



**Annual Town Meeting**

**Budget Approval**

**Thursday, June 13, 2024**

**~ MINUTES ~**

To: Courtney Brown a Resident of the Town of Hermon, in the County of Penobscot, State of Maine,

GREETING:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hermon in Penobscot County, Maine, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, the Election in this Municipality will be held at the **Patricia A. Duran School Gymnasium** on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 to act on Article 1 at 6:45 a.m. and Article 2 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Annual Town Meeting will be held at the **Hermon High School in the Auditorium, 2415 Route 2 in Hermon on Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** to act on the remaining articles.

**ARTICLE 1:** To elect a Moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

**The morning of the Municipal Election on June 11, 2024 Brooke Deschaine nominated John Hamer as Moderator. Sue Woodilla seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations, nominations ceased. John Hamer from the law firm Rudman Winchell Law firm was elected Moderator by a written vote on June 11, 2024, followed by signing his oath. Mr. Hamer will continue as Moderator on June 13, 2024.**

**6/13/2024 Moderator Hamer led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Mr. Hamer asked for a motion and a second to allow all non-residents to be able to speak if needed during the meeting. A show of Hands was in favor of the motion. The motion carries.**

**ARTICLE 2:** To elect all municipal officers and school committee members as are required to be elected.

**The results of the June 11, 2024 election for School Board:**

<b><u>Regina Leonard:</u></b>	<b><u>490 votes</u></b>
<b><u>Gregory Newell:</u></b>	<b><u>446 votes</u></b>
<b><u>Stephanie Oiler:</u></b>	<b><u>848 Votes - Winner</u></b>
<b><u>Anthony Reynolds:</u></b>	<b><u>889 Votes - Winner</u></b>

**The results of the June 11, 2024 election for Town Council:**

<b><u>Joshua Berry:</u></b>	<b><u>1043 votes - Winner</u></b>
<b><u>Jason Forbes:</u></b>	<b><u>558 votes</u></b>
<b><u>Terry Hamm-Morris:</u></b>	<b><u>724 votes - Winner</u></b>

**Councilor Snyder made a motion to waive the reading of articles 3 – 32. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion.**

**Mr. Hamer asked for a show of hands in favor of waiving the reading of the articles 3 - 32.**

**A show of Hands was in favor of the motion. The motion carries.**

**Resident Richard Burgess made a motion to take up articles 3 – 9 simultaneously. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries: Articles 3 – 9 passed.**

**Councilor Snyder made a motion to approve articles 3 – 9. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**The motion carries: Articles 3 – 9 passed.**

**ARTICLE 3:** Shall the Town vote to appropriate the revenues received for the following accounts to offset the associated expense accounts, for fiscal year 2025 with approval of the Town Council?

**Revenues**

10-130 Hermon Connection Revenue  
10-121 Local Plumbing Fees  
14-140 Transfer Station Fees  
14-150 Tipping Fee Revenue (PERC)  
12-182 Police Revenue  
12-185 Fire Dept. Revenue  
35 Recreation Enterprise Revenues

**Expenses**

10-13-04-05 Hermon Connection Expenses  
10-13-05-04 Local Plumbing Expenses  
14-01 Landfill Expense  
14-02 Household Waste Expense  
12-01 Police Expenses  
12-02 Fire Dept. Expenses  
35 Recreation Enterprise Expenses

*(Explanation: The listed revenue accounts are special funds received by the Town for specific purposes. Approval by the citizens will allow the Town Council to expend these revenues for the expense accounts listed above.*

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**ARTICLE 4:** Shall the Town of Hermon combine reserve accounts Herm 3, Herm 13, Herm, 14, and Herm 34 into the Herm 2, Administration Reserve account?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**ARTICLE 5:** Shall the Town of Hermon combine the reserve account Herm 31 into the Herm 5, Public Safety & Fire Department Reserve account?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**ARTICLE 6:** Shall the Town of Hermon combine reserve accounts Herm 8, Herm 29, and Herm 32 into the Herm 06, Public Works & Road Reserve account?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**ARTICLE 7:** Shall the Town of Hermon combine reserve accounts Herm 4 and Herm 28 into the Herm 9, Parks and Recreation Reserve account?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**ARTICLE 8:** Shall the Town of Hermon combine reserve accounts Herm 17 and Herm 19 into the Herm 11, Public Facility Reserve account?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**ARTICLE 9:** Shall the Town of Hermon combine reserve account Herm 35 into the Herm 12, Sewer maintenance account?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**ARTICLE 10:** Shall the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money for each of the listed reserves?

