



**Town of Hermon**  
**Public Safety Meeting Room**  
**September 15, 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**

Vice Chair Murphy led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance

**III. ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Richard Cyr, Ronald Murphy, John Snyder III, G. Stephen Watson, and Derek Wood

**Members Absent:** Steven Thomas - Excused

**Others Present:** Interim Town Manager Joshua Berry, Town Clerk Kristen Cushman, Town Attorney Tim Pease and 42 residents/guests

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

**SIGNATURES. –APPROVE**

**MINUTES. –APPROVE**

**8/18/2022, 9/1/2022, 9/8/2022 Minutes**

**WARRANTS. –SIGN**

**9/2/2022, 9/16/2022 Warrants**

**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:

**Appoint Cody Sullivan to Fire Chief**

Interim Town Manager Josh Berry presented the pin for Cody Sullivan's wife Fawn Sullivan and son Wyatt to pin the next Town of Hermon Fire Chief, Cody Sullivan.

Cody was administered his oath by the Town Clerk.

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

Greg Newell 40 Stage Rd: High School Library closed to the public?

Danielle Haggerty 10 Bog Rd: Reflect on last budget season to work towards a smoother budget season going forward. Two suggestions:

1. More frequent communication during the budget process.
2. Work sessions jointly with the School Committee

Everett Buzzell 564 Newburgh Rd:

- Would like to know the reason Howard was let go?
- D & D construction built in the bog on Newburgh Rd. Who approved this?

Ron Murphy: This goes through the Planning Board.

Everett Buzzell:

- Free internet service for the Town of Hermon, it's been promised for years.

Richard Cyr:

A few meetings ago you asked about the Recreation Center fund. The project did not go forward because of asbestos and costs so the bonds were never taken out to fund the project and the \$600,000 was kept in the Recreation Center fund.

The first track project was approved by the voters with funds from the school and bonds for the project. Money was returned to the people who put the money in, and the bonds were never issued. On June 8, 2021, there were 474 voters who voted on the original track question out of 5100 voters. Mr. Cyr encouraged Mr. Buzzell to get voters to the November 8, 2022 election.



**Tax stabilization program is available for residents 65 years and older who qualify. Please come to the town office for more information.**

**Deb Langille, Billings Rd:**

- **All need to work together for the better of the School and Town**
- **Council rules section 12.B allows the council to answer questions or get clarification for a future meeting.**

**12.B Persons wishing to address the council on an issue or concern local in nature not appearing on the agenda may do so during the consideration of Public items and/or after the disposition of all items appearing on the agenda.**

**Issues raised during the non-agenda item comment period may be immediately responded to with brief answers by the Chairperson or by the Town Manager when directed by the Chairperson. After each comment period, the Chairperson will indicate that each person who did not receive an immediate response will receive a follow-up response and/or updated at the next Council Meeting. Copies of responses will be provided to all Town Council members.**

**Ernest Wheeler 20 Billings Rd:**

- **June 20<sup>th</sup> filed a FOAA request for Howard's severance package, Rudman Winchell bills and minutes from the town meeting. It's been 8 weeks since and no answer.**

**Please see the complete video at [Town Council Meetings | Hermon \(hermonmaine.gov\)](https://www.hermonmaine.gov) for all public comments.**

**VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- **Hold a Public Hearing to amend the Cemetery Ordinance**

**Vice Chair Murphy opened the public hearing at 7:30PM. No public comments were given. The hearing closed at 7:32PM**

- **Hold Public Hearing – GA Ordinance Appendices A – G for FY 2022-2023**

**Vice Chair Murphy opened the public hearing at 7:32PM. No public comments were given. The hearing closed at 7:33PM**



- **Hold Public Hearing – Blackstream property. PH was cancelled**  
PH notices ran on 9/6/2022

#### **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

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

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

**R22-23-16** Consider adopting and amending the Cemetery Ordinance

**Ernest Wheeler: Family is reaching out to the Sexton and having trouble communicating with him and not getting calls back. As of this week, Mr. Wheeler was informed the stone on his mother's grave is in the wrong place.**

