



Annual Town Meeting

Budget Approval

Thursday, June 10, 2021

~ MINUTES ~

To: Courtney Brown a Resident of the Town of Hermon, in the County of Penobscot, State of Maine,

GREETING:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hermon in Penobscot County, Maine, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the **Public Safety Building, 333 Billings Road in Hermon on Thursday the 10th day of June, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.**, then and there to act upon Articles 3 through 34 as set out below. Articles 1 and 2 were acted upon at the Election on 6/8/2021.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

The morning of the Municipal Election on June 8, 2021 Brooke Deschaine nominated Kimberly Nichols as Moderator. Robert “Bob” Dibona seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations, nominations ceased. Kimberly Nichols elected Moderator by a written vote.

Kimberly Nichols deputized Stephen Wagner from Rudman Winchell Law Firm as Deputy Moderator for continuing the meeting on June 10, 2021. Stephen Wagner signed his oath.

6/10/2021 Town Clerk led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance

ARTICLE 2: To elect all municipal officers and school committee members as are required to be elected.

The results of the June 8, 2021 election for School Board:

Richard Cyr: 126 votes
Teddy Harris: 133 votes
Jesse Keith: 181 votes - Winner
Samantha Lang: 85 votes
Stephanie Oiler: 178 votes - Winner
Kim Shaffer: 143 votes
Blanks: 102 votes

The results of the June 8, 2021 election for Town Council:

Wayne Bouchard: 210 votes
Phillip Richardson: 255 votes Winner
Steven Thomas: 298 votes - Winner

The results of the June 8, 2021 election for Financial Improvements at Hermon High School:

Yes: 349 votes - PASSED
No: 123 votes
Blank: 2 votes

A motion was presented on the floor by Councilor Snver.

Councilor Snver made a motion to waive the reading of articles 3 – 30 & 32 – 34. Councilor Watson seconded the motion. There was discussion.

Motion was seconded by Councilor Steve Watson.

Mr. Wagner asked for a show of hands in favor of waiving the reading of the articles #3 through #30, 32, 33, and 34.

Mr. Alexander asked if he could ask a question on one of the Articles.

Mr. Wagner: We can so with this motion to waive the reading. There will then be a motion to vote on each individual article. e. Or any other questions or discussion on pending motion to we waive the reading of these articles?

A show of Hands was in favor of the motion. The motion carries.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the revenues received for the following accounts to offset the associated expense accounts, for fiscal year 2022 with approval of the Town Council?

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
10-130 Hermon Connection Revenue	10-13-04-05 Hermon Connection Expenses
10-121 Local Plumbing Fees	10-13-05-04 Local Plumbing Expenses
14-140 Transfer Station Fees	14-01 Landfill Expense
14-150 Tipping Fee Revenue (PERC)	14-02 Household Waste Expense
12-182 Police Revenue	12-01 Police Expenses
12-185 Fire Dept. Revenue	12-02 Fire Dept. Expenses
35 Recreation Enterprise Revenues	35 Recreation Enterprise Expenses

(Explanation: The listed revenue accounts are special funds received by the Town for specific purposes. Approval by the citizens will allow the Town Council to expend these revenues for the expense accounts listed above. Recommended by the Town Council

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 3 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 3 passes.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money for each of the listed reserves?

HERM02 Unemployment Reserve	\$ 5,000
HERM04 Cemetery Reserve	\$ 5,000
HERM05 Fire Equipment Reserve	\$ 50,000
HERM06 Highway Improvement Reserve	\$ 250,000
HERM08 Public Works Facility/Equip Reserve	\$ 75,000
HERM09 Recreation Equip/Facility Reserve	\$ 25,000
HERM11 Municipal Office Reserve	\$ 5,000
HERM12 Sewer Maintenance Reserve	\$ 25,000
HERM17 Public Safety Building Reserve	\$ 10,000
HERM19 Town Office Equip. & Tech. Reserve	\$ 35,000
HERM32 Veterans Memorial Park Reserve	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
Total Appropriation to Reserves	\$ 490,000

