



Town of Hermon

Public Safety Meeting Room

September 16 2021

Town Council Meeting

7:00 PM

MINUTES

To watch Council Meetings go to hermonmaine.gov click Council click Town Council Meetings click Zoom
Council Meetings will be archived online after the meeting has taken place.

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, G. Stephen “Steve” Watson and Anthony “Tony” Reynolds

Members Absent:

Others Present: Town Manager Howard Kroll, Town Clerk Kristen Cushman and 2 residents

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

SIGNATURES. –APPROVE

MINUTES. –APPROVE

9/2/2021 Special Town Meeting Minutes, 9/2/2021 Minutes

WARRANTS. –SIGN

9/16/2021

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)*

Scott Jellison, Swan Road: Mr. Jellison is a 25 year plus resident of Hermon and recently the Chair of the Hermon Republicans. He wanted to be clear and on the record after hearing rumors the Republicans are after Mr. Chasse and Mr. Wheeler, we are not. The Hermon Republicans are to further the cause and put people in office. Due to a phone call Mr. Jellison received this week has sparked him to put his thoughts together and give clarification.

Mr. Jellison's notes: "After going to the School Committee meeting last night, it makes me realize how over whelming the task of keeping the school functioning is. Being a government run school it become much more complicated each year. Add the Covid fiasco on top of the normal day to day operations.

The total school budget is \$15,744,065.00 which is three times the town budget. Of this the town contributes \$5,494,238.00 or approximately 35% which is 43% of my tax dollar. The school budget is 100% tax payor funded.

The town has approximately 6,400 residences of which there are approx. 5,100 registered voters.

One of the big points being made is the thousands of dollars being saved by the IT departments arrangement with Netscape. The town just voted on June 8th to spend \$2.4 million dollars for an outdoor track. All it took was 349 votes.

On the School Committee agenda Monday was "Providing Leadership to Enhance the Aspirations of our Children"

One thing that I always tried to get thru to my kids was that "the end does not justify the means".

To be honest I am totally out of water when it comes to determining if everything is OK with the IT Department, all I can go on is hearsay. Hearsay is what makes a business or kills a business, we call it advertising. We depend on trust and truth to make a determination. Having a threat in our first conversation does nothing for trust. What do you have to hide comes to mind?

The reality is the IT department is a very small part of the school budget, about ½ million. So, for it to be getting so much attention is not good for the town or school. This is not an evil empire or people thing.

The second trigger for me was May 13 council meeting where Tony stated that the school saved thousands by being able to purchase Chine's product. A country that believes in genocide and slave labor.

What is bad about all of this is it is a distractor from all the hard-working people in the school system. I commend the people that try under unbelievable hard conditions to do their jobs and those that volunteer their time to the children of the community."



Mr. Jellison would like to have someone present to him the answers that he can trust for the IT department. The phone call received Monday, I don't trust lawyers, and it will need to be someone in the industry to come up with the answers to the questions presented

Mr. Jellison commended everybody who volunteer their time to service this town. The staffs at the Town Office along with Mr. Walsh and Mr. Grant are great people. Mr. Walsh and Mr. Grant are great people.

Greg Newell, Stage Road: Mr. Newell has been attending School Board meetings and learning about the High School busting at the seams. Mr. Newell asked for clarification on who would work on this before we outgrow the school.

Chair Thomas: This would start with the school administration presenting a need. We actually went through this process with the expansion of the elementary school. A study was done then a consultant was hired to help with key variables.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

IX. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS:

A. OLD BUSINESS:

B. NEW BUSINESS:

R21-22-02 Consider approving the abatement of 2019 property taxes for account #1528, Map 035-033-000T for \$835.70 principal.

Councilor Reynolds moved to approve R21-22-02. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 7-0.

C. WORKSHOPS:

D. OTHER ITEMS: (from Table Package)

X. APPOINTMENTS:



XI. MANAGER STATUS REPORT:

Thank the Fire Department for a 911 ceremony. Chairman Thomas and Kristen Cushman, Town Clerk and members of her family attended the event at the fire station. I want to personally thank them for keeping that event alive. And to me personally, that's my generations Pearl Harbor. It's something that changed my life as well as millions of Americans. I want thank that fire department for recognizing and never forgetting that our country was attacked on our soil. I know it's near and dear to their hearts and EMT's and public safety brothers and sisters were across the world.

Update that the Veterans Memorial Park. Currently, Murphy's Lawncare from Orono has been working on putting new bricks in place. Should be completed in the next few weeks and is coming together.

I want to thank Scott Perkins for coordinating with B & B Paving and Plymouth Engineering for a number of municipal roads and streets that have been paved. And I know it's an ongoing, never ending process. But I think we're seeing some marked improvements.

We were able to hire a new Deputy Town Clerk Amanda Pelkey from Hermon. She will start on Tuesday. Currently, she works for the City of Bangor in their Treasury Department. She has a lot of great skills. She's recently married. And I think she's going to be a great addition to our office staff. So I wanted to welcome her to town.

And last but not least, I want to remind you that our next council meeting is going to be on October 14. So you got a little bit of time in between tonight in that meeting, but I wish you all a safe and happy fall. And I look forward to getting onto the other side of COVID with each of you and all of our families.

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

XIII. COUNCIL ITEMS:

Ronald Murphy: Speed limit was changed at the Middle School to 15 MPH during the hours of 7am to 8 am and 1:42 pm to 2:42 pm. We have heard from parents "Why can't this be done at the Elementary?" Mr. Murphy and Scott Perkins met and made a call to DOT. DOT does not feel this area warranted a school zone signs because the school set far back from the road, no sidewalks and children crossing the road. DOT stated if the town really wants the signs they will put them up. The cost would be approximately \$30,000 to have two blinking electrical signs at the Town's cost.



XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

XV. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Murphy made a motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:29 pm. Councilor Snyder seconded. With no objection the council meeting was adjourned at 7:29 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.