



Town of Hermon

Public Safety Meeting Room

July 22, 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 hermonmaine.gov 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, Phillip “Phil” Richardson, 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 and Town Clerk Kristen Cushman

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

SIGNATURES. –APPROVE

MINUTES. –APPROVE 6/24/2021 Minutes

WARRANTS. –SIGN 7/23/2021 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:
- VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
- IX. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS:
 - A. OLD BUSINESS:
 - B. NEW BUSINESS:

Elect Council Chairperson

Councilor Snyder nominated Steve Thomas to serve as Chairperson. Councilor Lever seconded the nomination. No other nominations for Chairperson. A secret ballot vote resulted in 7 votes for Steve Thomas. Steve Thomas accepted the Chair seat for FY 21-22.

Elect Council Vice-Chairperson

Councilor Snyder nominated Tony Reynolds to serve as Vice Chairperson. Councilor Murphy seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. A secret ballot vote resulted in 7 votes for Tony Reynolds. Tony Reynolds accepted the Vice Chair seat for FY 21-22.

- C. WORKSHOPS:
- D. OTHER ITEMS: *(from Table Package)*
- X. APPOINTMENTS:
- XI. MANAGER STATUS REPORT:

Manager Kroll: Fiscal year end was June 30 and I wanted to give you a couple highlights. I think some are positive things we can take away. Revenues we collected compared to the previous year, even though there was COVID at the end of FY 20 and through FY 21, the amount of municipal excise tax collected was \$380,000 more than what we collected last year. That's not the number I budgeted for, but gives you an idea of what type of transactions are taking place and how good the economy is.



Real estate collections: We usually put tax bills out end of August, September, October time frame. We have nine months to allow someone to pay. After the ninth month, the municipality can send out what's called a 30 day lien notice to let that property owner know your property is in jeopardy of having a lien posted on it. The timeframe is nine months to eleven months after the commitment date. And I can say with all happiness that that number from last year to this year has dropped by almost 150 property owners who did not get a 30 day lien notice, which is a huge accomplishment.

The Billings road project was awarded to B & B for the paving, Gardner Construction and Hopkins to do some of the ancillary work such as shoulder pulling. This year, we're going to be able to finish the section of Billings Road, sections of Blackstream Road, Newburgh Road that are in dire need of repair. We are going to do parts of the Newburgh Road that that haven't been hit, that need some attention. The Bog and Newburgh Road intersection will have rehabilitation to some guardrails, where some of that infrastructure hasn't been replaced in 15 years.

The project down at the middle school, the state of Maine is definitely interested in partnering with the town. That project will be a crossing for our students to cross the street to get up to Schoolhouse Lane and the subdivision. This will not happen within the next year, but will probably get an award to start the design and conceptual way to modifications down at the superintendent's office with parking and entrance into the middle school.

High School parking lot is getting rehabilitated by Hopkins Paving. They won the bid with the school department. They've done some on the sidewalk renovation there as well as drainage issues. The school is working on the roof RFP. One of the big things that they're working on is the entrance that has a number of trip hazards. They will be working with an engineer to get that design so that they can eliminate those.

Steve Thomas: Senator Baldacci was at our last meeting. And he mentioned that apparently, the extra revenue that the state has been collecting we're going to possibly have another \$400,000 a year going forward.

Manager Kroll: I think that's a combination of municipal revenue sharing, and I haven't seen anything for the education what the state's going to give for education per district or our issue. I haven't seen those numbers, but I can tell you that the number that I budgeted for municipal revenue sharing was, I believe, \$ 320,000. And the last projection that I looked at it was going to be \$ 480,000. And as much as I say, all is great and this is never going to end. I've been in this for 23 years, and I can remember the day where it dropped down to less than \$ 100,000.



Tony Reynolds: What they're doing is they've actually voted to give us 55% on education. And the state voted 20 years ago to do 55%. And they've been breaking the law for the last 20 years by not given 55%. Now, they actually voted for funding 55% and this is where the big increase in the actual dollar amount has come from.

Manager Kroll: I don't know that but you're right. I know that municipal revenue sharing will be 5% of your commitment. Sounds like a lot of money. I don't know that for sure because of the school factor and I'm on the municipal side and not a huge factor in that. Whereas the school is a huge factor. I haven't seen the numbers.

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

XIII. COUNCIL ITEMS: None

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Executive session was cancelled.

XV. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Reynolds moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 PM. Councilor Murphy gave seconded. With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 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.