Recommended by the Town Council

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 4 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 4 passes.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Town Manager to contract for the purchase of an 1871W 4-door custom pumper truck for the Fire Department from HME, Inc., through HGACBuy, for the total purchase price of \$585,683.00; said truck to be constructed in FY22 and delivered on July 1, 2022, with payment due upon delivery; the purchase of which to be funded in part from the Fire Department Reserve Account (HERM05) in the approximate amount of \$430,000, with the balance to be approved at the FY23 Annual Town Meeting. **Recommended by the Town Council**

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 5 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 5 passes.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$26,293 from the Public Safety Building Reserve (HERM17) to purchase a new SOLO decon washer and making said purchase by 30 June 2022 or funds lapse back to the Public Safety Building Reserve (HERM17)?
Recommended by the Town Council

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 6 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was discussion.

Mr. Alexander asked to have explained what the decon washer is.

Councilor Snyder made a motion to allow Howard Kroll and Chief Frank Roma speak on Article 6. Councilor Lever seconded the motion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries.

Chief Frank Roma stated this is a piece of equipment that would be used to decontaminate firefighter turnout gear, breathing apparatus, helmets, in an effort to help reduce exposure to carcinogens.

A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 6 passes.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$457,348 from the Highway Improvement Reserve (HERM06) to repair the Black Stream Road (\$128,740), Bog Road guard rails/shoulder repair (\$10,053), provide local match for Billings Road MPI project (\$162,500), culvert and ditching repair to the dead end section of Fuller Road awarded to Gardner Construction, local road paving and repair various roads in Hermon such as but not limited to Timberview, West Ridge Drive, Springbrook Drive, Beech Ridge Drive and Hillcrest Drive and repair various shoulders, driveway culverts and aprons (\$135,005) and making said purchases by 30 June 2022 or funds lapse back to the Highway Improvement Reserve (HERM06)?

Recommended by the Town Council

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 7 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 7 passes.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$24,000 from the Cemetery Reserve (HERM04) for the purchase of a stone repair/cleaning and tree removal at each cemetery and making said purchase by 30 June 2022 or funds lapse back to the Cemetery Reserve (HERM04)?

Recommended by the Town Council

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 8 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 8 passes.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$15,000 from the Recreation Reserve (HERM09) for repairing and making improvements to the walking trail (\$7500) and to reconstruct LL2 dugout/middle schools (\$7500) at the Recreation Field complex. Said purchases will be made by 30 June 2022 or funds lapse back to the Recreation Reserve (HERM09) **Recommended by the Town Council**

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 9 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 9 passes.

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town vote to authorize the transfer of up to \$100,000 from the undesignated fund balance to the Fire Department Reserve Account (HERM05)? **Recommended by Town Council**

Councilor Snyer made a motion to accept Article 10 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was discussion.

Mr. Alexander asked what the rationale behind this Article?

Councilor Snyer stated it is to purchase a new fire truck that was in Article 5.

A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 10 passes.

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$68,901 from Town Office Equipment, Technology Reserve (HERM19) to purchase the upgrade of the computer equipment required for the upgrade including new computers, phone system and other equipment/services from Penbay Computers. Said Purchases will be made by 30 June 2022 or funds lapse back to the Town Office equipment, Technology Reserve (HERM19)? **Recommended by the Town Council**

Councilor Snyer made a motion to accept Article 11as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 11 passes.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town vote to authorize the transfer of funds from Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) Revenue in the amount up to \$614,738, to off-set authorized expenditures for Economic Development general accounts #11-01-01-01 to 11-01-20-06 in the amount of \$504,738 including the Valley Satellite drainage project awarded to Gardner Construction and Ryder incentive prog.; account # 19-02-25-03 TIF Credit Enhancement Agreements (\$110,000)? **Recommended by Town Council**

Councilor Snyer made a motion to accept Article 12 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 12 passes.

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town vote to authorize and transfer to the Hermon School Department the expenditures of up to \$520,000 from the School Repair Reserve Account (HERM07) for the expenditures at Hermon High School to repair, correct drainage, curbing and paving the Hermon High School Parking Lot (\$270,000), the repair to the Hermon High School roof (\$150,000), the repair to make the Hermon High School front entrance ADA compliance (\$50,000) and at the Patricia A. Duran School to repair the roof off of the cafeteria (\$50,000)? **Recommended by the Town Council**

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 13 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 13 passes.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$14,000 from Sewer Reserve (HERM12) to make necessary repairs and upgrades throughout the system including a new SCADA system at Autocar Lane? Said purchases will be made by 30 June 2022 or funds lapse back to Sewer Reserve Account (HERM12)? **Recommended by Town Council**

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 14 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 14 passes.

