

MINUTES

Cumberland Town Council Meeting

Town Council Chambers

Monday, April 24, 2023

5:00 P.M. Budget Workshop

7:00 P.M. Call to Order

Present: Councilors Copp, Edes, Filson, Foster, Segrist, Storey-King and Vail

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Edes, seconded by Councilor Segrist, to accept the April 10, 2023 minutes as presented.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

II. MANAGER'S REPORT

Police Chief Rumsey presented Sergeant Scott Hendee the Meritorious Service Award, and read the following:

The Meritorious Service Award is awarded to an individual department member for a highly unusual accomplishment under adverse conditions with some degree of hazard to the life of the member, unit, or other person.

It is my honor and pleasure to recognize you with this Meritorious Service Award for actions taken on April 6, 2023, to rescue a motorist whose vehicle had crashed on Route 1 near Powell Road.

On April 6th, at approximately 6:47PM, you were dispatched to Route 1 for a vehicle crash. Dispatch provided information to you that the vehicle's accelerator was stuck, that grass around the vehicle was catching fire, and that the vehicle was still occupied. You arrived on scene less than 3 minutes later. As you arrived, you could see smoke billowing from the crash site.

You exited your cruiser and grabbed a fire extinguisher before running to the single vehicle, which was off the road in a ditch. You could clearly see that grass and brush behind, and beneath the vehicle was on fire. The windows of the vehicle were already obscured by smoke. You attempted to open the driver's door but were unable because it was locked. You immediately deployed your baton and used it to break out the front driver's side window. This allowed you to see a woman inside the vehicle, either unconscious or semi-conscious. As you began calling out to her to rouse her, you deployed your fire extinguisher to beat back the flames that were growing at your feet.

The rising smoke, flames, and chemicals from the fire extinguisher made it hard to breathe, and hard to determine how to unlock and open the door of the damaged vehicle. The driver was not able to assist you. Next, you deployed your knife and cut the woman's seatbelt before briefly attempting to lift her out of the window. Unfortunately, the height of the vehicle and shape of the window made this impossible.

Realizing the extreme danger, the motorist was in, and that time was running out, you were able to briefly stop, look into the interior of the smoke-filled vehicle, and find the button to unlock the door. Once able to open the door, you reached in and extracted the driver by pulling her out, away from the vehicle and up the hill to the road. As you pulled her out, your body camera clearly showed that flames were breaking through the floor of the vehicle by the driver's feet.

As fire and EMS units arrived on scene, they took over care of the driver. Still concerned about the rising flames underneath the vehicle, you went back and fully discharged your extinguisher before making your way to the road, where you began to feel the effects of the smoke and fire extinguisher chemicals on your lungs. Luckily, you were able to be treated by EMS on scene and did not require hospitalization.

It is clear to me that, without your swift, decisive, and efficient action, the motorist would have been seriously injured by the growing fire – or worse. This was a difficult and demanding scene. The actions I’ve just described unfolded in two minutes, and your efforts in those two minutes surely made a tremendous difference to a human life. These actions make you eligible for our department’s Meritorious Service Award, which I am pleased to present to you tonight. I am proud of you, your team members are proud of you, and I know that the community is proud of you as well. We are lucky to have you watching over the Town of Cumberland.

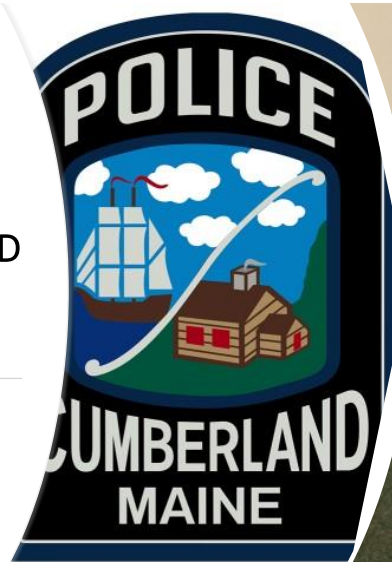
Councilor Edes said that the person that Sergeant Hendee saved is a friend of his and his wife. She is here this evening.

She thanked Sergeant Hendee for saving her. She said that she cannot thank him enough and Cumberland is very fortunate to have him as one of their officers.

Chief Rumsey introduced newly hired K-9 Officer, Kaitlyn Sawyer and her dog Otto. Town Clerk, Jennifer Doten administered the oath of office to Officer Sawyer.

Chief Rumsey gave a brief overview and the cost of our new K-9 program:

Cumberland PD K-9 Program Overview



COMMUNITY POLICING



BENEFITS OF K-9 PROGRAM

Tracking of individuals – seniors, lost children, wanderers, crime suspects

Evidence / Drug Searches

Officer Safety / Suspect Compliance

Recruitment / Retention

FY24 BUDGET

EXPENSE	ANNUAL COST
Tracking / Training Software	\$140
Food / meds / vitamins	\$1200
Health Insurance	\$552
Vet	\$2000
Leashes, brushes, collars, toys, bowls, etc.	\$750
Kenneling Fees (3 weeks, \$40 / day)	\$840
Cruiser Temp Alarm Subscription	\$170
Uniform / clothing / boots	\$750
TOTAL	\$6,402

Town Manager Shane said that we continue to get requests for the use of the recreation center at Val Halla. He has 2 such requests for the Council to consider. One is for the Yarmouth Fire Department and the other is for a celebration of life for Tom Allen, who passed away recently. He would like the Council to think about the room rental process being that the requests first come to him to consider. If the room is available, the fee is paid, and the renters agree to abide by the rules, they can rent the room. If there are any issues and the renter wants to appeal the Town Managers decision, they can come before the Council to do so. After some discussion it was decided by consensus that this is a good practice going forward.

III. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

No public discussion

IV. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

23 – 036 To consider and act on a Mass Gathering permit for Binnie Media’s Ultimate Yard Sale to be held June 10th and September 9th at the Cumberland Fairgrounds.

Chairman Foster asked for any public comment.

No public comment.

Motion by Councilor Edes, seconded by Councilor Segrist, to approve the Mass Gathering permit for Binnie Media’s Ultimate Yard Sale to be held June 10th and September 9th at the Cumberland Fairgrounds.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

23 – 037 To consider and act on a Mass Gathering permit for the Chickadee Dog Show to be held June 23rd – 25th at the Cumberland Fairgrounds.

Chairman Foster asked for any public comment.

No public comment.

Motion by Councilor Vail, seconded by Councilor Filson, to approve the Mass Gathering permit for the Chickadee Dog Show to be held June 23rd – 25th at the Cumberland Fairgrounds.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

23 – 038 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on a Medical Marijuana Registered Caregiver License renewal for Evergreen Cannabis Co. (Kristin Pettingill) located at 93 Lower Methodist Road.

Chairman Foster explained that this entity was originally located at 93 Lower Methodist Road and last year when they applied for their 2 licenses, they were at a different location on Gray Road. This renewal application is for 1 of the licenses to return to the 93 Lower Methodist Road location.

Chairman Foster opened the Public Hearing.

No public comment.

Chairman Foster closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Storey-King, seconded by Councilor Segrist, to approve the Medical Marijuana Registered Caregiver License renewal for Evergreen Cannabis Co. (Kristin Pettingill) located at 93 Lower Methodist Road.

VOTE: 6-1 (Copp opposed) MOTION PASSES

23 – 039 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on a Medical Marijuana Registered Caregiver License renewal for Crème De La Crème (owner Robert Thibodeau) located at 210 Gray Road.

Chairman Foster opened the Public Hearing.

No public comment.

Chairman Foster closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Storey-King, seconded by Councilor Segrist, to approve the Medical Marijuana Registered Caregiver License renewal for Crème De La Crème (owner Robert Thibodeau) located at 210 Gray Road.

VOTE: 6-0-1 (Copp abstained) MOTION PASSES

23 – 040 To appoint members to vacant board/committee seats.

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Vail, to appoint Teri Maloney Kelly to the Shellfish Conservation Commission, Robert Knapp to the Board of Sewer Appeals, and Bert Kendall to Prince Memorial Library Advisory Board.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

23 – 041 To set a Public Hearing date of May 8th to consider and act on the adoption of the FY2024 Municipal Budget.

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Edes, to set a Public Hearing date of May 8th to consider and act on the adoption of the FY2024 Municipal Budget.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

V. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Copp – as he does at every meeting, he donated \$20 to the food pantry.

Last Monday, he was called to 295 to tow 3 vehicles after the active shooter incident. The police presence in our area, in a very short period of time, was phenomenal. Our new K-9 officer was there with her dog, Otto, working the scene. It was a good job done by all.

Councilor Filson – the Coastal Waters Commission met on April 18th to make some final amendments to the mooring allocations and the ordinance, which will go to the Ordinance Committee soon.

On May 13th the Town Council will meet at 7:30 a.m. on the Greely Road side of Twin Brook for a walk with the LCC Forestry Subcommittee to look at the invasive species, and talk about the invasives management plan.

Considering the events recently with the active shooter on 295 in Yarmouth, she would like us to consider active shooter training for our community.

Councilor Vail – he attended Tom Allen’s memorial service recently. Shortly after that, he and some of his fellow Lion’s Club members helped a fellow member who is not well, side his garage. It was a good day and it’s nice to see a community come together and accomplish something good.

He attended the Public Safety banquet recently and had the pleasure to sit with some people who work for our community, but don’t live in our community. He thought to himself that we are on the right track because we are working to bring affordable housing to our community that will be suitable for people who work in our community. Diversity is so important for our children and our grandchildren. We are striving to do something visionary that is going to make this community a better place.

Councilor Segrist – testimony on the senior property tax bill that we’ve been working on with Representative Moriarty, took place 2 weeks ago in Augusta, and is set for Workshop this Thursday. This is one of many bills that will be considered.

A couple of weeks ago, we discussed the affordable housing issue, and something has been weighing on his heart since that meeting. He wants to apologize to some folks in the community. During the debates, talking about affordable housing and talking about the new school, some of his personal opinions came out, and he is concerned that he might have made folks feel that their vote was not valid in some way. If anyone felt like he wasn’t listening to them, he wants to apologize for that. He wants folks to feel included, he wants them to feel like the Council is listening to them, and he wants them to continue to come back to meetings and raise their concerns.

Councilor Edes – a reminder to residents that bulky waste week is coming up.

He really enjoyed the prestation’s by the Police Chief this evening. We have an amazing Police Department, and we are very fortunate.

Councilor Storey-King – condolences to the Allen family on the passing of Tom Allen.

She appreciates some flexibility on the use of the recreation center at Val Halla. She likes to do the things that bring back that small town feeling. She feels like we’re losing that a little bit.

Chairman Foster – we are coming to the end of our budget workshops. We have one final budget workshop this Saturday, April 29th starting at 8 a.m. in the Council Chambers.

On May 2nd from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers, there will be a new resident orientation. This is a great event for new residents.

May is mental health awareness month and she would love to bring back some of the mental health resources that we and the school had on our websites last year.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Segrist, seconded by Councilor Vail, to adjourn.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

TIME: 8:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda L. Moore
Council Secretary