

Fort Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
Wednesday, December 17, 2014
6:00 P.M.

Councilors: David McCrea, Jason Barnes, Robert Kilcollins, Susan LeVasseur and John Herold
Staff: Jennifer Gaenzle, George Watson, Tim Goff and Tony Levesque
Citizens: 3 including media

- I. Roll Call - Chair David McCrea asked that the record reflect all councilors are present with the exception of Susan LeVasseur.
- II. Prayer – Tony Levesque offered the prayer
- III. Pledge to the Flag - All in attendance pledged their allegiance to the Flag.
- IV. Public Comment Period - Mike introduced Jennifer Gaenzle as the new part-time librarian.
- V. Correspondence and Reports
 - A. Licenses/Permits- None
 - B. Financial Report – Mike –Expense wise we are in line with what we expect for the year. Labor costs for each department are on track or slightly under. On the revenue side we are fairing well with revenue sharing up slightly and excise tax up as well. Typically cash flow takes a big hit in October and November this year is no exception. We find ourselves needing to tap into the TAN, however for much less at \$300,000.00 for 2014 and at this time last year it was \$450,000.00. We do not anticipate utilizing the TAN again and this should be paid off in February.
 - C. Tri-Community Landfill Report – Stev Rogeski – Last meeting was held on November 21st during that time we went over our 2015 budget and this was passed. As board members we receive a stipend gift as well as employees see a stipend gift at Christmas time. We choose to meet with the wishes of the employees and donated that money to the family whose home burned down a couple of weeks ago in Caribou. We have also, through the city of Caribou purchased a military surplus road tractor with 12,000 miles on it. It is in better condition than what we have now, and it will be used on site. Quarterly we have a storm water runoff test done by the DEP. They came in September and it happened to be right after the big rain storms. The storm water runoff tested with some high pollution, so we were cited for being out of compliance however, we were not assessed any fines due to the fact it had just rained. The Re-Energy plant here in town has some boiler ash that they would like to bring to landfill. We are licensed to except the boiler ash and Mark is negotiating the rate for this as we can use it to build our roads at the landfill. We would like to stock pile it and it is really to our benefit to accept it.
 - D. Update on Wind Energy Technical Review Committee – Richard Langley - Our last meeting was December 1st, and it had previously been decided to use the Montville Ordinance as a

template but at this last meeting we decide to go with a blank page. The group has completed seven sections and will begin working on the definitions part of the ordinance. In lieu of our December 15th meeting we went to the Mars Hill wind farm facility, which was enlightening. The general manager, Don Theriault gave the group a tour, told how the wind turbines work and the financial aspects and answered any questions that we had.

- E. Update – Northern Aroostook Wells and Septic Program – Tony – There are 33 – 35 communities that have representation, mostly Easton west. The NAWSP for the last 15 years has been instrumental in assisting low income families of Northern Aroostook with septic and well problems and also a couple of housing rehabs. This program has used just under three million dollars to install or repair approximately 150 wells and septic systems. Last month marked the ending of this program. Without the support of communities and agencies such as the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, rural Development, ACAP, NMDC and DECD this program would not have been as successful. Sharon Campbell who was representing Senator King at our meeting, said that she would go in search of funding sources nationwide to see if there would be any money to help them go on with this program. On February 11th we are going to have an organizational meeting in Van Buren.
- F. Department Report: Marketing efforts - Tim – working on increasing our engagement with community members through social media. Working diligently to develop local media contacts. We will be having a ribbon cutting ceremony on the 30th at 10:30 for the Mama Bear Daycare at the Puddle Dock facility and another on January 6th at 10:00 for the Pop a Top Redemption at 110 Presque Isle Street. The Chamber is running an ad on WAGM TV, it is a reminder that the Chamber is still here. Has also been working on the new web site, which combines the Chamber, the Potato Blossom and the Towns web site into one.
- G. Community Center Gym Lights Project – After a meeting on the issues we are facing with some of our street lights, we became aware of an Efficiency Maine grant available for the lighting for our Gym. It happens that we qualify for 100% funding for the cost of the lighting fixtures with motion detectors. However, the grant does not cover the cost of installation. The public works employees would provide the labor to remove the old fixtures and install the new fixtures. We will need to hire an electrician to disconnect the old and reconnect the new and we have requested bids and proposals from three electricians in Fort Fairfield. We need ratification from the Council to proceed with this project and to accept grant funds.
- H. FEMA Grant – Fire Department – Turn-out gear – Mike has applied for FEMA funds to purchase turn out gear. The Council needs to ratify the application and the acceptance of funds. The deadline to submit the application for the funds was December 5, 2014 and Mike worked with Tony to get the application in on time for this round. It may be several months before we learn how well we have done. The grant is for \$33,000.00 for 15 sets of turn out gear, including pants, jacket, boots, gloves, nomex hood and helmet. This grant is a 95/5% matching grant. Our share of the grant, if successful would be \$1,571. The average price of a full set of turn out gear is \$2,200.00.
- I. Christmas Hours - If the Council has no objections we would like to close the office on Friday, December 26th to give the staff the long weekend. This will primarily affect two people in the office Becky and Billie Jo and they are both willing to work that day, however,

they were asked if they were given the option to take a vacation day and close the office would they want to. They both said that it would be nice to have the time off. Councilors were in agreement to allow the office to be closed.

VI. Old Business – NONE

VII. New Business –

- A. Consider approval FEMA Grant Application – Mike Jalbert got the grant application in on time, but we will not know for several months how well we have done on this round. We should have the Council ratify the application and to accept the funds should our project be selected for funding.

Motion: John Herold moved to approve ratifying the grant application and to accept the funds for the FEMA Grant for turn out gear for the volunteer fire fighters.

Second Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

- B. Consider Approval Gym Lighting Project and Efficiency Maine Rebate

Motion: Jason Barnes moved to approve Gym Lighting Project and Efficiency Maine Rebate Application in the amount of \$7,800.00 and funding the installation fee of \$849.00 to come from the Recreation. Department's reserve account.

Second: John Herold

Vote – All affirmative

- C. Next Council Meeting – 2015 First Business Meeting – January 21, 2015 –Mike has researched the Town's Charter and its states that the terms of the elected officials start on the first business day of the new year. However it does not state that the council needs to meet on that first business day.

Motion: Robert Kilcollins moved to approve having the first business meeting at the same time as the regular council meeting scheduled for January 21, 2015, this will be when John Herold will be sworn in as the newly appointed Councilman

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative with the exception of John Herold who abstained from

voting.

VIII. Minutes: Council Meeting November 19, 2014

Motion: Jason Barnes moved to approve Minutes of November 19, 2014 as written.

Second: Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

IX. Warrants: #10 - \$250,498.73 and #11- \$281,409.82

Motion: John Herold moved to accept warrants #10 & #11 as presented.

Second: Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

X. Other – NONE

XI. Executive Session – Mike indicated that there was no need for executive session.

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XII. Adjournment

Motion: John Herold moved to adjourn at 6:47 PM

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

Respectfully submitted,

Council Secretary
Rebecca J. Hersey