

Town of Ashland
Regular Town Council Meeting
August 12, 2025

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

Absent: Sherri Calhoun

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

- II. **Public comments:**

Wrightville Road resident Dave Shroat reiterated what he said at the July 8 Town Council Meeting saying when he moved onto Wrightville Road years ago it was a tared road and now it's a dirt road and that everything is covered in dust. He said the town doesn't have a plan to fix it and he wants to know when it will get fixed. Matt Wood said that almost 50% of the budget is going toward the school. He asked if it is ever adjusted and said he would like to discuss it more at a future council meeting. Mr. Wood also said that at the last council meeting it was brought up by a resident to drop the Wrightville Rd speed limit to 25. But he doesn't like that idea because he lives 6 miles down on Wrightville Rd he said it would take forever to get to his driveway. Another Wrightville Rd Resident Rodney Chabre asked if the Road was going to be graded. He said it should be graded a couple of times a year. He asked if they could use calcium on the road to keep the dust down. He also suggested screening some gravel from the town owned pit on Wrightville Rd to fix the potholes.

- III. **Consent items:**
 1. Review, approve and sign minutes from July 8, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting. Chris Bessey motioned to approve July 8, 2025, Regular Town Council Minutes. James Risner seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.
 2. Review, approve and sign minutes from July 28, 2025, Special Town Council Meeting. James Risner motioned to approve July 28, 2025, Special Town Council Meeting Minutes. Gayle Burby seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.
 3. Review, approve and sign 2025 Treasurer Warrants 27V, 27P, 28V, 28P, 29V, 29P, 30V, 30P, 31V, and 31P. Chris Bessey motioned to approve the noted warrants. James Risner seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

- IV. **New Business**
 1. Review and sign Application for Abatement on Property Tax Account # 1075. James Risner motioned to approve the Application for Abatement on Property Tax Account # 1075. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

2. Review and sign Application for Abatement on Property Tax Account # 1140. James Risner motioned to approve the Application for Abatement on Property Tax Account # 1140. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.
3. Review and sign Application for Abatement on Property Tax Account # 329. James Risner motioned to approve the Application for Abatement on Property Tax Account # 329. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.
4. Review, approve or disprove On- Premises Beer & Wine License for Northwoods Diner. James Risner motioned to approve the On- Premises Beer & Wine License for Northwoods Diner. Chris Bessey seconded. No Discussion. Motion Passed.
5. Review, Approve or disprove joining The Community Resilience Partnership. Jarad Tapley from NMDC was here to explain the programs. This is a state- run initiative launched under Maine's climate action plan, "Maine Won't Wait". Towns can receive up to \$75,000 for individual projects or \$175,000 for collaborative efforts with neighboring communities. The partnership could prove beneficial to funding some of the town's ongoing concerns relating to community resilience. James Risner motioned to approve joining The Community Resilience Partnership. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.
6. Adopt Municipal Resolution for The Community Resilience Partnership. With approving to join The Community Resilience Partnership the Town of Ashland needs to adopt a municipal resolution. James Risner motioned adopting the municipal resolution as presented in our packet. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion approved.
7. Town Forester to discuss Town Stumpage for 2025. James Ryan from Prentiss & Carlisle was here with the town's harvesting update. It was not a great winter. We only got 200 cords of wood. There were challenges with the weather and contractor issues. They did open up some existing roads. James also said the town has land that has some valuable timber, but we need roads to get to it. The timber markets are poor with hardwood being the worst and that is what the town has more of. He recommends cutting the remaining 800 cords. Work on the 2026 budget to get that in front of the town. See where we stand at the end of the year. In October the town will have the next quarterly statement. Chair Michaud suggests addressing it at the beginning of the new year.
8. Update authorized users on credit card account. James Risner motioned to approve adding Public Works Director Jeffrey Jandreau as an authorized user on the Katahdin Trust Company credit card account. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

V. **Old Business:**

No Old Business

VI. **Manager's Report:**

- 1.** Have the June financials but not July's
- 2.** Recreation Director Macie Elwell gave a summary of what she has been doing with the rec this summer. Some of those things are, T-Ball and Baseball, swim lessons for 6 weeks, Swim time in Mapleton. Trotting Park Fit Day once a week where the participants can either bike or walk. She wants to start a stretching class for 16 and up. She is also setting up a fitness

room with donated exercise equipment. The membership will be \$15 to \$20 to start and will be open from 8 AM to 5 PM.

3. Town of Portage approved the new Rec & Library Subsidy.
4. Public works are fully staffed, and their first day was Monday August 11.
5. The Friends of Ashland is the group that got all the bikes for the Ashland Police Bike Rodeo. They would like to use the Trotting Park for a Haunted Walk on October 24,25,30 & 31. Town council did not have a problem with that.

VII. **Council items:**

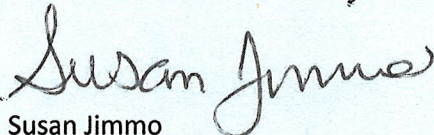
Chair Michaud wanted to let everyone know that The Big Woods Grass Drags will be held on September 13 & 14.

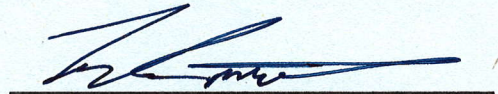
VIII. **Public comments:**

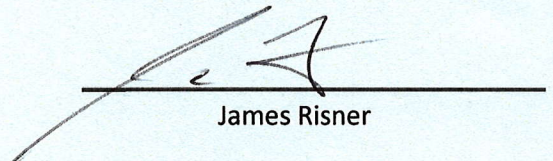
Fire Chief Don Boulay said The Grass Drags need traffic control.

- IX. **Adjournment:** Chris Bessey motioned to adjourn the meeting; James Risner seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

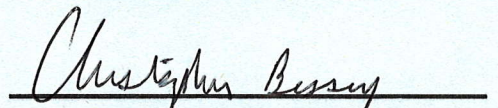
Respectfully submitted,

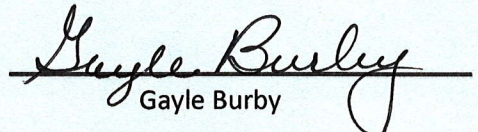

Susan Jimmo
Recording Secretary


Tyler Michaud, Chairman


James Risner

Sherri Calhoun


Christopher Bessey


Gayle Burby