

Fort Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
Wednesday, March 18, 2015
6:00 P.M.

Councilors: David McCrea, Jason Barnes, Susan LeVasseur, John Herold and Robert Kilcollins
Staff: Jeff Leighton, Ella Leighton, George Watson, Toney Levesque, Tim Goff and Tom Towle
Citizens: 4 including media

- I. Roll Call - Chair Jason Barnes asked that the record reflect all councilors present with the exception of David McCrea.
- II. Prayer – Tony Levesque offered the prayer
- III. Pledge to the Flag - All in attendance pledged their allegiance to the Flag.
- IV. Public Comment- NONE
- V. Correspondence and Reports
 - A. Licenses / Permits- Catering license for the Lions Club, Liquor Licenses for the VFW and a Bingo license for the K of C
 - B. Financial Report – With 2/3 of our fiscal year gone by, there have not been many surprises on the expense and revenue reports. Expense wise we are in line with what we expect for the year. Payroll in most of the departments is at or below where they should be. Also, looked at the 05-Com Center accounts, this is where the building repairs and heating accounts for the Community Center are. As you are aware we have switch back to heating our buildings with coal. Since the temperatures have been remarkably low at times we have simply used more fuel, both coal and fuel oil, to heat the buildings. We have found that the coal system finds it difficult to keep up when temperatures remain subzero over an extended time. We are anticipating this line item to go above budget for the season in spite of the fact that I added additional funds to this line item to both the community center and highway department. The 30-Building Repairs line item is over because of the light project in the gym, when we receive the funds from Efficiency Maine this item should come back in line. On the revenue side, revenue sharing and excise tax are in line with where they should be. We have received our final payment of \$75,000 for the developer’s fee of the senior citizen project. The Clinic Project account balance or cost of the clinic building project is \$35,112.11 to the Town. We will consult with our Auditor, but at some point we may want to zero that account utilizing UDAG funds as was planned. Also the Time Warner Cable report on the revenue side we budgeted \$22,500 and as you can see we are going to receive \$22, 212.37. We also received a check from TAMC to offset some of the expenses that were occurring and to work off the contract that we have with them for ambulance service. The check was in the amount of \$29,716 and we turned around and paid that exact amount to them. As it stands right now the balance that we owe them \$15,255 and the balance they owe us is \$11,612. It is

hoped that by the end of our fiscal year the balance should be zeroed and therefore the plan worked.

- C. Tri-community Landfill Report – Stev –Our last meeting was February 20th, we went over the reports for 2014 and everything looks fine there are no discrepancies there, Mark and his crew do a great job with the books. We have received a lot of ash from Re-Energy Plant here in town. They have contracted with McGillan Inc. to haul that out to the landfill. As of our last meeting they have hauled in approximately 3000 yards so far. We intend on using that daily coverage for building roads. They have also asked us to take some of their fly ash, Mark looked at that and we are licensed to take it, there is a little problem with handling that because it tends to blow in the wind. We did have a leach aid pipeline freeze up, there happened to be washout that took place this summer that happened to be right over where our pipeline went through and we didn't catch it. It has been thawed and is running again, we will go back to this in the spring to correct that problem.
- D. Update- Wind Energy Technical Review Committee – Tim – It's very technical, a lot of information to filter through and the committee has done the initial heavy lifting. Right now we are working on things like sound, setbacks, ice throw, and safety. The 180 day moratorium ordinance is coming to a close and we will be asking the council for an extension, this is a very serious issue.
- E. Update – Quality of Place Council – Tim – We had our last meeting on Monday, it was well attended. We were able to welcome one of the two new members, Narda Guiou. Kevin Pelletier was unable to attend, but call ahead and express his desire and willingness to jump right in. Discussion centered on what we are going to do with the property on 85 Presque Isle Street. There was discussion on the Nordic Heritage Center on their improved funding situation now that Libra has a better idea of what they do. And have decided to continue their funding. Talked about the Key Bank building, the owner is looking to sell by June or he is going to have it demolished. It needs a lot of work, whoever goes in there needs to have a plan in place.
- F. Department Report: Marketing efforts – Tim – We have some radio and TV spots that starting airing on Monday for the Agri Business Trade Fair. We also have had some exposure on TV with Tri-Chamber coupon books recently. We will be selling these at a reduced rate at the trade fair. Other recent television exposure, we have had stories air recently on the Agri Business Trade Fair, the Fire Chief search, the departure of our Town Manager, the flood preps with Tony. We also have some upcoming press that will highlight the Sr. Expo. We have been getting notice by using our media, website and Facebook.
- G. Department Report: Fire/Ambulance/Emergency Mgt Dept.-Mike- the Fire Chief search has not been an easy task nor has it been successful. We offered to fly in Dan Reynolds for a second interview, but his departure from Michigan was not well received by his family so he decided not to take us up on our offer. We then

