



Annual Town Meeting

Budget Approval

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Thursday, June 12, 2025

~ Minutes ~

To: Keely Gonyea 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 **Hermon High School Gymnasium** on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 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 **Hermon High School in the Auditorium, 2415 Route 2 in Hermon on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 6:00 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 10, 2025, Vicki Gonyea nominated Kimberly Nichols as Moderator. Brooke Deschaine seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations, nominations ceased. Kimberly Nichols was elected Moderator by a written vote on June 10, 2025, followed by signing her oath. Kimberly Nichols appointed Tim Pease from the law firm Rudman Winchell to be Deputy Moderator. Tim Pease will continue as Moderator on June 12, 2025.

Mr. Pease opened the town meeting at 6:00 and went into recess until 6:30pm. Warrant stated a 6:00pm start but all advertising stated the meeting started at 6:30pm.

6/12/2025 Chief Cody Sullivan led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Pease asked for a motion and a second to allow Stephen Fields, a non-resident, to be able to speak if needed during the meeting. A show of Hands was in favor of the motion. The motion carries.

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

The results of the June 10, 2025 election for School Board:

<u>Caroline Delmonaco:</u>	<u>311 votes</u>
<u>Haily Keezer:</u>	<u>339 votes</u>
<u>Jonathan Smith:</u>	<u>533 Votes - Winner</u>
<u>Eugene Sullian Jr.:</u>	<u>507 Votes - Winner</u>

The results of the June 10, 2025 election for Town Council:

<u>Richard Cyr:</u>	<u>516 votes - Winner</u>
<u>Jason Forbes:</u>	<u>490 votes - Winner</u>
<u>Chad Leonard</u>	<u>355 votes</u>
<u>Adam Brewer (declared write-in):</u>	<u>378 votes - Winner</u>

Danielle Haggerty made a motion to waive the reading of articles 3 – 25. The motion was seconded.

Mr. Pease asked for a show of Hands in favor of waiving the reading of the articles 3 - 25.

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

John Snyder made a motion to approve articles 3 – 25. The motion was seconded.

A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The motion carries: Articles 3 – 25 passed.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the revenues received for the following accounts to offset the associated expense accounts, for Fiscal Year 2026 with approval of the Town Council?

Revenues

10-130 Hermon Connection
 12-183 Animal Impound Fees
 12-185 Fire Dept. Revenue
 14-140 Transfer Station Fees
 14-150 PERC/EPIC Reimbursements (Tipping Fee)
 35 Recreation Enterprise Revenues **

Expenses

10-13-04-05 Hermon Connection
 12-01 Public Safety/ACO Expense
 12-02 Fire Dept. Expenses
 14-01 Landfill Expense
 14-02 Household Waste Expense
 35 Recreation Enterprise Expenses **

Note 1. 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.

** Note 2. Revenue/Expense #35, Recreation Enterprise is an enterprise fund. The enterprise fund establishes a separate accounting and financial reporting mechanism for a municipal service for which a fee is charged in exchange for goods or services. The Recreation Enterprise Fund is designated in the chart of accounts within the municipal operating budget, Department #35.

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the anticipated revenues for municipal purposes for Fiscal Year 2026 for the period July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, the following sums of money to be used to reduce amounts raised from property tax commitment to fund appropriations in subsequent articles?

Appropriation by category:

Dept: 10 GENERAL GOV	100 AGENT FEES	\$ 40,000.00
	110 AUTO EXCISE	\$ 3,175,000.00
	111 STATE TRUCK EXCISE	\$ 20,000.00
	112 BOAT EXCISE	\$ 7,000.00
	115 DOGS LICENSE FEE	\$ 1,500.00
	120 BUILD PERMITS	\$ 15,000.00
	121 LOCAL PLUMBING INSPECT FEE	\$ 13,000.00
	125 PLAN/ZONE BOARD FEE	\$ 5,000.00
	130 HERMON CONNECTION	\$ 1,000.00
	135 CEMETERY	\$ 4,500.00
	145 MISC REV - NO SPECIFIC CATEGORY	\$ 25,000.00
	146 PILOT/PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAX	\$ 10,000.00
	148 CABLE	\$ 15,000.00
	160 SEWER ASSESS	\$ 2,000.00
	167 TIF REVENUES	\$ 750,000.00
	170 INTEREST ON INVESTMENT	\$ 150,000.00
	175 FUND BALANCE	\$ 925,000.00
	250 SNOWMOBILE	\$ 3,000.00
	300 URIP/LRAP STATE ROAD ASSIST	\$ 75,000.00
	550 INTEREST ON TAXES	\$ 15,000.00

