

Town of Ashland
Special Town Council Meeting
July 29,2024

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

Absent: None

I. **Call meeting to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Michaud.

II. **Public comments:** Roger Hooper a resident of Ashland asked Manager Martin why the police don't stop speeders in town. Manager Martin explained the police have been stopping speeders on Main Street. He said Officer Milligan had stopped a car earlier that day and gave the man a ticket for not stopping at the stop sign. Chairman Michaud suggested maybe the police could sit on Main Street more to stop speeders.

III. **Consent items:**

1. No Consent Items

IV. **New Business:**

1. Review and discuss setting Mil Rate for 2024. Manager Martin presented 3 options. First option is a mil Rate of 26.25 with an overlay of \$58,335.29. The second option is a Mil Rate of 26.55 with an overlay of \$ 85,551.06. The third option is a Mil Rate of 26.85 with an overlay of \$112,766.83. The Mil Rate of 26.25 is the Mil Rate Manager Martin is recommending. It's the lowest one but with the School Budget going up and still not knowing what is happening with the subsidies from some of the surrounding towns. The overlay should still be enough of a cushion. Sherri Calhoun expresses she would go for either of the first 2 Mil Rates. Chairman Michaud expressed he would go for the second Mil Rate because the town has so many unknowns and it would give the town more of a cushion. Gayle Burby said she would go for the second one also because it would give the town more of a cushion. Sherri Calhoun motioned to set the Mil Rate at 26.55 for the 2024 tax year. Gayle Burby seconded. No discussion Motion Carried.

V. **Old Business:**

Per council chair go into an Executive Meeting to discuss personnel issue per Maine State Law, Title (1 M.R.S.A. Section 405-6) Sherri Calhoun motions to go into Executive Session. Chris Bessey Seconded. No discussion. Motioned carried. Executive Session started at 6:12 pm.

Sherri Calhoun motions to come out of Executive Session Chris Bessey seconded. Motion Passed. Executive Session ends at 7:00 pm.

Sherri Calhoun makes a motion for Chairman Michaud to reach out to an individual for the Interim Town Manager position. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion Carried.

Sherri Calhoun motions to Authorize Tammy Gagnon to advertise in The Star Herald, MMA web page, and The Town of Ashland Webpage, for the following positions, Town Manager, Highway worker, Code Enforcement Officer and Police Officers. Chris Bessey Seconded. No discussion. Motioned passed.

Sherri Calhoun motioned when James Laveway retires promote Stacy Sturgeon to Highway Forman. Gayle Burby seconded. No Discussion. All in favor but Chris Bessey Abstained. Motion Passed

VI. Council items:

1. Gayle Burby asked what the council Members are supposed to have for manuals. Manager Martin said he has a manual from MMA in his office. He said she could buy one but the manual is quite expensive. Chairman Michaud said he was able to download the manual for free from the MMA website. He would bring it in so she could photocopy it.
2. Gerard Raymond suggested that when a town meeting gets canceled a sign should be put on the door of the boardroom, so the townspeople know.

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

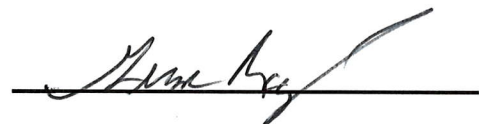
Respectfully submitted,



Susan Jimmo

Recording Secretary

Tyler Michaud, Chairman



Gerard Raymond



Sherri Calhoun



Christopher Bessey



Gayle Burby