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$22,700 from Municipal Office Reserve (HERM11) to install two (2) heat pumps from Valley Satellite (\$14,000), install new windows by Jeff Byers Construction (\$5,200)? Purchase a new shed from Hill View Minibarns(not Hill Top Sheds) (\$3,500) Said purchases will be made by 30 June 2022 or funds lapse back to Municipal Office Reserve Account (HERM11)? **Recommended by Town Council**

Councilor Murphy made a motion to accept Article 15 as written. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 15 passes.

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$200,000 from the Tax Stabilization Reserve (HERM24) to offset a portion of the cost of the Elementary School debt service in addition to the local appropriation for education payable in April 2022?
Recommended by Town Council

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 16 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 16 passes.

ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$165,000 from the undesignated surplus account for the MPI Billings Road Project and to accept from Maine DOT in the amount up to \$165,000 once the project is completed? **Recommended by Town Council**

Councilor Snyer made a motion to accept Article 17 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 17 passes.

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$15,000 from Veterans Memorial Park Reserve (HERM32) to install new brick sidewalks on both sides of the entry to the Veteran’s Monument? Said purchases will be made by 30 June 2022 or funds lapse back to Veterans Memorial Park Reserve (HERM32)? **Recommended by Town Council**

Councilor Snyer made a motion to accept Article 18 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 18 passes.

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for municipal purposes for Fiscal Year 2021 for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 the following sums of money?

Appropriation by category:

General Government/Administration	\$1,151,814
Economic Development/Technology	\$ 504,738
Public Safety	\$1,038,089
Public Works	\$ 1,064,777
Solid Waste	\$ 443,005
Recreation/Social Service/HVRS	\$ 350,470
Debt Service	\$ 0
Reserves	\$ 490,000
Special Assessments (includes County)	\$ 1,010,000
General Assistance	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
Total Municipal & County Appropriation	\$6,057,893

Recommended by the Town Council

Councilor Snyer made a motion to accept Article 19 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 19 passes.

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town set the Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Commitment excluding the Overlay Account as follows:

Municipal Expenses:	\$5,157,893
County Assessment	\$ 900,000
Local contribution to Schools:	<u>\$5,653,657</u>
Total Expenses	\$11,711,550
Less Municipal Revenues	<u>-\$4,265,638</u>

Total Commitment less Overlay \$7,445,912

Recommended by the Town Council

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 20 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was discussion.

Mr. Alexander asked if the expenses are almost 12 million and the reserves are only 4 million would this make the total commitment less overlay the total amount of the tax bills that are going out to the taxpayers?

Councilor Snyder made a motion to allow Howard Kroll speak on Article 20. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries.

Howard Kroll stated “You’re right, sir”.

A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 20 passes.

ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town appropriate from Overlay Account an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for tax abatements?

Recommended by the Town Council

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 21 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 21 passes.

ARTICLE 22: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for educational (School Department) purposes for Fiscal Year 2022 for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 the following sums of money?

Appropriation by category:

Regular Instruction	\$ 6,634,402.24
Special Education	\$ 2,460,875.36
Other Instruction (summer Schl/extra Act)	\$ 544,105.85
Student/Staff Support	\$ 1,620,781.73
System Administration	\$ 465,598.95
School Administration	\$ 910,419.58
Transportation/Buses	\$ 654,374.79
Facilities/Maintenance	\$ 1,787,446.10
Debt/other commitments	\$ 601,060.50
All Others including Food Service	\$ 65,000.00
Total DOE Cost Centers	\$15,744,065.10

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 22 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 22 passes.

ARTICLE 23: To see what sum the Town of Hermon will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act.

Recommends \$10,787,948.26 and to see what sum the Town will raise as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

School Committee & Town Council Recommends \$4,239,798.33.

The school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise to receive the full amount of state dollars.

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 23 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 23 passes.

