

Fort Fairfield Town Council Monthly Meeting
Council Chambers
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
6:00 P.M.

I. Roll Call

Staff: Ms. Powers, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Levesque, Ms. Leighton, Mr. Hanson, Ms. Dubois, Mr. Butler, Mr. Towle, Chief Browning, Sgt. Eagles, Mr. Senal, Mike Cyr, Fire/Ems/Rescue Dept.

Council: All Councilors are present.

Citizens: 30 +/-

II. Prayer

III. Pledge to the Flag

The Town Manager, Andrea Powers read a prepared statement.

I don't think that any of us could have predicted the many challenges we have faced this past year and continue to face sometimes daily, but we all know that the Town of Fort Fairfield comes together to support each other during tough times and indeed, we have.

You are likely seeing or hearing a lot of misinformation circulating about the Town's fiscal condition, which seems to be the language of thought recently Federally, State and locally around the Country.

Allow for me to share some facts to straighten this out. Managing a \$6.8 million operating budget with \$7,724,697 of assets can be complicated to maintain; however, even during COVID-19, the Town's financial management has been strong.

This is a fact supported by our continued efforts to maintain services with fiscal responsibility to our citizens.

There are some mis-educated discussions happening lately around small circles of our citizens and I would like to take this opportunity to let you know if you do not know the answer to your questions you are welcome to come in to speak to me about them.

ReEnergy was never 50% of our tax base. In 2018 they were only 12.94% of that year's tax base and in 2019 they were 12.56%.

We were not \$53,000 over budget last year; we were actually \$67,749 under budget.

We have collected taxes for this year, we have not yet had a citizen refuse to pay their taxes, in fact we are up \$254,948.67 more in the collection of taxes than we were last year.

The Town Council is our legislative body for the Town of Fort Fairfield. The citizens vote in our Council and what Council votes for affirmatively stands. We have a process that must be followed. Federal and State law, Charter Ordinances, Town Policy all make up our process.

We constantly strive to find ways to save our citizens money by researching the best possible pricing for each purchase, whether it's for pallets of paper at a cost savings of \$400 or for an

Oshkosh Snow Blower that we were able to purchase for \$2,400 that is valued at \$125,000.00. That's a savings of \$122,600 all to provide better service for our community.

We also look for ways to better service our citizens. A full-time fire and rescue department has brought Fort Fairfield staff that is available 24/7. Always having staff and equipment available to respond to emergencies, there were calls in the past that went unanswered, we now handle multiple calls at once.

Average time from 911 answer until patient contact 6 minutes. All full-time members are enrolled in a Paramedic Course, or are already Paramedics. We have ALS providers on every shift.

Skills a Paramedic can perform are some of the same skills only performed by Specialized Physicians in the hospital setting. Paramedics perform these skills on the kitchen floor or on the side of a roadway at 3 am.

All ALS providers are trained in advanced patient assessments and can quickly identify life threats, create differential diagnosis, and then treat and provide much of the care that once could only be received within a hospital.

We have worked on upgrading unsafe equipment and expanding our fire protection services to help decrease insurance rates for tax payers by bettering our ISO rating. This will also help secure the safety of our employees.

Our staff includes one Fire Instructor level 2, two Fire instructor level 1, with three additional members who will be level 2 by the end of the fiscal year. We have one EVOC instructor, Three EMS Instructor Coordinators who can teach licensure courses, and an instructor in CPR, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support, Advanced Medical Life Support, and Emergency Pediatric Care. In addition, we have a Critical Care Paramedic and a Flight certified Paramedic.

All of our full time and per diem staff is cross trained on both Fire and EMS to be able to cover both types of emergencies.

We started discussions as early as December 2018 on the possibility we would have to do a total Town Revaluation. January 16, 2019, at Council Meeting, it was presented to Council by our Tax Assessor that we would need to begin the process of a total Town Revaluation. Council voted and approved to do just that. We had not had a total Town Revaluation since 1997. With this new assessment our citizens and businesses have a more stable valuation.

Values that are based on the sales of properties in Fort Fairfield. This is what's referred to as a turn-around document and establishes our Town ratio. Prior to the reval, the State was clawing back reimbursements and discounting our values because we were not up to date with the actual sales amounts for the properties in Fort Fairfield.

Your homes are better represented at their truer values for greater insurance purposes, home equity loans, and selling value than ever before. And there is now a greater representation of a fair and just tax base across the community.

We hold April and May Public Budget Hearings every year and every year we only have maybe one or two citizens that participate in those hearings. Council then votes in June on the Budget for that fiscal year.

