

**Fort Fairfield Town Council Monthly Meeting  
Council Chambers  
Wednesday, December 16, 2015  
6:00 P.M.**

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

Staff: Tony Levesque, James Risner, Rebecca Hersey, Ella Leighton, Thomas Towle, Jennifer Gaenzle, Darren Hanson and Tim Goff

Citizens: Scott Smith councilor elect and two others including media

- I. Roll Call - Chair Jason Barnes asked that the record reflect all councilors were present.
- II. Prayer – Tony Levesque offered the prayer.
- III. Pledge to the Flag - All in attendance pledged their allegiance to the Flag.
- IV. Public Comment-

Chair Jason Barnes presented to Ms. Susan LeVasseur acknowledging her term on the Council with a plaque stating, “In appreciation and recognition of your dedicated and responsible service to the citizens of Fort Fairfield as Town Councilor, January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2015”. She was also presented with her name plate marked with her service time of January 2008 – December 2010 and January 2013 – December 31, 2015.

Ms. LeVasseur thanked the council for their thoughtfulness and also took this time to congratulate Mr. Scott Smith and wish him the very best.

V. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses/Permits – None

B. Financial Report -Mr. James Risner – The Town’s Reals Estate and Personal Property tax collections for November were \$230,000 compared to \$259,145 for 2014. Excise tax collections as of November 30<sup>th</sup> is at \$274,770.39, this puts the Town ahead of budget as we have collected 50.88% of the budgeted amount. State revenue sharing as of November 30<sup>th</sup> is at \$100,343.60, this puts the Town ahead of budget as we have collected 48.24% of the State revenue sharing compared to the 41.66% that we should have collected through November. On November 2, 2015 the Town received \$97,608 from the State for the local road assistance program. We have not borrowed anymore against the TAN, we are still at \$300,000. Cash flow is good with a balance of \$103,774.71 in our checking account after completion of Warrant #11.

C. Tri Community Landfill Report – Mr. James Risner – Some years ago Presque Isle and Tri-Community talked of combining, these talks are starting again. Presque Isle’s City Manager, Public Works person and three or four councilors came over to Tri-Community a couple of weeks ago and had a tour. This week people from Tri-Community will be going

to Presque Isle to meet with staff and council members to tour their sight. They are looking at ways to lower cost for everybody concerned.

- D. Christmas Eve Hours – Mr. James Risner - For the last several years the Town office has closed at 1:00 pm on Christmas Eve. If council has no objections, we would like to continue the practice and close at that time this year.

The Council agreed that the Town office could close at 1:00 pm on Christmas Eve.

- E. Road Apples - Mr. James Risner - Since the November Council meeting Mr. Risner has met with Mr. Martin Puckett, Presque Isle City Manager and discussed options that there may be. The Presque Isle Council appreciates the regional efforts being made. In the process Mr. Risner had agreed to contact State Senator Willette, and State Representative Edgcomb as well as Mr. Jon Frederick, President of the Aroostook Manager's Association to have a discussion of road apples placed on the January 29, 2016 AMA's agenda. Mr. Risner also met with Mr. Sam Miller, one of the Amish elders, who stated that he wants to work with the Town to ensure road apples do not stay on Main Street. Senator Willette has done a lot of research on how other states have approached the issue. Representative Edgcomb is also aware of the concern and appreciates the municipalities working together to develop a solution. Mr. Risner will continue to work with Mr. Puckett, Mr. Gardner, Easton Town Manger and the Amish to try and develop a solution.

VI. Old Business - None

VII. New Business

- A. Sale of Excess Equipment – Fire Department Ridgeline Truck – In the budget presentation to Town Council in May, it was discussed adding \$10,000.00 to the fire departments reserve account (G 1-3020-00) to purchase a late model ¾ ton four wheel drive pickup to replace the 2007 Honda Ridgeline. The Ridgeline has 180,551 miles and is becoming costly to maintain and repair. The Ridgeline is used to respond to medical emergency calls, transport. It is recommended that the Town council authorize the Town Manager to sell the 2007 Honda Ridgeline and place the proceeds into the fire department reserve account G 1-3020-00 to be used towards the replacement.

Motion: Mr. John Herold moved to approve authorizing the Town Manager to sell the 2007 Honda Ridgeline and place the proceeds into the fire department reserve account G 1-3020-00 to be used towards the purchase of a replacement vehicle.

