



Town of Hermon

Public Safety Meeting Room

May 27, 2021

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 Town Council for a Zoom link.

ALL ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE COUNCIL ACTION

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Thomas led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance

III. ROLL CALL

Members Present: John Snyder III, Douglas “Doug” Sinclair Sr., Ronald “Ron” Murphy, Charles Lever IV, Steven “Steve” Thomas, Anthony “Tony” Reynolds and G. Stephen “Steve” Watson

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Town Manager Howard Kroll, Town Clerk Kristen Cushman, Town Attorney Ed Bearor, Attorney Tim Pease, Finance Director Michael Chammings, Superintendent Jim Chasse, 2 residents and 1 non-resident.

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

SIGNATURES. –APPROVE

MINUTES. -APPROVE 5-13-2021 Minutes

WARRANTS. –SIGN 5-28-2021 Warrant

RESOLVES. –SIGN

Councilor Snyder moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. Motion passes 7-0.



V. NEWS, PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

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

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- **Hold Public Hearing – Municipal Budget for FY 2021-2022**

Chair Thomas opened the public hearing at 7:02PM. No public comments were given. The hearing closed at 7:05PM

- **Hold Public Hearing -- School Budget for FY 2021-2022**

Howard Kroll: Superintendent presented a school budget of \$15,744,065.10, which is about a \$478,000 increase from FY 21. Revenues: superintendent was requesting \$327,000 of additional revenues to offset that increase. And I recommended the use of some of the school's fund balance as well as new value that I anticipate the town's going to experience from this previous FY. This is from new buildings, new valuations that we're going to get in town, so I don't anticipate an increase in the property tax levy. But you know, there is a commitment from the town to come up with that at least \$150,000 of that new value to be put towards the cost of education, the local share, which is around \$13 million of new value. And I'm very confident that I'll exceed that, and then some but along with everything, you know, those are decisions that you have to make, but I don't think that this is anything that's overly extravagant. I think this is in line with what they're trying to accomplish at the school department, and I support what they're trying to do. And like I said, I drew out a recommendation at the last meeting that I thought kind of made some theories or philosophies that the town council has in terms of tax rate, and where we stand currently as a town financially, so I don't anticipate a tax increase with those scenarios. However, that's mainly my recommendation and you have the superintendent here if you have any questions, I urge you to ask them at this point.

Jim Chasse: No, thank you for your support. We're growing, I'm so looking forward to next year, the NPA has lifted some restrictions and football again and get back to some normalcy.

Ron Murphy: One thing that I'm not really sure of, and this is my first time doing a budget like this, and maybe some of you can help me out. But we're asking the town to approve \$15.7 million. And I don't see any line item on any of these to see where the money is spent. Is that something that's not normally provided to the council or the school board?



Jim Chasse: It is to the to the school board. So the budget development process really begins in the classroom, teachers follow up, department chairs, or principals, transportation facilities, and we scrutinize that and then present that to the school board. School board will give a thumbs up or thumbs down with a few trims along the way, but we made quite a few this year to get to 3% and then they approve it and I come here twice. You can see the cost center form. If you want full school budget I will print you a copy.

Ron Murphy: I certainly would like to see that. The other thing I'd like to see is that you could work with council maybe a little bit earlier than the first of May?

Jim Chasse: Yeah, I appreciate that. I think it was a tough year for a brand new superintendent and schools in general with online and zooming, and so on and so forth.

Chair Thomas opened the public hearing at 7:06PM. Public comments were given. The hearing closed at 7:12PM.

- Hold Public Hearing – Penobscot Snowmobile Club – Truck and Tractor Pulls

Chair Thomas opened the public hearing at 7:13PM. No public comments were given. The hearing closed at 7:14PM.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

IX. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS:

A. OLD BUSINESS:

B. NEW BUSINESS:

R20-21-45 Consider scheduling and setting Secret Ballot Election to June 8, 2021 and Annual Town Meeting to June 10, 2021

Councilor Snyder moved to approve R20-21-45. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 7-0.

R20-21-46 Consider approving Penobscot Snowmobile Club for Concourse Gathering Application for Truck and Tractor Pulls on July 17, 2021

Councilor Lever moved to approve R20-21-46 and waive the \$50.00 permit fee. Councilor Watson seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 7-0.



FR20-21-24 Consider approving repairs to Jackson Beach restroom facility by Jeff Byers
DBA Byers Contracting

Councilor Reynolds moved to approve FR20-21-24. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 7-0.

FR20-21-25 Consider approving 2021-2022 FY Municipal Budget

Councilor Reynolds moved to approve FR20-21-25. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 7-0.

FR20-21-26 Consider approving 2021-2022 FY School Budget

Councilor Snyder moved to approve FR20-21-26. Councilor Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 7-0.

C. WORKSHOPS:

D. OTHER ITEMS: (from Table Package)

IX. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS:

A. NEW BUSINESS:

R20-21-47 Consider adopting a policy titled COVID-19 Mask Policy

Howard Kroll: Consideration of the COVID-19 mask policy. I worked with John Hamer at Rudman and Winchell, also Ed Bearor is here in the audience, if you might have any questions, but with everything going on with the recent executive order that the governor signed last Friday, there's a number of other items that are kind of unclear. It didn't specify that there was a difference between people that were vaccinated and not, and that creates a lot of unclear decisions that are made, and how we go about doing business with both employees and the public here. So with the number of municipalities, businesses that are undertaking a policy, I thought it was only fair to put something in front of you as soon as I could, for consideration regarding a mask policy. I know, in this policy, there's some items regarding furnishing evidence that you've been vaccinated by employees. I don't deem myself to be mask police or enforcement agency, but there's a lot riding on this in terms of people's health and their safety. And I thought it was only fair that we bring this up and at least discuss it in public on what the town council would like to see for the town. I couldn't get to you any sooner because the governor just passed this on Friday. But



I think this is something we need to take a look at. I'd like to hear what council would like to see or consider if anything at all, but there is a draft policy in front of you for at least your consideration.

