

Council Chambers
Wednesday, June 19, 2013
6:00 P.M.

Presentation by Robert Clark
Northern Maine Development Commission

Robert Clark of the Northern Maine Development Commission made a presentation regarding the services that the Town receives from NMDC. He passed out a brochure outlining the advantages of being a dues paying member of NMDC, which is attached to these minutes.

- * 20% reduction on costs of contracted services
- * Preferred status when requesting assistance
- * Representation on Board
- * Participation in cooperative purchasing program

One of the services that the Town receives is a contract rate for the purchase of road salt. George has been buying our sand already mixed with salt, we have not purchased a significant amount of product through this program.

Fort Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes

Councilors: David McCrea, Jason Barnes, Mark Babin, Susan LeVasseur and John Herold

Staff: Bill Campbell, George Watson, Ella Leighton, Mike Jalbert

Citizens: 4

- I. Roll Call - Chair David McCrea asked that the record reflect all councilors present.
- II. Prayer – Councilor Mark Babin offered the prayer
- III. Pledge to the Flag - All in attendance pledged their allegiance to the Flag.
- IV. Public Comment Period – NONE

- V. Correspondence and Reports
 - A. Licenses/Permits- Fort Fairfield Lion Clubs for off site catering for the Potato Blossom Festivals Industry Supper and Dances.

 - B. Financial Report – Dan – Nothing out of the ordinary other than our cash flow is down. We should be receiving \$212,000.00 from Pines Health Services and \$247,000.00 from the Senior Citizens Project which will be coming in over the next 12 months. Usually we go out to bid on a tax anticipation note in August, will be requesting that we start this process in July.

- C. Tri-Community Landfill Report – Stev –Have had quite a few enthusiastic volunteers who are picking up the trash. We received the bids on the scrap metal pick up at the landfill, those were down a little. The bid was awarded to D & N Metals from Grand Falls, they have had it in the past and have done a really go0d job. We have opted to rebuild the compactor, for substantially less than buying a new one. There will be approximately \$160,000.00 tied up into rebuilding. We had set aside approximately \$490,000.00 so we have a carry forward for our next compactor. We had one leach ate breakout, DEP was very please with Mark’s quickness in finding it and repairing it.
- D. Police Department Report – Bill – We have had very little responses to our ad for a reserve officer. The festival schedule is in place, have been talking with the border patrols explorers post and they will be helping with traffic control and a couple of them will be partnering with an officer. We are looking at a \$2,800.00 reimbursement from the OUI and the Click it or Ticket program. In a two week period there were approximately 48 tickets issued. The funds from those tickets goes to the State, however for participating in the program the Town is receiving a radar unit.
- E. Chamber/Quality of Place Council Report – Dan – Mike is not here tonight, he has gone to Augusta to a Municipal Finance conference. He has been working on the kitchen in the gym to make it more user friendly and functional. The festival budget is on target. They are putting the dry wall up, sub-floors, new siding and painting in the Brunswick Ave. home. They are hoping to have it on the market by the first of July.
- F. Update on Budget Process – The budget that was passed by Legislature has decreased our revenue sharing an additional \$131,440.00. The budget has been finalized with income being reduce \$178,840.00 over last year. Spending has been decreased by \$171,496.00 resulting in a small surplus of \$1,006.00. It looks as though we will not need to increase our mil rate for next year. The department heads continue to do an exceptional job managing their budgets allowing again for another year with a reasonable surplus which can be applied to next years budget. It is recommended that we reduce the police department by one full time officer. Crown Ambulance has agreed to forgo their subsidy for the next 18 months, which will save us \$40,000.00 a year. Have also eliminated payments to NMDC, AAAA and the homeless shelter. Its not that these are not worthy organizations but the question is should the taxpayers be subsidizing these services when we are losing such a significant amount of revenue. This new budget includes one less individual at public works, it does not allow for the replacement of Mike and a much less expensive Fire Chief due to the restructuring of the Fire Department.

- G. Update on Senior Citizens Housing – J P Martin is doing a great job, looking to have completed in August. Hoping to have the permanent closing the end of September. Then Wayne can start moving folks into the apartments.
- H. Update on Clinic Project – This project is coming to a close, there still remains site work that will eventually be completed. The open house and dedication is scheduled for this Friday at 11 AM.

VI. Old Business –

- A. Approve FY 13/14 Budget-

Discussion:

John – Tri Community fees disproportionate to persons holding permits, I am for some fee increase but not \$10.00 to \$50.00 is just completely out of hand. I do realize that this is a small portion of the budget, but it's something that I think that a lot of people will find an unsatisfactory solutions. And I think you will find unattended consequences will occur such as increase littering, illegal burning or trespassing. So I oppose this, possibly a \$25.00 fee most people will find reasonable.

Jason - In my opinion I think it is reasonable, I look at it like a user fee.

John – But as a tax payer we also pay that \$90,000.00 a year through our taxes paid to the town.

