



**Town of Hermon**  
**Public Safety Meeting Room**  
**July 21, 2022**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
**7:00 PM**  
**MINUTES**

To watch Council Meetings, go to [hermonmaine.gov](http://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:** Richard Cyr, John Snyder III, Steven “Steve” Thomas, Derek Wood and G. Stephen “Steve” Watson

**Members Absent:** Ronald Murphy – Excused and Phillip “Phil” Richardson - Resigned

**Others Present:** Interim Town Manager Joshua Berry, Town Clerk Kristen Cushman, Town Attorney Tim Pease and 38 residents/guests

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

**SIGNATURES. –APPROVE**

**MINUTES. –APPROVE** 07/07/2022, 7/14/2022

**WARRANTS. –SIGN** 07/22/2022

**RESOLVES. –SIGN**

**Councilor Watson moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.**

**V. NEWS, PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:**



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

**Deb Langille Billings Rd:**

**Question #1: Why was public comment not allowed at the July 14, 2022 meeting?**

**Question#2: After coming out of Executive Session July 14, 2022 why was a vote not taken regarding the resignation?**

**Question #3: If the Town is paying a settlement, what account is the money coming from?**

**Update from Carol Lackedy by Deb Langille: A 60 x 12 trailer has been secured to use for the food pantry. Possibly, three Hermon businesses will be paying for the rental of the trailer. The trailer will pass the guidelines for Good Shepherd. She would like to place the trailer on Town property.**

**Steve Thomas: It's not really a council item. It's a separate entity if somebody wants to make a donation, but it's not up to the council to provide resources for nonprofits.**

**Greg Kneeland 22 Cross Lane: The leach field at Wayside Gardens is not properly seeded. Wayside Gardens PUD (planned unit development) should not be responsible for paying to fix the issue. Mr. Kneeland has reached out to the Plumbing Inspector and Code Officer requesting the contractors be told they must fix this issue.**

**Ernest Wheeler 20 Billings Rd: Read a letter submitted by Gene MacDonald.**

**July 19, 2022**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

**I came to Hermon in 1986. I served as the Superintendent of Schools from 1986 1997. We were fortunate to have the community being supportive in building Hermon High School. From that community decision, we now have Danforth's Grocery and the plaza. We have witnessed substantial economic growth through residential and commercial development. We have a mill rate that is more attractive than any other community in the area. We have been recognized as one of the fastest growing communities in the State of Maine. This is reflected for the first time showing over 100 kindergarten registrations and graduating over 100 high school seniors. Both are emblematic of the population growth of our community. Being a resident of the community, I am bothered by both the loss of our Superintendent of Schools and now our Town Manager. I think the leadership of the council is not representative of the residents of Hermon. There appears to be a lack of transparency in communicating with the community. If the rumors are true, then it is time for new leadership. I feel a committee should be formed to discuss where we are at and what our expectations are**



for the community ten years down the road. I'm afraid that the direction we are heading in could be devastating for the Town of Hermon.

Last night I had a phone call from a resident of Bangor, "MacDonald, you've lost your superintendent and now you've lost your town manager. What the hell is going on in Hermon?"

Question, what the hell is going on in Hermon?

Educationally yours,

Gene R. MacDonald

Lee Cliff 762 Blackstream Rd: It's been a long time since I've been to a council meeting. The first one I come back to, I was very disappointed. It was a special meeting, and you went into executive session. When you came back, and you wouldn't take questions from the residents, that's not right. I understand from the attorney, you made a statement saying it's in the council rules? That public discussion is optional? Is that correct?

Tim Pease, Town Attorney: Yes.

Lee Cliff: Who made the decision that the public could not speak?

Steve Thomas: That's something that was decided when consulting with our attorney.

Lee Cliff: Well, that's nothing less than a secret meeting. You might as well have them at the golf course. There's nothing wrong, I mean, these people elected you. You represent them, you serve them, and then you tell them that they can't talk and ask questions about what you've done. You don't have to answer them. But if you let them ask questions, that was a bad decision, Mr. Chairman. I am surprised at the rest of the council. That's just not something you run for office, well elect me and I will do what I damn well please and you sit down and shut up. That's the wrong message. As far as I'm concerned that's a cowards way out. You listen to us, that is your job. That was bad enough. Well, what caused the problem after that, people decided to ask questions. When you came back from Executive Session, the chairman didn't declare himself out of Executive Session, and some of the residents started to ask questions and demand answers. Mr. Chairman, you declared him out of order. And you had him physically removed from the building by police officers? Well, technically, he wasn't out of order because you hadn't declared yourself out of Executive Session. You violated his first amendment right and the police officer broke the Constitution he has sworn to uphold. That's not right, either. There seems to be a lot of bad decisions happening here. And the more I hear about it, because I'm not being told or we aren't being told what actually happened with the Town Manager, why he was fired, when he was fired. What was the cause? Were there evaluations? Was there any documentation in the evaluations for just cause? If there wasn't any cause, and you acted on your own to fire, then, was there a settlement? How much is the settlement? Who voted on the settlement? Who's paying for the settlement? A lot of people have questions. We'd like some answers. I understand that there's a lot in Executive Session you cannot tell us. And I'm not asking you to. But there's a lot that you can do. Now, I think



that Mr. Reynolds, he's a respected member of our community. You had him removed forcefully without cause, he was not out of order. And I expect he should get an apology.

