



**Town of Hermon**  
**Public Safety Meeting Room**  
**September 21, 2017**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
**7:00 PM**  
**MINUTES**

Council Meetings may be viewed live online and are archived after the meeting has taken place – check hermon.net for link.

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON**

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Thomas led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Steve Thomas, Doug Sinclair, Jeanne Jacques, John Snyder, Steve Watson, Donna Ellis and Timothy McCluskey

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Town Manager Howard Kroll, Town Clerk Ruth A. Nickerson, Finance Director Rachel Grass, Public Works Director Ralph Shaw, Sargent Pelletier, Senator Geoff Gratwick, Randy Gardner, Donna Pulver, Matthew Raleigh, Michelle Raleigh, Jake Pack, Ryan Daigle, Mike McCarthy, Lewis McEachern David Lee, John Cousin and Carolyn Ayer

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

MINUTES.	-APPROVE	August 10, 2017 and August 17, 2017
WARRANTS.	-SIGN	September 21, 2017

**Councilor Jacques moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**  
*The motion carries.*



**V. NEWS, PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

None

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

**Senator Geoff Gratwick** spoke to the Council and those in attendance telling how he likes to check in while he is home from Augusta. He spoke briefly about the committees he has served on this session and reminded us that next Friday is the last day for any bill submissions. He affirmed that the Marijuana Legislation passed by the citizens in November, which was a very simple ballot question, has morphed into a very complicated bill. He reminded us of the current opiate situation in our State and how it is clouded with total sadness.

**VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**IX. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. OLD BUSINESS**

**#1. Consider purchase of new Public Works truck.**

The Town Manager told how he received a lot of interest and comments regarding the purchase of a new truck for the Public Works Department. The field of options has been narrowed to the two trucks being considered. Either truck would be provided by Daigle & Houghton, a local company located at 571 Coldbrook Road here in Hermon. The first truck being considered is a single axle six wheel truck. The second is a tandem axle ten wheeler. The Manager reminded the Council that snow is just around the corner and a decision needs to be made sooner rather than later. The 2018 single-axle Western Star has a stainless steel body and easily adapts from gravel to sand. To accommodate the needs of the Public Works Department there are 4 additional options that should be considered. The 2018 tandem axle, Western Star also has a stainless steel body with a stainless steel slide in sander, groundspeed and dust pan. Conversation ensued regarding the differences between the two trucks. One has 330hp vs. 370hp. The single axle can turn around better in the subdivisions, but the tandem axle can carry a heavier load. The single axle is guaranteed at \$40,000 trade – in value at the end of 7 years vs. the tandem axle at \$55,000. The Council discussed how they would finance the purchase of this truck. An initial down payment with financing over 2 years was agreed upon. The Manager stated that regardless of the vehicle chosen it is critical that the Town get on an appropriate replacement plan for this Department. These guys are frontline. Emergency services depend on them. We need to provide them with the right vehicle for the job. Chair Thomas polled the Council to feel out which truck they were leaning towards approving, again discussing the benefits of both. Public Works Director Ralph Shaw affirmed that he prefers the tandem axle, ten-wheeler.



**Councilor Jacques moved to approve FR17-18-22. Councilor Ellis seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

*The motion carries.*

**\*(FR17-18-22 is attached for review.)**

**#2. Consider bids received for 2002 Public Works truck.**

Manager Kroll informed the Council that a bid has been received for the 2002 Public Works truck. The bid was for \$8,701.01 and was received from Matt Scruton. The Manager recommended the Council accept the bid.

**Councilor Jacques moved to approve R17-18-14. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

*The motion carries.*

**\*(R17-18-14 is attached for review.)**

**#3. Open and Review bids received for 6 tax acquired properties.**

The Manager clarified that the bids were opened prior to the Council Meeting per his direction. He gave a summary sheet to each Councilor of the bids received. He explained that there is a property that we have a payment agreement on with the owner. If the owner should default the property will be awarded to the approved bidder.