HERM02 Administrative Reserve	\$	0
HERM05 Public Safety & Fire Dept Res	\$	150,000
HERM06 Public Works & Road Reserve	\$	175,000
HERM09 Parks & Recreation Reserve	\$	45,000
HERM11 Public Facility Reserve	\$	100,000
HERM12 Sewer Maintenance Reserve	\$	20,000
<b>Total Appropriation to Reserves</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>490,000</b>

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Councilor Snyder made a motion to approve article 10. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion.**

**A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries: Article 10 passed.**

**ARTICLE 11:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$25,000 from the Parks & Recreation Reserve (HERM04) for the purchase of stone repair/cleaning, gazebo repair and tree removal our cemeteries and veteran memorial park?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Councilor Snyder made a motion to approve article 11. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion.**

**A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries: Article 11 passed.**

**ARTICLE 12:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$75,000 from the Parks & Recreation Reserve (HERM04) for the purchase of playground repair, equipment replacement, football & baseball field improvements and canopy construction for the summer rec program at PADS?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Councilor Snyer made a motion to approve article 12. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries: Article 12 passed.**

**ARTICLE 13:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$314,425 from the Highway Improvement Reserve (HERM06) to repair and rehabilitate the Pine Tree Road, Higgins Drive and New Boston Road, including road drainage, tree cutting, shoulder work and repair to various local roads in Hermon, contingent upon approval of Article 6?

**Resident Danielle Haggerty made a motion to take up articles 13-21 simultaneously. Councilor Snyer seconded the motion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries: Articles 13-21 passed.**

**Resident Danielle Haggerty made a motion to approve articles 13 – 21. Councilor Snyer seconded the motion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries: Articles 13 – 21 passed.**

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**ARTICLE 14:** Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$20,000 from Public Works & Road Reserve (HERM06) to install a new plow on public works truck PW1 and replace sander in PW3?

**Recommended by Town Council**

**ARTICLE 15:** Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$135,000 from Sewer Maintenance Reserve (HERM12) to offset anticipated increases to the roadside refuse collections contract with Casella Waste?

**Recommended by Town Council**

**ARTICLE 16:** Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$65,000 from Sewer Maintenance Reserve (HERM12) for generator installs at Cedar Brook Drive and North Street Extension wastewater lift stations?

**Recommended by Town Council**

**ARTICLE 17:** Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$25,000 from the School Repair Reserve (HERM07) to repair and restore schoolhouse property on Billings Rd?

**Recommended by Town Council**

**ARTICLE 18:** Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$20,000 from Public Facility Reserve (HERM11) for Town Office interior door project?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**ARTICLE 19:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the transfer of funds from Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) Revenue in the amount up to \$743,925 to off-set authorized expenditures for Economic Development general accounts #11-01-01-01 to 11-01-20-06 in the amount of \$618,925 including the reconstruction of Logistics Lane, industrial park upgrades, GIS mapping, and Ryder incentive prog.; and account # 19-02-25-03 TIF Credit Enhancement Agreements (\$125,000)?

**Recommended by Town Council**

**ARTICLE 20:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for municipal purposes for Fiscal Year 2024 for the period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 the following sums of money?

Appropriation by category:

General Government/Administration	\$ 1,524,974
Economic Development/Technology	\$ 618,925
Public Safety	\$ 1,933,196
Public Works	\$ 1,583,213
Solid Waste	\$ 665,555
Recreation/Social Service	\$ 170,814
Debt Service	\$ 460,710
Reserves	\$ 440,000
Special Assessments (includes County)	\$ 1,304,000
General Assistance	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
Total Municipal & County Appropriation	<b>\$8,706,387</b>

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**ARTICLE 21:** Shall the Town set the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Commitment excluding the Overlay Account as follows:

Municipal Expenses:	\$ 7,527,387
County Assessment	\$ 1,179,000
Local contribution to Schools:	<u>\$ 6,005,865</u>
Total Expenses	<b>\$14,712,252</b>
Less Municipal Revenues	<u>-\$5,584,850</u>

**Total Commitment less Overlay    \$9,124,402**

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**ARTICLE 22:** Shall the Town appropriate from Overlay Account an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for tax abatements?

**Recommended by the Town Council**

**Councilor Snyer made a motion to approve article 22. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries: Article 22 passed.**

**Resident Danielle Haggerty made a motion to take up articles 23-34 simultaneously. Councilor Snyer seconded the motion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries: Articles 23-34 passed.**

**Councilor Snyer made a motion to approve articles 23 – 34. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries: Articles 23 – 34 passed.**

**ARTICLES 23 THROUGH 32  
AUTHORIZE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER  
CATEGORIES**

**ARTICLE 23:** Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$8,317,121.61 for Regular Instruction?

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$8,317,121.61**

**ARTICLE 24:** Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$3,051,681.08 for Special Education?

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$3,051,681.08**

**ARTICLE 25:** Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$0 for Career and Technical Education?

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$0**

**ARTICLE 26:** Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$735,458.95 for Other Instruction (summer School/extra Act)?

