

Fort Fairfield Town Council Monthly Meeting
Council Chambers
Wednesday, August 21, 2019
6:00 P.M.

I. Roll Call

All Councilors are present
Staff: Andrea Powers, Billie Jo Sharpe, Tony Levesque, Ella Leighton, Darren Hanson,
Mitchell Dufour, Fred Everitt, Ann Hull
Citizens: 18 including Media

II. Prayer

III. Pledge to the Flag

III. Public Comment Period

Mr. Dan Conklin – resident of Fort Fairfield addressed Council regarding a possible “backyard chicken ordinance.” Mr. Conklin previously lived out on the Morse Road where he had 5 chickens that were considered pets by his children. When Mr. Conklin moved into town at Blue Bell Court he brought the chickens with him. Mr. Conklin stated that November to July they were there with no complaints and last month he was asked to remove them. Mr. Conklin said that the reason he was told to remove them was due to the Town’s Zoning restrictions; agricultural and residential zoning restrictions.

Mr. Conklin stated he spoke to an attorney regarding the restrictions. The attorney asked Mr. Conklin is he was selling the eggs, chickens or any of the bi-products of the chickens. Mr. Conklin responded “No.” Mr. Conklin referenced page 78 of the Zoning Ordinance and read it to the Council. Mr. Conklin commented “If I cannot have my children’s pets that are these five hens inside the residential area, that also means that you cannot have your garden in your backyards because under this, fruits and vegetables would be banned just as much as the chicken. The chickens are kept as pets with names, kept inside a coup and his immediate neighbors have had no problems with the chickens being there.

Mr. Babin asked if Mr. Conklin wished to place this topic on a future Town Council agenda, to please contact the Town Manager, Ms. Powers.

Mr. Conklin stated that he is going to bring the chickens back to his yard tonight and go from there in the future.

Special recognition:

Ms. Powers: “Neither Cheryl nor Keith are aware of the real reason they have been asked to be here tonight so I will begin with the why; The Honorary Lifetime Citizens Award is a proclamation given to an individual(s) who have established outstanding service through a lifetime of consistent contributions to the community of Fort Fairfield. Honorary Lifetime Citizenship is a status bestowed by our community to an individual(s) whom it considers to be especially admirable or otherwise worthy of the distinction.”

“Recognized for providing a significant period of years of continuous and extraordinary

service to the community of Fort Fairfield, both Cheryl and her husband Keith grew up in Fort Fairfield, Maine. Went to school here, graduated, married and raised their family here. Cheryl has had a business here; Cherie's Floral Shop and was a former Director of our Chamber of Commerce. Keith worked for Loomis Bell on his farm for several years. She and Keith have worked on several Maine Potato Blossom Festivals, Cheryl as Parade Director and Keith as her ever present guide and second hand, both are still active members of the Antique Tractor Club."

Recommendation: That the Town Council vote to approve the proclamation of Honorary Lifetime Citizens Award to Cheryl and Keith Boulier.

Mr. Butler made a motion to approve the proclamation of Honorary Lifetime Citizens Award to Cheryl and Keith Boulier.

Second: Mr. Kilcollins.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Mr. Babin then presented Cheryl and Keith Boulier the Honorary Lifetime Citizens award.

Mrs. Boulier thanked the Council and Town staff for all their support and this special recognition stating that it means so much to her and her family.

Mr. Butler commented that he tips his hat to the Recreation Department for a very successful summer events program.

V. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses and Permits

As of August 21, 2019 we have not received any license renewals.

B. Financial Report

Loan Balances as of 7/31/2019:

Jones Fuel – Balance @\$2,430.63 – Pays \$50.00 per month.
Langley #5275 – Balance @\$19,216.63 – Paying \$200 per month as promised.
Langley #5277 – Balance @\$6,999.37 – Paying \$100 per month as promised.
Pelletier – Balance @\$938.91 – Paying regularly as agreed.

CDARS accounts show interest income from June 27 through July 31 in the amount of \$1,793.47. ICS accounts have interest income for the month of July in the amount of \$104.10. Total interest on investments for July is \$1,897.57.

Interest charged on TAN (\$300,000.00) from July 18 is \$633.16. This nets our interest out at \$1,264.41 income for July 2019.

We received homestead exemption reimbursement in the amount of \$183,602.00, bringing our total to \$238,628.00. This is \$17,646.00 less than our budgeted amount of \$256,274.00.

We received August Revenue Sharing in the amount of \$28,392.44. This amount is \$10,135.17 more than the amount received for August 2018.

C. AWS Report – Mr. Rogeski

AWS awarded the new scales project to Fairbanks Scales. The new scales should be in by the end of October. Pineland Farms is allowing AWS to utilize their scales while they are shut down for the scales to be replaced.

DEP inspections at both landfill facilities went well, with some minor, non-compliance related items to be addressed.

