

**Fort Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Council Chambers**  
**Wednesday, January 15, 2014**  
**6:00 P.M.**

Councilors: David McCrea, Jason Barnes, Robert Kilcollins, Susan LeVasseur and John Herold

Staff: Tony Levesque, George Watson, Mike Jalbert, Ella Leighton

Citizens: 10 including media

- I. Roll Call - Chair David McCrea asked that the record reflect all councilors 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 –

Wayne Troicke invited the councilors as well as the public to attend an open house at the Meadows on January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4pm – 7pm. He also noted that 18 units are now full only 7 more to go.

Tony also wanted to congratulate Russell Currier for making the Olympic team.

V. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses/Permits- None

B. Financial Report – Mike – financial status for the first six months is on track, all departments are doing well with no expected overages. Cash flow has seen much improvement. Tax clubs members made their payments and we had quite a few tax-payers clear up their tax bills for the end of year. Our TAN is currently at \$450,000, but I do not anticipate we will need additional funds. Also, when Dan figured the cash flow taking the clinic construction into consideration, he anticipated the cash flow on December 31<sup>st</sup> would be -\$355,000; however, it turned out to be -\$149,000. It is anticipated that the TAN will be paid off by the end of February.

C. Tri-Community Landfill Report – Next meeting scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup>.

D. Department Report: Public Works – George - So far we have received a total of 54.9” of snow to date, compared to 28.5” last year at this time. The additional snow has caused our department additional labor, equipment time, salt/sand and motor fuels. Even with the additional expenses, overall the department is not over our in-house monthly budget numbers. Labor account is under budget by 1% even with the extra overtime. Swapping over to coal has provided a more efficient heat within the building at a lower cost. Parts and Repairs is a line item that is being watched closely, at this time we have used 71% of this budget item. We have used around 25%

of our yearly supply of sand/salt, because of a couple of unexpected freezing events. Overall at this time the department is within their monthly projections.

- E. Quality of Place Council Report – Last meeting was on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 48 Brunswick Ave property sold, there is now a young couple residing at the residence. The net income from this sale was \$900.00, the council also got a note in their name from the buyers in the amount of \$11,600.00 that if they ever sell, lease or move within the first 5 year period, the QOPC would be paid the \$11,600.00. Currently we are looking at another project to move the Home Buyer project forward. There was an update on Main Street which primarily consisted of the thought progress that the Economic Development Director's position should be filled so that the work on Main Street could continue. A new committee called the External Events Committee, primarily their mandate is to coordinate with the upcoming biathlon next month and the Acadian festival later this summer to feature an event here in Fort Fairfield. The committee's recommendation was to coordinate with a local business to have an event here.

Agri Business Trade Fair, the status is that approximately 79% of the space is sold. Kathy Maynard has offered to step in and help as a stipend position.

For your consideration the QOPC has nominated Stev Rogeski, Kim Jones and Brent Churchill to serve another three year terms.

Also, FYI they pick their own slate of officers, this year's President is Phil Christensen, Vice President – Kim Jones, Treasurer – Susan Fitzherbert and the Secretary will be Jacquie Martin.

- F. Crown Ambulance – Mike – On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, all town managers of towns serviced by Crown, were invited to attend a meeting at TAMC. The discussion was Presque Isle's pending decision to establish a community ambulance service in the fire department and to assume all 911 calls. This course would result in Crown Ambulance no longer being Presque Isle's ambulance provider, resulting in 17 layoffs and dismantling of Crown Ambulance service as it is today. The ambulance would continue to exist as a substantially smaller organization, but would only be conducting business to transfer patients to other medical facilities and primarily involved with long distance medical transfers. Presque Isle will decide whether or not that they will take over 911 calls sometime between January 27<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup>.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> we met with Daryl Boucher, Director of Emergency and Critical Care Services along with Bruce Sandstrom, TAMC-CFO. At this meeting we were informed that Fort Fairfield currently has a balance on their books in the amount of \$20,000.00 for Crown Ambulance Services. It was our understating that we would work away at this by assisting them with their coverage with some of our volunteers. They would pick up two eight hour

shifts, however that did not happen. Those discussions stopped once Presque Isle started their discussions. Since then and during that meeting, we started trying to think of other things that would help mitigate their costs and eat away at our balance due. They have ordered four new ambulances for their transport service, those are still on the assembly line. So to fill in until they receive the new ambulances, they have been leasing. When they found out that we have an ambulance setting in the bay that we use as a first responder, they offered to lease our ambulance. The details of that are that they are offering \$1,500.00 per month, it is on an open contract and they or we have the right to cancel this within a ten day notice. They will be picking up all of the cost as far as the maintenance and registration of the vehicle. Another idea that has been floated as part of the collaboration and mitigation efforts is to have their staff housed here in our facility. We just met with the Fire Marshall, showing him the areas where we would house the staff. He was very agreeable with the areas, they met all fire codes and he gave us the go ahead. We would be able to accommodate them, they could use the lounge downstairs in the fire department, and we can put in a small kitchenette. This will help mitigate some of their cost and likewise help with our expense.

