

Fort Fairfield Town Council Meeting
Council Chambers
Wednesday, April 18, 2012
6:00 P.M.

Councilors: David McCrea, Kim Murchison, Mark Babin, Terry Greenier and
John Herold

Staff: Mike Bosse, George Watson, Tony Levesque, Billie Jo Sharpe,
Tom Towle, Bill Campbell

Citizens: 8 including media

- I. Roll Call - Chair Kim Murchison asked that the record reflect all councilors are present with the exception of David McCrea who is running a little late
- II. Prayer –Mark Babin offered the prayer
- III. Pledge to the Flag - All in attendance pledged their allegiance to the Flag.
- IV. Public Comment Period – Dan Foster congratulated Terry Greenier and I Care Pharmacy for their 5 years of being in business.

- V. Correspondence and Reports
 - A. Licenses/Permits – one liquor licenses for Boondocks Grille
 - B. Financial Report – Dan – March financial continue to reflect sluggish income, particularly on excise tax and interest income. Revenue sharing is down but not significantly, with property taxes being up. Our expenses have a few line items that are over budget but overall the expenses are well inline. The administration department is showing overages in liens, equipment lease/maintenance and emergency management. Mainly due to an increase in liens this year, increase in costs in software upgrades and ongoing repairs on our computers. The increase in emergency management is due to the repairs on the dike.
 - C. Tri-Community Landfill Report – Stev Rogeski – there was no meeting held, next is scheduled for the 27th.
 - D. Update on Senior Citizens Housing – Dan – in the design phase (90%), we should hear from Maine State Housing in the next week. For the next four weeks we will be preparing to go out to bid. Have had a number of general contractors from down State have been calling looking for work so we should have a numbers of bids coming in.
 - E. Update on Health Clinic – Dan – Just talked with DECD today, got somewhat positive news, but we will not hear for another couple of weeks whether or not our project will be funded. They were impressed with our project.

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- F. Police Department Update – Bill Campbell – One of the things I did today, more for my own knowledge than anything else, is I looked at our call volume from January 1st to today and last year the volume of calls received was 572 calls with this years total at 655 calls. Next week the chief will be attending new chiefs training at the academy. April 28th is designated as National Drug Take Back Day, the chief will be here in the office and anyone can turn in their old or outdated prescriptions.
- G. Chamber of Commerce Update – Mike Bosse – the Agri Business Trade fair is wrapped up, we received 30% more profit than last year. Next project is the pageant on April 28th. The Town Wide Yard Sale is set for July 14th and 15th, which will be the kick off for the Potato Blossom Festival, the registration forms can be found on our web site. Potato Blossom Festival donations are coming in, everything is looking good. TAMC is planning on sponsoring an event this year.
- H. Update on Rail Line Transfer – For the last couple of years Dan has been in Discussion with Nate Moulton from MDOT for the State to assume ownership of the 8.6 miles of rail that the town purchased in 2004. The Irving's have taken over the operation on the line, they have brought in a lot of new equipment, they have done a great job. The State is working on an amendment for the Irving group to assume the responsibility for operating and maintaining it as they have with the rest of the line, this is a big load off of our shoulders.
- I. Update on Purchasing the Apartment Building on Main Street – Richard Langley is working on a clear title. Have decided that the best thing to do at this time is to bury the building on site.
- J. Update on FY 12/13 Draft Budget – We are looking at a deficit of about \$230,000. The first public hearing is scheduled for May 2nd, the department heads are going to be here. Dan has had concerns and has been talking about this since November and has talked with various groups and this month he spoke with the school board. One of the reasons why Dan went and talked with the school board was because, we know what our numbers are going to be for revenue sharing, the school knows what their numbers are going to be for the school budget. MSAD #20 is receiving an increase of \$281,000.00 and speaking with Marc he has informed the town that the school will be asking for an additional \$70,000.00. Dan received the schools budget report today, it includes no actual income & expenses. It is strictly a budget. It is hard to understand what is needed for next year.

Mark Babin – should we set up a meeting with the school board?

Terry Greenier – Since Fort Fairfield has this obligation to provide a certain amount of funding to their bottom line, should we require their P & L, their balance sheets, why do we not require this of them?

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Dan – Unlike other school systems who represent more than one town, MSAD #20 is only Fort Fairfield which is unique. Basically what it means is that they have their own Public Hearing and at that meeting whom ever shows up as citizens of Fort Fairfield vote on this budget and they are the legal authority to create the payment that is now due from the town. They have a process that is completely separate from ours.

David McCrea – It would be good to gain knowledge of the process and we have a concern about the cost this year, should be seen has a productive opportunity.

