

Fort Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
Wednesday, April 15, 2015
6:00 P.M.

Councilors: David McCrea, Jason Barnes, Susan LeVasseur, John Herold and Robert Kilcollins
Staff: George Watson, Tony Levesque, Ella Leighton, Tom Towle, Tim Goff and Bill Campbell
Citizens: 6 including media

- I. Roll Call - Chair Jason Barnes asked that the record reflect all councilors were present.
- 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- Two Liquor license, one for Boondocks and the other for Rosella's
 - B. Financial Report – Expenses are in line with what we expect for the year. Payroll in most of the departments is at or below where they should be. The one item out of whack is the heating expenses for both the Community Center and Public Works building. The Community Center will end up around 10% over budget or \$2,000.00 and the Public Works building will end up around 25% over budget or around \$4,000. Public Works furnace is shut down and is relying on the recycled oil furnace for heat. The Community Center is finishing out the season with coal and this is to be shut down once it is empty. Both line items have been increase for next year's budget. On the revenue side, both revenue sharing and excise tax are in line with where they should be. Our cash flow is still in pretty good shape, we currently have \$800,000 in our savings account and over \$80,000 in our checkbook. The biggest bill for the remainder of the month should be payroll, so we have more than adequate funds to cover that.
 - C. Tri-community Landfill Report – Stev – The last meeting was on March 20th. We sent a letter out to all the communities, in Aroostook County and made a proposal that if we can all get together into one landfill we could lower our rates. Presque Isle was a little concerned about this so the City Manager, Jim Bennett and Dana Fowler who runs the landfill attended this meeting and expressed their concerns. There are other communities and haulers that are starting to bring things our way and are stating that it is a much safer place than other landfills. We had our annual commercial haulers meeting/supper and 14 out of 16 the haulers attended. We had someone from DEP come in and do a training session on ruptured fuel tanks. The issue that we had with the frozen pipeline seems to be ok it is flowing well with no problems. The Mitchell Center with the University of Maine will be holding a state wide symposium on how to better handle solid waste at landfills.

Mark was involved with the initial setups of those meetings, he mentioned to them that things are quite different in Aroostook County than they are in Southern Maine and has convinced them to actually have some local meetings. They have asked Mark to lead these meetings here in Aroostook County. We had some wind problems a couple of weeks ago, which tore down quite a bit of the litter fence and a lot of the litter blew across to Pineland Farms. Are looking at putting in a secondary catch fence.

- D. Update- Wind Energy Technical Review Committee – Tim- Our last full meeting was on March 30th, where we created a sub-committee to put together the sections of the ordinance. This committee held a series of back to back meetings for three weeks where we put together recommendations and ideas to take back to the committee and this will be presented at the next meeting on May 4th at 5:30PM.
- E. Department Report: Marketing efforts- Tim- The Agri Business Trade Fair was well attended, we received great coverage with radio, TV and on line. The next project is the Drivers Expo, which will be here in the Community Center on Friday, May 15th, will be engaging and education drivers. Secretary of State Dunlap will be here as well as Patti Morneault. Thursday the 14th we will be at the High School working with the students, teaching teen driving, texting while driving, and seatbelts. This week is also restaurant week in Aroostook County, it is designed to encourage people to get out and try new places. Update on the Key Bank building, continue to solicit input and advice. Did go through it today with a contractor, just to protect the shell it could cost approximately \$100,000.00 to stop the deterioration. The first floor has all new windows, however the second and third floors need all new windows. There are around 55 windows with an estimate price of \$500 per window to replace. It would be a shame and a loss to see it go.
- F. Flooding Update – Tony- We had our pre flood meeting on March 2nd, with all of the interested parties such as the National Weather Service, DOT public safety and our highway department. About a week ago the flow started coming up and we started seeing changes in the ice conditions. On the bridge there is a color code, red meaning flood zone, yellow- flood warning and green is the go zone. We are ready and we are prepared.

Bill - Received a call from the fire chief in Perth Andover and he has offered his departments help if needed during the flooding process.

