

Town of Ashland
Regular Town Council Meeting

April 8, 2025

Present: Chairman Tyler Michaud, Sherri Calhoun, Christopher Bessey, Gayle Burby, James Risner and Town Manager Alicia Burby.

Absent: None

- I. **Call meeting to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Michaud.

- II. **Public comments:** No public comments

- III. **Consent items:**
 1. Review, approve and sign minutes from March 11, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve the March 11, 2025, Regular Town Council Minutes. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. Chair Michaud abstained due to not being present at the meeting.

 2. Review, approve and sign minutes from March 18, 2025, Organizational Meeting. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve the March 18, 2025, Organizational Meeting minutes. Chris Bessey seconded. Motion carried.

 3. Review, approve and sign 2025 Treasurer Warrants #10V, 10P, 11V, 11P, 12V, 12P, 13V, and #13P. A motion was made by Sherri Calhoun to approve the noted warrants. Seconded by Chris Bessey. No discussion. Motion carried.

- IV. **New Business:**
 1. Review and approve Aroostook River Fish & Game Club application for Special Amusement Permit for Dancing and Entertainment. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve the Aroostook River Fish & Game Club's application for Special Amusement Permit for Dancing and Entertainment. James Risner seconded. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

 2. Review and approve Aroostook River Fish & Game Club Bottle Club Registration Application. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve the Aroostook River Fish & Game Club Bottle Club Registration application. James Risner seconded. During discussions James Risner said The Fish and Game Club needed to fill out the Corporation portion and business hours on the application so the state wouldn't kick it back. All in favor. Motion carried.

 3. Review and approve reallocation of remaining 2021 NEU ARPA funds. Out of compliance all funds should have been used by December 2024. But there was \$5,930.69 remaining from the ARPA funds. After speaking with the State of Maine, the town found out they could use the left-over money toward some salt that was purchased in 2023. And the funds could be relocated to the Highway Dept. James Risner made a motion to relocate the remaining ARPA funds to the Highway Department. Sherri Calhoun seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

4. Review, discuss and appoint candidates to fill Planning Board vacancy term ending in 2027. Town Manager Burby said no one has applied but someone did reach out to her regarding the position. James Risner made a motion to advertise the 2 open positions and post them on the town website and the town information board. Sherri Calhoun seconded. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. Review, discuss and appoint candidates to fill the Budget Committee vacancy term ending 2027. James Risner made a motion to advertise the 2 open positions and post them on the town website and town information board. Sherri Calhoun seconded. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.
6. Review and discuss citizen request for drafting of Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance. Resident Jessica Gorham formally requested that the Town of Ashland begin drafting a Food Sovereignty Ordinance. Sherri Calhoun motioned to send the Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance draft to the Planning Board for drafting and revisions James Risner seconded. All in favor. Motion Passed.

V. Old Business:

1. Out-of-town subsidies. Garfield paid for Ambulance, Rec and Library subsidies. Portage passed the Ambulance subsidy but only passed to pay the Recreation Dept \$6,600.00 and the library \$4,400.00 for 2025. For 2026 Portage is saying they will pay the Town of Ashland nothing for the Rec and the Library. They want it based on a per usage fee and Portage will reimburse their citizens for the usage fee. After a lot of discussion between the council. James Risner made a motion that Town Manager Alicia Burby should have a meeting with Portage's Town Manager, Both Chairs and a small committee. With one council member on the committee. Sherri Calhoun seconded. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Sherri Calhoun to go into an Executive Session to discuss personal issue per Maine State Law Title (1M.R.S.A Section 405-6A). Chris Bessey seconded. Motion Passed. Executive Session started at 7:08 PM.

A Motion was made by Sherri Calhoun to end The Executive Session, Chris Bessey seconded. Motion Passed. The Executive Session ended at 7:54.

A motion was made by Sherri Calhoun to approve contracting Code Enforcement duties with RCS. The council would like the code enforcement duties broken down separately from the assessing duties on the contract. Once the contract is updated, they will sign. James Risner seconded. Motion passed.

VI. **Manager's Report:**

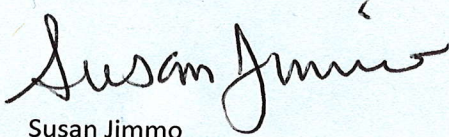
- 1.** Wind Energy Moratorium- Moratorium should have already started but hasn't. The Planning Board needs to meet on the wind energy. Councilor James Risner believes the Planning Board hasn't met because the town doesn't have a Code Enforcement Officer.
- 2.** Ashland ATV is looking for town property to build a club house. They were asking about property down by the Fish and Game Club.
- 3.** The Highway Department needs to replace their pickup truck. The truck has over 200,000 miles and the floorboards are rotten. It will no longer take a sticker. They are also looking to replace the Trackless Street Sweeper. Chair Michaud Does not want a tractor. He looked online quickly and saw some trackless machines for a great price. He also thinks The Highway Foreman needs to come up with a plan on what they need. Sherri Calhoun thinks the Highway Foreman should come up with a long-term plan on what they need. She is also wondering why the town got rid of the sweeper if they need it. Town Manager Alicia Burby said the streets still need to be swept. So, do we sub it out this year but if we do sub it out does the town really need a Highway Dept?

VII. **Council items:**

No Council Items

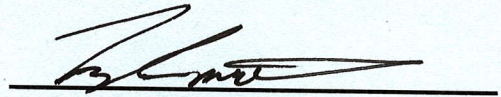
VIII. **Adjournment:** Sherri Calhoun motioned to adjourn the meeting; James Risner Seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

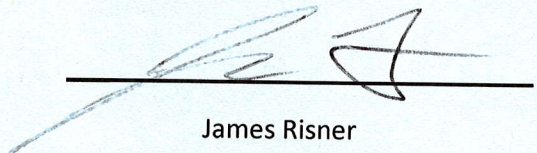


Susan Jimmo

Recording Secretary



Tyler Michaud, Chairman



James Risner

Sherri Calhoun

Sherri Calhoun

Christopher Bessey

Christopher Bessey

Gayle Burby

Gayle Burby