The leasing of the ambulance will go against the \$20,000.00 invoice that we have on their books.

#### Discussion

John – You keep indicating as far as mitigating expenses, that it would be working off the bill as though this is a valid bill. What I am gathering is that we were going to at some time negotiate, but that didn't happen.

Mike- Because we told them that we didn't have the \$40,000.00 in our budget, didn't make the bill go away. They did not necessary agree with that.

John- We were at some point negotiating some type of agreement, which hasn't happened. So we are obligated to believe that the bill is valid.

Mike - They offer a very valid service, the \$40,000.00 invoice is not out of line. The reason they are willing to lease the ambulance from us is to work off that invoice. Housing them here would work off some portion of the bill.

David - Housing the ambulance and the workers here, is there a rate at which we charge.

Mike - We honestly didn't know we could do that, so a rate for housing has not been set.

David - The \$20,000.00 bill that we accrued over the last six months, was Mikes working and making it so that they had fewer expenses in Fort

Fairfield during that time?

Mike Jalbert - The discussion never got to that point, we actually had a start date of October 1<sup>st</sup> and everything was put on hold until Presque Isle makes up their minds.

David - So what happens if Presque Isle decides not to make a change?

Mike – Any amount of time or energy or money that we spend in outlining what we propose today is not money or time wasted. Mainly because we will need it at some point, the culture of ambulance service in northern Maine is changing. We are going to need to house a 24 hour crew here at some point to mitigate our costs.

Jason - Mike has your peoples training ceased or is that still going forward?

Mike Jalbert – We have seven guys signed up for the Region 5 EMS, but they haven't been able to find an instructor for the class yet.

G. Senior Citizen Update- Open house will be January 23<sup>rd</sup>, between 4pm and 7pm

VI. Old Business –

- A. Consider license for Mountain View Trailer Park – Tony- The council's motion was that the violation that the State had created had to be address. Tony believes that at this time they have been and that has been certified with the State and they are taking no further action. The second part of your motion was that an application had to be filled out by the owner and notarized. As of December 31<sup>st</sup> the property has been deeded over to Mrs. Adams. Tony's recommendation is to approve the license at this time to be renewed July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Motion: John Herold moved to approve the license for Mountain View Trailer Park

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

VII. New Business –

- A. Consider appoint Steve Lewis as Commissioner to Fort Fairfield Housing Authority's Board to replace Richard Nichols

Motion: John Herold moved to approve Steve Lewis to replace Richard Nichol's as Commissioner to the Fort Fairfield Housing Authority's Board.

Second: Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

- B. Consider appointments of Kim Jones, Brent Churchill and Stev Rogeski to serve 3 year terms on the Quality of Place Council

Motion: Jason Barnes moved to approve the appointments of Kim Jones, Brent Churchill and Stev Rogeski each to serve 3 year terms on the Quality of Place Council.

Second: Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

- C. Approve the lease with TAMC for our ambulance for \$1,500.00 per month.

Motion: John Herold moved to approve the lease between The Town of Fort Fairfield and TAMC to lease the Fire Departments ambulance for \$1,500.00 per month, which will be applied to our outstanding bill on TAMC's books for \$20,000.00.

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

Approve TAMC (Crown Ambulance Service) using our facility to house the ambulance and a 24 hour crew.

Motion: John Herold moved to approve TAMC (Crown Ambulance Service) using our facility to house the ambulance and a 24 hour crew. And give the Town Manager the authority to execute all negotiations.

Second: Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

- IX. Minutes: December 18, 2013; January 2, 2014-

Motion: Jason Barnes moved to approve Minutes of December 18, 2013 and January 2, 2014 as written.

Second: John Herold

Vote – All affirmative

- X. Warrants: #13- \$105,906.46 and #14 - \$60,691.17

Motion: John Herold moved to accept warrant #13 & #14 as presented.

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

- XI. Other – NONE

- XII. Executive Session – 6:50 PM

Motioned: Jason Barnes moved to go into Executive Session to discuss 1 MRSA 405(6) (A) Personnel and 1 MRSA 405 (6) (C) – Economic Development

Second: John Herold

Came out of executive session at \_\_\_\_\_ PM

- XII. Adjournment at \_\_\_\_\_ PM

Respectfully submitted,

Council Secretary

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Rebecca J. Hersey