



Town of Hermon
Public Safety Meeting Room
October 12, 2023
Town Council Meeting
7:00 PM
MINUTES

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ALL ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE COUNCIL ACTION

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Murphy led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance

III. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Richard Cyr, Christopher Gray, Danielle Haggerty, Ronald Murphy, John Snyder III, Steven Thomas and Derek Wood

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Town Manager Joshua Berry, Town Clerk Kristen Cushman, 38 residents/guests

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

SIGNATURES. –APPROVE

MINUTES. -APPROVE 8/17/2023, 9/14/2023

WARRANTS. –SIGN 9/29/2023, 10/13/2023

RESOLVES. –SIGN

Councilor Snyder moved to approve the Consent Calendar with amendments as presented. Councilor Haggerty seconded the motion. Motion passes 7-0.



V. NEWS, PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

◆ Promotion of Captain Mike Simmons to Deputy Fire Chief

Chief Cody Sullivan: The first promotion this evening is the promotion of Captain Mike Simmons to the rank of Deputy Fire Chief. Mike or “Uncle Mike” as he is better known around the fire house started his fire service career in Glenburn in 1989. Over Mike’s 34 years of service, he has worked for several different area fire depts, to include Glenburn, Hudson, Hampden, and the Penobscot Valley Hotshots. Mike was hired fulltime in Hermon in 2015 and promoted to the rank of Captain in 2019. Mike is well known and respected in the fire service community and the town is truly fortunate to have him assume the role of Deputy Chief.

◆ Promotion of Lieutenant Byron Ouellette to Captain

Chief Cody Sullivan: The second promotion this evening is Lieutenant Byron Ouellette to the rank of Captain. Byron started in the fire service in 2009 in Howland. During Byron’s 14 years of service, he has worked for several area fire departments to include Howland, Old Town, and Orono. Byron started with the Hermon Fire Dept. as a Live-in student in 2012, staying on as member after his internship Byron was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 2017 and was hired fulltime in Hermon in 2023 as the Hermon Fire Department’s first fulltime Paramedic. Byron is an enthusiastic and compassionate leader who has assumed the lead on the Hermon FD’s EMS first responder program.

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

- **Carol Lackedy, Route 2 – Neighbors Supporting Neighbors is looking for help with grant writing to help with funding to support a permanent building for the pantry. She is looking for a place out of the elements this winter to distribute pantry items.**
- **Haily Keezer, Orchard Dr –**
 1. **Why does the Town choose the auditor for the School but the School can pick their own attorney.**
 2. **Would like an update on the Hermon School lawsuits**
 3. **Inquiry on a code violation at the High School**
 4. **Thank you to Council members attending the School Board meetings and subcommittee meetings.**



VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

IX. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS:

A. OLD BUSINESS:

Consider voting to reconsider appointing an Auditor for Fiscal Year 2023, 2024 and 2025

Councilor Snyder moved to consider voting to reconsider appointing an Auditor. Councilor Wood seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 7-0.

- If the Council votes to reconsider appointing Peter J. Hall CPA LLC, then consider:

FR23-24-06 Consider appointing Auditor for Fiscal Year end 2023, 2024 and 2025

Councilor Gray made a motion to appoint an Auditor for FY 2023 only. A second was not received. Failed motion.

Councilor Cyr made a motion to approve FR23-24-06 as follows: Auditor for FY 2023, 2024 & 2025 with the clause be added to terminate with proper notice. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 6-1. Councilor Thomas voted against.

B. NEW BUSINESS:

R23-24-04 Consider accepting a town road named “Hawk’s Crossing”

Councilor Snyder moved to approve R23-24-04. Councilor Gray seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 7-0.

R23-24-05 Approve the mill rate, due date, and interest rate for 2023 taxes

Councilor Snyder moved to approve R23-24-05. Councilor Wood seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 7-0.