Charles Lever: I just have one comment. I don't know exactly like the science on it. But in number five, it says if an employee who is not fully vaccinated is exposed to a positive COVID case, the employee should quarantine for 14 days from the date of exposure or until the employee has a negative COVID test. I think, if I understand it correctly, the incubation period eight days. And so if they get a negative COVID test in two days, they can still have so it we might want to change that wording, that's just my own suggestion.

Ed Bearor: I can't speak to the number of days that John is suggesting to be quarantined, and I would not second guess Charles or you, Steve. Steve, do you have a different number in mind? I think the important thing is they have a negative test before they come back. What I know about this topic is simply that you are empowered to regulate it, you can require proof of vaccinations, things of that nature, if you want, I sense that this policy might not go quite that far. So I have complete faith in my partner, John Hamer if he drafted this, that is something that you can lawfully do. And I suspect if you stay within the rails and want to tweak it in any way, shape, or form, whether it be number of days, quarantine, that situation or anything else, that you'll be okay. I'm happy to try to respond to any specific questions, but I'm sure that generally speaking, the policy is enforceable and lawful. And to the extent that you want to make any adjustments to it, or not adopt it at all, you are certainly welcome to take either of those approaches.

Steve Thomas: Yeah, I do agree with what Charles mentioned. I think you can be exposed and not show symptoms or even test positive for a number of days after. And the other thing I was wondering on that same line is, if an employee who is not fully vaccinated, to clarify who is directly exposed, because there could be situations where somebody is one person removed. So, for instance, my daughter could go to school, and she could be exposed to somebody at school. She's my daughter, she lives in my house, but I wasn't directly in contact with the other student in school.

Ed Bearor: There's that term, with discretion, I think that the person administering this policy, I suspect it would be the Town Manager who decides when he thinks that somebody has been exposed. And if it's six degrees of separation, or two or one as long as he is consistent, and that determination, I think that that's fine. So probably as written, I don't know if you want to get into how direct or indirect exposure ought to be, or just



leave it as exposed and let the person who has to make the decision on the ground decide, but that means as long as they're consistent making that call. That was my suggestion,

Steve Thomas: I'm okay with that because I think I have gone through every possible iteration at work.

Councilor Reynolds moved to approve R20-21-47. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 7-0.

R20-21-48 Consider adjusting School budget reserve fund(s) request

Councilor Reynolds moved to approve R20-21-48. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 7-0.

R20-21-49 Consider canceling Council Meeting scheduled on June 3, 2021

Councilor Reynolds moved to approve R20-21-49. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 7-0.

D. OTHER ITEMS: (from Table Package)

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Consider enter into Executive Session for consultations with legal counsel per
1 M.S.R.A. § 405(6)(E)

Councilor Reynolds moved to waive council rules and accept the table packet. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unless doubted. Motion passes.

X. APPOINTMENTS:

XI. MANAGER STATUS REPORT:

Manager Kroll: This weekend, as you know, is Memorial Day and I want to thank all the servicemen and women that live in the town as well as this country and for the sacrifices that they and their family have made over the years. Hopefully, people take this opportunity to reflect on those that have made the ultimate sacrifice. We're going to be closed on Monday to observe the holiday. But I just wanted wish everyone a great weekend.

I want to thank superintendent for working with me on his budget along with Mike Chammings and Jamie.

It's good to be back, you know, meeting in person.



The annual town meeting is two weeks from tonight, and it'll be here versus the high school. We have better capabilities to record. The size of the room is not as large but I think we can make accommodations to make it very successful there. So thank you, council for your support. Thank you.

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

XIII. COUNCIL ITEMS:

Doug Sinclair: Cemeteries look good. I'm proud of that. The other thing is can the grass at Snows Corner, on the part that we haven't developed yet, get bushhogged?

Howard Kroll: You mean the lower half? Rick Drew and I have talked about it and will maintain it. But I'm glad you went into cemeteries and you saw the quality of the work that we have from Mr. Laplante in town. I think he does a very good job. And I was willing to do Yeah, well, he look, he's done a very good job. I haven't received any complaints. And, you know, the last thing I want to do is hear from people that are upset with markers or areas of the cemeteries, being a insulting to their family, so, I want to thank them for the work.

Steve Thomas: I had a resident contact me this week, Howard, apparently there have been two dog bites on Billings road. I think the sheriff's department was notified, Are you aware of that and has anything else been done about that? It was somebody else who reported it. The dog gets out on a regular basis on the Billings road and has bitten two separate people.

Howard Kroll: I haven't heard anything. I can get the details.



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Councilor Reynolds moved to waive council rules and accept the table packet. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unless doubted. Motion passes.

Consider enter into Executive Session for consultations with legal counsel per
1 M.S.R.A. § 405(6)(E)

Councilor Watson moved to come of executive session at 9:15PM. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. Executive session ended at 9:15PM.

XV. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM. Councilor Murphy gave seconded. With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

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.