Second: Mr. David McCrea

Vote – All affirmative

- B. Appointment of Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director – Mr. James Risner – During the FY 15/16 budget workshops it was decided to reconfigure the fire department to fall under the supervision of a public safety director and would also oversee all of the Town's emergency response services. The Town Council at their regular meeting of April 15<sup>th</sup>, they ratified a plan assigning Police Chief William Campbell as the new director of

public safety and organizing the fire department with two assistant chiefs working for the director of public safety. This eliminated the fire chief's position and created a vacancy in the emergency management director position which has been held by the fire chief. However, the State requires each municipality to have a fire chief as stated in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, §3153. Title 37-B, §782 states, "A director must be appointed for each municipal and county or regional emergency management agency" and "The municipal officers shall appoint the director of the municipality's emergency management agency." It is recommended that the Town council appoints Chief William Campbell as Fort Fairfield Fire Chief and Fort Fairfield Emergency Management Director.

Motion: Mr. John Herold moved to approve the appoints Chief William Campbell as Fort Fairfield Fire Chief and Fort Fairfield Emergency Management Director.

Second: Ms. Susan LeVasseur

Vote – All affirmative

VIII. Minutes: Council Meeting November 18, 2015

Motion: Ms. Susan LeVasseur moved to approve Minutes of November 18, 2015 as written.

Second: Mr. Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

IX. Warrants: #10 in the amount of \$258,549.49 and #11 for \$92,329.17

Motion: Ms. Susan LeVasseur moved to accept warrants #10 and #11 as presented.

Second: Mr. Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

X. Other –

- A. Aroostook Agency on Aging Request for Funding – Mr. Risner received a letter from Stephen Farnham, Executive Director of Aroostook Agency on Aging requesting that the Councilors reconsider the \$1,000.00 funding that was requested. In the letter it was mentioned the numerous areas of help that the seniors get from this organization just in Fort Fairfield. This request is for the Town's Fy16/17 budget. Mr. Risner is looking for guidance on how to address this request.

Chairman Barnes stated that at this point he is reluctant to give any indication as to whether we will fund this request. There will be other non-profit's with requests and they all have legitimate and good causes. Until we get to look at what our resources may be and what other commitments we may have. We need to wait until we get into our budget workshop.

Mr. David McCrea - Looking at the list of what this group does in Fort Fairfield, it is money well spent. But we need to get where we are with the budget, but if it's not put into that budget it will not get funded. This needs to be discussed at the budget workshops.

It was decided that Mr. Risner would put this amount in the preliminary budget along with other request that may be received using his discretion.

XI. Executive Session 6:30 PM

Motion: Mr. David McCrea moved to go into Executive Session to discuss:

- A. MRSA 405 (6)(D) – Labor Negotiations
- B. MRSA 405 (6)(A) – Consideration of Appointment to the Library Board of Trustees
- C. MRSA 405 (6)(A) - Consideration of Appointments to the Northern Maine Development Commission
- D. MRSA 405 (6)(A) - Consideration of Appointments to the Economic Development Board

Second: Mr. John Herold

Vote – All affirmative

Motion: Mr. John Herold moved to come out of executive session at 7:21PM

Second: Mr. David McCrea

Vote – All affirmative

- A. Labor Negotiations – Proposed memorandum of agreement between the Town of Fort Fairfield and Council 93 Local 220.

Motion: Mr. John Herold moved to authorize James Risner to execute the agreement with the employees with the Highway Department and union in accordance with the contract.

Second Mr. Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

- B. Library Board

Motion: Mr. David McCrea moved to appoint Carl Young as a new member on the Library Board of Trustees to finish Kenneth Peter’s term which expires on June 30, 2018.

Second: Mr. John Herold

Vote – All affirmative

- C. NMDC

Motion: Mr. David McCrea moved to approve Mr. John Herold for appointment to the NMDC board to represent the Town along with Mr. James Risner.

Second: Mr. Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

- D. Consideration of Appointments to the Economic Development Board

Motion: Mr. David McCrea moved to appoint the following people and terms:

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Edith Helstrom	1 Year
Stev Rogeski	2 Years
David Dorsey	2 Years
Gary Sirois	3 Years
Shane McGillan	3 Years

Second: Mr. Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

XII. Adjournment

Council adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca J. Hersey  
Council Secretary