



Town of Hermon

Public Safety Meeting Room

February 1, 2018

Special 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 and Tim McCluskey

Members Absent: Donna Ellis

Others Present: Town Manager Howard Kroll, Town Clerk Ruth A. Nickerson, Parks and Rec Director Mary Cameron, Code Enforcement Officer/Assessor Josh Berry, Public Works Director Ralph Shaw, Economic and Community Development Director Scott Perkins, Sargent Pelletier and Fire Chief Roma

Councilor Watson moved to approve the absence of Councilor Ellis. Councilor Jacques seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The motion carries.

IV. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS

A. WORKSHOPS



#1. Review and Discuss proposed 2018/2019 Capital Improvement Plan

Chair Thomas noted that the purpose of tonight’s meeting is to review and discuss the proposed 2018/2019 Capital Improvement Plan. He told how the Council was given a packet prior to tonight to read and review before meeting here tonight.

Manager Kroll informed the Council that the recent Special Town Meeting did cause some amounts to change in surplus revenue. He gave a new handout reflecting those changes in addition to an updated summary for the Public Works Department. The Manager read his introduction letter. This letter states that the Plan as a whole is 12% or \$59,000 less than last years Plan. The Town recently lost a significant amount of excise tax revenue which makes asking for money uncomfortable. The Manager stated his belief that the Town should consider short term financing when making significant purchases. He also explained how each account has been broken down and offered a summary noting the projects, balances carried forward, expenditures, revenues and ending balances for each account. He affirmed that the Plan must be approved prior to March 1, 2018 per the Town of Hermon’s charter. Manager Kroll recommended a follow up workshop be scheduled as part of the regular Council Meeting on February 8, 2018.

There are currently 34 Reserve Accounts that we use and maintain. Tonight’s discussion does not include any of the School’s Capital Reserve Accounts.

HERM01 – Police Equipment Reserve

- Request to purchase 3 new lap tops for the cruisers \$10,800.00
- \$10,800.00**

HERM02 – Unemployment Reserve

- Request to fund annual disbursement \$5,000.00
- \$5,000.00**

HERM03 – Legal Liability Reserve

- *No Request*

HERM04 – Cemetery Reserve

- Request to pave the first road in Snow’s Corner Cemetery Expansion \$12,000.00
- Request to do road work at Pleasant Hill Cemetery \$5,000.00
- Request to conduct survey work at Pleasant Hill Cemetery \$3,000.00
- \$20,000.00**

HERM05 – Fire Equipment Reserve

- Request to purchase 4 new thermal imaging cameras \$30,800.00
- Request to purchase a new Cascade/Compressor \$44,000.00



- Request to purchase new dryer for gear \$8,000.00
- \$82,800.00**

HERM06 – Highway Improvement Reserve

- Request for pavement and drainage improvements \$250,000.00
- \$250,000.00**

HERM08 – Public Works Facility & Equipment Reserve

- Request to repair or replace steamer/trailer \$3,000.00
 - 2018 Western Star payment #2 \$50,852.00
 - Request to purchase new 3/4 ton pickup with Fisher plow \$35,000.00
 - Request to purchase a road grader with a wing \$51,500.00
- \$140,352.00**

HERM09 – Recreation Facility Reserve

- Request to repair baseball field fence \$3,000.00
 - Request to repair softball field fence \$3,000.00
 - Request to upkeep the trail and make improvements \$3,000.00
 - Request to contribute to the Little League Concession Stand \$7,000.00
 - Request to repair Little League Dugout \$2,500.00
 - Request to purchase new wood fiber chips for playground \$3,000.00
 - Request to purchase a specialized tractor rack \$6,000.00
- \$27,500.00**

HERM11 – Municipal Office Reserve

- Request to fund reserve with no proposed activity this year

HERM12 – Sewer Maintenance Reserve

- Request to replace SCADA system on Autocar Lane \$15,000.00
 - Request to continue sewer repairs as outlined in the Sewer Maintenance Plan \$10,000.00
- \$25,000.00**

HERM13 – Public Land Acquisition Reserve

- *No Request*

HERM14 – Planning and Ordinance Reserve

- *No Request*



HERM16 – Economic Development Reserve

- Request for business park expenses \$100,000.00
- \$100,000.00**

HERM17 – Public Safety Building Reserve

- Request to light the flag pole \$2,000.00
 - Request to repair fire truck exit at fire station. \$90,000.00
- \$92,000.00**

HERM19 – Town Office Equipment & Technology Reserve

- Request to fund reserve with no proposed activity this year

HERM28 – Jackson Beach Reserve

- *No Request*

HERM29 – Transfer Station Reserve

- *No Request*

HERM31 – Rural Fire Pond Reserve

- Request to fund reserve with no proposed activity this year

HERM32 – Veteran’s Memorial Park Reserve

- *No Request*

HERM34 – Sick Leave Reserve

- Request to fund reserve with no proposed activity this year

The Council participated in discussion as each request was reviewed individually.

The Fire Chief spoke regarding the future purchase of a new fire engine. He explained to the Council, how purchasing a truck through the Cooperative Group Purchasing Program works and how it would benefit our community.

Councilor McCluskey stated that here in the Town of Hermon we do not borrow money to make purchases. We save until we have enough funds to pay cash. The Town Manager agreed, stating



that no new debt should be considered, but when current debt is retired short term financing should be an option.

Scott Perkins informed the Council of the process being used to inventory and rate our local roads. Responding to Councilor McCluskey, the Manager told how excise tax covers the entire Municipal budget not just roads. He informed Mr. McCluskey he would find out the percent of excise tax that is in fact put back into our roads. Details were given about specific road projects intended for the coming year.

Ralph Shaw detailed the needs of the Public Works Department. He explained his intent to trade the John Deere tractor for a grader with a wing. The John Deere is rarely used and we currently pay \$110.00 an hour to rent a grader. We use the grader both in the summer and winter.

Mary Cameron shared her goals for the Parks & Recreation Department. At the top of the list is the need for air conditioning in our summer facility. Conversation took place regarding Little League needs and use of town funds. Ms. Cameron told of the need for a new parking lot for rec.

Discussion ensued regarding the use and maintenance of the town sewer. The Council is still looking for a way to define cost to the 259 residents that use the system, rather than charging all residents. Additionally, the Council pointed out that the contracts we had with Hampden and Bangor need to be renewed. The ash that comes from Pine Tree Waste has caused significant damage to the system over the years and the cost of that damage was discussed at length.

The Council conversed about the present condition of the Fire Station Parking Lot. It seems more accurate to call it the Fire Station Exit because vehicles do not normally park there. The Fire Chief told how he has never seen a station that does not have a concrete base for trucks entering and exiting the station. The cost to fix this is significant, but the risk of leaving it alone could be costly as well. Currently, the pavement is shifting daily and the cracks and crevices are growing. At this time the trucks are still able to come and go with no problems, but there is no guarantee to how long that will continue to be the case.

Chair Thomas thanked the Councilors and staff in attendance for participating in this evenings meeting. He affirmed that the budget for the Capital Improvement Plan would be wrapped up by the end of February.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Jacques moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm. Councilor Snyer seconded the motion. With no objection the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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