Dept: 12 PUBLIC SAFE	185 FIRE DEPT	\$ 60,000.00
Dept: 14 SOLID WASTE	140 LANDFILL FEE	\$ 10,000.00
Dept: 25 GEN ASSIST	210 GEN ASSIST	\$ 1,000.00

**Total Municipal Revenue
Appropriation**

\$ 5,323,000.00

200 STATE REVENUE SHARE	\$ 700,000.00
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**Total Municipal Revenue
with State Share**

\$ 6,083,000.00

Dept: 35 REC ENTER

102 BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL	\$ 366,973.00
103 SUMMER ELEM	\$ 119,000.00
105 SOCCER	\$ 19,000.00
108 DAUGHTER DANCE	\$ 7,500.00
109 SUMMER SIZZLER	\$ 11,000.00
111 BASKETBALL	\$ 21,000.00
112 FOOTBALL	\$ 39,000.00
114 PARENTS NIGHT	\$ 3,500.00
115 SPRING CELEBRATION	\$ 1,500.00
120 TRACK & FIELD	\$ 11,000.00
121 MIDDLE AFTER SCHOOL	\$ 33,000.00
123 ADULT ED PROGRAM	\$ 2,000.00
132 TRAVEL BASKETBALL	\$ 15,000.00
133 FIELD HOCKEY	\$ 2,700.00
144 YOUTH SOCCER	\$ 8,700.00
146 CHEERING	\$ 5,900.00
147 HMS SUMMER	\$ 33,000.00

**Recreation Enterprise
Revenue Appropriation**

\$ 699,773.00

Total Revenue Appropriation

\$ 6,722,773.00

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money for each of the listed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) reserves?

HERM05 Public Safety & Fire Dept Res	\$ 170,000
HERM06 Public Works & Road Reserve	\$ 130,000
HERM09 Parks & Recreation Reserve	\$ 25,000
HERM11 Public Facility Reserve	\$ 25,000
HERM12 Sewer Maintenance Reserve	\$ 50,000
Total Appropriation to CIP/Reserves	\$ 400,000

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to **\$25,000** from the Parks & Recreation Reserve (HERM09) for the purchase of stone repair/cleaning, gazebo repair and tree removal our cemeteries and veteran memorial park?

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town authorize the expenditure of up to **\$165,000** from the Sewer Maintenance Reserves (HERM12) for generator installs at Cedar Brook Drive, North Street extension and other wastewater lift stations, and to engineer and repair clean water infiltrate damages in our sewer infrastructure using Wright-Pierce and Gardner Construction Enterprises?

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to **\$15,000** from the Public Works and Road Reserve (HERM06) for the removal and cleanup of the vault located at the Public Works yard?

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to **\$150,000** from the Public Safety & Fire Department Reserve (HERM05) for the purchase of 2025 Ambulance equipment and 2023 Tahoe EMS to Command Vehicle Conversion?

Recommended by Town Council

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town vote to authorize the transfer of funds from Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) Revenue in the amount up to **\$834,489** to off-set authorized expenditures for Economic Development general expense accounts #11-01-01-01 to 11-01-06-03 in the amount of \$694,489 including the Coldbrook Park Phase III Expansion incentive, industrial park and commercial upgrades, NBRC Matching Grant for Hammond Street Sewer Lift Station, GIS mapping, engineering and design costs, industrial park drainage projects; business attraction incentive programs and account # 19-02-25-03 TIF Credit Enhancement Agreements \$145,000?

Recommended by Town Council

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for municipal purposes for Fiscal Year 2026 for the period July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, the following sums of money?

