

Fort Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
Wednesday, February 18, 2015
6:00 P.M.

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

Staff: Tony Levesque, Ella Leighton, Jeff Leighton and Jennifer Gaenzle

Citizens: 8 including media

- I. Roll Call - Chair Jason Barnes asked that the record reflect all councilors present with the exception of David McCrea.
- II. Prayer – Tony Levesque offered the prayer
- III. Pledge to the Flag - All in attendance pledged their allegiance to the Flag.
- IV. Public Comment- NONE
- V. Correspondence and Reports
 - A. Licenses / Permits- None
 - B. Financial Report – Expense wise we are in line with what we expect for the year. Payroll in most of the departments is at or below where they should be. We have switched back to heating our buildings with coal. The benefit from heating with fuel was short lived. We have found that the coal system finds it difficult to keep up when temperature remain subzero over an extended time. We monitor daily to utilize the best system under ever changing circumstances. On revenue side we are fairing okay with revenue sharing and excise tax. We have paid off the TAN and have deposited \$300,000 in an accessible savings account. We are anticipating the final payment from the Housing Project developer’s fee any day now. All the paperwork has been submitted and we have been assured the funds will be transferred shortly. We are anticipating the final payment to be just shy of \$85,000.00 leaving a balance of approximately \$25,000 in the clinic project account. Also Mike attached a bulletin put out by Geoff Herman, from MMA that describes what the Governor is proposing for changes in the tax code and a history of revenue sharing. Mike also included the budget workshop schedule.
 - C. Tri-community Landfill Report – Stev – There has been no meeting since the last council meeting. But would like you to know that the ash from the energy plant is now being moved to the land fill.
 - D. Update- Wind Energy Technical Review Committee – Dick Langley – There are a couple of critical parts of the ordinance that we are fast approaching. One being the permissible decibel levels and the other is the general setback requirements. We met with Professor Karen Horton of the University of

Maine. She gave us a pretty good education on sound, types of sound, tones. She also showed us what the different decibel levels sound like. We are going to take a tentative vote Monday night to see if we are approaching some sort of consensus on the decibel number, the setback issue will be at a later date.

- E. Department Report – Library – Jennifer - We are seeing new faces coming in and using the library's resources, such as computers, the community room. I attribute some of that to creating a Facebook account for the library. I have been sharing the resources that we do have available on this Facebook account. We have had authors coming in for book signings and we are planning to have others in the future. The heat pumps are in and working great. In January we had a circulation of 872 books which is twice as much for both November and December, 42 magazines and DVD's, 273 patrons using our computers. We added 138 new books to the library. Ongoing projects, we have been doing a major springs cleaning of the wood work, including the furniture. We have sent out 22 years of newspapers to be digitally available free on the internet. We have a knitting class on Wednesdays from 1 -3. Jennifer has been doing some research on the statue of Joan of Arc in the vestibule, the plaque on the front of the statues says it was donated in memory of Delmar Ellery Edwards who was a Miller and Merchant in Fort Fairfield. It was donated by his wife and daughter in 1916 and that's about all we know. Doing some research I found out that D.E. Edwards brought the first wheat roll mill to the State of Maine, he was very influential. I did find out that she is one of five in the United States. I am looking at the cost of have in restored which she is in need of.
- F. Department Report – Marketing Efforts – Tim – First and most important for our community is to line up the playing field between us and other communities around us, trying to improve our internet access and accessibility, internet speed and broad band speed. It's a big project and a lot to learn. There is a new round of funding that will be coming out, I believe in late spring. Pioneer broadband has done research on the underserved or unserved portions of our town. South section of town past the Conant Road going towards Presque Isle, that section is basically unserved or underserved. The second project is the Agri-Business Trade Fair, booths are almost all sold out and this will be March 28th and 29th. The Third project is the Potato Blossom Festival, we will be having our first meeting on the 24th at 6PM and last we will be hosting a senior driving expo, partnering with AAA. They will be bringing in simulators, doing lifesaving instruction and this will be May 15th here at the Community Center. Also on May 14th we will be doing a teen component of this course, going over drunk driving, the importance of seat belts and so forth.
- G. Department Report – Fire / Ambulance / Emergency Mgt. Dept. - Mike - Bill Campbell was appointed as the interim Fire Chief. Bill and I met with the officers and they have taken it upon themselves to schedule coverage. Prior to Mike leaving he pulled together the ambulance drive schedule until the beginning of March the Fire Dept. officers are working with Bill on any issues

