

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

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

Staff: Bill Campbell, Brady Henderson, Tony Levesque, George Watson and Mike Jalbert

Citizens: 3 including media

- I. Roll Call - Chair Kim Murchison asked that the record reflect all councilors present.
- II. Prayer - Councilor Mark Babin offered the prayer
- III. Pledge to the Flag - All in attendance pledged their allegiance to the Flag.
- IV. Public Comment Period – NONE
- V. Correspondence and Reports
 - A. Licenses/Permits- None
 - B. Financial Report – We have completed one half of this fiscal year and we continue on track with no major deviations from our budget either on the revenue or expense side. Our labor costs have been fine with no major overtime expenses yet. Our fuel costs remain high due to a number of factors, we had a bill from the prior year that was paid this year, our fuel inventory was low going into this year, the cost per gallon is up and so is our inventory in the tanks. We provide fuel to the school, utilities and housing which have outstanding invoices that need to be credited to this account. Our cash flow remains strong and we should be paying off our line of credit either the end of this month or the beginning of next.
 - C. Tri-Community Landfill Report – Next meeting scheduled Friday 20th
 - D. Update on Senior Citizens Housing – The application sent to Maine State Housing was approved. B R Smith is working on cost estimates, still over budget. We are moving forward
 - E. Update Health Clinic – The public hearing was held last night, the purpose was to allow citizens the opportunity to hear our progress and give them the opportunity to ask questions and give us their comments. Jim Davis, CEO from Pines made a presentation and explained some of the services that Pines are planning on providing. In fact the services are part of the lease agreement, this gives us the opportunity to have a say on what we receive. It is important that we are given the opportunity with how we receive these services. Tony did an excellent job at the public hearing, We are moving forward with grant application. Our letter of intent was approved.
 - F. Police Department Update – Bill - Officer Henderson has been working on a program for Alzheimer and autism patients where family members can

complete a form, which will be on our web site and also available at the police department.. Which will help if by some chance a family member/patient may wonder off and get lost. The information that is provided on this form will help the police department be better equipped to search for this person. This is totally voluntary for the family if they wish to participate in the program. Officer Keegan is a trained crisis negotiator; he will be attending a training class on Friday at the Police Academy. This training is for all negotiators throughout the State. On another note, we have not had any stray animals at this time. We have received approval from the state to operate the Canine Clink and we are already to go. We have also got 3 volunteers who are willing to work with both dogs and cats. As mentioned at previous meetings, we are continuing to respond to any calls regarding speeding, we are watching and please keep calling and letting us know.

- G. Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting –Mike- We now have it set up on our web site for people to make donations for stray animals, we have received one so far. February 9th will be the Chamber of Commerce annual supper. We will be honoring the Business of the year and Citizen of the year and the council is invited to join us. Regarding the Agri-Bus Trade Fair I am very please with the response that I have received. Last year it was difficult to sell spots, this time last year we were at 30%-35% sold, this year we are currently at 60% spots sold.
- H. Continued Update on FY 12/13 Budget Issues – Our Tri Community has gone up 11% this is due to an increase in cost per ton combined with an increase in tonnage which is all due to the demolition of ACP. The Chamber of Commerce voted to increase their contribution to Mike’s salary from the agreed upon \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00. I will be having lunch with the Sunshine Club tomorrow to go over the budget with them.
- I. Update on Paving Bond Application –Application was submit to Maine Bond Bank, 3% 10 year period. George will be starting in the next month or so to work with paving companies, looking at \$700,000 which will be roughly 13-14 miles of roads. This will not impact the mil rate. George’s budget has been hit the hardest. The public hearing was held today at noon and there were no comments.
- J. Update on Animal Control Policy – We continue to fine tune how abandoned domesticated animals will be treated. At our last meeting I shared a copy of a letter received from the secretary of the Humane Society, a response letter is attached. We have set up a Stray Animal Fund that will be used to cover costs associated with our handling of stray cats. So far we have had one citizen make a donation and someone from Wisconsin. Bill has received some funds from the State for a dog license late fees which we put into this account. The \$1,000.00 from what we save by not renewing the contract with the Humane Society is also in there. We have had 3 citizens offer their assistance to take care of either cats or dogs. We have a

responsibility for how we use taxpayer's money, we follow the laws. Bill has spoken to Norma Milton of Caribou is she is going to work with us regarding the cats. We will try to do everything we can to met the need and follow the rules.