I would highly encourage you to attend the Budget Hearings and learn about the process and your Municipal Government. Our Town Charter, Town Council, Town Manager form of Government has been in effect since March 15, 1976.

We are far better prepared today than we were three years ago to address COVID-19 induced fiscal impacts. Imagine if the loss of revenue through last year due to unpaid tax revenue from and decreased Revenue Sharing along with the non-payment of excise tax deficit had not been reduced by our strong fiscal management?

Or, if we had not set aside and invested in our reserve accounts in 2019?

We have not mismanaged the Town's fiscal portfolio: we have strengthened it. As a reminder, we brought the 2020 deficit down without any cuts to services or staffing levels. We will continue to make investments to grow our budget stabilization and grow our reserves. This doesn't get shared as often as it should be and sometimes it is misreported through some who might not be educated in the process: Fort deserves a clear picture of our fiscal condition. These results are undeniable.

We ended last year's fiscal budget \$67,749 under budget even with a total final loss of revenue of \$187,537. The Department Heads worked extremely hard to reduce their overall costs in a constrained fiscal environment. Total expenses were \$255,196 under budget.

Every penny is accounted for. Council sees and reviews the warrants and signs off on them and then votes on those warrants at Council Meeting. We cannot over spend our budgets. We must maintain what Council has approved at Budget.

There may be situations that happen throughout the year that we have no control over, like the fire that destroyed one of our plow trucks. We can only replace what we have fiscally available to us and what has already been voted on and approved for by Council at Budget. And that is why our Reserve Accounts for each Department are so important.

Every penny is accounted for. And save pennies we have.

COVID-19 has caused economic impacts at a global, national, state, and local level: Fort Fairfield is no different, with revenue declining in several categories locally, State and Nationally due entirely to situations beyond our control.

Early on, I released a Community Letter about COVID-19 induced impacts. Based on our early developed budget proposals, from March 13, 2020 – June 30, 2020 we greatly reduced spending to minimize COVID-19 induced impacts. Strong fiscal management has helped address our deficit and save Town services. Like many Maine public agencies, we have unfunded liabilities that we are still responsible for and must pay. Increased costs with less resources and product available, creating longer wait times for shipping, just as all of you have experienced.

In total, this is amazing leadership and teamwork. We know where the budget is economically sensitive and transparently report it to Council. New equipment to better service our citizens and the low cost to purchase. In spite of difficult economic times, we have been fortunate.

We have also rehailed many past practices to make Town government more transparent. We have been hard at work modernizing decades-old manual systems and initiating change to be more transparent.

Fort's newly redesigned website was launched with a focus on the community and optimal accessibility;

Council Meeting broadcast was substantially redesigned and was improved at a lesser cost than the previous system;

Topic-specific information is being released on social media, allowing us to connect to our community even during the Pandemic Orders issued from the Governor's Office;

Rehailed capital and operating budget showing greater levels of detail of Town funds and expenditures;

Upgraded implementation of a Town-wide document management system for improved internal archiving and record management;

Provided COVID-19 verbal and video updates at Council meetings;

Issued Community letters on COVID-19 topics impacting Fort Fairfield;

Enhanced social media presence on Town-wide services;

We know there is still more work to be done and we will continue to strive to make those changes.

If a Municipality thinks of itself only as a government, it behaves in only one way. But if it begins to think of itself as a community builder, quality of life advocate, and service provider, then it starts to behave differently. And that's where innovation surfaces because to innovate is to implement change that creates a new dimension of performance.

Public business moves slower than the private sector, but that slowness is a means of ensuring a democratic process and that the less powerful or less connected have a voice in their community.

Despite drama, meager resources, and the ongoing threat of reductions-in-force, our Town's employees have continued to do their jobs with professionalism, kindness, and neighborliness. These actions I continue to see even today give me hope for the future of our community. They are the hidden protectors of that same democracy. Public servants who do their jobs with integrity, kindness, and professionalism regardless of what ever situation they are facing.

As Fort Fairfield's Town Manager, I work to support and implement the Town Council's goals and priorities, oversee the delivery of a broad range of services to the community, strategically and prudently manage a fiscal portfolio of nearly \$6.8 million, and focus on long-term strategies to ensure quality of life for Fort Fairfield. I want to thank the Town Council, Town Staff, and our Citizen's for their resilience and commitment to making Fort Fairfield what's possible during these difficult times. This year has proven that no matter what happens, the Fort Fairfield community is ready to respond and takes care of each other.