interviewed two more candidates and offered one of those candidates an opportunity to travel to visits our community and he declined because leaving Illinois will have a very negative impact on his pension. The review committee made up of Tony Levesque, Chief Bill Campbell, Scott Susi (Caribou Fire Chief) Mike Bosse and Councilor John Herold, have met to discuss what the options are at this point. They are to look at other candidates in the resume pool that was received, start the process again from scratch or come up with other ideas. Out of the 24 resumes received 8 or 10 are not qualified, 8 or 10 have withdrawn completely. In the opinion of the review committee there is no one from the first round of resumes that we can consider. The concern with starting over is that they have already done a national search and since there was very little response locally, we question how fruitful a new search would be. So the only thing left is to come up with new ideas. Several people have come forward with different ideas, we have spoken with the fire department and they have had some ideas. At this point this is a very dynamic process that has several moving parts and several things to consider. We are working daily to come up with the best option. Whatever the outcome is it is going to affect our budget process, we could push the process forward. I think that we could put forth some numbers that will cover us in the budget process. Chief Bill Campbell in filling in as interim Fire Chief, it seems to be working very well. He meets with the on duty fire crew daily, to see how things are going, how equipment is being maintain and just working through problem solving issues that arise day to day. I feel that the crew has a lot of respect for Bill, he has great management ability and he is doing a great job.

- H. Flood Reduction System report – attached is the report from the U.S. Army Corp Engineers. There are items in the report that need to be address. I have met with George and he has filed the proper paperwork/reports and has asked the Army corp for financial assistance so that we may be to restore our eligibility for the Rehabilitation Program. Their primary concerns are that the toe drainage system has not been inspected and the electrical system of the pump house has not been megger tested. We are currently waiting for a response from the US Army Corp of Engineers for their assistance with their requests.

VI. Old Business –

- A. Consider extension of Commercial Windmill Moratorium – The moratorium ordinance will expire on April 13, 2015. The review committee’s work is not done and therefore is asking that a 180 day extension be approved by the council.

Motion: Susan LeVasseur moved to approve the extension of the moratorium ordinance for another 180 days.

Second: Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

VII. New Business

- A. Consider disposition of tax acquired property – We have eight properties that became the property of the Town of Fort Fairfield on March 5, 2015. We own

them and it is up to us to decide what we want to do with them. Traditionally in the past, to allow Ella to send a letter to the property owners and to set up a payment plan for all outstanding taxes due plus the current taxes to be paid in one year. The only caution is that a couple of the properties have fallen into dis-repair and unfortunately it is the understanding that if we offer a repayment plan on one tax acquired property we need to offer it on all property owners. In the event she is unable to reach them or work out a plan then the town would place the property for sale.

Motion: Robert Kilcollins moved to approve to allow Ella to send out the letters in hopes of contacting the owners to offer a workout plan over the next 30 days and come to the next council meeting with ideas.

Second: John Herold

Vote – All affirmative

- B. Consider Proclamation 15-01- Tony would like to recognize and honor the week of April 6th through April 11, 2015 by proclaiming it Community development Week in Fort Fairfield

Motion: Susan LeVasseur moved to approve Proclamation 15-01 proclaiming April 6th through April 11, 2015 as Community development Week in Fort Fairfield

Second: Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

- VIII Minutes: Council Meeting February 18, 2015, Special Meeting March 12, 2015

Motion: Susan LeVasseur moved to approve Minutes of February 18, 2015 as written.

Second: Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

Motion: Susan LeVasseur moved to approve Minutes of Special Meeting March 12, 2015 as written.

Second: Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

- IX Warrants: #18 - \$91,709.09, #19 - \$290,307.83

Motion: Robert Kilcollins moved to accept warrants #18 & #19 as presented.

Second: Susan LeVasseur

Vote – All affirmative

- X Other - None

- XI Executive Session 7:05 PM

Motion: John Herold moved to go into Executive Session to discuss

1 MRSA 405 (6) (C) - Economic Development

1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) - Personnel

Second: Susan LeVasseur

Vote – All affirmative

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Came out of executive session at 8:20 PM

Motion: John Herold moved to adjourn at 8:21 pm

Second: Susan LeVasseur

Vote – All affirmative

XII. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Council Secretary
Rebecca J. Hersey