

Town of Ashland
Regular Town Council Meeting
March 12,2024

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

Absent: None

- I. **Call meeting to order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chairman Milligan.

- II. **Public comments:** Fire Chief Don Bouley requested the Fire Department needs a new trailer to haul the rescue toboggan and the snowmobile. He explained a new trailer would cost between \$12,000.00 to \$16,000.00 and that they would use the old trailer as a trade in and would get \$4,000.00. Chief Bouley said that since getting the toboggan repaired it is 5" higher and will no longer fit in the old trailer. He said the Fire Dept would do fundraising to recoup some of the purchase price. Manager Martin said he would like half of the funds to come out of the Fire Reserve and half out of Surplus. Council Michaud expressed the money raised from fun raising should go back into the Fire reserve not the surplus. Sherri Calhoun motioned to use one half of Fire Reserve money and one half of surplus money to purchase a new trailer for the Fire Dept with the purchase price not to exceed \$16,000.00, seconded by Chris Bessey. No discussion. Motion carried.

- III. **Consent Items:**
 1. Review, approve and sign minutes from December 12, 2023, Regular Town Council Meeting and January 29, 2024, Budget Committee and Council Budget Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Sherri Calhoun to sign the minutes with the amended date from February to January, seconded by Christopher Bessey, No discussion. Motion carried.

 2. Review, approve and sign treasurer warrants #1V, #1P, #2V, 2P, #3V, #3P, #4V, #4P, #5V, #5P, #6V, #6P, #7V, #7P, #8V, #9V, and #9P. A motion was made by Sherri Calhoun to approve the noted warrants, seconded by Christopher Bessey. Council Michaud and Council Raymond asked questions regarding the Whole Tree Grants salary payments. Motion Carried.

- IV. **New Business:**
 1. Vote to authorize a \$500,000 Tax Anticipation Note for fiscal year 2024, and to award said note to Katahdin Trust Company. A motion was made by Sherri Calhoun and seconded by Chris Bessey to approve the Tax Anticipation Note for 2024. No discussion. Motion carried.

 2. Manager Martin discussed a project Maine DOT would be doing on Route 163 and the mandatory agreement that needs to be signed. The agreement stipulates that the Town of Ashland will issue a permit to the MDOT contractor for transporting construction equipment that exceeds weight limits over municipal roads. The town could require a bond from the contractor for suitable repairs or payment of damages. Sherri Calhoun motioned to sign the agreement with no bond. Chris Bessey Seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

3. Manager Martin Discussed Aroostook County Tax 6-month bill options. The county of Aroostook is transitioning from a calendar year budget (Jan-Dec) to a fiscal year budget. (July- June) They adopted a special 6-month budget From Jan 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024. They are extending 3 options for municipals to pay the 6-month tax bill. Manager Martin recommends paying the 6-month tax bill with the 2 payment years due 9/1/2024 and 9/1/2025. Sherri Calhoun motions paying the 6-month tax bill with the 2 payment years 9/1/24 and 9/1/25. Seconded by Chris Bessey. No discussion. Motion carried.

V. Old Business:

1. Approve and sign off on 2 Quit Claim Deeds for Foreclosed Properties. Sherri Calhoun motions and Chris Bessey Seconded to approve and sign off on the 2 Quit Claim Deeds. No discussion. Motion passed.
2. Chairman Milligan discussed extending the Solar Moratorium until the ordinance is in place and the town and council votes on it. The ordinance was worked on and completed by the Code Enforcement Officer and Planning Board, and they came up with some good guidelines. Sherri Calhoun motioned to extend the Solar Moratorium until the ordinance is in place and the town and council votes on it. Chris Bessey seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

VI. Manager's Report:

Manager Martin let the council know that Al's Sunoco has been sold to Michael Warren. Mr Warren came in to see Manager Martin to see if the Town of Ashland could start taking bids for fuel for the town's vehicles. Manager Martin told the council at one time the town did take bids but that was stopped due to only having Dead River who offered gas, diesel, and heating oil.

Manager Martin explained that an employee on the Highway Crew gave his 2 weeks' notice because he could make more money elsewhere.

VII. Council items:

1. Council Raymond is concerned about emails he was getting from the Town of Ashland. Manager Martin told him they were SPAM and to delete them.

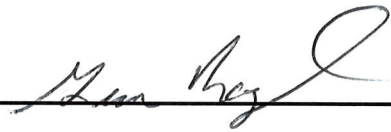
- VIII. Adjournment:** Sherri Calhoun motioned to adjourn the meeting, Chris Bessey Seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:52

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Jimmo

Recording Secretary

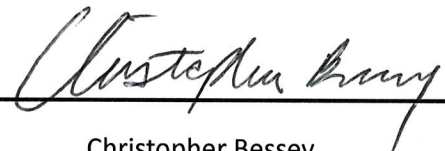
David M. Milligan, Chairman



Gerard Raymond



Sherri Calhoun



Christopher Bessey



Tyler Michaud