



Annual Town Meeting

Budget Approval

Thursday, June 15, 2023

~ MINUTES ~

To: Courtney Brown a Resident of the Town of Hermon, in the County of Penobscot, State of Maine,

GREETING:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hermon in Penobscot County, Maine, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, the Election in this Municipality will be held at the **Patricia A. Duran School Gymnasium** on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 to act on Article 1 at 6:45 a.m. and Article 2 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Annual Town Meeting will be held at the **Public Safety Building in the Council Chambers, 333 Billings Road in Hermon on Thursday, June 15, 2023** at 7:00 p.m. to act on the remaining articles.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

The morning of the Municipal Election on June 13, 2023 Kimberly Nichols nominated Timothy Pease as Moderator. Rylee Cushman and Steven Thomas seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations, nominations ceased. Timothy Pease from the law firm Rudman Winchell Law firm was elected Moderator by a written vote on June 13, 2023, followed by signing his oath. Mr. Pease will continue as Moderator on June 15, 2023.

6/15/2023 Moderator Pease led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance

ARTICLE 2: To elect all municipal officers and school committee members as are required to be elected.

The results of the June 13, 2023 election for School Board:

Shorey, Kristen: 515 votes
Veneziano, Brian: 553 votes - Winner

The results of the June 13, 2023 election for Town Council:

Gray, Christopher: 573 votes - Winner
Murphy, Ronald: 605 votes - Winner
Stewart, Kimberly: 507 votes
Declared Write-in Buzzell, Everett: 23 votes

Councilor Snyder made a motion to waive the reading of articles 3 – 34. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion.

Mr. Pease asked for a show of hands in favor of waiving the reading of the articles 3 - 34.

A show of Hands was in favor of the motion. The motion carries.

Resident Chad Leonard made a motion to accept articles 3 - 34 as written. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion.

A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Articles 3 – 34 pass.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the revenues received for the following accounts to offset the associated expense accounts, for fiscal year 2024 with approval of the Town Council?

Revenues

10-130 Hermon Connection Revenue
 10-121 Local Plumbing Fees
 14-140 Transfer Station Fees
 14-150 Tipping Fee Revenue (PERC)
 12-182 Police Revenue
 12-185 Fire Dept. Revenue
 35 Recreation Enterprise Revenues

Expenses

10-13-04-05 Hermon Connection Expenses
 10-13-05-04 Local Plumbing Expenses
 14-01 Landfill Expense
 14-02 Household Waste Expense
 12-01 Police Expenses
 12-02 Fire Dept. Expenses
 35 Recreation Enterprise Expenses

(Explanation: The listed revenue accounts are special funds received by the Town for specific purposes. Approval by the citizens will allow the Town Council to expend these revenues for the expense accounts listed above.

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money for each of the listed reserves?

HERM04 Cemetery Reserve	\$ 5,000
HERM05 Fire Equipment Reserve	\$ 75,000
HERM06 Highway Improvement Reserve	\$ 225,000
HERM08 Public Works Facility/Equip Reserve	\$ 50,000
HERM09 Recreation Equip/Facility Reserve	\$ 10,000
HERM11 Municipal Office Reserve	\$ 50,000
HERM12 Sewer Maintenance Reserve	\$ 20,000
HERM17 Public Safety Building Reserve	\$ 10,000
HERM19 Town Office Equip. & Tech. Reserve	\$ 40,000
HERM32 Veterans Memorial Park Reserve	\$ <u>5,000</u>
Total Appropriation to Reserves	\$ 490,000

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town vote to authorize the transfer of up to \$100,000 from the undesignated fund balance to the Fire Department Reserve Account (HERM05)?

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$100,000 from the Solid Waste Reserve (HERM 35) to offset anticipated increases to the roadside refuse collection contract with Cassella Waste?

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$15,000 from the Cemetery Reserve (HERM04) for the purchase of a stone repair/cleaning and tree removal at each cemetery?

