

Fort Fairfield Town Council Meeting  
Council Chambers  
Wednesday, November 16, 2011  
6:00 P.M.

Councilors: David McCrea, Kim Murchison, Mark Babin, Terry Greenier and Ruel Flannery

Staff: Bill Campbell, George Watson, Tony Levesque, Brady Henderson and Paul Durepo

Citizens: 3

Roll Call - Chair David McCrea asked that the record reflect that all councilors are present.

II. Prayer – Councilor Ruel Flannery offered the prayer

III. Pledge to the Flag - All in attendance pledged their allegiance to the Flag.

Public Comment Period – None

V. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses/Permits – NONE

B. Financial Report – Dan – After four months our income is very stable with little or no variation from our budget. Excise remains ahead of budget while interest income and revenue sharing is consistent with our projections. Salaries and benefits remain in line, while office supplies and postage are ahead of where we thought we would be. Our oil tanks are full and we are way under budget due to the favorable weather conditions and changing the community center over to coal.

C. Tri-Community Landfill Report – Stev Rogeski – Last meeting was on October 28<sup>th</sup>. So far we have shipped over a million gallons of leachate in the pipeline, we will be saving up to \$13,000.00 on fuel per year and also the salary of a driver. Nick Archer of DEP spoke with us, he was there to tell us what is going to happen, DEP is going to pursue violations on the leaks due to the significant rain fall we have had. Mark and his crew are working diligently to work with DEP to clean this up. It is very discouraging to be chastise for things above our control. Mark is doing a very good job. We also received \$13,000.00 in carbon credits, this is a one time thing. This shows how we are way above other landfills. We also looked at the preliminary budget and this is looking good. We are in line if not lower than most landfills on tonnage.

Dan – Currently the cost to the citizens of Fort Fairfield is \$86,000.00 a year. To date ACP has taken 677 tons to the landfill due to their demolition project. This represents approximately \$8,000.00 a year for the next three years in additional costs to the community.

David – About a month or two ago we talked about who was responsible

to pay for the disposal of ACP debris and the citizens are the one's who are paying for this. We thought about sending an invoice out, are we still going to do this?

Dan – We will be sending an invoice but are not able to legally enforce it. We are in the process of bringing to the Council a change in the ordinance requiring a demolition permit. It will provide the community with flexibility to charge a tipping fee depending on the extenuating circumstances.

David – Did ACP get a demolition permit?

Tony – Yes, they called in advance.

- D. Update on Senior Citizens Housing – Dan – We received “Notice to Proceed” from Maine State Housing. MSHA has been very supportive of this project. Wayne Troicke and I went to Bangor and have started the process of putting together the package. We should be going out to bid in February and starting construction in June.
- E. Update on Health Clinic – Dan – Started the process to re-submit the grant. Will be presented to the QPC on December 13<sup>th</sup> then will come before the council at the December meeting.
- F. Police Department Update –Bill – Sergeant Newell has completed the supervisory training. We received a \$1,500.00 Wal-Mart Grant, this will be used to purchase 2 cameras and the remaining funds if any will be used to purchase other items that maybe needed. I have been receiving comments from the citizens, they have been very positive. The funds from the gun sales have been put into the reserve account. Have been doing inventory and have found some tactical equipment (jackets and helmets) that we do not need, we will be selling this as well. I have meet with the ATV clubs president, Jim Milton and we are working on a plan on how to route the trails.
- G. Update on Central Aroostook Community Meeting –Dan – I have not heard anything lately. Paul and George both have attended meetings pertaining to their departments. This is just getting started, nothing is really defined yet. We are certainly supportive of attending.
- H. Upcoming Budget Issues - Dan – We normally start our budget process in April, but due to the recent demolition of the ACP building it has become apparent to me that we have gone past the norm and that our budget for next year is way out of balance.

The budget deals with economic realities but should also reflect our aspirations as a community. It needs to help us deal with the many challenges that we face but also prepare us for the inevitable opportunities that will come our way.

Tonight is about starting a dialogue that will explore productive ways where we as a community can come together for the common good, sharing increasingly scarce resources to continue to provide quality services at a reasonable cost while maintaining an environment that is conducive to growth.

With a budget of \$4,702,000.00 we have lost \$413,000.00 or 8.9% of our revenue from reductions in our state revenue sharing and the loss of ACP. The problem is not one of increased expenses but rather a shift in payer sources.

I will be meeting with community groups to talk about these issues, we will be establishing a link on our web page to solicit input from the community, the department heads are reviewing their budgets to see what costs can be trimmed without reducing the current level of services and Tony is working with the Maine Revenue Service to ensure that the loss of valuation from the demolition of ACP will be recognized in this fiscal year. This will allow for an immediate adjustment to our school funding and the amount that we receive from Revenue Sharing.

We will continue to discuss this issue at each of our council meetings refining where we are in the process of having expenses equal income. It seems very evident to me that taxes will have to go up our next fiscal year.

VI. Old Business -

- A. Consider Recommendation to House Abandoned Dogs – The Central Humane Society has requested an additional increase to fund their animal shelter. Last Monday, George, Bill and Dan met with Don Guimond, Town Manager and Chief Doody from Fort Kent to discuss their program and visit their facility. Based on information we have established a program for approval that will ensure any abandoned dogs will be treated humanely. The estimated cost of the facility is \$5,000 and will come from the emergency reserve account.

Motion: Kim Murchison moved to the approve the recommendation to House Abandoned Dogs.

Second: Ruel Flannery

Vote – All affirmative

- B. Approve Bids for Public Works Equipment – on several pieces of used heavy equipment that Public Works no longer need or use.

Motion: Terry Greenier motioned to approve the bids as presented

Second: Mark Babin

Vote – All affirmative

VII. New Business

- A. Approve Quitclaim Deed to John & Carol Ann Russell. This property became tax acquired in March 2011, all back taxes have been paid along with interest and costs. This years taxes have been paid as well.

Motion: Terry Greenier moved to approve the Quitclaim Deed to the Russell's

Second: Mark Babin

Vote – All affirmative

VIII. Minutes: October 19, 2011

Motion: Mark Babin moved to approve Minutes of October 19, 2011 as written.

Second: Kim Murchison

Vote – All affirmative

IX. Warrants: #10 - \$468,497.11; #11 - \$284,462.64

Motion: Kim Murchison moved to accept warrant #10 & #11 as presented.

Second: Terry Greenier

Vote – All affirmative

X. Other - NONE

XI. Executive Session -

move into executive session at 7:17 PM

MRSA 405(6)(A) – Personnel Matter

No Action taken

XII. Adjournment at 7:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca J. Hersey  
Council Secretary