**Councilor Jacques moved to approve R17-18-15. Councilor Watson seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

*The motion carries.*

**\*(R17-18-15 is attached for review.)**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**#4. Consider appointing MMA voting delegate.**

The Manager asked for authorization to represent the Town as a voting delegate and the Maine Municipal Association Annual Meeting.

**Councilor Jacques moved to approve R17-18-16. Councilor Ellis seconded the motion. The motion was accepted without doubt.**

*The motion carries.*

**\*(R17-18-16 is attached for review.)**

**#5. Consider scheduling Public Hearing – Morgan Hill Event Center Liquor License**

This is a license that Morgan Hill Event Center renews annually. A Public Hearing will be required before approval can be considered.



**Councilor Jacques moved to approve R17-18-17. Councilor Watson seconded the motion. The motion was accepted without doubt.**

*The motion carries.*

*\*(R17-18-17 is attached for review.)*

**#6. Consider accepting a new town road – Maple Leaf Lane Extension**

Mapleleaf Lane is off of the Wing Road. Maple Leaf Lane has been extended 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile with a cul-de-sac. 10 new home lots are being developed there. The Manager requested the Council approve and accept Mapleleaf Lane Extension as a town road.

**Councilor Jacques moved to approve R17-18-18. Councilor Watson seconded the motion. The motion was accepted without doubt.**

*The motion carries.*

*\*(R17-18-18 is attached for review.)*

**B. WORKSHOPS**

**#7. Discuss and Develop 2017/2018 Council Goals.**

The Manager briefly reviewed the 16/17 goals with the Council. He told how he has come up with 22 new ideas for the 17/18 Council Goals. He affirmed that he intends to reach out to the Department Heads for the input. He told how he prefers goals that can actually be accomplished. Some of the ideas he shared for the 2017/2018 Council Goals include: Cooperation with School Department, resolving the issues with sewer billing, creating a Recreational Advisory Committee, reviewing options for public safety – our contract with Penobscot County expires in two years, continuation of the Elementary School project, the Rec project and upkeep of our Rec facilities, the intersection at Klatt Rd/Annis Rd/Route #2.

Goals will be discussed again soon. The Manager asked the Council to consider and be prepared to give their input regarding the 2017/2018 Council Goals.

**#8. Discuss School Project – Ledge Discovery**

Lewis McEacharn of Dunbar and Brawn was present to inform the Council of their ledge discovery. There were 114 yards of ledge that had to be removed at a cost of \$47,000. There was indeed more ledge but a modification was done to the foundation to accommodate it. The Council participated in a conversation with Mr. McEacharn regarding contingency funds and ledge that has not been discovered yet. He then affirmed that parking lot work will not take place until spring.

**C. OTHER ITEMS (from Table Package)**

None



**X. APPOINTMENTS**

None

**XI. MANAGER STATUS REPORT:**

**Rec Director** interviews are ongoing. It has been exciting to see the response from the community. I intend to introduce to the new Rec Director at the second Council Meeting in October.

**Public Safety Parking Lot** is in dire need of repair as we have previously discussed. However, the whole driveway needs to be reconstructed. The drainage is very poor, there are three sections that have been patched together, resulting in a significant amount of material that needs to be replaced. We need to reconsider this project and evaluate our best options.

**Special Town Meeting** will take place on October 19<sup>th</sup>. We must pay Bangor the sewer debt of \$110,000. We have collected just shy of \$9,000. Three accounts equal \$90,000.

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

None

**XIII. COUNCIL ITEMS:**

**Councilor Sinclair** asked who pays the water bill on the hydrants. Rachel Grass affirmed that we do rent the hydrants but do not pay for the water supply.

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**#9. Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6) (A).**

**Councilor Watson moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6) (A). Councilor Sinclair seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

*The motion carries.*

**#10. Executive Session to discuss another Personnel Matter per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6) (A).**

Cancelled

**Councilor Jacques moved to exit Executive Session and return to Regular Session. Councilor Ellis seconded the motion. A show of hands was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

*The motion carries.*



**XV. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Councilor Ellis moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02pm. Councilor Jacques seconded the motion. With no objection Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Ruth A. Nickerson, CCM  
Town Clerk**