



Annual Town Meeting

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

(Election of Municipal Officials/School Committee Members)

Thursday, June 11, 2026

(Fiscal Budget Appropriation)

~ 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 09, 2026, to act on Article 1 at 6:45 a.m. and Article 2 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The continuation of the Annual Town Meeting will be held at **Hermon High School in the Auditorium, 2415 Route 2 in Hermon on Thursday, June 11, 2026, 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.

On the morning of the Municipal Election on June 9, 2026, Sue Woodilla nominated Stephen Wagner as Moderator. Hearing no other nominations, nominations ceased. Stephen Wagner was elected Moderator by a written vote on June 9, 2026, followed by signing his oath. Stephen Wagner appointed Kimberly Nichols to be Deputy Moderator. Stephen Wagner will continue as Moderator on June 11, 2026.

Mr. Wagner asked for a motion and a second to allow Town Manager, the Superintendent and School Finance Director who are non-residents, 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 9, 2026, election for School Board:

<u>Christopher Cousins:</u>	<u>1,182 votes - Winner</u>
<u>Joanne Durkovich as declared write-in:</u>	<u>4 votes</u>

The results of the June 9, 2026, election for Town Council:

<u>Tristin Friend:</u>	<u>539 votes - Winner</u>
<u>Christopher Gray:</u>	<u>640 votes - Winner</u>
<u>Dana Hewes:</u>	<u>505 Votes</u>
<u>John Snyder III:</u>	<u>503 Votes</u>

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the revenues received for the following accounts to offset the associated expense accounts, for Fiscal Year 2027 with approval of the Town Council?

Revenues

10-130 Hermon Connection
10-250 Snowmobile Fees
12-183 Animal Impound Fees
12-185 Fire Dept. Revenue
14-140 Transfer Station Fees
14-150 PERC/EPIC Reimbursements (Tipping Fee)
25-210 General Assistance
35 Recreation Enterprise Revenues

Expenses

10-13-04-05 Hermon Connection
13-01 Snowmobile Club
12-01 Public Safety/ACO Expense
12-02 Fire Dept. Expenses
14-01 Landfill Expense
14-02 Household Waste Expense
25-01 General Assistance
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.

Recommended by the Town Council

Motion to approve article 3. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 3 passed.

Christopher Gray made a motion to waive the reading of articles 4 - 33. The motion was seconded.

Mr. Wagner asked for a show of Hands in favor of waving the reading of articles 4 - 33.

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

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the anticipated revenues for municipal purposes for Fiscal Year 2027 for the period July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, 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/department:

General Government (10)	\$ 3,719,400
Public Safety (12)	\$ 100,000
Public Works (13)	\$ 30,000
Solid Waste/Recycling (14)	\$ 10,000
Reserves (Use of designated funds) (30)	\$ 81,000
Recreation Enterprise (35)	\$ 520,500
Tax Increment Finance Revenue (10)	\$ 900,000
Utilization of Fund Balance (10)	\$ 1,000,000
Total Municipal Revenue Appropriation	<u>\$ 6,360,900</u>
State Revenue Sharing (10)	<u>\$ 850,000</u>
Total Revenue Appropriation	\$ 7,210,900

Recommended by the Town Council

Motion to approve article 4. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 4 passed.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for municipal expenditure purposes for Fiscal Year 2027 for the period July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, the following sums of money? Appropriation by category/department:

General Government/Administration (10)	\$ 1,932,835
Economic Development (11)	\$ 843,419
Public Safety (12)	\$ 2,710,446
Public Works (13)	\$ 2,498,346
Solid Waste (14)	\$ 896,140
Recreation/Social Service (15)	\$ 76,186
Debt Services (16)	\$ 459,800
TIF Credit Enhancement Agreements (19)	\$ 160,000
Recreation Enterprise (35)	\$ 764,416
 Municipal Expenditure Appropriation	 <u>\$ 10,341,588</u>
 County Assessment (19)	 <u>\$ 1,476,484</u>
 Municipal & County Appropriation	 \$ 11,818,072

Recommended by the Town Council

Motion to approve article 5. The motion was seconded.

At the request of Mr. Wagner, a visual count was conducted by Town Clerk Kristen Cushman and Town Attorney Hamer.

Results: 47 Yes and 34 No

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

The motion carries: Article 5 passed.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money for each of the listed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) reserves? The funds approved will be utilized for future purchases and expenditure of descriptions provided.

HERM05 Public Safety & Fire Dept Reserve

Fire Vehicle – Engine (2029) \$ 370,000

Fire Equipment – SABC (2028) \$ 158,000

Total Appropriation to CIP Reserves \$ 528,000

Recommended by the Town Council

Motion to approve article 6. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 6 passed.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to **\$68,880** from the Public Safety & Fire Department Reserve (HERM05) for the purchase of Rescue Boat and Trailer for response to water rescues?

Recommended by the Town Council

Motion to approve article 7. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 7 passed.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to **\$11,000** from the Public Works and Road Reserve (HERM06) for generator install and backup for the Coldbrook Road Traffic Signal to utilize for operational requirements?

Recommended by the Town Council

Motion to approve article 8. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 8 passed.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$70,000 from the Public Facility Reserve (HERM11) for Public Work and Town Office facility maintenance upgrade projects listed?

Public Work Fuel Facility Upgrade - \$70,000

Recommended by the Town Council

Motion to approve article 9. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 9 passed.