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$140,000, from the Fire Department Reserve Account (HERM 05), to purchase and outfit a Fire Fighter/EMS First Response Vehicle at the Advanced EMT Level, contingent upon approval of Articles 4 and 5?

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$175,000 from the Highway Improvement Reserve (HERM06) to repair and rehabilitate the Pine Tree Road, Higgins Drive and New Boston Road, including road drainage, tree cutting, shoulder work and repair to various local roads in Hermon, contingent upon approval of Article 4?

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 10: To see what sums the Town will authorize and transfer to the Hermon School Department to expend from the School Repair Reserve Account (HERM07), for the expenditures at Hermon High School, for supplies and equipment related to the Athletic Complex project?

Town Council Recommends: Track related supplies and equipment (\$256,000)

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$30,050 from the Recreation Reserve (HERM09) for Snack Shack Relocation (\$14,150), reconstruction to parking area along athletic fields (\$13,700) and to demolish old storage shed (\$2,200) at the PADS Elementary School?

Recommended by the Town Council.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town authorize the repurpose and renaming of the School Unemployment Reserve (HERM 10) to School Special Education Out of District Placement Reserve?

Recommended by Town Council

ARTICLE 13: To see what sums the Town will authorize and transfer to the Hermon School Department to expend from the School Special Education Out of District Placement Reserve (HERM 10) for the expenditures at Hermon High School, Hermon Middle School and Hermon Elementary School for Special Education Out of District Placement?

Town Council Recommends: Special Education Out of District Placement (\$40,000)

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$40,000 from Municipal Office Reserve (HERM11) to install a new asphalt shingle or metal roof on the town office building and install new lights in the parking lot, contingent upon approval of Article 4 ?

Recommended by Town Council

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$137,000 from Sewer Reserve (HERM12) for a sewer capacity study by WRIGHT-PIERCE?

Recommended by Town Council

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$15,000 from Town Office Equipment, Technology Reserve (HERM19) to upgrade speaker and camera system in Town Council chambers?

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$4,000 from Veterans Memorial Park Reserve (HERM32) to perform repairs to gazebo?

Recommended by Town Council

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town vote to authorize the transfer of funds from Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) Revenue in the amount up to \$1,006,015 to off-set authorized expenditures for Economic Development general accounts #11-01-01-01 to 11-01-20-06 in the amount of \$881,015 including the reconstruction of Logistics Lane, industrial park upgrades, GIS mapping, and Ryder incentive prog.; and account # 19-02-25-03 TIF Credit Enhancement Agreements (\$125,000)?

Recommended by Town Council

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for municipal purposes for Fiscal Year 2024 for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 the following sums of money?

Appropriation by category:

General Government/Administration	\$ 1,421,450
Economic Development/Technology	\$ 881,014
Public Safety	\$ 1,675,446
Public Works	\$ 1,630,115
Solid Waste	\$ 530,317
Recreation/Social Service	\$ 153,743
Debt Service	\$ 460,710
Reserves	\$ 490,000
Special Assessments (includes County)	\$ 1,204,000
General Assistance	<u>\$ 7,500</u>
Total Municipal & County Appropriation	\$8,454,295

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town set the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Commitment excluding the Overlay Account as follows:

Municipal Expenses:	\$ 7,375,295
County Assessment	\$ 1,079,000
Local contribution to Schools:	<u>\$ 6,005,865</u>
Total Expenses	\$14,460,160
Less Municipal Revenues	<u>-\$5,662,050</u>

Total Commitment less Overlay \$8,798,210

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town appropriate from Overlay Account an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for tax abatements?