**Councilor Cyr moved to approve R22-23-16. Councilor Wood seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 5-0.**

**O22-23-06** Consider approving the amended Ordinance for the yearly General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-G for FY2022-2023

**Councilor Snyder moved to approve O22-23-06. Councilor Watson seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 5-0.**

**R22-23-13** Approve the mill rate, due date and interest rate for 2022 taxes

**Rylee Cushman, Assessor: Finalizing the last few real estate parcel accounts for commitment. Sending out exemption applications for personal property and reviewing the documents' accuracy.**

**Tax stabilization requirements:**

- 1. Living in the State of Maine for 10 years. These years do not need to be consecutive.**
- 2. Turn the age of 65 by April 1, 2023.**
- 3. Eligible for the homestead exemption – but do not need the exemption.**
- 4. Applications are due by December 1, 2022.**

**The upcoming tax bill will be used to stabilize the taxes going forward.**

**Councilor Watson moved to approve R22-23-13. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 5-0.**



**R22-23-14** Consider accepting 2023 prepayment of taxes

**Councilor Watson moved to approve R22-23-14. Councilor Cyr seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 5-0.**

**R22-23-15** Consider authorizing the Town Manager to enter into a Consent Agreement regarding 879 Blackstream Rd

**Councilor Watson moved to approve R22-23-15. Councilor Cyr seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 5-0.**

**C. WORKSHOPS:**

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

**Councilor Wood to waive council rules and accept the table packet. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 6-0.**

**IX. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS:**

**A. OLD BUSINESS:**

**B. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Councilor Watson to waive council rules. Councilor Wood seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 6-0.**

**Consider** approving a Supplemental (Addendum)Warrant for the November 8, 2022, Election.

**Councilor Watson to waive council rules and vote on. Councilor Wood seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 6-0.**

**X. APPOINTMENTS:**



**XI. MANAGER STATUS REPORT:**

Thanked everyone who came out to support Cody in his appointment to Fire Chief.

Finishing up road projects around town and laying the foundation for road projects next year. Next month the council will be presented a road acceptance from the Code Officer off the Clark Rd.

Would like to start the discussion on potentially having some workshops with the Planning Board to discuss projects that will be coming to the council later.

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

Ernest Wheeler: Nine months ago in December 2021, the Council brought forward the issue on drainage around 20 Billings Rd with three failed septic systems.

Josh Berry: We have hired an engineer to look into this and he had been waiting on some plans from the DEP and DOT. Within the last two or three weeks he has received the plans and is working on a solution to the drainage problem.

Ernest Wheeler: Received a letter as an abutter of C & K Variety stating it is intending to violate variance application with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the provisions 1394 for the citing of a facility of gasoline near a wellhead protection zone. Are you aware of this?

Where is the school zone area? Is it a square, or 1000' around the school property? The Superintendent's office serves as a classroom and has a well at this location. This well is not being classified as a public well in the determination.

Mr. Wheeler has guests in his backyard with campers along with a secure fence in the front yard. The month of July Mr. Wheeler's backyard was "spotted" more than 4 times after 11:00pm from police cruisers scanning equipment trailers and lighting camper trailers. This is making the guests a bit unnerved. What is the probable cause and one time this was with a helicopter. He is curious what is going on and has not been approached by the deputies. There is no trespassing going to the C & K site from the backyard. When will the lights stop?

**XIII. COUNCIL ITEMS:**

John Snyder: Congratulations to Cody on becoming Fire Chief.

Richard Cyr: When you can advance from inside it gives the others incentive to do well.



**Steve Watson, Ron Murphy: Congratulations.**

**Ron Murphy: Thank everyone who does come to the council and speak. When you think we don't hear you.... we really do.**

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Consider entering Executive Session to discuss a legal matter per 1 M.S.R.A. § 405(6)(E) – **Was not needed.**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Councilor Watson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM. Councilor Cyr seconded. With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 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.