

Town of Ashland
Regular Town Council Meeting

November 12, 2024

Present: Chairman Tyler Michaud, Sherri Calhoun, Christopher Bessey, Gerard Raymond, Gayle Burby and Interim Town Manager Kevin Bushey.

Absent: None

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

- II. **Public comments:** Jim Laveway doesn't understand How all the equipment can go to junk in months. He thinks the town is practically giving away equipment. He said you can't replace an excavator with a backhoe. He thinks the 1995 Ford dump truck shouldn't be sold because they used to use that truck to haul with. Chair Tyler Michaud and Town Garage Shop Foreman Stacy Sturgeon both say the frame is rotted and it isn't safe for the road. Laurie Tarr said on Election Night we had lots of support from the town, and she appreciated the Police stopping in throughout the day. Jim Risner said after reading the proposed changes to the Personnel Policy He agrees with adding a new paragraph E to Article II- Employment He also agrees with Striking out the Paragraph that certain positions must live in the Town of Ashland. But he thinks the Paragraph that was going to replace it should be omitted.

- III. **Consent items:**
 1. Review, approve and sign minutes from November 12, 2024, Regular Town Council Meeting. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve November 12, 2024, Regular Town Council Minutes. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.
 2. Review, approve and sign treasurer warrants #40V, 40P, #41V, #41P, #42V, #42P, #43V, #43P #44V and #44P. 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 and Approve 3 Quick claim Deeds. Back Taxes were paid for Map 44 Lot 136B, Map 44 Lot 137, and Map 44 Lot 138. Sherri Calhoun made a motion to approve the Quick Claim Deeds for Map 44 Lot 136B, Map 44 Lot 137 and Map 44 Lot 138. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.
 2. Review, motion, discuss, and call for vote on sealed bids regarding Town Equipment for sale & motion to place accepted bid amounts into the Highway Reserve Account. Sherri Calhoun motioned to accept the highest bids for the 1970 Int'l M 2050 Dump Truck, 1984 Int'l M 1900 Dump Truck, 1979 John Deere Lawn Mower, Milling Machine, 1/2 Drill Press, Sheet Metal Bender, and Bucket Loader Tire Chains. Chris Bessey Seconded. No discussion, Motioned carried. Sherri Calhoun motioned to send the two metal Lathe bids back to the

- two bidders that tied at \$100 to rebid with the bid needing to be over \$100. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. Motion Carried. Sherri Calhoun motioned to reject the bid for the 1975 Cat D-4 Dozer until they could determine if the Dozer had any extra parts and is it worth keeping and maintaining it. Chris Bessey Seconded. No discussion. Motioned carried. Sherri Calhoun motioned to table the bid for the 1995 Ford ML 9000 Dump Truck over the winter just in case they need it and they can revisit it again in the spring. Chris Bessey seconded. Chair Michaud mentioned the frame is not safe on the truck and it's not worth fixing. Motioned carried. Sherri Calhoun motioned to take any money from the sales of the Town Equipment and put it into the Highway Reserve. Chris Bessey seconded. No discussion. motion carried.
3. Review, motion, discuss, call for vote on Fluoridation referendum question for inclusion in the Town of Ashland March 17,2025 General Election. The Ashland Water & Sewer would like to take fluoride out of the public drinking water. They would like to have a public hearing in the last week of January or first week of February then have the public vote on March 17,2025. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve the fluoridation referendum question for inclusion in the Town of Ashland March 17,2025 General Election. Chris Bessey Seconded. No discussion. Motion Passed.
 4. Review, motion, discuss call for a vote to approve new Tax Assessor contract for 2025. Josh Berry from RCS made a proposal for \$10,000.00 per year. Which breaks down to \$104.00 an hour. He would come to Ashland 1 day a month for 8 hours. Lewis Cousins made a proposal of \$5600.00 per year which breaks down to \$116.00 per hour. He would come to the town 4 hours a month. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve the proposal from RCS for the towns Tax Assessing. Chris Bessey Seconded. Motion Passed.
 5. Review, motion, discuss, call for vote to approve equipment lease for Police Department. Chief Chris Cyr said he would like to lease a new Police vehicle. The estimate is for leasing a Police Vehicle from Oconner in Augusta. The lease vehicle is a Chevrolet Silverado with a Police Vehicle package. It's a 5-year lease. After the lease is done the town owns the vehicle. The payment is \$13,000.00 a year at 7.1% interest totaling \$56,153.00. The Town will make quarterly payments of \$3367.00. The payments will come from the Police reserve fund which has funds. They will use the old equipment from one of the old police vehicles except a cage that may need to be purchased if the one from the old police vehicle doesn't fit the new truck. Chief Cyr said he would like to keep the dark Blue Police cruiser as a second vehicle and sell the white one and the gray sedan. Sherri Calhoun motioned to approve the lease for the 2024 Silverado Pickup. Chris Bessey Seconded. Motion passed.
 6. Review, motion, discuss and call for vote on two Amendments to the Personnel Policy. Interim Town Manager Kevin Bushy proposed two Amendment changes to the Town of Ashland Personnel Policy. The first proposed Amendment is to Article II- Employment is to add a new paragraph E. The paragraph states the first 6 months is a probational period for the new hire. And, after a year the employee will participate in an annual review conducted by their department head. The second change is a proposed amendment to Article XXVII- Residency. He would like to strike out the sentence saying certain positions are required to live in Ashland and replace it with it's highly encouraged for certain positions to reside in the Town of Ashland. And strike out the sentence that full time police officers will be required to live in the Town of Ashland. But not replacing it with anything. Sherri Calhoun motioned to

approve the new paragraph E and performance reviews and to strike the residency policy.
Chris Bessey Seconded. Motion Passed.