WWTP Sludge applications: Mark has submitted applications to the DEP to accept sludge at both landfills. The Governor recently stopped the spreading of Municipal Waste Sludge after micro plastics balls were found in cow's milk from a Farm in southern Maine.

VI. Old Business

A. Tobacco/Smoking Policy

Background: With the passing of the legalization of recreational marijuana, and the increased use of electronic devices by the State of Maine, it is time to update the Town's smoking policy to include all forms of combustible products.

Recommendation: That the Town Council vote to approve the updated smoking policy.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to approve the updated smoking policy.

Mr. Butler seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

VII. New Business

A. Franchise Agreement

This Franchise Agreement is between the Town of FORT FAIRFIELD, MAINE, and Time Warner Cable Northeast, LLC, locally known as CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS. We currently have not had a signed franchise agreement since 2017.

Recommendation: That the Town Council approves the Franchise Agreement with Time Warner Cable Northeast, LLC, locally known as Charter Communications.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to approve the Franchise Agreement with Time Warner Cable Northeast, LLC, locally known as Charter Communications.

Mr. Butler seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: Mr. Kilcollins – Aye
Mr. Butler – Aye
Mr. Smith – No
Mrs. Libby – Aye
Mr. Babin - Aye

B. Mission Broadband

Mission Broadband is a trusted independent advisor to communities across the United

States, assisting them with broadband solutions. They utilize public-private partnerships, federal subsidies, state subsidies, and local financial support to build high speed internet access infrastructure in communities across America. They are an influential advisor to federal and state governments regarding “Broadband” and “Internet” legislation.

The proposal for Mission Broadband, Inc. is to provide broadband internet consulting to the Town of Fort Fairfield, Maine and to assist the Town in the development and execution of a strategic planning and vision document, and develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) process concerning the Town’s broadband internet infrastructure

Recommendation: This is for the Council’s information and discussion.

Mr. Smith asked if there are any future talks with Consolidated.

Ms. Powers responded yes, this is where Mission Broadband comes in to help us get the funding through Connect Maine to finish the fiber optics project through the 72 square miles. “This is the final piece.”

C. Systems Engineering IT Proposal

Systems Engineering has provided the Town with a Proposal for IT Management. Components of the Towns IT environment that are covered is determined by the assessment work proposal. Assessment work inventories and evaluates how the Town needs to operate on a daily basis. Systems Engineering IT is available 24/7 365 remotely. If we were to need assistance in-house, there would be dispatch out of Portland, maybe Bangor. The cost to do the assessment with Systems Engineering IT is \$8,975.00, if the Town signs a one-year contract after the assessment, they would discount at 50% for a price of \$4,487.50. The cost for the one-year contract is determined by the findings of the assessment.

Our current contract with ReBoot IT is through March 20, 2020. We currently pay \$480.00 a month for 24/7 365 coverage both remote and on-site.

Recommendation: This is for the Council’s information and discussion.

Discussion:

Mr. Butler – Does ReBoot IT have people in the local area?

Ms. Powers – Yes, seven minutes away.

Miss Sharpe – If ReBoot cannot fix the issue remotely, they send a tech out immediately to the office.

Ms. Powers stated that she will continue to receive proposals from other IT Companies including ReBoot IT and she will keep the Council informed

VIII. Minutes of the July 24, 2019 Regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Butler made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2019 regular Council meeting.

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

IX. Warrants #2: 323,212.74 #3: 215,346.11 #4: \$290,351.70

Warrant #02 in the amount of \$323,212.74 was completed on 07/22/2019.

Checking balance as of 7/31/2019 was \$249,577.24; Machias Savings balance \$5,000.00; CDARS balance \$1,081,800.08; ICS balance \$163,324.01.

Excise tax collected during July was \$105,985.81; Real Estate & Personal Property taxes were \$70,033.15 and we received \$34,665.36 in Revenue Sharing.

Warrant #03 in the amount of \$215,346.11 was completed on 08/12/2019 leaving us with a checking balance of \$157,844.94; Machias Savings balance \$5,000.00; CDARS balance \$1,081,800.08; ICS balance \$163,324.01.

We sent out 215 thirty-day notices totaling \$255,673.09 for 2018 unpaid taxes on 8/6/2019.

Warrant #04 in the amount of \$290,351.70 was completed on 08/21/2019 leaving us with a checking balance of \$147,377.80; Machias Savings balance \$5,000.00; CDARS balance \$1,081,800.08; ICS balance \$163,324.01.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to approve Warrant #02 in the amount of \$323,212.74, Warrant #03 in the amount of \$215,346.11, and Warrant #04 in the amount of \$290,351.70.

Mr. Butler seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

X. Other

XI. Manager's Report

XII. Adjournment

Mr. Butler made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Council adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Billie Jo Sharpe
Council Secretary