- G. 2015/16 Budget – Mike - Department heads met, the first workshop was held on April 1st and at that meeting Mike was instructed to make a few changes. Such as carrying forward the remainder of last year's paving, carrying forward this year's paving, the budget for paving is \$100,000 each year. Approximately \$60,000.00 to \$65,000.00 of that goes to pay the bond that we secured a couple of years ago. \$50,000.00 on principal and the remainder on interest. So with the monies that we are bringing forward George will have a reserve for 2015/16 of \$70,000.00 for paving plus whatever average he has for the bond payment. Also we will be adding funds for a new police cruiser, increasing Fire Department reserve by

\$10,000.00 to be used for a ¾ ton truck. Public Works reserve by \$25,000.00 for a plow truck, \$4,000.00 to the library's reserve. Then we talked about the re-evaluation reserve account that has not been established by the community, we are placing \$25,000.00 into that account. Discussion centered on how we pay for all of that, it came up to ask Tony, our tax assessor to do an indexing of all tillable farm land. So in that process he has estimated that that will generate \$117,000.00, so that will balance our budget. Another change is that we got a final number from the school department, that went from \$1.99 million last year to 2.047 million this year which is a change of \$57,000.00, so that is added to this budget. Council also approved a 2% raise for the non-union employees. The first public hearing is scheduled for May 6th at 6 PM; the final public hearing will be May 20th at 6 pm, with approval on June 17th.

- H. Update on Tax Acquired Property – Mike - Council voted to allow people 30 days to come in and do a workout plan. One person came in and paid in full and one other started making payments today. We have not heard from the remaining five people, they have until the 20th.
- I. Update on Spec building Lighting –George – Efficiency Maine has pulled away the funding due to a recent issue in the wording of their legislation. They are re-working the quote and will get it back to us. It is going to cost much more to have the work done. The original rebated was going to be \$15,800.00 the new rebate amount is \$12,000.00, which will make our new cost \$7,200.00.
- J. Kipp Park Road- At this time we are still researching this ever-evolving mess. We have had a request from citizens for Fort Fairfield to take a stance on Kipp Park Road as to whether or not to continue the right of way beyond Kipp Park Road into Moonlight drive. One document found conveyed right of way by stating it conveys the roadway as it is traveled today, that document was dated in 1948. The best advice comes from Bill Livengood from MMA, to do nothing until more information is gathered and the last sentence of his email to us, “the Town should proceed with caution”. It was recommended that as time permits we could have the staff read through the older minutes to see if they would be able to find anything.
- K. Morning View Housing P.I.L.O.T review – Mike - We received a letter from Wayne Troicke requesting a change to the payment in lieu of taxes on Morning View Housing Development. This is to be tabled for 30 days to allow Tony and Wayne to get together and set a plan that both can agree on.

VI. Old Business –

- A. Fire Department Ratification – During the budget workshop it was decided to reconfigure the Fire Department to fall under the supervision of a Public Safety Director. The new plan calls for the current Fort Fairfield Police Chief, Bill Campbell, to oversee all the town's emergency response services as the new Director of Public Safety. The two current members of the fire department,

Captain Darryl Doughty and Captain Jeff Leighton will be promoted to serve as Assistant Chiefs.

Motion: John Herold moved to ratify the new plan of assigning the Police Chief Campbell as the new Director of Public Safety and that we also express our consent to the fact of organizing the fire department with two Assistant Chiefs working for the Public Safety Officer. Also we permit, allow and recommend the Caribou Fire Chief be utilized for research, for grant support, training and that we negotiate amount and rate with Caribou for that purpose.

Second: Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

VII. New Business

- A. Uncollectible Taxes – After numerous attempts to contact and collect taxes owed by Northern Maine Pure Spring Water, a total of \$23.38, have been unsuccessful. We would like to take them off our books.

Motion: David McCrea moved to approve to write off the \$23. 38 under the account of Northern Maine Pure Spring Water

Second: John Herold

Vote – All affirmative

- B. Quit Claim deed to Lisa Adams – Lisa has paid her past due taxes, as part of the work out agreement the town has agreed to sign via Quit Claim the property back to her.

Motion: John Herold moved to approve signing the Quit Claim deed to Lisa Adams for payment in full.

Second: Susan LeVasseur

Vote – All affirmative

- C. Spec Building Lighting-

Motion: David McCrea moved to approve installing all LED lights in the Spec Building, (formally Graphic Utilities), doing the whole building with the Efficiency of Maine rebate and paying the \$7,200.00 from the Industrial Park account

Second: Susan LeVasseur

Vote – All affirmative

VIII Minutes: Council Meeting March 18, 2015

Motion: John Herold moved to approve Minutes of March 18, 2015 as written.

Second: Susan LeVasseur

Vote – All affirmative

IX Warrants: #20 - \$120,570.81, #21 - \$289,839.14

Motion: Robert Kilcollins moved to accept warrants #20 & #21 as presented.

Second: Susan LeVasseur

Vote – All affirmative

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X Other – NONE

XI Executive Session 7:25 PM

Motion: David McCrea moved to go into Executive Session to discuss
1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) - Personnel

Second: Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

Came out of executive session at 8:30 PM

No Action Taken

XII. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Council Secretary
Rebecca J. Hersey