V. **Old Business:**

Review Town of Masardis 2024 Library Subsidy update- Town of Ashland has not heard anything back from the Town of Masardis since sending them a letter.

A Motion was made by Sherri Calhoun to go into an Executive Session to discuss personal issue per Maine State Law Title (1M.R.S.A Section 405-6A). Chris Bessey seconded. Motion Passed. Executive Session started at 7:40 PM.

A Motion was made by Sherri Calhoun to end The Executive Session, Chris Bessey seconded. Motion Passed. The Executive Session ended at 8:12 PM.

Manager's Report:

1. Prentiss & Carlisle Quarterly Reports Jun and Sep included in your packages. Sept report reflected minus **\$3,405.02**. Deficit until we get wood cut.
2. We received Aroostook Area on agency's 2025 request letter for \$800 and will be included in next yr's budget
3. Ashland's Tax Anticipated Note with Katahdin Trust for \$50,000 and interest of \$6180.25 was paid off Oct 17th.
4. Our County taxes of \$209,145 were paid Oct 17th.
5. All town council and committee meetings video recordings are now uploaded on our website.
6. The ARPA Grant is being closed out by our grant administrator Karin Petrin. The Planning board met Oct 26 and had questions that once answered, they will present their recommendations to the Town Council about further development (Phase 2). This is the Station Street subdivision. Phase 1 will be closed out.
7. The 2025 Municipal Notice docs will be included in next month's Council signature folder. (Removing Milligan adding Burby) Also removing from the Disbursement warrants.
 - a. Policy on Treasurer Disbursement Warrants
 - b. 2025 Assessor's Notice
 - c. Order of Municipal Officers(all three go into the Town Report in 2025)
8. I recommend council designate Sherrie Calhoun as back up, to sign in the absence of the Chair, warrants ready for signature in accordance with the current Policy on Treasurer Disbursement Warrants. *Any council member can do so, however having a designated*

secondary signer just strengthens our internal controls and timely approvals. Chris, Tom or Gayle can make this motion. Chris Bessey Motioned to Designate Sherri Calhoun as a backup signer for Warrants if Tyler is unavailable. Gerard Raymond seconded. Sherri Calhoun Abstained. Motion passed.

9. We received the renewal/invoice letter from Central Aroostook Humane Society for 2025 in the amount of \$2524.20. Motion to include in our 2025 budget.

10. 2024 Book Dedication: possible candidates:

1. James "Jim" Laveway- lifelong resident and town employee
2. Denise Campbell- lifelong resident and teacher- SAD#32 (deceased 2024)
3. Dennis Beaulier- Past commander- VFW (deceased 2024)
4. Judd Holmquist- Businessman (former town councilor?) (deceased 2024)
5. David Ash- Irving Woodlands (deceased 2024)
6. Norman "Dickey" Long- lifelong resident and fireman (deceased 2024)

Book has room for three listings on same page

11. Staff X-Mas party: Wed, December 18, 2024: 12:00 noon to 4:30 PM
All depts closed for the afternoon. Amb/Fire/Pol on call.

Rec'd after 11-5-24

12. Maine Municipal Employees Health Plans

Increase for 2025: 9.0% on all active health plans, 1%- Dental

13. Life Flight Donation of .5 per Capita Rate. \$601.00 as a donation and it will be put in the 2025 Budget.

14. Letter from Corine Routhier Portage Town Manager. She would like to discuss having a contract. Meeting on Wednesday November 20 in Portage. Interim Town Manager Kevin Bushy and Chair Tyler Michaud will attend.

VI. Council items:

Sherri Calhoun mentions that on December 10 there is a band concert, and she asked if the Town Council meeting can be changed. The December Town Council Meeting will be on December 17 at 6:30 pm.

Gerard Raymond mentioned that no notes should be taken during the Executive Session.

VII. Adjournment: Sherri Calhoun motioned to adjourn the meeting; Chris Bessey Seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Jimmo

Recording Secretary



Tyler Michaud, Chairman



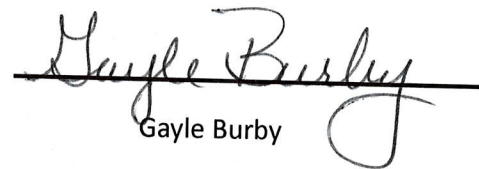
Gerard Raymond



Sherri Calhoun



Christopher Bessey



Gayle Burby