



Town of Hermon
Public Safety Meeting Room
November 9, 2023
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:

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 and Steven Thomas

Members Absent: Derek Wood: Excused

Others Present: Town Manager Joshua Berry, Town Clerk Kristen Cushman, 10 residents/guests

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

- **Greg Newell, Stage Rd: Parent Advisory Committee and the Recreation Dept had a Trunk or Treat event on October 29th at the Hermon High School parking lot with approximately 1500 people attending the event. Thank you to all involved: Recreation Dept and the Fire Department for bringing a fire truck.**
- **Tony Reynolds, Route 2: During the budget season it was stated there would be a minimal tax increase and you missed your mark. Where are you going to spend a 1.5 million dollars?**
- **Carol Lackedy, Route 2: Stated she has been working with Hawk's Deli for a bottle redemption drop location at this site and now found out it is not allowed. How can this be changed?**



Looking for an indoor place for the food pantry for the winter so food can be given out and not need to cancel due to weather.

CP Rail Train is coming the week of Thanksgiving to bring awareness to food insecurity. The money and food donated will go to Neighbors Supporting Neighbors food pantry.

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

MINUTES	-APPROVE	10/12/23
SIGNATURES	-APPROVE	
RESOLVES	-SIGN	
WARRANTS	-SIGN	10/27/2023 & 11/10/2023

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

VI. NEWS, PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Traffic plan for the holiday train- Shelby Reynolds

The Canadian Pacific Holiday train is coming back this year. As you may know, this fund-raising event presented by the Canadian Pacific Railway will assist in alleviating food insecurity regionally by coordinating business and local donations for a local food bank. The Holiday Train will feature entertainers, music, and a community presentation. The train will be making its stop here in Hermon at 11:30 on November 21st.

Maine DOT requires approval of a road closure for this event. As you can see on the traffic control plan, we are planning for a road closure on Coldbrook Road from 11:00 am to 12:45 pm. Coldbrook Road will be closed between Dave’s Way and Autocar Lane with Coldbrook Road traffic detouring through the business park. Changeable message signs will be located at the Route 2, Coldbrook Rd and Odlin Rd. intersections. Appropriate detour signage will also be placed. Chief Sullivan has worked diligently to create the safest & most logical traffic control plan that also correlates with the railway. We will have several public safety personnel in various locations for traffic control and management.



VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- **Hold Public Hearing – MCCL Inc dba The Sports Arena new liquor license**

Chair Murphy opened the public hearing at 7:14PM. No public comments were given. The hearing closed at 7:14PM.

- **Hold Public Hearing – CPKC Holiday Train event**

Chair Murphy opened the public hearing at 7:15PM. No public comments were given. The hearing closed at 7:15PM.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

IX. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS:

A. OLD BUSINESS:

B. NEW BUSINESS:

R23-24-09 Consider approving CPKC Holiday Train event

Councilor Snyder moved to approve R23-24-09. Councilor Gray seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 6-0.

R23-24-10 Consider approving MCCL, Inc dba The Sports Arena new liquor license

Councilor Snyder moved to approve R23-24-10. Councilor Cyr seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 6-0.

R23-24-11 Consider approving the Coldbrook Road Closure & Traffic Plan for the CPKC Holiday Train event

Councilor Haggerty moved to approve R23-24-11. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 6-0.

FR23-24-07 Consider approving transfer from Highway Reserve Account to Highway Reserve Expense Account for Emergency repairs to Annis Rd

Councilor Snyder moved to approve FR23-24-07. Councilor Cyr seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 6-0.



O23-24-04 Consider approving a 180-day extension to Solar Moratorium

Councilor Haggerty:

Leasing land to solar farms is financially enticing for landowners. Hearing stories of people being offered as much as \$3,000 an acre each year for 25 years, is tempting.

As a council, it is our responsibility to keep the town's best interest in mind. There are many items to consider, such as impact on job growth in our town, impact on valuations, industrial lost opportunity cost, environmental risks, and financial risk.

Solar farms are exempt from property taxes and personal property taxes. Instead of the landowner paying property taxes, the State taxpayers are responsible through a state program. Instead of collecting 100%, through this program the town only collects 50-55% of the Solar Farm's evaluation. There is no guarantee this State program will stay funded at the same level for the 25-to-30-year life of the solar farm.

Last year the state had a program that froze senior's property taxes. Without warning, the legislature did away with the program for seniors. Where would we be if the state's payments to the town for solar farms drops to 25% or even to 0%, as it did for seniors?

It is my responsibility to learn from experience. It is evident to me, the State of Maine does not have the best interest of our community in mind, and they will abruptly change policy and leave our residents, businesses, landowners, solar farm owners, and community responsible.

I believe it is unwise to place Hermon in a position where the State dictates this portion of our revenue. I suggest we schedule a time to discuss the option of banning solar farms in Hermon.

Councilor Thomas moved to approve O23-24-04. Councilor Haggerty seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Motion passes 6-0.

C. WORKSHOPS:

D. OTHER ITEMS: (FROM TABLE PACKAGE)

X. APPOINTMENTS:



XI. MANAGER STATUS REPORT:

- Office will be closed November 10, 2023 in honor of Veterans Day
- Thank you to the Clerks and staff and election staff for all the work that goes into the election. Every year there is fine tuning to the election and it is going very well down there. Appreciate all the work that goes into election. It's quite a process with the state requirements. There were 1704 voters at the November 7, 2023 election.
- We have also been in discussion with the school about holding our voting at the elementary school. The elementary gymnasium is the best place logistically for the town. We are not a large facility community, but we need to make do with what we have. We have exhausted every resource possible, in my opinion. The latest communication has been with Principal Walsh at the high school to see if there is an option to potentially hold the election at the high school while getting some of the high school students involved in the election process. We are always looking for ways to improve that. Especially learning the elementary chose to take a remote day on election day. We want to have a great working relationship with Superintendent Mich Grant. He has been very helpful when planning these events. We are working on that because I know the conversation comes up regularly.
- SJ Rollins will be installing the speakers soon and should be ready for the December meeting.
- CIP discussion will start in December.
- Budget discussion with Mr. Reynolds is always helpful and what was voted on at Annual Town Meeting is what was raised for taxes.
- Joint meeting with the Council and Planning Board will be in December with a date to be determined.

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

Carol Lackedy, Route 2: How can I find out about the bottle drop location at Hawk's Deli?

Josh Berry: Through Jessefa Murphy, the code officer

XIII. COUNCIL ITEMS:

Danielle Haggerty: Just an update on financial, in preparation for the upcoming budget. The School Committee approved a financial goal to keep funding at the town level at 0% increase. (They are looking at not increasing the amount the town would contribute towards the school next year).

Richard Cyr: Thank you to Chief Sullivan for help with my wife.



**Chris Gray: Would like to revisit the cost recovery billing for the Fire Department.
12th Annual Shriners Christmas tree festival will be coming up.**

**Ronald Murphy: Wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
Congratulations to the new Fire Department hires, to the Fire Chief on
the new fire truck.**

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

XV. ADJOURNMENT:

**Councilor Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. Councilor Snver seconded.
With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 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.