

Fort Fairfield Town Council Monthly Meeting
Council Chambers
Wednesday, January 15, 2020
6:00 P.M.

- I. Roll Call
Councilors: Mark Babin, Mitchell Butler, Melissa Libby, Robert Kilcollins, Scott Smith.
Staff: Andrea Powers, Billie Jo Sharpe, Chief Baldwin, Chief Newell, Ella Leighton,
Timothy Browning, Mitchell Dufour, Darryl Doughty, Dale Keegan,
Citizens: 4 including media.
- II. Prayer
Mark Babin offered a special prayer for the Community.
Tony Levesque offered the regular prayer prior to Council meetings.
- III. Pledge to the Flag
- IV. Public Comment Period

Andrea Powers – Fort Fairfield read from a prepared statement:

Fort has been through some very difficult times over the last 52 hours. My sincerest condolences go out to the families of the individuals we have lost. I wish I had the right words to express to you how sorry I am for your loss.

How do you thank a warrior for their service when they tell you they are just doing their job and will continue to do their job no matter the circumstances? I'm not sure how to accomplish this, a thank you seems so inadequate, but I will certainly do my best.

I would like to take a moment to extend my gratitude for Fire Chief Vincent Baldwin, Deputy Fire Chief Timothy Browning and our Fort Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department. They have shown a level of professionalism, skill and compassion that is beyond what we have ever expected of them in circumstances of unimaginable scenes and I know they will continue to do so without fail. They are willing champions for our community, putting their lives on the line for ours on a daily basis at any given hour. Thank you for your dedication to our safety.

Today's volunteer fire service relies heavily on a strong system of mutual-aid agreements and there is none stronger than Aroostook County's. To the mutual aid communities that responded to our calls, Easton Fire Department, Limestone Fire Department, Caribou Fire Department, and Presque Isle Fire Department, we are thankful for the working relationships we have with your communities and the support and assistance of personnel, equipment, time and effort, and the facilitation of such rapid responses. It is also important to acknowledge the employers of some of our Volunteer Firefighters that understand the importance of the job they have with the Town and allow them to leave to help fight these fires and assist in first responding to accidents. Maine DOT, McCain Foods, County Electric and Office Max, thank you for your understanding.

There are several others that have dedicated their time and efforts to work alongside our firefighters through these difficult times. The State Fire Marshal's Office, Chief Shawn Newell and the Fort Fairfield Police Department, Public Works Director Darren Hanson and the staff at the Fort Fairfield Public Works Department, and Shane McGillan of McGillan Inc., Emera, and all the general support from various entities within the State of Maine. With these combined efforts and incredible talents of each and every one of them our Fire Department was able to provide a safe fire suppression environment during very frigid temperatures for long extended hours.

Thank you does not seem to be enough gratitude towards your purpose driven, servicing of the citizens of Fort Fairfield in a cause greater than yourselves. Your job involves danger, late nights and early mornings, no matter the day of the week, holiday or event, with extraordinarily unfair working conditions. You have my utmost gratitude for your willingness to do a job that entails everything that it does day after day, year after year. Your service is invaluable, thank you.

Just one more item Councilors if you please- In today's age of social-media and the desire for instant gratification of answers and entitlement I feel some have forgotten that not everything that happens places them as an expert of the situation because they have seen it on TV, in the movies or they read it on Facebook that... It is clearly an epidemic of untruths and perpetuated misinformation that is consistently treated as fact.

We as servicers to the citizens of Fort Fairfield have a job to do and we cannot and will not stop what we are doing to answer your questions or prove ourselves because you are curious of what is happening. When the job is done, we will talk about it, as we always have, with facts of the situation. We thank you for your understanding and respect for the safety of all involved.

I am extremely proud of all of our Town Employees. There is a bond, much like family, amongst us with a level of respect and support for one another I am deeply privileged to be a part of. Thank you.

V. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses/Permits

There are no license or permit applications as of January 15, 2020

B. Financial Report

Checking account balance as of 12/31/2019 is \$1,166,785.58; Machias Savings balance \$5,000.00; CDARS balance \$813,860; ICS balance \$67,733. We have used \$1,050,000.00 From TAN.

As of 12/31/2019, total excise tax collected to date is \$339,527.34 (54.32% vs 50% budgeted); State revenue sharing is \$233,467.41 (46.18% of budget); Real Estate & Personal Property taxes are \$730,773.93.

Loan balances as of 12/31/2019:

Jones Fuel - \$2,180.63
Langley #5275 - \$19,016.63
Langley #5277 - \$6,899.37
Pelletier - \$638.91

C. “Storm Ready” designation

Ms. Powers read a letter from Patrick Maloit and Timothy Duda of the National Weather Service in Caribou recognizing Fort Fairfield as “Storm Ready.”

D. Aroostook Waste Solutions Report – Stev Rogeski

- Mark reviewed with the Board the Maine PFAS Task Force’s general recommendations. The DEP will likely request some testing of landfill leachate and septage.
- Town should be receiving monies from the transfer this month.

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

A. Zoning Change Request

Mr. Paul Doughty of 84 Dorsey Road has requested Council change the zoning of his property from residential to agricultural.

Recommendation: That the Town Council recommends the Planning Board to hear the request to amend zoning for 84 Dorsey Road, Map 09- Lot 20 from residential to agricultural.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion that Council recommends the Planning Board to hear the request to amend zoning for 84 Dorsey Road, Map 09- Lot 20 from residential to agricultural.

Mr. Smith seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

B. Town Wide Murals – Ms. Powers

Ms. Powers read the following memo to Council.

Public art has power. Murals build a sense of community. They make it welcoming, inviting and they make you want to spend time there. Murals have been known to transform communities, perhaps they are Towns that most people avoided, but now are now known as a local hotspot with increased economic tourism.

Engaging our community to help in turning empty community walls into huge public canvases, with the results of their labor having a lasting effect on local neighborhoods.

It is imperative that we engage our citizens in this process to paint the designed murals and making them a part of the process gives them ownership in the results.

We strive to be the engine that empowers creatives to transform our community. It's one way we can tell our story and leave our legacy.

While the end products are always beautiful, their deeper value lies in the conversations we create, the connections we build, and the legacy of relationships we foster along the way, often with transformative results. The experience of art moves us from the everyday into the realm of possibility. That goes for individuals, the communities, the collaborative efforts, and the Town.

Recommendation: That the Town Council approves the Town Wide Mural Program.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to approve the Town Wide Mural Program.

Mr. Smith seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

VIII. Minutes of the January 3, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 3, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting.

Mr. Smith seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

IX. Warrants: #17

Warrant #17 in the amount of \$284,940.88 was completed on 01/09/2020. Checking account balance as of 01/09/2020 is \$982,394.91; Machias Savings balance \$5,000.00 and a combined balance of CDARS and ICS of \$881,593.00. We have used \$1,050,000.00 from TAN. We have made our first payment on the Fire/EMS loan in the amount of \$8,347.18.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to approve Warrant #17 as written.

Mr. Smith seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

X. Other

XI. Executive Session

1 M.R.S.A §405 (6) (C) Economic Development

Mr. Smith made a motion for Council to enter into Executive Session.

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Council entered into Executive Session at 6:17 pm.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion for Council to come out of Executive Session.

Mrs. Libby seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Council came out of Executive Session at 6:35 pm.

Mr. Butler made a motion that the Town pursue a Community Day Care and apply for funding to move forward.

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

XII. Manager's Report

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Butler made a motion for Council to adjourn.

Mrs. Libby seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative

Council adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Jo Sharpe
Council Secretary