Dan – Tony is working on Sudden and Severe Distress, we are going to be able to get an adjustment on revenue sharing, this should affect the school because of losing the plant. This is going to take some time because we can not make the request until we actually commit out taxes on October 1st. Then there will be another four or five months before they work through their process to get us the money.

It was decide to request a meeting between the Town Council and the School Board.

- K Update on Cavendish Fertilizer Plant – Open house is on Friday, the 20th, we have been working diligently on helping put this event on. It has been a great experience working with the Irving companies. It is a beautiful facility and they know how to do things right, very professional. Robert Irving will be there. The Lions Club and Knights of Columbus will be cooking.
- L Update on Riverside Park – There is still \$15,000 left for this project, this should be enough for Public Works to finish the ground and do the paving. All of the volunteers who have given their time are going to have their names engraved and this will be put around the flag pole that George is putting up. Dan and Mike are working on a ribbon cutting ceremony which we are planning on doing during the festival.
- M Update on Installation of Coal Furnace at Public Works – Dan - Received a price to install it and we are going to be going with Aroostook Plumbing and Heating. Should be in place for the next heating season, which should be a big savings for us.
- N Update ACAP Head Start Program in Fort Fairfield – Spoke with Sue Powers and she has let us know that ACAP will be closing down their Head Start Program here in Fort Fairfield. If funding allows they are very interest in returning. They appreciate everything that the town did to help them with that space. One of the things that we need to be thinking about, is how to use that space.

VI. Old Business

- A. Introduce Ordinance #12-04 to transfer ownership of Rail Line to the State -

Ordinance #12-04 was introduced by David McCrea, a public hearing will be scheduled then brought to the Council.

- B. Appoint Representatives to the NMDC Board of Directors – Each year the Council appoints a representative to the NMBD Board of Directors and an alternate. John Herold has been representative for a number of years and attends the meetings regularly. He also serves on the loan review committee. David McCrea has been serving as John’s alternate. Both are willing to continue with this responsibility unless there was someone else who would like to do it

Motion: Terry Greenier moved to appoint John Herold as representative to the NMDC Board of Directors and David McCrea as alternate

Second: Mark Babin

Vote – All affirmative

VII. New Business

- A. Approve ATV Access to Trail Heads - Chief Campbell has been working with Jim Milton, President of the Fort ATV Club to establish a reasonable access for citizens to the ATV trails. The Club has come up with a proposal that would allow citizens in the community to use the public street “right of way” to access the trails from their homes. This proposal is specific, it sets strict guidelines to include maximum speed limit to 15mph. Presque Isle street will not be included in the proposal because of the high volume of traffic.

Motion: John Herold moved to approve the ATV Clubs proposal for Access to Trails

Second: David McCrea

Vote – all affirmative

- B. Approve Name Change for Kipp Park Road – Dan received a request from residences on Kipp Park Road to have the named changed. They feel it implies that it is access to Kipp Park and they are getting vehicle traffic that is unwarranted. It is a private drive that is a dead end and they would like a name change to reflect that. They suggested Moon Light Drive

Motion: Terry Greenier moved to approve the name change for Kipp Park Road to Moon Light Drive

Second: John Herold

Vote – all affirmative

- C. Appoint Sue Fitzherbert to the Quality of Place Council Board of Directors- With the passing of Troy McDougal the Quality of Place Council Board of Directors have recommended Sue Fitzherbert to finish his term.

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Motion: David McCrea moved to appoint Sue Fitzherbert to the Quality of Place Council Board of Directors

Second: Mark Babin

Vote – all affirmative

- D. Approve Sale of Tax Acquired Properties – We have two properties that became tax acquired this year and both have been abandoned. One property is located on the Page Road has two dilapidated trailers, a failed septic and a junk yard in the back. This property abuts Bob Bruce's property and he is interested in getting this mess cleaned up. Would like to negotiate a sale to Bob for the taxes, interest and lien costs with the stipulation that he assumes the responsibility to clean up the property.

The other property is located on the Dorsey Road has a house that has been stripped of windows and doors, a machine shed that is still functional and includes 2.8 acres, would like to put this one out to bid.

Motion: Mark Babin moved to approve the sale of tax acquired properties

Second: John Herold

Vote – all affirmative

- VIII. Minutes: March 21, 2012

Motion: Terry Greenier moved to approve Minutes March 21, 2012 as written.

Second: David McCrea

Vote – All affirmative

- IX. Warrants: #20 - \$75,531.91; #21 - \$335,606.26

Motion: John Herold moved to accept warrant #20 & #21 as presented.

Second: Mark Babin

Vote – All affirmative

- X. Other – None

Moved in to executive session at 7:08PM

Personnel Matter 1MRSA 405(6) (A)

No action taken

- XI. Adjournment 7:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Council Secretary
Rebecca J. Hersey