Recommended by the Town Council

**ARTICLES 22 THROUGH 32
AUTHORIZE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER
CATEGORIES**

ARTICLE 22: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$7,953,429.73 for Regular Instruction?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$7,953,429.73

ARTICLE 23: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$2,859,227.92 for Special Education?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$2,859,227.92

ARTICLE 24: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$0 for Career and Technical Education?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$0

ARTICLE 25: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$794,745.10 for Other Instruction (summer School/extra Act)?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$794,745.10

ARTICLE 26: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$1,816,740.69 for Student/Staff Support?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$1,816,740.69

ARTICLE 27: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$618,750.50 for System Administration?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$618,750.50

ARTICLE 28: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$1,034,140.02 for School Administration?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$1,034,140.02

ARTICLE 29: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$880,011.64 for Transportation/buses?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$880,011.64

ARTICLE 30: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$2,462,421.52 for Facilities/Maintenance?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$2,462,421.52

ARTICLE 31: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$581,731.50 for Debt/Other Commitments?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$581,731.50

ARTICLE 32: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$50,000.00 for All Others Including Food Service?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$50,000.00

ARTICLES 33-34

RAISE FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 33: Shall the Town of Hermon appropriate the recommended amounts below for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

Town Council and School Committee Recommend the Below Amounts:

Total Appropriated: \$12,721,490.27

Total Raised: \$4,157,837.33.

Explanation: The school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise to receive the full amount of state dollars.

ARTICLE 34: Shall the Town of Hermon raise and appropriate \$581,731.50 for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the town voters for non-state funded school construction projects, or non-state funded portions of school construction projects in addition to funds appropriated as local share of the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12.

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$581,731.50

Explanation: Non-state funded debt service is the amount of money needed for annual payments on Hermon's long-term debt service for major capital school construction projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the voters.

WRITTEN BALLOT REQUIRED

ARTICLE 37: (WRITTEN BALLOT REQUIRED) Shall the Town of Hermon raise and appropriate \$1,216,296.20 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$1,216,296.20 as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$1,216,296.20

Explanation: Additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town's contribution to the School Unit's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the State's Essential Programs and Services Funding Act (EPS) and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the School Unit's budget for educational programs.

Mr. Pease read Article 37 and stated this would need to be voted on by a written vote.

Residents voted by secret ballot and the results were 71 Yes and 26 No.

Mr. Pease stated Article 37 passes.

Councilor Snyder made a motion to waive the reading of articles 38 – 43. Resident Chad Leonard seconded the motion.

Mr. Pease asked for a show of hands in favor of waiving the reading of the articles 38 - 43.

A show of Hands was in favor of the motion. The motion carries.

Councilor Snyder made a motion to accept articles 38 - 43 as written. Councilor Wood seconded the motion.

A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries; Articles 38 – 43 pass.

SUMMARIZES THE SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 38: Shall the Town authorize the School Committee to expend \$19,051,198.62 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Act, non-state funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for support of schools?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$19,051,198.62

ARTICLE 39: In addition to the amounts approved in the preceding Articles, shall the Town authorize the School Committee to expend other such sums as may be received from state and federal grants, aid, and receipts during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 for school purposes, provided that such grants, aid and receipts do not require expenditure of local funds not previously appropriated?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend YES

ARTICLE 40: Shall the Region Four Vocational Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 be approved in the amount of \$4,159,421.61?

Explanation: Cooperative Board for Regional Vocational Budget is not subject to amendment from the floor. It may be accepted or rejected by the voters. Hermon's share of the Region Four budget is \$0.

Town Council and School Committee Recommend YES

ARTICLE 41: In the event that the Hermon School Department receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, shall the School Committee be authorized to use all or part of the additional state subsidy to increase expenditures for school purposes in cost center categories approved by the School Committee and/or the allocation of finances to reserve funds approved by the School Committee?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend YES

ARTICLE 42: Shall the Region Four Vocational Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for **adult education** for the year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 be approved in the amount of \$318,528.80?

Explanation: The Region Four Vocational Budget for Adult Education supports adult education classes held at United Technologies Center in Bangor for communities that belong to the Region Four consortium. Hermon's share of the regional adult education budget is \$3,410.77.

Town Council and School Committee Recommend YES

ARTICLE 43: Shall the Town of Hermon raise and appropriate \$50,000.00 in additional local dollars in support of the food service program?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$50,000.00

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 PM. Motion was seconded. With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 7:39PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Kristen Cushman, Town Clerk**

Attest Original/True Copy: _____, Clerk