R23-24-06 Consider accepting 2024 prepayment of taxes

Councilor Wood moved to approve R23-24-06. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 7-0.



R23-24-07 Consider appointing an authorized person for a Business Partnership Initiative with MaineDOT on behalf of Town of Hermon and C & K Variety (Hawk's Deli & Marketplace)

Councilor Gray moved to table R23-24-07 until 11/9/2023. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unless doubted. Motion passed.

R23-24-08 Consider accepting final revisions of the Council Rules

Councilor Haggerty moved to approve R23-24-08. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 7-0.

C. WORKSHOPS:

Discussion on proposed Solar Ordinance

Points of discussion: Council

- Limitation on where solar farms can be installed
- At no time will chemical be used to clean
- Performance guarantee shall be equal to 150% of the estimated cost of removal
- Removal costs will be covered under surety bond – clarification needed
- Should a letter of credit be issued?
- Do we have to allow solar arrays, or can it be banned in Hermon?
- Solar is not feasible without subsidies and tax credits
- What happens if in 5 years there is a shift in political climate and the town is stuck dealing with a large solar farm and the burden is back on the taxpayers?
- Taxes, revenue, reimbursement to the town
- Is there any fallback to the landowner?

Points of discussion: Residents

- The only place the ordinance is allowing solar farms is in the industrial zone
- Would like to see solar allowed in areas not seen by the road and zoned in residential A
- Why would the town give up tax revenue from the industrial park for a solar farm?
- Hermon doesn't have the infrastructure (size of cable going down the road) to house these fields. Three phase power and a substation needed
- If solar is not allowed in other zones, residents will not have the opportunity to collect revenue to then spend in the town



Residents are encouraged to attend the Planning Board meeting on 10/17/2023 where the ordinance will be discussed.

After much discussion on the Solar Ordinance, it was decided to bring back for more discussion.

Discussion on Fire Department cost recover billing – Chief Sullivan

Councilor Snver moved to table until 11/9/2023. Councilor Cyr seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unless doubted. Motion passed.

D. OTHER ITEMS: (from Table Package)

X. APPOINTMENTS:

XI. MANAGER STATUS REPORT:

- **Annis Rd had a considerable washout due to the past weekend rain event. Thank you to Gardner Construction, Fire Department and Public Works for the prompt attention to public safety and repair**
- **Election will be happening on 11/7/2023 at the elementary school**
- **Next Council meeting is 11/9/2023**
- **The new audio system should be installed in the council chambers before the 11/9/2023 meeting**

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

- **Greg Newell, Stage Rd – Discussion at the last School Board meeting regarding remote day for Election and if the town was looking at different locations for the Election.**



XIII. COUNCIL ITEMS:

Danielle Haggerty: Thank you to the Town for promptly taking care of the malfunctioning crosswalk at the High School

While driving in Brewer by the school they have someone directing traffic for a short period of time during the morning and afternoon to help with traffic flow. Just a thought for Hermon.

Congratulations to Byron Ouellette and Mike Simmons on their promotions.

Appreciate Carol Lackedy for her help to the community and maybe someone who is watching might have a suggestion or solution for the food pantry.

Would like to look at the validation vote for the School budget and is that an opportunity we can go through the process to putting it to the town to remove it to make us more efficient. Potentially one less vote we have to do.

Richard Cyr: Would the town have an abandoned/foreclosed building for the pantry?

Steve Thomas: Thanked James Stubbs, the Animal Control Officer on his efforts in capturing the lost dog from an accident on Route 2.

Another instance Steve called the ACO regarding a dog walking on the side of the road and James was prompt and the dog was reunited with the owner.

Chris Gray: A resident inquired about snowplowing.

An interesting thing I learned today is there are some towns in Maine that do a mailbox reimbursement program. I don't know if that is worth looking info.

Ronald Murphy: Thank you to Gardner Construction for all they do for the town.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:



XV. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 PM. Councilor Wood seconded. With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Cushman
Town Clerk

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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.