that arise and for now things are going pretty smooth. The Fire Chief search committee is comprised of John Herold, Tony Levesque, Bill Campbell, Scott Susi and Mike Bosse. Scott is the Caribou's Fire Chief and has been extremely helpful from a technical point of view. We received 24 resumes for the position most of which are from out of state. We agreed on 6 candidates to interview. One of the candidates Daniel Reynolds of Taylor Michigan will be flying in on Tuesday and going back on Wednesday. So he will be spending a day and half with us. He is a 25 year veteran, he is Fire Fighter I, II and he is a Paramedic for the State of Michigan. John mentioned that he was very positive with the interview, he seems like he is looking for a place like this, a smaller area. Listening to him he seemed like a very genuine individual.

- H. Update – Maine Department of Labor Citations – We were inspected last May by the Department of Labor and received a few violations and all of these violations have been abated. Since the violations that we were fined for were corrected in a timely fashion and without issue, the fine of \$3,500 was reduced to a \$250 administrative fee. This is great news for the community and the community's work force.
- I. Update – Gym Lighting Project - The gym light project is complete, the lights were install by Public Works and Stev Rogeski's crew hooked them up to electricity. You will notice a marked improvement in the brightness of the room. The feedback we are receiving has been very positive so far.
- J. ACAP Mobile Home Replacement – FYI – A new program administered by ACAP. This program is to help eliminate older mobile homes, in particular, mobile homes manufactured prior to 1976. Tony has found approximately 27 potential candidates and we sent the attached letter and guidelines to that list. There will only be two for Northern Maine.
- K. Crown Ambulance Annual Report – Mike attended annual meeting for the communities served by Crown Ambulance's. Crown put together an annual report, which is attached with these minutes. Just a significance to note is the response time and call volume. For Fort Fairfield we had 601 calls in 2014 with the average response time of 5 minutes and 6 seconds.

VI. Old Business - NONE

VII. New Business

- A. Consider Approval of Resident Nominee for Housing Authority – Sandra Thornton who will be replacing Andrea Pelletier.

Motion: Susan LeVasseur moved to approve Sandra Thornton for the Resident Commissioner of the Housing Authority of Fort Fairfield.

Second: Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

- B. Consider Approval of Nominee to the Planning Board – Richard Langley who will be replacing Jeff Ashby who resigned last month.

Motion: Susan LeVasseur moved to accept Jeff Ashby’s resignation and approve appointing Richard Langley as his replacement.

Second: John Herold

Vote – All affirmative

VIII Minutes: Council Meeting January 21, 2015

Motion: Robert Kilcollins moved to approve Minutes of January 21, 2015 as written.

Second: John Herold

Vote – All affirmative

IX Warrants: #15 - \$107,404.61, #16 - \$301,031.11 and #17- \$302,133.02

Motion: Robert Kilcollins moved to accept warrants #15, #16 & #17 as presented.

Second: Susan LeVasseur

Vote – All affirmative

X Other - NONE

XI Executive Session 6:50 PM

Motion: Susan LeVasseur moved to go into Executive Session to discuss

1 MRSA 405 (6) (C) - Economic Development

1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) - Personnel

Second: John Herold

Vote – All affirmative

Came out of executive session and adjourned at 7:45 PM

No Action Taken

XII. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Council Secretary
Rebecca J. Hersey