Everett Buzzell, Newburgh Rd: I have had a lot of dealings with the Town over 35 years. And for the past couple years, I've seen a lot of what I would call criminal activity going on. Town Manager just recently fired. Why was he fired? One article said he was resigned. He didn't resign, he was fired. Tell us the truth. Why do you guys fire him? I want to know why Howard was kicked out. And if he's being paid severance pay. And why are all contracts going to people in town? Joe Baldacci gave us a lot of money in the past year. Where is all that money? Congratulation Josh on the position. Because if anybody knows what they're doing in this Town you do. You're a good guy and I've always liked you. But as far as I'm concerned, there's a lot of stuff that has to be taken care of in this town. I'll be at the next town meeting.

## **VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- **Hold Public Hearing – Penobscot Snowmobile Club – Truck Pulls**

Ernest Wheeler 20 Billings Rd: How will public safety at the event be handled with communication with emergency services?

Frank Roma, Fire Chief: The permit informs fire and police the event is going to happen.

Chair Thomas opened the public hearing at 7:20PM. Public comments were given. The hearing closed at 7:25PM

- **Hold Public Hearing – Contract Zone Change for M.L 041-088-000 – Redemption Center**

Chair Thomas opened the public hearing at 7:25PM. No public comments were given. The hearing closed at 7:29PM

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

## **IX. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS:**

### **A. OLD BUSINESS:**

### **B. NEW BUSINESS:**

**O22-23-05 Consider setting the council calendar for FY 22-23**

Councilor Watson moved to approve O22-23-05. Councilor Snyer seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 5-0.



**R22-23-01** Consider authorizing the Town Clerk to sign future Catering Event Applications

**Councilor Snyder moved to approve R22-23-01. Councilor Wood seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unless doubted. Motion passes.**

**R22-23-02** Consider approving **Penobscot Snowmobile Club** for Concourse Gathering Application for Truck and Tractor Pulls on July 23, 2022, and September 17, 2022

**Councilor Snyder moved to approve R22-23-02. Councilor Watson seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 5-0.**

**R22-23-03** Consider approving acceptance of an ordinance titled “Amendment to Chapter 154 Contract Zone change to Tax Map 041-088-000 § 154-006(b)” of the Hermon Town Code

**Councilor Watson moved to approve R22-23-03. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 5-0.**

**R22-23-04** Appoint a representative to MMA LPC

**Councilor Snyder moved to approve R22-23-04 and appoint Josh Berry to the LPC (Legislative Policy Committee). Councilor Watson seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unless doubted. Motion passes.**

#### **C. WORKSHOPS:**

#### **D. OTHER ITEMS: (from Table Package)**

**Councilor Watson moved to waive council rules and accept the table packet. Councilor Wood seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 5-0.**

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

**Letter of resignation for Phillip Richardson**

**Councilor Snyder moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Councilor Watson seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.**

#### **IX. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS:**



**A: OLD BUSINESS:**

**FR22-23-01 Consider amending FR21-22-10 for Recreation Enterprise**

**No discussion or action on FR22-23-01.**

**B: WORKSHOPS:**

**Open seat on the Town Council**

**Chair Thomas suggested to wait for the November 2022 election to fill the vacancy.**

**401 Fire Truck – Inspection**

**Frank Roma, Fire Chief: Mr. Roma updated the council regarding the failed inspection due to frame rot. The council was given possible suggestions on leasing or purchasing an old fire truck to get the Town of Hermon by until the new fire truck arrives.**

**C: NEW BUSINESS:**

**FR22-23-02 Consider authorizing the Town Manager to purchase a Fire Truck**

**Councilor Snyder moved to approve FR22-23-02 up to \$50,000.00 for the purchase of a used fire truck. Councilor Watson seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 5-0.**

**X. APPOINTMENTS:**

**Appoint** new personnel to the Planning Board – Kyle Sullivan

**Appoint** personnel to various positions as required by Charter and State Statute.

**XI. MANAGER STATUS REPORT:**

**Interim Town Manager Josh Berry gave an update on CMP (Central Maine Power) looking to install LED lights in the approximately 150 streetlights.**

**The county has reached out through Cody Sullivan to offer GIS mapping service to the Town of Hermon.**

**Little League baseball and softball has wrapped up with over 400 kids participating.**



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

**XIII. COUNCIL ITEMS:** None

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Councilor Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM. Councilor Watson gave seconded. With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 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.