

**Town of Ashland**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting**  
**September 09, 2025**

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

**Absent:**

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 and August 12 Town Council Meetings saying when he moved onto Wrightville Road years ago it was a tared road and now it's a dirt road and 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. Resident Steve Pudlo was asking about the Safety Committee and what it was. Town Manager Burby told him it is an internal committee with town employees dealing with safety issues concerning The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Fire Chief Bouley said he asked Irving for a \$10,000.00 donation to buy 4 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) tanks. Irving instead gave the Fire Department a \$5,000.00 donation to purchase 2 SCBA Tanks. Town Resident Doug Chasse asked why the town doesn't use On – X app. It's an App towns use to look at boundary lines and Town mapping. Doug said the majority of towns around Ashland use it. Mr Chasse also asked about Excise tax on vehicles. He thought it went toward road repair.

III. **Consent items:**

1. Review, approve and sign minutes from August 12, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve August 12, 2025, Regular Town Council Minutes. Christopher Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. Sherri Calhoun abstained due to not attending the August 12 meeting.
2. Review, approve and sign 2025 Treasurer Warrants 32V, 32P, 33V, 33P, 34V, 34P, 35V, and 35P. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve the noted warrants. Christopher Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

IV. **New Business**

1. Review and sign Applications for two Abatements. Accounts # 570 and # 769 are assessing errors that appear to have occurred in 2020/2021 where the wrong account was assessed tax on land and buildings that were owned by another party. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve the abatement requests for accounts # 570 and # 769. Christopher Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.
2. Review and approve Safety Committee Members- The town is up for a renewal review for the Safety and Health award for public employers (SHAPE) Award. In gathering documents for this process, it came to light that due to staff turnover, the town no longer had an active

reserve in the new budget. The Audit is almost done. The Transfer Station has a new composting area where they compost food waste. The Transfer Station is also putting money aside to purchase snow removal equipment. They also got a grant for Solar Lights. James Risner thanked Linda for coming to the meeting and updating the council on what is going on at the Transfer Station.

3. Planning Board is still working on the Wind Energy Ordinance and The Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance.

VII. **Council items:**

James Risner has seen some improvements to the roads and thanks the Public Works.

Gayle Burby let the council know that tonight (9/9/25) would be her last council meeting being on the council due to moving to the town of Portage. Chair Michaud said he was sorry to hear that.

Christopher Bessey said he has got a complaint about big bonfires and partying all night and trees being cut down on adjoining properties by a property on Bushy Street. Fire Chief Bouley said they had been called there for the fire and the residents were doing everything properly and there was nothing he could do. Councilor Burby asked if the town has an ordinance to stop it.

Sherri Calhoun said it's good to see an equipment room at the Recreation Department. She also asked if the council was going to meet on Veterans Day in November or another night? The council decided to meet on Monday, November 10 at 6:30 PM instead of Veterans Day for the November meeting.

Chair Tyler Michaud asked how the council wanted to fill Gayle Burby's seat. Do they want to put it out to the public or take someone who ran the last time. The council said to see if someone who ran last time wanted it. Chair Michaud will reach out to them.

VIII. **Public comments:**

Wrightville Rd resident John Kelley asked when the town will take down the speed limit signs on the Wrightville Road. People drive too fast, and he would like to see the signs taken down. Chair Michaud said the town can't take down the signs because not all residents want the speed limit lowered. Linda Milligan thanked the Highway Dept for grading the Belleville Rd. Ronald Rushinal said the town is in great need for new equipment at the Town Garage. He said the grater should be cut up for scraps.

IX. **Old Business:**

Executive Session to discuss personnel issue per Maine State Law Title (1M.R.S.A. Section 405-6A) Sherri Calhoun motioned to go into Executive Session. Christopher Bessey seconded. Motion passed. Executive Session started at 7:15 PM

safety committee. In the past, it was common practice for the Town Manager to appoint committee members who were then approved by the Town Council. The newly updated safety committee members are Tammy Gagnon, Tara Peterson, Macie Elwell, Jeffrey Jandreau, Donald Bouley, Michael Montpetit, and Alicia Burby. Donald Bouley was elected Chair of the committee in the first meeting with Tammy Gagnon serving as the secretary. Based on documentation, the Town Manager found these will be staggered one – year terms. The committee is actively working to update the Safety Manual to ensure the policies and procedures are up to date and meet current Department of Labor Standards. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve the safety committee members as presented. Christopher Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

3. Review and appoint candidate to fill Planning Board vacancy term ending 2027. After 27 years of service, Mark Rafford has retired from his seat on the Planning Board. Kale O'Leary agreed to sit in as an alternate when the board anticipated needing to fill seats. Kale is a resident of the community and works for the State of Maine as a Game Warden. Sherri Calhoun motioned to appoint Kale O'Leary to fill the vacant seat with the term ending in 2027. Christopher Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.
4. Review and authorize declaration of Recreation Bus as surplus and proceed with transfer to Auction. It was previously determined that the current Rec bus was not safe and should not be used. The bus has been parked for the past 6 months, and Town Manager Burby has reduced the insurance to comprehensive coverage only. Gregg Auctions is having an auction on October 1 which the council previously approved, sending the Police Tahoe Cruiser. Town Manager Burby would like to include the Rec bus in this auction as well. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve sale of the current Rec bus through Gregg Auctions. Leaving the bus at the Rec so it won't cost the town any money to move it. Christopher Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion Passed.

**V. Old Business:**

1. Public Works Department update on roads. Sherri Calhoun motioned to table the update on the roads due to Public Works Director, Jeffrey Jandreau being out of town due to a prior commitment made prior to accepting this role. James Risner seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.
2. EMS Director, Tara Peterson, said the EMS would like to purchase a power stretcher and get it put in the new ambulance while it is up in Fort Kent getting set up. The power stretcher costs \$71,000.00. They have \$8730.83 in Reserve. \$33,000.00 from a grant and would like to put the remaining \$30,000.00 that is owed in the 2026 EMS Budget. Council wants Town Manager Burby to call MMA to see if the council can approve the commitment from the council on the \$30,000.00. James Risner motioned to approve the use of the grant money and if the MMA approves that the council can do it commit to having no more than \$30,000.00 added in the ambulance budget for 2026. Sherri Calhoun seconded it. Motion passed.

**VI. Manager's Report:**

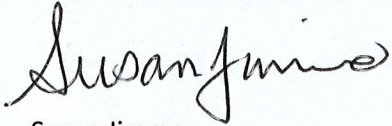
1. Have the July financials but not August.
2. Board Member Linda Milligan of the Transfer Station gave a summary of what was going on at the Transfer Station. Linda said the transfer station is under budget. They are building a

Sherri Calhoun made a motion to end the Executive Session. James Risner seconded. Motion passed. Executive Session ended at 7:24 PM

1. Sherri Calhoun motioned giving Town Manager Burby a 3% increase in her salary. Christopher Bessey seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

X. **Adjournment:** Sherri Calhoun motioned to adjourn the meeting; James Risner seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



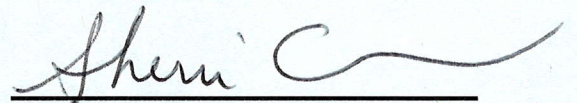
Susan Jimmo  
Recording Secretary



Tyler Michaud, Chairman



James Risner



Sherri Calhoun

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Christopher Bessey

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Vacant