- K. Update on Atlantic Custom Processors – Dan – Sent a letter to Simplot regarding the disposal costs for the demolition debris from ACP. Along with this letter we sent an invoice in the amount of \$32,784.00 to cover the financial liability of the 800 tons taken to the Tri-Community Landfill. This is an increase of 37% in tonnage and the cost is going to have to be paid by the taxpayers. The intent is to leave this bill outstanding if in the unlikely event that Simplot ever needs anything from the town, this can be part of the negotiation.
- L. Update on Purchasing the Apartment Building on Main Street – Council authorized the town to purchase this. However there is an outstanding mortgage that has not been discharged. We are looking at what we are going to do once we purchase the property. It would cost us \$15,000.00 - \$16,000.00 to truck it to Tri Community. Talked about burying it on site, legally can we do this? Also looking at the fire dept. burning it, at this point its not safe to do that as is. Maybe tearing it down and burning it in small portions. By law we can not haul it off site.

Terry – Can we offer it to an individual to scrap the building.

Stev Rogeski – The electrical is old lathes

Dan – The fire dept has said it could take up to 24 hours to burn, we would have to close off a portion of Main Street.

David – if there is some concern about keeping it a nice looking green space. Do not do anything on site in case of future development and we should guard against deeding to historical society because there may be some endeavor that we would like to in the future

Dan – would like for the Town to keep, down the road there could be an opportunity to do something with it.

VI. Old Business

- A. Approve Grant Request from Fire Department –Mike Jalbert - being consistent wit the new grant protocol the Fire Department is requesting authorization for them to apply for a forestry grant in the amount of \$1,585.00. This will cover half the cost for six new portable radios and one chain saw. The balance will come out of the operating budget for the fire department. These radios are required as we need to convert all our two way radios over to the new narrow band format..

Motion: John Herold

Second: Mark Babin

Vote – all affirmative

- B. Approve Ordinance #12-01 to Borrow \$500,000.00 from the Maine Bond Bank for Paving Project. All applications and supporting materials have to be submitted by February 1st. Paul Frinsko reviewed the application then it was submitted to the Bond Bank on January 9th.

Motion: Mark Babin moved to approve Ordinance #12-01 to Borrow \$500,000.00 for Paving Project.

Second: David McCrea

Vote – all affirmative

- C. Approve Town’s Match for the New Health Clinic, this has already been approved, this well be coming from the developers fee on Housing portion.

Motion: David McCrea moved to approve the Town’s s match of up to \$300,000.00 for the new health clinic

Second: John Herold

Vote – all affirmative

Discussion – David McCrea – I hope people of this community realize why we even entertained this commitment. We don’t have any guaranteed that the health clinic will continue. In 2008 the current owner decided to close and we as a Town reacted strongly and we prevailed. We convinced TAMC that they should stay here. The new facility will have a second provider, which is a very positive thing, controls our destiny. I am in favor that we move on from here, its is the best thing.

Terry Greenier – As I said at last nights public hearing, it’s a bit more that a TAMC/Cary thing, it’s about our citizens. Pines is already an established FQHC at any given time if you can’t pay for it government will cover the cost, this is a huge thing.

VII. New Business - NONE

- VIII. Minutes: December 21, 2011; January 3, 2012 -

Motion: Mark Babin moved to approve Minutes of December 21, 2011, and January 3, 2012 as written.

Second: David McCrea

Vote – All affirmative

- IX. Warrants: #14 - \$119,671.74

Motion: John Herold moved to accept warrant #14 as presented.

Second: David McCrea

Vote – All affirmative

- X. Other - NONE

- XII. Adjournment at 6:53 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Council Secretary
Rebecca J. Hersey