

Fort Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
Wednesday, December 18, 2013
6:00 P.M.

Councilors: David McCrea, Jason Barnes, Mark Babin, Susan LeVasseur and John Herold
Staff: Tony Levesque, Michael Bosse, Ella Leighton, Michael Jalbert, George Watson and Tom Towle
Citizens: 4 including media

- I. Roll Call - Chair David McCrea 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 –

Dan spoke saying that this is his last council meeting as Town Manager, he took a moment to say thank you to everyone, particularly for last night, it was a complete surprise. It was extremely appreciated, that the employees and their spouses were there along with the councilors past and present. A heartfelt thank you for making this transition a memorable one.

David McCrea presented Dan with a plaque for his dedication for his years of service.

He also commented on the great job the Public Works is doing keeping the streets clear.

- V. Correspondence and Reports
 - A. Licenses/Permits- NONE
 - B. Financial Report – The departments are doing very well staying in budget. The repairs at the highway are a little over budget but considering the age of our equipment. Our income remains on track with the only caveat being our cash flow. We have used \$450,000.00 of our line of credit which is about \$200,000.00 more than what we normally do this time of year but do not think we will need to access the line further.
 - C. Tri-Community Landfill Report – No meeting in December
 - D. Fire Department Report – Mike Jalbert – Finally received the certificate for the Ladder Truck, we should be getting the plates by the end of the week and should be on the road by next week. We are still working with Crown to help utilize the Fire Department crew to work with them to cut back on some of the cost. We have 25 volunteers in the department and 90% of them are Fire Fighter 2 trained. We have also submitted a grant application to FEMA for \$25,000.00 to purchase ten new sets of turn out gear. The town's match is \$1,250.00, which would come from the Department's reserve account.

- E. Chamber/Quality of Place Council Report – Mike Bosse – Part of Mike Jalbert’s role is Emergency Management Director, he is in charge of our two dams, Libby Brook and Flint Pond. We met with Tony Fletcher and his boss, Mark Hyland on December 3rd and they did inspections of the dams. We discussed where the Town stood on repairing the gate, since the gate has ceased to operate. There is a drain pipe under the dam that is plugged and because the gate will not operate this can not be unplugged. It is not a safety issue, it is a maintenance issue. They have sent us recommendations, the public works crew will deal with cutting back the brush and mowing the area, but as far as the gate being repaired we are still looking into it. Next year he would like to inspect again on May 1st, which is not practical or achievable, So we are in current discussions with them. This is a work in process and hopefully we can seek funds from NRCS.

Lunch with Santa was a huge success. The Chamber partnered with the Knights of Columbus. Tony cooked roughly 150 hot dogs, this concluded at The bandstand with Roland Wortman signing Christmas Carols.

The Agri-Business trade fair is at 30% sold. The plan is to sometime between Christmas and New Year is to visit with our large exhibitors and secure them.

Quality of Place Council is proud to announce that they have closed on the 48 Brunswick Ave. property, sold to Mitch and Allie Dufour. The plan is that after the first of the year, the council will meet and hopefully move onto Project #2.

On November 7th we held the Communication Session, out of this there were 5 cluster recommendations and the QOP council are continuing to pursue that. Phil Christenson is working on reporting back to all of the people that attended. They will continue with this after the first of the year, and they will meet again in January and appoint to officers.

- F. Libby Dam Inspections – On December 3rd, met with Tony fletcher, the dam inspector from MEMA to review the condition of the two dams on Libby Brook. There was a meeting here at the Town Office before the dams were inspected in which it was abundantly clear that the gates to the risers were for maintenance of the retention pond and not for the public safety of those downstream. It was felt that those gates should be operational regardless and if the resources were available the gates would be repaired.
- G. Organizational Council Meeting is scheduled for January 2, 2014.
- H. Maine revenue Sharing Concerns – Communities potentially could lose another 40 million out of the 72 million that is currently left, which means our income could possible drop around \$80,000.00 from \$230,000.00. That would be another huge hit to us and there is no way we could close any departments to make that up. Legislature needs to hear form community members, things

will be getting tougher.

- I. Senior Citizens Project – Dan Foster - This closed the end of October, we got a bill from one of the vendors for \$4,500.00 that was supposed to be paid but wasn't. When we started this project we were to get \$362,500.00 in developers fees. Because this is a tax credit program, the investors gets a bases. The bases that they ended up getting was greater then what they anticipated, which meant they ended up putting more money into the project. Because of this it gives more money to the developer so we should end up with \$390,000.00. We have two more payments that we are going to be receiving. The first one will come after Wayne has got the apartments full. Sometime around the end of January the apartment complex should be full. By the end of February or beginning of March we will be getting \$120,000.00 which is the balance we get when the complex has been full for 6 months. We have told Wayne that we will take care of this \$4,500.00 bill.

Old Business –

- A. Extension of Agreement with Crown Ambulance – Amendment to agreement section #2 excluding paying the \$40,000.00 subsidy

Motion: John Herold moved to approve the extension of 6 months with modification language excluding paying \$40,000.00 subsidy.

Second: Susan LeVasseur Vote – All affirmative

VII. New Business –

- A Approve Pole Placements as Requested by MPS -

Motion: Susan LeVasseur moved to approve pole placements as requested by MPS.

Second: Jason Barnes Vote – All affirmative

VIII. Minutes: November 20, 2013

Motion: Jason Barnes moved to approve Minutes of November 20, 2013 as written.

Second: John Herold Vote – All affirmative

X Warrants: #11- \$299,601.08; #12- \$252,456.25

Motion: Susan LeVasseur moved to accept warrant #11 & #12 as presented.

Second: Mark Babin Vote – All affirmative

- XI. Other – Dan spoke regarding this being Rev. Babin's last council meeting. It has been a great three years, you are clearly a leader in this community. You have done a great job and is truly an asset to this Community. Then presented Mark with a plaque for his dedication to the community.

XII. Executive Session – 6:35PM

Motioned: John Herold moved to go into Executive Session to discuss
IMRSA 405(6) (A) Personnel
Second: Mark Babin

Came out of executive session at 7:20 PM

X. Adjournment at 7:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Council Secretary
Rebecca J. Hersey