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town vote to authorize the transfer of funds from Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) Revenue in the amount up to \$1,003,419 to off-set authorized expenditures for Economic Development general expense accounts #11-01-01-01 to 11-01-06-03 in the amount of \$843,419 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 \$160,000?

Recommended by the Town Council

Motion to approve article 10. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 10 passed.

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town vote to appropriate money received from the State of Maine – Local Roads Assistance Program for capital improvements and maintenance of Town roads? Any unexpended funds at the end of the fiscal year will be transferred to Public Works and Road Reserve (HERM06), Emergency Road Repair.

Recommended by Town Council

Motion to approve article 11. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 11 passed.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town vote to provide Retirement Plan AC to all employees, to included employment positions appointed by Council, who work more than 20 hours per week and who are not seasonal, or temporary, as defined in appendix to MainePERS Rule Chapter 802. The town will continue to exclude employees who work 20 hours per week or less and/or who are seasonal or temporary as defined in appendix to MainePERS Rule Chapter 802 from membership. The Town will authorize the Town Manager to sign the Amended Agreement between the Town of Hermon and Maine Public Employees Retirement System. The requested change from Retirement Plan AN to Plan AC will make the plan comparable to the offering for the Firefighters Special Plan 4C.

Recommended by Town Council

Motion to approve article 12. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 12 passed.

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money up to \$300,000 starting in FY2028 for a four-year period of \$75,000 per year, for the tree growth and maintenance of town roads and right of ways to be awarded to Cousins Tree Service? If approved, the funding will begin July 1, 2027, for a four-year consecutive period of FY28, FY29, FY30, and FY31. No financial impact to the Fiscal Year 2027 municipal appropriations and will allow the Town Manager to appropriate in upcoming fiscal budgets accordingly.

Recommended by Town Council

Motion to approve article 13. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 13 passed.

**ARTICLES 14 THROUGH 23
AUTHORIZE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER
CATEGORIES**

ARTICLE 14: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend **\$8,694,578.73** for Regular Instruction?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$8,694,578.73

Motion to approve article 14. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 14 passed.

ARTICLE 15: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend **\$3,695,713.29** for Special Education?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$3,695,713.29

Motion to approve article 15. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 15 passed.

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

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$0

Motion to approve article 16. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 16 passed.

ARTICLE 17: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend **\$814,146.51** for Other Instruction (summer School/extra Act)?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$814,146.51

Motion to approve article 17. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 17 passed.

ARTICLE 18: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend **\$1,921,699.84** for Student/Staff Support?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$1,921,699.84

Motion to approve article 18. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 18 passed.

ARTICLE 19: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend **\$649,668.47** for System Administration?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$649,668.47

Motion to approve article 19. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 19 passed.

ARTICLE 20: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend **\$1,117,081.67** for School Administration?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$1,117,081.67

Motion to approve article 20. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 20 passed.

ARTICLE 21: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend **\$1,060,873.43** for Transportation/buses?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$1,060,873.43

Motion to approve article 21. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 21 passed.

ARTICLE 22: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend **\$2,523,597.57** for Facilities/Maintenance?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$2,523,597.57

Motion to approve article 22. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 22 passed.

ARTICLE 23: Shall the School Department be authorized to spend **\$550,596.00** for Debt/Other Commitments?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$550,596.00

Motion to approve article 23. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 23 passed.

ARTICLES 24-33

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: \$14,220,110.64

Total Raised: \$4,725,711.75

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.*

Motion to approve article 24. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 24 passed.

ARTICLE 25: Shall the Town of Hermon raise and appropriate \$550,596.00 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 \$550,596.00

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.

Motion to approve article 25. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 25 passed.

WRITTEN BALLOT REQUIRED

ARTICLE 26: (WRITTEN BALLOT REQUIRED) Shall the Town of Hermon raise and appropriate \$2,543,735.26 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$2,543,735.26 as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee?

Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$2,543,735.26

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.

Residents voted by secret ballot and the results were 59 Yes and 27 No.

Mr. Wagner stated Article 26 passes.

SUMMARIZES THE SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 27: Shall the Town authorize the School Committee to expend \$21,027,955.51 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 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 \$21,027,955.51

Motion to approve article 27. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 27 passed.

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, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 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

Motion to approve article 28. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 28 passed.

ARTICLE 29: Shall the Region Four Vocational Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 be approved in the amount of \$6,156,935.40?

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

Motion to approve article 29. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 29 passed.

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

Motion to approve article 30. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 30 passed.

ARTICLE 31: Shall the Region Four Vocational Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for **adult education** for the year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 be approved in the amount of \$245,815.00?

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 \$3,376.66.

Town Council and School Committee Recommend YES

Motion to approve article 31. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 31 passed.

ARTICLE 32: Shall the Town of Hermon combine reserve account Herm 36 into the Herm 33, Bus Purchase Reserve Fund?

Recommended by the Town Council

Motion to approve article 32. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 32 passed.

ARTICLE 33: Shall the Town of Hermon combine reserve account Herm 37 into the Herm 10, Out of District Placement Reserve Fund?

Recommended by the Town Council

Motion to approve article 33. The motion was seconded.

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

The motion carries: Article 33 passed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 PM. Motion was seconded. With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 6:36PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Cushman, CCM
Town Clerk

Attest Original/True Copy: Kristen Cushman, Clerk