ARTICLE 24: To see what sum the Town of Hermon will raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the town voters for non-state funded school construction projects, or non-state funded portions of school construction projects in addition to funds appropriated as local share of the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12.

School Committee & Town Council Recommends \$601,060.50

Non-state funded debt service is the amount of money needed for annual payments on Hermon's long-term debt service for major capital school construction projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the voters.

Councilor Snyer made a motion to accept Article 24 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 24 passes.

ARTICLE 25 To see what sum the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Act, non-state funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for support of schools.

School Committee & Town Council Recommends \$15,744,065.10

Councilor Snyer made a motion to accept Article 25 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 25 passes.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will authorize the school committee to expend in addition to Article 23, any sums as may be received from state and federal grants, aid, and receipts during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 for school purposes provided that such grants, aid and receipts do not require expenditure of local funds not previously appropriated?

School Committee & Town Council Recommends YES

Councilor Snyer made a motion to accept Article 26 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 26 passes.

ARTICLE 27: Shall the Region Four Vocational Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 be approved in the amount of \$3,588,936.95?

Cooperative Board for Regional Vocational Budget is not subject to amendment from the floor. It may be accepted or rejected by the voters. Hermon's share of the Region Four budget is \$0.

School Committee & Town Council Recommends YES

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 27 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 27 passes.

ARTICLE 28: In the event that the Hermon School Department receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, shall the School Committee be authorized to use all or part of the additional state subsidy to increase the allocation of finances to reserve funds approved by the School Committee?

School Committee & Town Council Recommends YES

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 28 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 28 passes.

ARTICLE 29: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$30,000 from the School Bus Purchase Reserve (HERM33) to offset a portion of the lease/purchase payment for a school bus in addition to the local appropriation for education?

School Committee & Town Council Recommends YES

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 29 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 29 passes.

ARTICLE 30: Shall the Region Four Vocational Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for **adult education** for the year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 be approved in the amount of \$315,375.05?

The Region Four Vocational Budget for Adult Education supports adult education classes held at United Technologies Center in Bangor for communities that belong to the Region Four consortium. Hermon's share of the regional adult education budget is \$3,377.00.

Town Council Recommends YES

Councilor Snyer made a motion to accept Article 30 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 30 passes.

ARTICLE 31 Shall the Town of Hermon raise and appropriate \$747,798.17 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$747,798.17 as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee?

The School Committee recommends \$747,798.17 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model. Additional funds needed for increases in salaries, enrichment programs and field trips, guidance and mental health services, professional development activities and costs of co curricular and athletic programs not fully funded by the State EPS formula.

School Committee & Town Council Recommends \$747,798.17.

The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town of Hermon's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help the Town of Hermon budget for educational programs.

REQUIRES SECRET BALLOT

Mr. Wagner read Article 31 and stated this would need to be voted on by a written vote.

Residents voted by secret ballot and the results were 14 Yes and 3 No.

Mr. Wagner stated Article 31 passes.

ARTICLE 32: To see what sum the Town of Hermon will raise and to appropriate the sum of (Recommend \$65,000) in additional local dollars in support of the food service program.

School Committee & Town Council Recommends \$65,000.

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 32 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 32 passes.

ARTICLE 33 Shall The Town of Hermon create new reserve accounts titled “Food Service Reserve Account” (HERM40) and “Enrollment Stabilization Reserve Account” (HERM41)? Town Council recommends- YES

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 33 as written. Councilor Lever seconded the motion. There was discussion.

Mr. Alexander asked what is an enrollment Stabilization Reserve Account?

Councilor Snyder explained if enrollment decreases this account will be used to offset the loss.

A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 33 passes.

ARTICLE 34 Shall the Town of Hermon Town Council authorize the transfers of school undesignated fund balance to the following reserve accounts?

HERM 07- School Repair Reserve-	\$100,000
HERM 33- Bus Reserve-	\$ 30,000
HERM 40- Food Service Reserve-	\$ 30,000
HERM 41- Enrollment Stabilization Reserve-	<u>\$100,000</u>
	\$260,000

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept Article 34 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Article 34 passes.

Councilor Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:23PM. Councilor Murphy gave seconded. With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 7:23PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristen Cushman, Town Clerk