in Hermon.

Linda Murphy: Body of her car and windshield was pelted with sand/salt as she went down the road. She has an estimate of \$2200.00 to fix her car she has only made one payment on.

Chair McCluskey stated Town Manager Kroll will be making the decision later tonight on the snow plow contract.

Mr. Kroll stated he would make the decision tonight and inform the contractor tomorrow.

Jeanne Jacques: Does not seem like the Town Manager has the support of the Council.

Many side comments were made....

A new resident to the Town of Hermon asked if his mailbox was hit/taken down would the Town pay for a new mailbox.



Town Manager Krroll stated if the mailbox was put in to USPS standards yes the Town would purchase a one.

C. WORKSHOPS:

D. OTHER ITEMS: (from Table Package)

X. APPOINTMENTS:

XI. MANAGER STATUS REPORT:

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

XIII. COUNCIL ITEMS:

Tony Reynolds: Stated Manager Krroll does have the support from the Council in his decision he will make later tonight.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

XV. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Reynolds to adjourn the Special Council Meeting at 7:28 p.m. Councilor Ellis seconded. With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Kristen Cushman
Town Clerk**

Explanatory note #1: All items in the CONSENT CALENDAR are considered routine and are proposed for adoption by the Town Council with one motion without DISCUSSION or deliberation. If DISCUSSION on any item is desired, any member of the Council or public may request the removal of an item for it to be placed in the regular agenda prior to the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Explanatory Note #2: In the interest of effect decision-making: At 10:00 p.m., the Chairman shall poll the Council and Town Manager to identify remaining items which shall be carried forward to the next Regular Meeting.

Explanatory Note #3: A Councilor who feels the need for the Council excusing his/her absence will make the request to the Town Manager or the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.