IV. Public Comment Period

James Ouellette – Read a prepared letter from Noah Yoder.

John Griffeth, Jr. – representing Griffeth Farms and his family commented that pre COVID he was in his best position negotiating wise since he started farming. After COVID, we went from being in the best position to being in the worst since I've been farming. It did not end up the way we expected. Our tax bill from last year to this year went up a little over 25 percent. We had to tighten our belts up. Pushing off 25 percent to the people that are already here, is very unfair and fiscally very irresponsible. As a parent, "I feel I have gotten less services this year." "My kids missed a week before the third quarter, they didn't have school." Not sharing that 12 percent and whether you raise the mil rate or you raise the assessments, it's all the bottom line.

Donna Everitt – appreciates the Town Manager's comments and asked for them to be published either on the Website or Social Media.

Kevin Pelletier – Commented he has a folder full of letters from concerned tax payers in Fort Fairfield. "What I see and what I hear is a lot about spending, it's out of control." High taxes we are now expected to pay here in Fort Fairfield." The way it looks and appears to people is

the spending is out of control.” “We all want things in Fort Fairfield, we want an Ambulance, we want Police, we want Fire.” “I think there are ways of getting that that wouldn’t cost the Town as much money and get our taxes down.” “I don’t see anything being done to bring jobs to our Town.” I compare it to a church with no youth. The church will die off after a while. “If we don’t get ahold of this, I don’t know where we are going to be in five years, ten years.” We as a Town Council and Citizens here in Fort Fairfield, we need to pull together.” “Nobody is pointing a finger at anybody.” “I am just saying we’ve got a job to do.” “This Town needs to be run as a business.” “We’ve got to look at our spending and the way we are taxing our people.” “That’s the way I see it and a lot of other people see it the same way.”

Paul Reid – Has lived here for 10 years. Me and my family have benefited personally substantially from “This year with the tax assessment, obviously long overdue, was needed to be done to keep the properties balanced and so on. “I found the process to be difficult to be honest.” “Information was lacking.” “There was not a lot of opportunity to speak with the Assessors.” “Even with the reduced mil rate, I have a \$1000 added to my tax bill this year.” What assurances do we have as taxpayers that the mil rate is going to stay consistent and that a year, two or three years from now we are not going to continue to see repetitive increases in taxes, because that is not sustainable. Is there something that we can do as a Council that we can look at redundant services, partnering with other communities. Fort Fairfield is a pretty small Town and we are well represented tonight with a lot of services and we are well taken care of, that is evident. It would be helpful to get a little more insight as to where the money is being spent and go make sure that every dollar is going where it needs to go. “Spend money like it’s your own money.”

Phil Christensen – commented that he had signed the letter from Monson Pond citizens regarding recent assessments. Asked Council to take a look at it and it make the corrections that are needed. It was based on criteria that doesn’t really apply to the Monson Pond situation. It didn’t consider the impacts of shoreline zoning. It was unfair to some of the seasonal properties that have no access in the winter time. The biggest problem was that the criteria was not evaluated before they started making their assessments. I suggest you do something to fix the assessments around Monson Pond. There is a huge between a year-round modern home and a cottage that has shoreline that has little value for any other purpose that can’t be developed or changed. The biggest problem was that most people were not available when the assessors came to their place. Assessors should have made appointments. I have nine properties and was there for one of them and things seemed fine. All the others had errors on them. It would have solved a lot of problems if someone would have made appointments for them to see somebody when they went to the property. I do hope you will fix these problems. “Tax fairly and spend wisely and conservatively.”

Wiley Ramisch – Commented that he kept his mother’s house out to Monson Pond to try to keep it in the family. My taxes last year were \$1364 and change, this year they were \$2980. That’s quite an increase. I can’t see how you can justify that. I know taxes go up; I understand that. But \$1400 is ridiculous.

Keith Thibeau II – Commented he is a sixth generation Potato farmer her in Fort Fairfield. We operate a 300-acre farm. This year after seeing our taxes, we are up 35% on 300 acres. It is a

little discouraging. We had to tighten our belts here over the past year and just seeing some of the stuff that goes on kind of opened my eyes.

Kevin Pelletier – Read a letter dated February 17, 2021 regarding adjusting the mil rate to be in line with the State average.

John Griffeth, Jr. – commented again and asked where our assessment percentage in Fort Fairfield is right now, Tony Levesque replied “100%.”

Kendall Stratton – inquired whether Council would allow a public comment period at the end of the Agenda for Council Meetings to address agenda topics rather than wait 30 days to make comments at the next meeting.

V. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses/Permits

As of February 17, 2021, we have not received any license renewals.

B. Financial Report

Checking account balance as of 12/31/2020 is \$892,042.86 which includes the promissory note with AWS; Machias Savings balance \$5,000.00.

Total expenses at the end of January were at 57.34% vs 58.33% budgeted.

Total excise tax collected in January was \$32,561.12; State revenue sharing \$42,633.30; Real Estate & Personal Property taxes collected \$962,228.97

Loan balances as of 01/31/2021:

Jones Fuel - \$1,680.63
Langley #5275 - \$18,616.63
Langley #5277 - \$6,699.37

Discussion:

Scott Smith – “I am listening to you.” “I could see this coming last year.”

We have issues, the Government has issues at the Federal level and at the State level and we can tweak some things here.

We don't have to lose services. We need to make some adjustments. We can make some improvements on some of the spending. Is some of the spending necessary? Not really in my opinion. It is just my opinion. I'm one of five.

Research:

198 Taxpayers had an increase of \$100.

457 Taxpayers had an increase of \$500

140 Taxpayers had an increase of \$1000

33 Taxpayers had an increase of \$2000

889 Taxpayers valuation increased by 20%

715 Taxpayers valuation increased by 30%

505 Taxpayers valuation increased by 40%

384 Taxpayers valuation increased by 50%

132 Taxpayers valuation increased by 100%

Not acceptable.

I apologize for the Town not doing their job on getting their assessments done on a regular basis. Where I come from in New Hampshire, it's done every 5 years.

Last year we talked about adding an Ambulance Service. I said it was going to cost a lot of money and it is costing a lot of money. Do you want that service? We need that service. Can we make adjustments? I think so. One of the things I had a concern with (when we added this service) was we wanted 2 budgets. We wanted to take a look at maybe using some surplus equipment, Ambulances, what not, foreclosed on what not and save the taxpayers some money. We don't need top-notch stuff, but we bought top-notch stuff. Everything is brand spanking new and it's unfortunate. I think we could have done better. I take part responsibility for that. I used to work for a fire department. That's what I did for forty years.

But if you got a question about something, come ask me. You have a police officer that is retired, he also worked for Border Patrol and Customs. There's a spiritual leader over here that can counsel, that can listen to you. We've got a mechanic that knows a lot on mechanics and ways to save money. We've got a banker down there. These people have experience. This Town should actually use them more.

I am looking at some of the lost revenue from Re-Energy, \$500,000.

We lost over \$300,000 when Governor Mills said you don't have to register your car. That's unfortunate.

Looking at the Auditors report and found out that the Potato Blossom Festival in \$104,000 in the hole. I don't know where that stems from. I really don't.

I researched Aroostook County area. Average price of homes. The average price was \$167,000. County-wide their property tax bill is \$2,000. In Fort Fairfield, they are \$3,000. Why? Why are they a third more than the rest of the County? That's a question I have. And I understand our expenses are way up because we made increases. I think we can make adjustments.

I spoke to someone today about the Police Department. We went from a full-time Department to 2 full-time police officers, maybe 2-and-a-half, 3? I'm not sure but I think we can do a little better than that. I know the Sheriff's Dept is willing to talk to us. I'm not saying we need to eliminate it. I'm not for that. I think we can have discussions, look at the numbers about how to save the taxpayers money.

We haven't received our proposed budget yet. I'm asking this Council to look at proposing a budget reduced by 25% and see what the numbers are.

Let's get the Fire Department in here. Let's review their budget. I know they don't like that, but we need to look at the high numbers. I've seen double bills, double bills from Presque Isle we're still paying. I am seeing bills from Cary that we're paying for ambulance service. Why? I understand if you're busy on a call, but that's not necessary. If you want to talk about it, let's talk about it. The people need to know..... This Council can do it.

I'm asking this Council to approve a 25% reduction in the budget. Bring it in next month and let's look at the hard numbers and you taxpayers tell us what you want for services. Do you want an Ambulance service?

I know Caswell and Limestone want an Ambulance service. Can we hook up with them, get some money from them, provide the service to them. We talked about it originally when we were proposing this, but I didn't want to give the service away because you taxpayers are paying for this. That money came out of you and I don't want to give free service to Limestone and free service to Caswell and jeopardize service to the taxpayers of Fort, but there are adjustments that we can make and should be making and talk about it.

