

Town of Ashland

Regular Town Council Meeting

June 10, 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:** Paramedic Ned Labelle wanted to let the council know that he has a friend in Patten that runs the ambulance service there. Patten Ambulance normally covers Piscataquis County, but they no longer will be. Ned just wanted the Council to know that the Ashland ambulance may get called to Piscataquis County.
Ashland resident Matthew Woods Has been looking online for some grants for the Fire Department. AFG Program grant opens in September.
- III. **Consent items:**
 1. Review, approve and sign minutes from May 13, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve May 13, 2025, Regular Town Council Minutes. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion Carried.
 2. Review, approve and sign 2025 Treasurer Warrants #19V, 19P, 20V, 20P, 21V, 21P, 22V, & 22P. 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 2025 Certified Ratio Declaration and Select Option. Josh Berry of RCS was here and explained the Town of Ashland has not made a market adjustment since the revaluation in 2021. Making a 14% - 15% adjustment required to stay at 100% will ensure our taxpayers will get their full \$25,000 Homestead exemption in the 2025 Tax Year. If we do not make an adjustment, the Homestead Exemption will be \$ 21,750 and the taxes would go up for the 2025 tax year. Sherri Calhoun motioned to make the required market adjustment to have a 100% certified ratio of assessed value to just value in the 2025 tax year. James Risner seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.
 2. Review and approve Tax Abatement to correct assessing error. The property was sold in 2023, but the assessor did not update the towns records, and the tax bill was sent to the prior owner. This abatement will allow the town of Ashland to issue a 2024 supplement bill to the current property owner. In light of new information Sherri Calhoun motioned to table Item 2 in New Business until the July Town Council Meeting. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion carried
 3. Review and approve Supplemental Tax Warrant to correct assessing error. This supplemental tax warrant is the tax bill that will be sent to the correct property owner mentioned in Item 2. In light of new information Sherri Calhoun motioned to table item 3 in New Business until the July Town Council Meeting. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motioned carried.

4. Update authorized users on credit card account. Sherri Calhoun motioned to remove Lendall Tarr from the credit card account and add new Recreation Director Macie Elwell as an authorized user on the town's credit card. James Risner seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

V. Old Business

1. Fire Department Equipment update- SCBA Replacement. At the May Town Council meeting Town Manager Alicia Burby and Town Treasurer were advised to find the funds to purchase two of the requested SCBA's(\$20,730.00) this year. The Fire Department's Safety Equipment purchase expense account has \$8,000.00 budgeted for 2025. The Fire Department Equipment Reserve has a balance of \$2,954.08 and the New Equipment Reserve has a balance of \$ 51,102.33. Town Manager Burby recommends using \$2954.08 from the Fire Equipment Reserve Account, \$7,410.92 from the Safety Equipment Purchase Expense Account and \$10,365.00 from the New Equipment Reserve Account for the purchase of two new SCBA's. James Risner made a motion to approve utilizing \$2954.08 from the Fire Equipment Reserve Account, \$7,410.92 from the Safety Equipment Purchase Expense Account and \$10,365.00 from the New Equipment Reserve Account to purchase two new SCBAs Sherri Calhoun seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.
2. Fire Department Equipment Update- Rescue Truck Replacement. The jaws of life have been moved to the Chiefs' pickup temporarily. Tyler Michaud and Chris Bessey looked at ambulance # 7 and agreed the town's best plan is to transfer this vehicle to the Fire Department to be utilized as the rescue truck instead of trading it for \$7,500.00 towards the new ambulance. Autotronics will give the town \$2,500.00 for trading the old rescue truck as a replacement. There are no funds in the Fire Departments budget for the \$ 5,000.00 difference. The town does have a New Equipment Reserve with a new balance of \$40,737.33. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve utilizing \$5,000.00 from the New Equipment Reserve to retain ownership of Ambulance # 7 which will replace the Fire Department Rescue Truck. The Old rescue Truck will be traded to Autotronics. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.
3. Review and approve Planning Board's recommendation regarding a Wind Energy Moratorium. The Planning Board is making progress with the Wind Energy Ordinance and has requested a 180 – day extension to the current moratorium. Sherri Calhoun motioned to extend for the last time the Wind Energy Moratorium for an additional 180 days. Chris Bessey seconded. Motion passed.

VI. Manager's Report:

- 1.** Town Audit- The Aroostook Valley Transfer Station is holding up the town of Ashland Audit.
- 2.** The Aroostook Valley Transfer Station can bring their stuff to the town gravel pit on the Wrightville Road. The Highway Department will bury what the dump brings, they just won't pick it up anymore.
- 3.** Subsidy voting- Portage is voting on their subsidy on June 18. Garfield is voting on June 11.

VII. Council items:

James Risner said He appreciates the Police Chiefs Report that he made for the council, and he thinks every department head should give the council a quarterly report with what's going on in their department, including the dump.

Chris Bessey asked how the Police Truck was going with the transmission problem. Chief Montpetit said that the garage had parts, and it will be fixed by Wednesday. The truck is under warranty and will be covered.

Tyler Michaud Regarding the Masardis Subsidy, the deadline is June 15. What does the council want to do? Sherri Calhoun thinks the council should follow through with the letter sent.

Masardis residents will not be able to use the library, or the Rec. Sherri also asked if the council could write something up with the council's name on it to post at the library and Rec. Town Manager Alicia Burby and Chair Michaud will write a letter and post it at the Library and Rec. Masardis residents will be able to go to the Agency on Aging Access Point meetings that are at the rec, But nothing else.

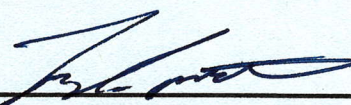
VIII. **Public comments:**

No Public Comments

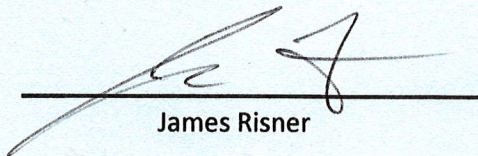
IX. **Adjournment:** Sherri Calhoun motioned to adjourn the meeting; Chris Bessey Seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

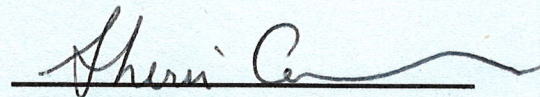
Susan Jimmo
Recording Secretary



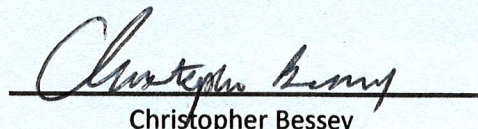
Tyler Michaud, Chairman



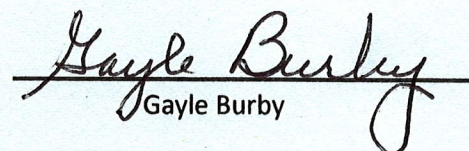
James Risner



Sherri Calhoun



Christopher Bessey



Gayle Burby