



Town of Hermon
Public Safety Meeting Room
January 4, 2024
Town Council Meeting
7:00 PM
MINUTES

To watch Council Meetings go to hermonmaine.gov click Council click Town Council Meetings click Zoom
Please see the complete video at [Town Council Meetings | Hermon \(hermonmaine.gov\)](http://Town Council Meetings | Hermon (hermonmaine.gov))

*****ALL ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE COUNCIL ACTION*****

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON:

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Councilor Haggerty led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance

III. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Richard Cyr, Christopher Gray, Danielle Haggerty, Ronald Murphy, John Snyer III and Steve Thomas

Members Absent: Derek Wood: Excused

Others Present: Josh Berry Town Manager, Kristen Cushman Town Clerk, and 8 residents/guests

IV. PUBLIC ITEMS OR COMMENTS: *(ITEMS NOT ALREADY ON THE AGENDA)*

Carol Lackedy, Route 2: Would like assistance in applying for ARPA funding via a sub recipient grant for a future building to be built for Neighbors Supporting Neighbors. She is requesting the town apply for the grant and distribute to project.



Greg Newell, Stage Rd: Presentation to the council regarding the school IT.

Chairman, Town Councilors, and Mr. Berry

Many people reached out to me and asked if I could explain things in a simpler term. So, I am here to night to explain some of the major things that was briefed by DNS Albany to the Technology Sub-committee. Back on 1 November 2023.

(the following information was on the poster board as a presentation and spoken)

In the IT world a Firewall is represented by a complete brick wall! **Firewall:** Blocks hackers, virus, etc. from getting into your network. In layman terms: **Keep bad people and bad things out**

DNS Albany IT report: **Hermon School District Firewall** was good but was not configured /setup correctly. In layman terms: Hermon School District Firewall **WILL NOT Keep bad people and bad things out!!**

Antivirus Software Is a program designed to detect and remove viruses and other kinds of malicious software (like: **ransomware**) from your computer, laptops and servers. It is updated regularly. In layman terms: Software that **STOPS** bad things from happening. This program should be **on all** computers, laptops and servers. It is like a security guard protecting your computer 24/7.

DNS Albany IT report: **Hermon School District has NO** Antivirus software across the entire network and systems. In layman terms: There is NOTHING STOPPING Bad people doing anything they want on YOUR Child's computer. For Example: A Predator could install software to TURNING ON YOUR KID'S camera on and watch them!!

The Operating Systems (OS) is the program that manages all of the other application programs in a computer. In layman terms: It is the software that allows everything to run on your computer.

DNS Albany IT report: The majority Hermon School District systems (laptops, tablets, servers, etc.) Have NEVER been updated with the most current software and security fixes. In layman terms: If the OS is not updated and fixed, the **bad people** will take advantage of flaws and take your information, money, spy on you; among many other things.

When this School District was ATTACKED by ransomware in November 2023 it was running Windows 2003. Software end of LIFE was July 14, 2015. Windows 2003 software!! 20+ year old software!!! For the last 8 years it was not supported, or fixed. Current Antivirus software cannot run on unsupported Operating systems.

The information stated is not from me but from the evaluator of Hermon School Districts network and systems. DNS Albany!! School Committee still has not gotten briefed by the company they hired to evaluate this District's networks and systems.

The School Committee paid thousands of dollars for it and refuses to be brief on the results and what migration strategies DNS Albany recommends. Why won't this School committee get briefed?



Haily Keezer, Orchard Dr:

- **Thanked Steve Thomas for his perseverance and patience through the process of the track project at the high school.**
- **Curious about the equipment that has been found on town towers and why it hasn't been shared with the council or the community. And what will be done about that?**
- **Legal bills at the school were \$17,000 December 2023 and \$10,000 for November 2023. This is not sustainable for the school.**
- **The town sends out RFP for the auditor which allows the town and school to use the same auditor. Why does the school have their own legal council and not the same as the town?**
- **Ransomware attack at the school has not been shared with parents.**

Shawn McBreairty, Hampden, Maine Source of Truth:

- **Sued Hermon School Department for Freedom of Access Act withholding, regarding the superintendent's workshop provided by Drummond Woodsum on 3/2/23. Documents supplied to the council with supporting documentation.**
- **School is paying an exorbitant amount of money: \$350 per hour for Drummond Woodsum.**

V. REVIEW CONSENT CALENDAR: REGULAR BUSINESS, APPOINTMENTS, SIGNATURES, AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MINUTES	-APPROVE	12/7/2023
SIGNATURES	-APPROVE	
RESOLVES	-SIGN	
WARRANTS	-SIGN	12/22/2023, 1/5/2024

Councilor Gray moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Councilor Snyer seconded the motion. Motion passes 6-0.

VI. NEWS, PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

- Thank you to Fitch Company for their generous donation of \$500 towards holiday meals.
- Thank you to Robert Wendling for his generous donation of \$500 towards winter fuel relief.
- Thank you to Annette Kluzak and Robert Wendling for sponsoring a family for Christmas gifts.

Town Manager thanked the above for all their contributions to the town.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:



IX. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS:

A. OLD BUSINESS:

B. NEW BUSINESS:

C. WORKSHOPS:

D. OTHER ITEMS: (FROM TABLE PACKAGE)

X. APPOINTMENTS:

XI. MANAGER STATUS REPORT:

CIP

Joshua Berry presented the first draft of the FY 2024/2025 CIP.

XII. FINAL PUBLIC ITEMS OR COMMENT: (ITEMS NOT ALREADY ON THE AGENDA)

XIII. COUNCIL ITEMS:

Danielle Haggerty:

- **Feels our resolves need to have expiration dates so there is clarity of how long the funding is available.**
- **Would like a definition of capital expenses so everyone is on the same page with CIP.**
- **Lawsuits: In order for us to approve a capital improvement plan and budget we need to have an understanding of not only the next 12 months but also the next 2 to 3 years. Councilor Haggerty feels she has a huge gap in knowledge in 2 areas the school can help her in. One is to outline the lawsuits on who is paying the legal fees associated with each lawsuit and what are the lawsuits that we are involved in as community, are we required to pay a settlement, where the settlement money is coming from and estimated costs per case. Is insurance going to cover or not cover?**
- **School IT Investigation: Would like an estimate of costs, penalties and interest related to this and how long could this go on.**
- **School IT repairs/rebuild: Would like a ballpark on the cost to repair/rebuild the system.**

Richard Cyr: Spoke with Mr. Walsh regarding IT audit by the FCC every 5 years. Would like us to contact the appropriate people to make sure this is being done every 5 years. Reported annually to the Town Council with possible cures, actions and remedies.

Steve Thomas: Thanked Barry Pottle and his family for his continued support for the Hermon athletics.



Chris Gray: Support everything Danielle has said in councilor comments. And confirming Peter Hall will be at the next council meeting.

Ronald Murphy: Congratulations to Josh because this is his one-year anniversary of becoming Town Manager. Thank you for everything you've done. You stepped outside the box of which he was comfortable in and stepped in something where there's a lot more pressure. You've guided this town through some trying moments over the past year and I think the town is better for it.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

XV. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM. Councilor Gray seconded. With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Kristen Cushman
Town Clerk**

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

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.