

Town of Ashland
Regular Town Council Meeting
May 13,2025

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 April 8, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve the April 8, 2025, Regular Town Council Minutes. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion Carried.

 2. Review, approve and sign 2025 Treasurer Warrants #14V, 14P, 15V, 15P, 16V, 16P, 17V, 17P, 18V & 18P 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 appoint candidate to fill Planning Board vacancy term ending 2027. Gretchen Michaud was the only person to show interest in the Planning Board vacancy. James Risner made a motion to appoint Gretchen Michaud to the Planning Board. Sherri Calhoun seconded. No Discussion. Tyler Michaud abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion passed.

 2. Review and appoint candidate to fill the Budget Committee vacancy term ending in 2027. Vickie Belanger was the only person to show interest in the Budget Committee vacancy. Sherri Calhoun motioned to appoint Vickie Belanger to the Budget Committee. James Risner seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

 3. Review and approve Dispatch Services Agreement with Maine Department of Public Safety. James Risner motioned to continue The Town of Ashland's contract with the Maine department of Public Safety. Sherri Calhoun seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

 4. Fire Chief Don Bouley was added to New Business by Chair Michaud. Fire Chief Bouley Gave the council a quote for 4 new hoses, 8 tanks and 4 masks for \$41,460.00. Chief Bouley would like to replace 2 or 4 a year. He said that some are nearing their expired life He also said Ned Labelle would put in for a grant. James Risner said where this was not put in the budget the Manager and Treasurer will have to look to see where the money could come from. He motioned to table until June. The Fire Department also needs around \$1200 for ladder inspections. All ground ladders should be inspected yearly but it has not been done for 2 years. The money for ladder inspections will come out of the Fire Department budget. The Fire Department also needs a new Rescue Vehicle. Chief Bouley said the old rescue

vehicle has rotted rockers and cab mounts. It can't pass inspection because of the rust. The 2 extra ambulances both need some work. Chair Michaud said what can we do to get by for the rest of the year and put it in the budget for next year. Assistant Chief Ned Labelle said maybe with new springs they could make it work for the rest of the year. Or maybe they could put the jaws of life and the other stuff that goes in the rescue vehicle could go in the chief's pickup for now. Tyler Michaud & Chris Bessey will both look at the 2 ambulances and go from there.

V. Old Business

1. Public work Foreman Stacy Sturgeon said the Public Works needs a Sidewalk Machine and a new pickup. Chair Michaud has looked online for a used sidewalk machine and has seen some used ones for \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00. Stacy said he would like a pickup with a plow and sander. Chair Michaud said the town could get a good truck for around \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00. The highway Department has \$50,214.60 in their reserve. Sherri Calhoun motioned approval for the Town Manager to look for and buy a pickup plus a plow for no more than \$30,000.00. James Risner seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

VI. A motion was made by Sherri Calhoun to go into an Executive Session to discuss personnel issue per Maine State Law Title (1M.R.S.A Section 405-6A). James Risner seconded. Motion Passed. Executive Session started at 7:23 PM.

VII. A Motion was made by Sherri Calhoun to end The Executive Session, Chris Bessey seconded. Motion Passed. The Executive Session ended at 8:07 PM.

VIII. Manager's Report:

- 1.** Tara Peterson & Ned Labelle went to a canine training in Portland. The training was 2 ½ days. With the training they can now treat canines that have been hurt in the line of duty.
- 2.** Forestry – Right now showing -\$14,000.00 due to wood not being hauled. Prentiss & Carlisle will be at the July meeting with an update.
- 3.** Staffing - Mike Montpetit has been promoted to Police Chief. Interviews are being conducted for the Recreation Director.
- 4.** Mr Hall has told Manager Burby that they have a school bus they are retiring, and the school will sign the bus over to the town. Lucas Belanger said he can train and help the new Rec Director get their license to drive the bus for free, which will save the town about \$4,000.00
- 5.** Thrift Store is seeking assistance from the town to build a new thrift store, preferably by the Food Pantry.
- 6.** The federal holiday Juneteenth will now be given as a personal day.
- 7.** Randy Caron puts up the flags in town. Can the town help with the purchase of the flags.
- 8.** Liability Insurance – The Logging Museum can't help with the Liability Insurance.

IX. Council items:

James Risner said grading Wrightville Road is making the ditches bigger. He would rather see the town ditching than grading. Public Works Foreman Sturgeon said grading does shrink the road we need to haul in gravel or ditch.

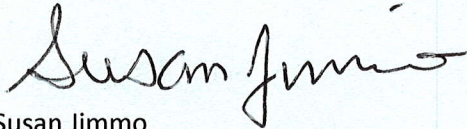
Sherri Calhoun said she loves the pictures on Facebook of the Police at the Library and pictures of the older kids reading to the younger ones.

X. **Public comments:**

Lucas Belanger said he would give his spare pickup truck with an 8-foot bed, a sander and an ok plow to the Highway Dept. but he must get the ok from his supervisors at school.

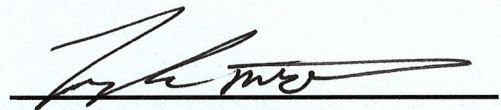
XI. **Adjournment:** Sherri Calhoun motioned to adjourn the meeting; James Risner Seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

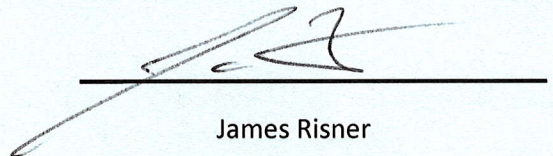


Susan Jimmo

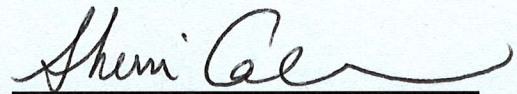
Recording Secretary



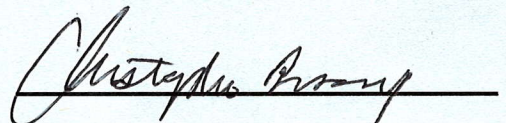
Tyler Michaud, Chairman



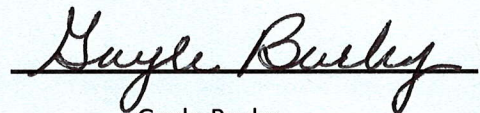
James Risner



Sherri Calhoun



Christopher Bessey



Gayle Burby