

Town of Ashland
Regular Town Council Meeting
May 14, 2024

Present: Chairman Tyler Michaud, Christopher Bessey, Gerard Raymond, Gayle Burby and Manager Cyr Martin.

Absent: Sherri Calhoun

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

- II. **Public comments:** Dana Howes voiced his opinion regarding a house development that could potentially come into town. He stated he was against it because the town's infrastructure couldn't handle it. He also said The Ashland Water & Sewer District have had 5 violations because of PH & Flow because the AW&SD can't handle what they have let alone another house development added to it.

Fire Chief Don Bouley Explained that OSHA is coming out with new health & safety standards to protect emergency responders. Chief Bouley is worried that the new standards would put a strain on small county Fire departments leaving them depleted and forced to close. The updated standards would create mandatory timeframes for replacing firefighter gear and equipment and require firefighters to undergo extensive medical exams and take part in a physical fitness program among other things. If OSHA approves the standards, fire departments would have 60 days to enact them. There is no information on when OSHA will finalize the standards. The council will wait a month to a month and a half to see what happens.

- III. **Consent items:**
 1. Review, approve and sign minutes from the April 9,2024 Regular Town Council Meeting and April 23, 2024, Special Council Meeting. A motion was made by Chris Bessey to sign the minutes for the April 9,2024 Regular Town Council Meeting and the April 23, 2024, Special Council Meeting, seconded by Gayle Burby, No discussion. Motion carried.

 2. Review, approve and sign treasurer warrants #14V, #14P, #15V, #15P, #16V, 16P, #17V, #17P, #18V and #18P. A motion was made by Chris Bessey to approve the noted warrants, seconded by Gerard Raymond. No discussion. Motion carried.

- IV. **New Business:**
 1. Sign a Quick Clain Deed for property where the taxes were paid in full by owners. Chris Bessey motions to sign a Quick Claim deed for property where the taxes were paid in full by owners. Gerard Raymond seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

 2. Discuss subsidy options with representatives from Garfield and Portage. Ronnie Fournier, Garfield Plantation council member and representative for Garfield said the citizens of Garfield voted and chose not to take the police subsidy but took the rest. Town clerk

Brenda Clark requested that the Garfield Plantation get a Trio Treasurer Report from Ashland once a year to show where the subsidies go and if there is money left over to show that it goes into that department's equipment reserve fund. The talks regarding the police were put on hold until after the informational meeting for the potential new bar going into Garfield on May 21 and the town vote on June 11. Because that will increase the number of calls for Garfield. The town of Portage hasn't gone to vote yet regarding the subsidies, so no decision has been made. But the town of Portage also requested to receive a yearly Trio Treasurer Report from the Town of Ashland showing where the subsidies go and if there are monies left over to show that it goes into that department's reserve fund. Gerard Raymond motioned that each town would receive a yearly Treasurer's report and that any left-over funds would go into that department's reserve fund. Gayle Burby seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

3. Discuss and review results from subsidy meeting in reference to Masardis. Chairman Michaud asked Tony Goulet representative from the Town of Masardis where the town was with the Library and Rec subsidies. Mr Goulet said no decision had been made because the Town of Masardis was waiting for the Ashland Town meeting to see what happened with the subsidies. After they would plan a Town meeting to vote on a plan. Librarian Hilary Moore compiled numbers to show how many Masardis residents use the library. Besides Ashland residents Masardis had the highest number of adults checking out books and the highest number of children attending the library's events.
4. Chairman Michaud came up with a new Red Line formula for the towns who only wanted the Ambulance subsidy. The new ambulance subsidy is based on per capita of the town minus the county's portion. Chairman Michaud said he came up with the formula to look out for the taxpayers of Ashland. After some discussion Chris Bessey motions to drop The Red Line Formula. After hearing comments from Ashland residents Gerard Raymond motioned to table the motion to drop the red line formula. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motioned Tabled.

V. **Old Business:**

1. Discuss and review camera/card bids for town. After receiving a second bid from Aroostook Technologies of \$12,478.95. compared to Third Eye Global bid of \$11,365.44. Gerard Raymond motioned to stay with the approved motion from the April 23 Special Town Council Meeting granting the bid to Third Eye Global. Chris Bessey Seconded. No discussion. Motion passed

- VI. **Manager's Report:** Northeast Paving contacted Manager Martin saying they could give Ashland a deal on Shim coating. Because it was raining, and they couldn't tar state jobs in the rain so they had tar they couldn't use on State Road but it can be used on Town Roads. But it can't be planned and happens on a spur of the minute. Part of Wrightville Road will get a shim coat put on it .

A taxpayer in Ashland came into the Town office and paid his Property Taxes that were late. He had thought he had already paid them and asked if he could get the interest credited back to him.. After looking into his payment history, it was found that he was never late in the past

paying his taxes and that he always paid early. Because of his payment history Gerard Raymond made a motion to have the taxpayers interest credited back to him. Chris Bessey Seconded. Gayle Burby abstained from the vote because she is friends with the taxpayer. Motion passed.

VII. Council items:

1. Gayle Burby asked Manager Martin if her book from MMA had come in. Manager Martin said one had been ordered but hadn't come in yet. Manager Martin had an extra book that he will let her borrow
2. Chair Michaud said he found a T Mobile Grant and he printed off the paperwork and gave it to Manager Martin to check into it.

VIII. Adjournment: Gerard Raymond motioned to adjourn the meeting, Chris Bessey Seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Jimmo

Recording Secretary



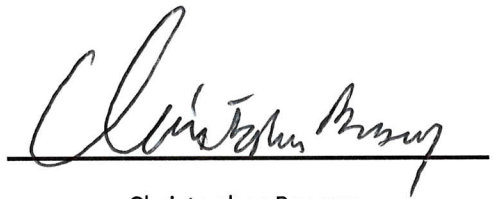
Tyler Michaud, Chairman



Gerard Raymond



Sherri Calhoun

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Christopher Bessey", positioned above a horizontal line.

Christopher Bessey

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gayle Burby", positioned above a horizontal line.

Gayle Burby