David - One of the things that I think, through nobodies fault, we are painted into a corner and part of the corner that I see that we have been painted into is the fact we really need to stand back and take a bow to everyone who works on this budget. Every body has worked very hard on this budget so we need to be creative down the road. What I have a problem with is lets supposed we do exactly as John is suggesting. There would be \$10,000.00 that we would have to come up with somewhere else in this budget. We don't want to raise taxes and the State is passing the buck and its up to us to either eliminate services, down size, become a less oriented service community because we can't provide the same services with \$300,000 less the last three years and \$130,000 less this year. I very much appreciate the fact that the 25 full time employees are very hard working employees that we depend on to make this Town click as well as it does. I am very happy that they are not going to have to make a sacrifice so that the 3,400 people get away without a tax increase.

I am also very concerned about the Police Officer being eliminated, but we can do it. I would really like to find a way to keep the officer. Would like to recommend that we cut the officer this year, but with the stipulation that we put the officer back in next year's budget.

Motion: Susan LeVasseur moved to approve the FY 13/14 Budget with an amendment to look at reinstating the full time police officer for the next years budget.

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

- B. Approve Audit Services from Felch & Company – This year the audit will cost \$8,100.00 which is \$300.00 more than last year. They are very competent and complete their work in an expeditious manner.

Motion: Jason Barnes moved to approve utilizing the services of Felch & Company to complete our financial audit for this fiscal year.

Second: John Herold

Vote – All affirmative

- C. Approve

- 1) Quitclaim Deed to Pines Health Services – This will deed 25% ownership of the clinic facility, in return we will receive \$212,000.00 towards the cost of the facility.

Motion: John Herold moved to approve signing of the Quitclaim Deed to Pines Health Services deeding 25% ownership of the facility.

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

- 2) Lease Agreement between the Town of Fort Fairfield and Pines Health Center

Motion: Jason Barnes moved to approve the Lease Agreement with the change on page 4 paragraph b “signage” to read “With the Landlords Consent the Tenant may install”.

Second: John Herold

Vote – All affirmative

- 3) Amendment to original memorandum of agreement

Motion: Mark Babin moved to approve the amendment to the Original memorandum of agreement changing the Payment by Pines due date from June 1st to August 1st.

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

- D. Approve Quitclaim Deed to the State of Maine –Ordinance #12-04 was introduced on April 18, 2012 and the public hearing was held on May 16, 2012.

Motion: John Herold moved to approve Ordinance #12-04 and the Quitclaim Deed to the State of Maine transferring the rail line to the State.

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

VII. New Business – Senator King will be here July 10th at 3PM to talk with citizens on any concerns they may have.

A Approve 13/14 Permits & Licenses

Motion: John Herold moved to approve 13/14 permits and licenses with the exception of the Mountain View trailer park.

Second: Susan LeVasseur

Vote – All affirmative

B Approve 13/14 Board Member Appointments – Each year the Council is required to appoint members to various town organizations. This year all incumbents have expressed an interest in continuing to serve their respective positions.

Motion: Susan LeVasseur moved to approve the 13/14 Board member appointments as presented.

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

C. Approve 13/14 Department Heads & Town Officials

Motion: John Herold moved to approve the 13/14 Department heads and town officials as presented.

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

D. Approve DECD Grant Award – Tony and Mike have been working with Steve and Jane Towle on a \$50,000.00 grant from DECD to help with marketing the 2014 World Junior Biathlon Championships. They were successful and the grantee will be the Town with Tony facilitating the process.

Motion: Susan LeVasseur moved to approve that the Town will be the grantee and that Tony will facilitate the process.

Second: Mark Babin

Vote – All affirmative

E. Approve 13/14 Winter Sand – For the last few years we have purchased our winter sand from O’Neal General Construction Ltd out of Aroostook, N.B. Canada. This product is blended with 200 pounds of road salt per cubic yard. 11/12 charged \$12.50/cubic yard, 12/13 \$13.00/cubic yard and this up coming season the charge will be \$13.25/cubic yard.

Motion: John Herold moved to approve George buying the 2013/2014 winter sand from O’Neal General Contracting, Ltd for \$13.25/cubic yard.

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

VIII. Minutes: May 15, 2013

Motion: John Herold moved to approve Minutes of May 15, 2013 as written.

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

IX Warrants: #24- \$29,227.46; #25- \$324,761.37

Motion: John Herold moved to accept warrant #24 & #25 as presented.

Second: Susan LeVasseur

Vote – All affirmative

X. Other – NONE

XI. Executive Session - Moved into Executive Session at 7:35 PM

IMRSA 405(6)(A) Personnel

Came out of executive session at 8:00 PM

Moved by Susan LeVasseur and Seconded by Jason Barnes to approve Severance Agreement and General Release to Paul Durpeo.

Vote – All affirmative

XII. Adjournment at 8:03 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Council Secretary
Rebecca J. Hersey