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$735,458.95**

**ARTICLE 27:** Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$1,919,766.68 for Student/Staff Support?

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$1,919,766.68**

**ARTICLE 28:** Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$643,806.59 for System Administration?

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$643,806.59**

**ARTICLE 29:** Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$1,089,281.99 for School Administration?

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$1,089,281.99**



**ARTICLE 30:** Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$946,238.23 for Transportation/buses?

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$946,238.23**

**ARTICLE 31:** Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$2,453,299.84 for Facilities/Maintenance?

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$2,453,299.84**

**ARTICLE 32:** Shall the School Department be authorized to spend \$571,608.00 for Debt/Other Commitments?

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$571,608.00**

## ARTICLES 33-34

### RAISE FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL BUDGET

**ARTICLE 33:** Shall the Town of Hermon appropriate the recommended amounts below for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend the Below Amounts:**

**Total Appropriated:** \$13,152,981

**Total Raised:** \$4,3001,014

***Explanation:** The school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise to receive the full amount of state dollars.*

**ARTICLE 34:** Shall the Town of Hermon raise and appropriate \$571,608 for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the town voters for non-state funded school construction projects, or non-state funded portions of school construction projects in addition to funds appropriated as local share of the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12.

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$571,608**

***Explanation:** Non-state funded debt service is the amount of money needed for annual payments on Hermon's long-term debt service for major capital school construction projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the voters.*

## WRITTEN BALLOT REQUIRED

**ARTICLE 35: (WRITTEN BALLOT REQUIRED)** Shall the Town of Hermon raise and appropriate \$1,133,243.03 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$1,133,243.03 as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee?

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend      \$1,133,243.03**

*Explanation: Additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town's contribution to the School Unit's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the State's Essential Programs and Services Funding Act (EPS) and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the School Unit's budget for educational programs.*

**Mr. Hamer read Article 35 and stated this would need to be voted on by a written vote.**

**Residents voted by secret ballot and the results were 56 Yes and 3 No.**

**Mr. Hamer stated Article 35 passes.**

**Resident Danielle Haggerty made a motion to take up articles 36-43 simultaneously. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries: Articles 23-34 passed.**

**Councilor Snyder made a motion to approve articles 23 – 34. Councilor Gray seconded the motion. A show of Hands was unanimous in favor of the motion. The motion carries: Articles 23 – 34 passed.**

## SUMMARIZES THE SCHOOL BUDGET

**ARTICLE 36:** Shall the Town authorize the School Committee to expend \$19,728,262.97 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Act, non-state funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for support of schools?

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$19,728,262.97**

**ARTICLE 37:** In addition to the amounts approved in the preceding Articles, shall the Town authorize the School Committee to expend other such sums as may be received from state and federal grants, aid, and receipts during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 for school purposes, provided that such grants, aid and receipts do not require expenditure of local funds not previously appropriated?

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend YES**

**ARTICLE 38:** Shall the Region Four Vocational Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 be approved in the amount of \$4,842,937.10?

*Explanation: Cooperative Board for Regional Vocational Budget is not subject to amendment from the floor. It may be accepted or rejected by the voters. Hermon's share of the Region Four budget is \$0.*

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend YES**

**ARTICLE 39:** In the event that the Hermon School Department receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, shall the School Committee be authorized to use all or part of the additional state subsidy to increase expenditures for school purposes in cost center categories approved by the School Committee and/or the allocation of finances to reserve funds approved by the School Committee?

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend YES**

**ARTICLE 40:** Shall the Region Four Vocational Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for **adult education** for the year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 be approved in the amount of \$318,528.80?

*Explanation: The Region Four Vocational Budget for Adult Education supports adult education classes held at United Technologies Center in Bangor for communities that belong to the Region Four consortium. Hermon's share of the regional adult education budget is \$3,410.77.*

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend YES**

**ARTICLE 41:** Shall the Town of Hermon create a new reserve account titles “HHS Science Lab Reserve Account” (HERM24)?

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend \$50,000.00**

**ARTICLE 42:** Shall the Town of Hermon repurpose the reserve account titled “Unemployment Reserve” to “Special Education Out of District Placement Reserve”?

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend**

**ARTICLE 43:** Shall the Town of Hermon allow the transfer of up to \$250,000 from the School Undesignated Fund Balance to the newly created “HHS Science Lab Reserve Account” (HERM24)?

**Town Council and School Committee Recommend**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 PM. Motion was seconded. With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 6:14PM.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Kristen Cushman, Town Clerk**

Attest Original/True Copy: \_\_\_\_\_, Clerk