

Fort Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
Wednesday, February 20, 2013
6:00 P.M.

Councilors: David McCrea, Jason Barnes, Mark Babin, Susan LeVasseur and John Herold

Staff: Tony Levesque, Mike Bosse and Mike Jalbert

Citizens: 3 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 received a memo from George regarding David MacDougal, which is attached to these minutes. It was sudden, people were not expecting David's passing so quickly, he will be greatly missed and he was a great employee for the Town of Fort Fairfield for 15 years. David was very smart about the work that he did, very knowledgeable and a good problem solver.

Sue – I think a copy of this letter should be sent to his wife.

Dan – As you have notice George is not here this evening. George says this was by far the worse storm that they have had to work in since he has been here. Crews have been going around the clock for 33 hours without stopping. Their goal is to keep the roads open and even with that there were some places that they were not able to accomplish that. Its times like this when we can really appreciate what public works does. Our sincere thanks for their efforts.

Also, our thoughts and prayers go out to David Hayes as he recovers and to the Yoder family as they bury Roman.

- V. Correspondence and Reports
 - A. Licenses/Permits- One liquor license for the Frontier Fish and Game and a Bingo license for the VFW
 - B. Financial Report – Dan –We continue on a fairly steady course. Income continues to trend slightly down with revenue sharing and excise tax slightly behind monthly projections. Expenses primarily labor costs remains consistent with our budget, heating costs and gas and diesel are more in line than in prior years. Maintenance costs in public works is high and in the fire department this line item is over budget. Overall expenses are in reasonable shape with nothing that is overly concerning Cash flow has improved though not at last year's level.
 - C. Tri-Community Landfill Report – We went over the draft financial statements for FY 2012. Tri community is in a really good place. We have our cash reserves set aside, we are about \$200,000 ahead of where we need to be. Part of that is because we have made an adjustment in our amount of space, we are doing a better job compacting so we are filling the liners

slower than anticipated. Because of where we are the loan will be paid two years prior to the liner being full.

- D. Update on Governor's Visit – Dan and Mike met with Governor LePage on February 6th to discuss the sudden and serve valuation adjustment due to the lost of ACP. We should be seeing a check in a couple of weeks for the adjustment in our valuation. Tyler Clark arranged for the meeting, he was a great help and his efforts are much appreciated.
- E. Update FY 13/14 Budget – Attached to these minutes is a draft brochure that we plan on mailing to all the taxpayers in Fort Fairfield. We are waiting until Legislature has the opportunity to provide their input regarding the deficit that the State is contending with before we finalize this document. Fort Fairfield can not reduce the level of service, we will have to make cuts. These are not easy decisions and we need to hear from citizens.
- F. Update on Senior Citizens Housing – Behind schedule by 2-3 weeks due to the weather. Goal is to get caught up. Thankfully getting into warmer weather. We have had inspections with Maine State Housing and TD Bank, they are very please with the quality of work.
- G. Update on Clinic Project – Construction side of the project has been exceedingly smooth and ahead of schedule. Mike Bosse and Craig Cormier of Pines have been working together getting the web site up. The sign is being ordered, would like to have the arbor committee prepare the garden around this. Clinic will be opening June 1st with the open house June 21st at 11AM.
- H. Update from the Quality of Place Council – Phil Christensen – We have lots going on. Working on affordable home, developing a new home didn't work out so we have looked at 7 homes that need repairs. Looking to purchase one home, restore and sell.

Sue – If you buy and restore than sold would you be able to go on to another home.

Phil – Our goal is to purchase another, restore and sell.

Our main street committee is a good group. Goal is to make Main Street more viable and attractive. Citizens are frustrated with not having anything in town. Will have a survey of visitors at Irving and Hillside IGA, concentrating on Canadians. We want to use the data to attract new business opportunities. We will also be interviewing business on Main Street to get their ideas, concerns and any suggestions they may have.

Mike Bosse commented on the Agri Business Trade Fair. Everything is going great, have sold 98% of the booths. It will be held March 23rd, Saturday, 9am –6pm and the 24th, Sunday 9am – 3pm

- I. Update on 21st Century After School Program –attached are the minutes from the last Advisory Board Meeting. The federal funding for this program is coming to a close with next year being the last year with their support. Currently we are setting aside \$15, 000.00 to help fund this valuable program but after next year the Town and the school are going to see how we manage the program without federal government support. We have set aside \$53,880.0 in a reserve account with funds that were budgeted for this program in prior years.
- J. Update on Sale of Old Ladder Truck – The ladder truck is owned jointly with the Town of Limestone. Though the council had approved the sale of this vehicle as salvage sometime ago. The Limestone Selectmen have been struggling to let this go. But they did agree to let it go out to bid and NMCC submitted a bid of \$4,200.00.
- K. Update on ReEnergy Energy Contract-Received a memo from Bob Bruce indicating that ReEnergy’s current contract is due to expire by the end of the month. If this contract is not renewed the plant will suspend operations and the employees have received layoff notices effective 2/28/13.
- L. Floodwatch meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2013 at 10am in the Council Chambers
- M. FEMA – received letter stating that Fort Fairfield will retain its current rating as a CRS Class 8 community in National Flood Insurance Program. This will allow policy holders in our community to receive a 10% discount in their premium costs.

VI. Old Business – None

VII. New Business –

- A. Approve Consolidation of General Ledger Accounts – Cleaning up a few accounts and consolidating, list attached to these minutes.

Motion: John Herold moved to approve consolidation of General Ledger Accounts

Second: Sue LeVasseur

Vote – All affirmative

- B. Appoint Betty Kent-Conant to Fort Fairfield Housing Authority’s Board to fill Donna Kenneson’s term of office

Motion: Sue LeVasseur moved to approve Betty Kent-Conant to Fort Fairfield Housing Authority’s Board

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

VIII. Minutes: January 16, 2013-

Motion: Sue LeVasseur moved to approve Minutes of January 16, 2013 as written.

Second: Mark Babin

Vote – All affirmative

IX Warrants: #15 - \$361,080.56; #16 - \$203,976.59; #17 - \$312,895.68

Motion: John Herold moved to accept warrant #15, #16 & #17 as presented.

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

X. Other – NONE

XI. Executive Session

1MRSA 405(6) (A) Personnel Matter

1MRSA 405 (6) © Economic Development

No Action Taken

XII. Adjournment at 7:51 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Council Secretary
Rebecca J. Hersey