

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

Councilors: David McCrea, Jason Barnes, Mark Babin, Susan LeVasseur and John Herold
Staff: Ella Leighton, Mike Bosse Tony Levesque and Mike Jalbert
Citizens: 2

- 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 –

Gary Sirois shared concerns with the Council regarding the state of repair of the Pollack Building that is adjacent to his storage facility. His concerns have been shared with the current owner and the Town as the owner of the land for the past two and one half years with no discernible action from either party. He also expressed concerns regarding the fact that the current owner has not paid his lease payment and the town has not done their due diligence to collect those funds.

Dan shared with the Council that the town's responsibility was to determine if the structure was in eminent danger of collapsing and to that end have had John Strid, a contractor look at the building and Tim Roix an engineer examine the building and provide written reports that indicated the structure though in poor repair was not in eminent danger of collapsing.

Dan also shared that there is an interested party to purchase the business and plans on addressing the structural integrity of the building. Dan and Tony will continue to monitor the situation.

Tony – Today I attended Tressa Hetherington's funeral who was the first female Town Councilor and served six consecutive terms totaling 18 years. This was the longest tenured Councilor in Fort Fairfield's history. I would ask for a moment of silence in here memory.

V. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses/Permits- NONE

B. Financial Report – Dan – We have completed our second month of the new year and everything is pretty much status quo. On the income statement under interest on taxes and liens is a debit of \$22,186.86. This is related to the personal property taxes that were charged off last month. This is a balance sheet adjustment and should not have been on the profit & loss statement. This has been corrected and will show up on next month's statement. On the expense side, office supplies expense line is high for this time of year, which is due to two bulk purchases of paper and certified mail envelopes. We have

executed the line and will need to draw down funds sometime in October.

- C. Tri-Community Landfill Report – Next meeting scheduled for September 20th
- D. Fire Department Report – Mike Jalbert – This morning we had the annual inspection of the Dike, there were a few minor problems. It was explained to them that we would correct these problems if they would furnish us with the 2012 report. We should be receiving the 2012 & 2013 reports in the next couple of weeks. October is Fire Prevention the month and on October 8th from 5:30pm to 8:30pm we will be having an open house, possibly including the police department. We also had the safety inspection for the SHAPE program with the department of labor and things went very well. Normally the recertification's are for two years, however it is being recommended that the Fort Fairfield Fire Dept. gets recertified for four years. We have been working on revamping the volunteer's payroll. In the past all our EMS first responders haven't been getting paid, they have been responding to calls for free.

Dan – Mike has done a very nice job working with Darrel Boucher who runs Crown Ambulance. We had notified Crown that we wouldn't be able to pay the \$40,000 subsidy because of budget issues. So Mike has been working with Crown so that they can still service Fort Fairfield even with the budget issues. He is doing a great job in maintaining this working relationship.

David – Because of us having to cut back on that, it seems all parties are on board with making it work as well as we can. Has it changed the service as far as coverage and having ambulances here and having them staffed?

Mike – It has changed a little bit, what they were doing before was providing two EMTs, one Paramedic and at least a basic. They covered the Town 24/7 with the occasional Fort Fairfield / Presque Isle town line coverage. Recently what is happening, because they are trying to revamp and save money they are using the Fort crew occasionally for long distance transfers. So there are a few times that they are gone for an 8 hour period that there is not an ambulance in town, but they are still covering us from Presque Isle. With working with them we should be able to fix that gap and not have that lapse in coverage at all.

Sue – How many EMT's do you have on staff right now?

Mike – We have 7 EMT's, one is a paramedic, one is an intermediate the rest are EMT basics.

- E. Chamber/Quality of Place Council Report – Mike - The library is celebrating their centennial celebration on September 30th at 11:00 AM. The Quality of Place Council met last Tuesday, there was a lot of discussion on the new home buyers program. The house on Brunswick Ave. is still available for sale. The QPC wants to continue this program after this initial home has

sold. After the home is sold they have plans to meet and smooth out the guidelines that we follow. They also discussed during this meeting, the Chamber and QPC merger that has been going through the last several months.

David – We have this house that the QPC has put back on the map and it is for sale. I am assuming that they are not looking to start another one until this one is sold? Have the QPC got any places in mind that they are looking at?

Mike - When we started this we were looking at seven different properties, we went with this one because the others were not readily available at that time. We are maintaining a list and as soon as this one is sold we will look at the list and pick one from that.

- F. Update on Senior Citizens Housing – This project is done, they have done a great job. We are preparing for the final closing getting out of the construction loan. Tenants should be moving in by October 1st. Will be having an open house on Friday, October 25th.
- G. Update on Library Centennial Celebration – Sue and Sharon are working on this, invitations have gone out. We will be honoring current and past trustees and librarians.
- H. Update on Roadway Ditching Issues – Nick Archer contacted George and let him know that DEP was getting involved in a program regarding these issues.
- I. Update on Mobile Home Park – Tony – Since the last council meeting we have not heard from Ken or Lisa Adams. I contacted the Oil and Solid Fuel Board to see if they would send their state inspector here. To discuss one of the known violations at the park, which are the external fuel tanks. I was informed and so were they that at the time of the inspection that none of the fuel tanks meet code and can be used.
- J. Update on Puddledock Facility – Ron Kenneson organized a number of members of the Fort Fairfield Fish & Game Club to stain the Puddledock Building. Would like to thank the club and particularly Ron for taking the time to help their community.

Old Business –

- A Approve FY 12/13 Audited Financial Statement - Schedule 1 indicates that we have a budget surplus of \$141,000.00 which is being used to fund next year's budget and that there were no reportable conditions.

Motion: Susan LeVasseur moved to approve FY12/13 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

The Audited Financial Statements are on the Towns Website.

