



**Town of Hermon**

**Public Safety Meeting Room**

**February 8, 2018**

**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 Donna Ellis

**Members Absent:** Tim McCluskey

**Others Present:** Town Manager Howard Kroll, Town Clerk Ruth A. Nickerson, Economic and Community Development Director Scott Perkins, School Superintendent Gary Gonyar, Assessor/Code Enforcement Officer Joshua Berry and Billy Sanborn

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

MINUTES. -APPROVE January 11, 2018 and January 25, 2018

WARRANTS. -SIGN February 8, 2018

**Councilor Jacques moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote resulted in 6 Yeas; McCluskey absent.**

Hermon Town Council Minutes



*The motion carries.*

**V. NEWS, PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

None

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

**Joshua Berry** offered a brief update regarding the in house revaluation that is currently taking place. He stated that by the end of the week all fieldwork data (3,362 land accounts) will have been entered into TRIO. Mr. Berry explained that there is now more equity within our assessing system because our 99 neighborhoods have been condensed to 32 neighborhoods. A letter will be mailed to all residents this summer stating the new value of their property. The Assessing Office has an open door policy and will be available to answer questions and address concerns this letter produces.

**VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

• **Hold Public Hearing – Penobscot Snowmobile Club Concourse Gathering Permit**

Manager Kroll told how on March 3, 2018 the Penobscot Snowmobile Club will be hosting “Squeeze the Throttle” snowmobile races. He informed the Council that the PSC runs a well organized event.

Chair Thomas opened the public hearing at 7:07pm. He opened the floor for questions, concerns or comments regarding the approval of this Concourse Gathering Permit. There were none. The public hearing was closed at 7:08pm.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**IX. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. OLD BUSINESS**

**#1. Consider approving Concourse Gathering Permit – Penobscot Snowmobile Club**

Chair Thomas asked the Town Manager how the snowmobile race event that took place at Speedway 95 a few weeks backs went. The Manager replied that it went extremely well; the weather was decent, the crowd was calm, there were no complaints made, and there was a great crowd of people there. Chair Thomas pointed out that snowmobiling is a major part of our State’s economy and that Penobscot Snowmobile Club has a fabulous reputation and they aren’t going to do anything to tarnish that.

**Councilor Jacques moved to approve R17-18-41. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote resulted in 6 Yeas; McCluskey absent.**



*The motion carries.*

*\*(R17-18-41 is attached for review.)*

**#2. Consider authorizing payment of invoice #9 – Elementary School Construction Project**

Manager Kroll requested authorization from the Council to pay invoice #9 of the Patricia A. Duran Elementary School Construction Project.

**Councilor Snyder moved to approve FR17-18-51. Councilor Watson seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote resulted in 6 Yeas; McCluskey absent.**

*The motion carries.*

*\*(FR17-18-51 is attached for review.)*

**#3. Consider approving the Hermon Business Loan Program**

The Town Manager reminded the Council that they recently heard a presentation from Mr. Perkins regarding the new Hermon Business Loan Program. Mr. Kroll asked the Council to endorse the loan program so that it can be included in the upcoming budget. Scott Perkins spoke to the Council regarding the required qualifications to receive loan services through the Town of Hermon including the fact that this program is meant for borrowing \$250,000.00 or more. The Council agreed with the Manager when he stated that he likes having the ability to use our revenues to grow and encourage businesses in Hermon. This makes us competitive as a community. He also stated that partnering with the financial experts is far better than just leaving it up to the financial experts. Mr. Perkins affirmed that this is a pilot program and that decisions will be made on a case by case basis as we invest our money to attract business.

**Councilor Jacques moved to approve R17-18-42. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was accepted without doubt.**

*The motion carries.*

*\*(R17-18-42 is attached for review.)*

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**#4. Consider authorizing a change order – Elementary School Construction Project**

Manager Kroll informed the Council that a change order request has been submitted for the purpose of blasting and removing 30 cubic yards of ledge to accommodate catch basins and storm drains at the Elementary School Construction Project site. The anticipated cost is \$10,914.29. Councilor Snyder asked where specifically the catch basins and storm drains are going in. Manager Kroll was unable to answer because he does not know. Superintendent Gonyar was also unable to answer because he doesn't know either.