Appropriation by category:

General Government/Administration (#10)	\$ 1,700,218
Economic Development/Technology (#11)	\$ 694,489
Public Safety (#12)	\$ 2,333,833
Public Works (#13)	\$ 2,046,620
Solid Waste (#14)	\$ 776,875
Recreation/Social Service (#15)	\$ 83,933
Debt Services (#16)	\$ 459,800
Reserves (#17)	\$ 400,000
Special Assessments (<i>includes County Tax</i>) (#19)	\$ 1,459,259
General Assistance (#25)	\$ 5,000
Total Municipal & County Appropriation	\$ 9,960,027

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town authorize the Recreation Enterprise (#35) to receipt revenues to off-set expenses appropriate for municipal purposes for Fiscal Year 2026 for the period July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, for expenditures of \$669,773?

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town vote to authorize use of approved revenue and expenditure totals within the annual town warrant for municipal and school purposes for the period July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, to establish the next issued Tax Commitment, excluding Overlay?

Recommended by Town Council

**ARTICLES 14 THROUGH 35
AUTHORIZE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER
CATEGORIES**

ARTICLE 14: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$8,783,111.34 for Regular Instruction?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$8,783,111.34

ARTICLE 15: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$3,202,284.43 for Special Education?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$3,202,284.43

ARTICLE 16: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$0 for Career and Technical Education?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$0

ARTICLE 17: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$745,347.27 for Other Instruction (summer School/extra Act)?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$745,347.27

ARTICLE 18: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$1,879,593.00 for Student/Staff Support?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$1,879,593.00

ARTICLE 19: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$612,575.95 for System Administration?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$612,575.95

ARTICLE 20: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$1,153,767.77 for School Administration?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$1,153,767.77

ARTICLE 21: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$1,019,971.37 for Transportation/buses?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$1,019,971.37

ARTICLE 22: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend **\$2,634,683.82** for Facilities/Maintenance?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$2,634,683.82

ARTICLE 23: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend **\$561,229.50** for Debt/Other Commitments?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$561,229.50

ARTICLES 24-25

RAISE FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 24: 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: \$13,678,653.24

Total Raised: \$4,441,511.67

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 25: Shall the Town of Hermon raise and appropriate \$561,229.50 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 \$561,229.50

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 26: (WRITTEN BALLOT REQUIRED) Shall the Town of Hermon raise and appropriate \$2,495,301.84 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$2,495,301.84 as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$2,495,301.84

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.

Danielle Haggerty made a motion to waive the reading of Article 26. The motion was seconded.

A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Residents voted by secret ballot and the results were 58 Yes and 22 No.

Mr. Pease stated Article 35 passes.

Danielle Haggerty made a motion to waive the reading of articles 27 – 35. The motion was seconded.

Mr. Pease asked for a show of Hands in favor of waiving the reading of the articles 27 - 35.

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

John Snyder made a motion to approve articles 27– 35. The motion was seconded.

A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The motion carries: Articles 27 – 35 passed.

SUMMARIZES THE SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 27: Shall the Town authorize the School Committee to expend \$20,592,564.45 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 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 \$20,592,564.45

ARTICLE 28: 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, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 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 29: Shall the Region Four Vocational Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 be approved in the amount of \$5,603,413.72?

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 30: 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 31: Shall the Region Four Vocational Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for **adult education** for the year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 be approved in the amount of \$217,507.63?

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 32: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$175,000 from School Repair Reserve (HERM07) for parking lot paving at Hermon Middle School.

Recommended by the Town Council and School Committee

ARTICLE 33: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$50,000 from School Repair Reserve (HERM07) for district wide upgrades to the door lock control system.

Recommended by the Town Council and School Committee

ARTICLE 34: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$50,000 from School Bus Reserve (HERM33) towards the state approved bus purchase.

Recommended by the Town Council and School Committee

ARTICLE 35: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$100,000 from School Fuel Reserve (HERM27) towards annual heating costs.

Recommended by the Town Council and School Committee

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM. Motion was seconded. With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 6:45PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Cushman, Town Clerk

Attest Original/True Copy Kristen Cushman, Clerk