C. AWS Report

Mr. Rogeski gave an update on AWS business. The minutes to the January 29th AWS Board meeting are available upon request.

Mr. Butler commented that he is recently concerned about the talked about tipping fees.

Mr. Rogeski explained that the tipping fees specifically focus on demolition debris that goes above and beyond average debris. An example could be the demolition of a large building. Mr. Rogeski explained that tipping fees were discussed way before the Merger took place.

Mr. Smith commented that while the Town has borrowed one million dollars, is there more money to be loaned out?

Mr. Rogeski replied just to the Tri Community owners. (Caribou, Fort Fairfield, and Presque Isle)

Mr. Smith commented that it seems like AWS has a lot of money and could it mean lowering the permit fees.

Mr. Rogeski replied that there are a lot of restrictions on Reserves and they cannot be utilized to lower fees, they are to be used to cover the expenses if they had to close the Landfill

D. Sarah Beaulieu

Council, please join me in congratulating one of our own, Ms. Sarah Beaulieu, on her major accomplishment in being awarded a spot on the World Junior Women's Biathlon Team. She will be competing in the IBU World Championships in Obertilliach, Austria February 27th through March 6th.

We would like to wish Sarah the best of luck.

VI. Old Business

A. Late Fee Relief Request

It has been requested that Council suspend the penalty fee for paying property taxes after the due date for the remainder of 2021.

At the request of the citizen to Council, I asked that the possibility be requested to the Governor's Office for an Executive Order that would suspend the applicable law to allow municipal officers to waive or reduce an interest rate on property taxes that had been approved in 2020 and due in 2021.

After several discussions with MMA and MMA Legal it was advised that we do not suspend the applicable law. That these provisions are put into place to encourage payment of property taxes and if we were to suspend them what would prevent all tax payers from making late payments or payments at all.

We do offer a Tax Club here in Fort Fairfield and given the brevity of the situation since COVID began have opened up the Tax Club beyond the normal close date of June 30th and have continued to place tax payers in the club this past week. The Tax Club affords our tax payers a monthly payment plan without fees and penalties as long as it is paid in full by June 30th, the close of the fiscal year.

Recommendation: Council maintains the voted on 8% interest rate for late payment of taxes for the FY 2020/2021 taxes.

Discussion:

VII. New Business

- A. Proclamation Mr. Carl Young (tabled)
- B. Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Nomination

The Housing Authority of Fort Fairfield Board of Commissioners would like to put forward the following name for your consideration for the position Commissioner of Housing Authority of Fort Fairfield.

Commissioner:
David Donovan
1 Fields Lane Apt F-7
Fort Fairfield, ME 04742

David will be filling in Dawn McGrath term as she is stepping down from the Board of Commissioners. This term will begin March 1, 2021 and will end June 30, 2021.

We have spoken with the David and he is willing to serve if the Town Council approves his nomination.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion o approve the nomination of David Donovan to serve as a Commissioner of the Housing Authority of Fort Fairfield.

Mrs. Libby seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

- C. Public Works Snow Plow Loss/Replacement

On February 2, 2021, one of our Public Works Snow Plows suffered a loss by electrical panel fire and was determined to be a total loss. Together with the Public Works Director, we have researched a replacement truck.

The first truck, a 2007 International Workstar 7600 for \$57,000.00 in Westminster, VT was conveniently located, but more than we wanted to spend.

The second truck, a 2005 International Workstar 7600 for \$27,000.00 in Bismarck, ND was located much further away, but the price was closer to what we had to spend, however, the cost to bring the truck to Fort Fairfield brought the amount above what was available to spend.

The third truck, a 2003 Volvo Wheeler for \$12,500.00 in Presque Isle, ME is very conveniently located and priced at an amount we can spend. It was offered to us from the State of Maine Surplus Property Program.

Recommendation: Council votes to allow the Town Manager to purchase the 2003 Volvo Wheeler for \$12,500.00 from the State of Maine Surplus Property Program.

Discussion:

Ms. Powers stated that the Insurance Company as agreed to offer full replacement value and will allow the Town to purchase the damaged truck for a minimal price to be used for parts.

Mrs. Libby asked what the total replacement value was.

Ms. Powers replied \$61,000 and change.

Mr. Kilcollins asked if this truck is all ready to go.

Mr. Hanson replied that with the exception of needing tires, yes, his department mechanics who have inspection licenses had gone over the truck, driven the truck and it is ready to go.

Mrs. Libby asked if the insurance money being used to purchase this truck is enough to cover the cost and asked where the balance will go.