**Councilor Sinclair moved to table this item until a representative from Dunbar & Brawn is present and able to give detail regarding the change order. Councilor Jacques seconded the motion. The motion was accepted without doubt.**

*The motion carries.*

**#5. Consider authorizing a change order – Elementary School Construction Project**

The Manager informed the Council of an additional change order request that has been submitted for the Elementary School Construction Project. This change order calls to lay tile in the lobby that will match the foyer. The Manager reminded the Council that they recently approved a request to lay tile in the new educational wing as well. Councilor Snyder told how tearing up the existing lobby floor has always been part of the plan. Superintendent Gonyar affirmed that the lobby is being redone and that it is the heaviest travelled area in the building. Councilor Snyder asked how many square feet of floor \$8,331.88 of tile covers. No one had an answer. Councilor Jacques voiced her dismay that the lobby bathrooms are going to be remodeled not the bathrooms being used by students during actual class time.

**Councilor Sinclair moved to table this item until a representative from Dunbar & Brawn is present and able to give detail regarding the change order. Councilor Jacques seconded the motion. The motion was accepted without doubt.**

*The motion carries.*

**#6. Consider purchase of legal bond counsel – Elementary School Construction Project**

Manager Krull affirmed that in order to obtain short term financing for the construction project at the Elementary School the Town must obtain bond council. He asked the Council to authorize \$558.40 for the purchase of bond council.

**Councilor Jacques moved to approve FR17-18-54. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote resulted in 6 Yeas; McCluskey absent.**

*The motion carries.*

**\*(FR17-18-54 is attached for review.)**

**#7. Consider short term financing – Elementary School Construction Project**

The Manager told how the Town has been offered 1.48% by Machias Savings Bank thru November 2018. At that time we will move to the Maine Bond Bank. In response to Chair Thomas, Mr. Krull affirmed that these funds will be utilized on a draw down basis as needed. The Chair asked if we went out to bid. The Manager stated that the Finance Director did in fact call several financial institutions. Machias Saving Bank had the best offer.

**Councilor Snyder moved to approve R17-18-43. Councilor Watson seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote resulted in 6 Yeas; McCluskey absent.**



*The motion carries.*

**\*(R17-18-43 is attached for review.)**

**#8. Consider approving tax abatement – Map/Lot 025-118-000**

***\*Councilor Ellis and Councilor Sinclair recused themselves from participating in this agenda item before the discussion began because they live at and own the property being discussed.***

Manager Kroll told how M/L 025-118-000 also known as 2888 Route #2 or account #525, has been double assessed for a commercial garage for several years. The Manager requested that the Council approve tax abatement in the amount of \$1,753.46.

**Councilor Jacques moved to approve R17-18-44. Councilor Snyer seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote resulted in 4 Yeas, Ellis and Sinclair abstained, McCluskey absent.**

*The motion carries.*

**\*(R17-18-44 is attached for review.)**

**#9. Consider approving a request for assistance – Penobscot Snowmobile Club**

Scott Perkins informed the Council of the Penobscot Snowmobile Club's current Capital Campaign to raise \$30,000. The club plans to construct a new garage to house equipment including the groomer. Mr. Perkins told how the Club is requesting financial assistance from the Town of Hermon. The Manager reminded the Council that we have already given them \$3,900.00 this year. He also stated that the Town will collect about \$2,500.00 in snowmobile registration fees this year. Mr. Perkins gave the Councilors each a sketch copy of the proposed garage. He affirmed that the Club does have a building fund, and they have been saving; however the monies in that fund are not adequate to cover the entire cost of the new garage. Councilor Sinclair asked what a reasonable donation would be. After a brief discussion the Council agreed to donate \$1,500.00.

**Councilor Jacques moved to approve FR17-18-55. Councilor Snyer seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote resulted in 6 Yeas; McCluskey absent.**

*The motion carries.*

**\*(FR17-18-55 is attached for review.)**

**C. WORKSHOPS**

None

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

None



**X. APPOINTMENTS**

None

**XI. MANAGER STATUS REPORT:**

**Thank You** to Gardner Construction and our Public Works crew. The last snow storm was a good one.

**Congratulations** to our Champion Cheerleaders and to our Girls and Boys Varsity Basketball Games. Both ball teams are ranked #1 and are headed to the tournaments.

**Capital Improvement Plan** worksheet has been amended and updated. Please review again.

**Happy Valentines Day** to all (next week.)

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

None

**XIII. COUNCIL ITEMS:**

**Councilor Sinclair** stated that there has been a slight Facebook competition going on recently, and it has been said that Hermon has the best cared for roads.

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None

**XV. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Councilor Jacques** moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:56pm. **Councilor Snyer Ellis** seconded the motion. **With no objection the meeting was adjourned.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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



Hermon Town Council Minutes

FY 2017-2017  
February 8, 2018  
Page 7 of 7