Ms. Powers replied that it will more than cover the cost and the rest will go into a Reserve account.

Mr. Hanson said with hopes to be used to eventually replace another truck in the future.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to allow the Town Manager to purchase the 2003 Volvo Wheeler for \$12,500.00 from the State of Maine Surplus Property Program.

Mr. Smith seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative

VIII. Minutes of the January 20, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Mr. Butler made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 20, 2021 Regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Smith seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: All Affirmative.

IX. Warrants: #17 \$127,313.63 #18 \$350,986.44

Of 117 liens filed for 2018 taxes, we sent out thirty-six foreclosure notices on 1/21/2021. This is slightly over the usual amount we would send out. The liens will expire on 3/9/2021.

We received January Revenue Sharing in the amount of \$42,633.30 on 1/21/2021. Our revenue sharing receipts are now at 57.61% vs budgeted 58.33%.

Warrant #17 in the amount of \$127,313.63 was completed on 01/25/2021. Checking account balance as of 1/25/21 is \$1,106,531.17 and Machias Savings is \$5,000.00.

We have sent out seventy Homestead Exemption applications to home owners who may qualify for the exemption but have not yet completed an application.

Warrant #18 in the amount of \$350,986.44 was completed on 02/04/2021. Checking account balance as of 02/04/2021 is \$1,394,652.78 and Machias Savings is \$5,000.00.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to approve Warrants #17 and #18 as written.

Mr. Babin seconded.

Discussion:

Mr. Smith asked of the 36 foreclosure notices, what does that represent in tax dollars and when do you expect to close on those?

Ms. Powers replied that those numbers were given to her a while ago. As of today, we only have 16 unpaid of those foreclosure notices.

Mr. Smith - since taxes were due February 1st, how many of those are still unpaid?

Ms. Powers replied that she does not have the total number as of today and commented that we don't do tax liens for 2020 until August.

Mr. Smith commented that he is concerned with the amount of people that still haven't paid their taxes or who can't pay their taxes. My concerns are for the percentage of people whose taxes went up that are on fixed incomes. Understanding that the Tax Club works for most people, but when their tax bill nearly double, most people can't budget for that. "Those are the things we need to talk about." "I don't want to see anybody lose their home, nobody does." "I don't want to see any employees laid off either, but we've got to talk about stuff."

Vote: All Affirmative

X. Other

Background: Title 30-A M.R.S.A. §5654 states that a conditional gift for any specified public purpose offered to a municipality may be accepted or rejected by its legislative body.

Discussion: The Recreation Department applied for a Walmart community grant to be used towards upgrading the restroom stalls in the pool bath house. We were awarded \$2,000 to be

Recommendation: That Town Council accepts the grant from Walmart, valued at \$2,000.00.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion that Council accepts the grant from Walmart, valued at \$2,000.00.

Mr. Smith seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Discussion: The Parks and Recreation Department has received numerous public inquiries regarding snowshoes, anywhere from rental inquiries to program inquiries. In the past, we had been able to borrow the school's 21st century program. This year, they are being used by the PE teachers in both schools.

Mr. Senal is requesting permission to utilize funds from the Ski Rental Reserve to purchase snowshoes for the rec department. This would allow us to expand our programming for youth and adults, and help expand the much-needed outdoor programming we are able to offer.

Recommendation: That Town Council approves the Recreation Department purchase of snowshoes form the Ski Reserve account.

Mr. Babin made a motion that Council approves the Recreation Department purchase of snowshoes form the Ski Reserve account.

Mr. Smith seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Background: Title 30-A M.R.S.A. §5654 states that a conditional gift for any specified public purpose offered to a municipality may be accepted or rejected by its legislative body.

Discussion: Greenlaw Electric of Fort Fairfield, is willing to donate LED café lights be used around the ice rink. The lights will help to create a wonderful ambiance for our community rink. The Value of this donation is \$319.92.

Recommendation: That Town Council accepts the donation of Cafe Lights from Greenlaw Electric, valued at \$319.92.

Mr. Smith made a motion that Council accepts the donation of Cafe Lights from Greenlaw Electric, valued at \$319.92.

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

XI. Executive Session *added after posting

1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(A) Personnel Matters

Mr. Babin made a motion to enter into Executive Session.

Mr. Smith seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Council entered in to Executive Session at 7:25 pm.

Mr. Babin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:07 pm.

Mr. Smith seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

XII. Adjournment

Mr. Babin made a motion to adjourn

Mr. Smith seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Council adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Jo Sharpe,
Council Secretary