



Fort Fairfield Town Council Monthly Meeting
Council Chambers
Wednesday, May 19, 2021
6:00 P.M.

- I. Roll Call
All Councilors are present
Staff: Ms. Powers, Billie Jo, Darren Hanson, Ella Leighton, Kevin Senal, Mitchell Dufour, Deputy Chief Fenderson, Tony Levesque, Jennifer Gaenzle, Sgt. Eagles
Citizens: 21+/-
- II. Prayer
- III. Pledge to the Flag
- IV. Public Comment Period

Darren Condon – Resident, I'm a taxpayer, also this town. The only concern that really concerns me and a few other people that I've talked to, is this paper right here that Mr. Ouellette and his wife have put out? I agree with some of this.

But you (Mr. Ouellette and his wife) put the taxpayer's request. I'm a taxpayer, no one came to my house and asked me. If you're going to assume and start saying "taxpayers", then I feel you need to start putting people's names, phone numbers and addresses on the paper, so we know who is actually talking about this.

Jeff Armstrong – stated he was a resident of Fort Fairfield residing at 94 Presque Isle Street. Regarding that letter. We're all taxpayers. And I understand you're concerned about everybody. But if this proposed budget is passed, it's going to affect every taxpayer, including yourself, sir. I personally have had my accountant look at this proposal. And within seconds after he looked at it, he said why is this even being proposed? It's not balanced. State of Maine requires that any city or town tax proposal has to be balanced. It has to match what's coming in and going out. We're up over a million dollars. That's against the Maine law. Mr. Chairman, I addressed this to you because this concerns you very, very much. If this is approved, you will be breaking a main civil and criminal law. You should be very, very aware of that. said you're the chairperson This is going to come back to you if this is approved.

The budget proposed budget is not balanced. The Fire Department, why is the Fire Department for Fort Fairfield's proposed budget more than Presque Isle? I don't understand that. So that is something that we've got a really look at. The other side of the coin is the reevaluation on land and property, which I've brought up just in regards to land. I have addressed the council twice, once in January, and once in March. And I haven't gotten a response. Maybe I didn't make it formal, but just reviewing for properties, my property and three other properties. In land alone. There's no consistency. My land value went up, I believe, 213%. My neighbors went down 3% why other neighbors went up 100% and other neighbors went up 140 something percent? It wasn't

done, just and fair. My understanding as far as evaluations, whether it's land, or property, and we will pick land, for example, you have residential property, you have commercial property, you have agricultural tillable and non-tillable. Any town or city should have a value of what an acre of that particular type of land is. That being the case, it should have been very easy to evaluate consistent and fair. So that being said, council members, I urge you not to pass this proposed budget, because it is way out of whack. And unless you can give me some answers and give the taxpayer some answers on where the money is going, and how you justify the means. Someone's going to be in trouble. Thank you very much.

Dana Morrow – Property owner in Fort Fairfield - I've traveled the last 30 years but I maintain residence here. I think we got a pretty nice town. But I think we're headed towards bankruptcy. Where we're spending way beyond our means. Again, why is Presque Isle's budget \$200,000 less? What will our mill rate be next year? Are you going to ask for another million for the next budget? And this just keeps going on and on? A few people made a major decision. And now we're all paying the consequences. I don't understand the hiring mentality When a Town Manager is hired. I feel a Town Manager asked to manage the money or she works off the town council but you've got to make the money work. Like I said one over a million dollars for this current coming up budget and then you're just going to keep asking for more and more. I mean, there aren't a whole lot of people that live here. New businesses will not locate here. And I would tell them not to, they're going to pick up the brunt of the taxes.

As far as the evaluation, I would tell farmers to ask what their valuation was on their tillable acres, because I'm sure it's not accurate. Mine wasn't. I don't own a lot of land, but it still wasn't accurate. All I can say is, and this is towards the town manager, Council Chair interjected and stated that Mr. Morrow could not make a comment towards the Town Manager and that no-one is going to be pointing fingers at her. The Council is hearing comments on the budget.

There were no more public comments.

V. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses/Permits – Ms. Sharpe

As of May 19, 2021 we have not received any license or permit renewal applications.

B. Financial Report

We received April Revenue Sharing in the amount of \$16,706.60 on 04/20/2021. Total revenue sharing received to date is \$488,706.21. This puts us at 82.22% of budget versus 83.33%. We are now \$5,272.96 below our budgeted amount.

Checking account balance as of 04/30/2021 is \$1,622,415.33 which includes the promissory note with AWS; Machias Savings balance \$5,000.00.

Total excise tax collected in April was \$62,664.53; State revenue sharing \$16,706.60; Real Estate & Personal Property taxes collected \$86,630.31.

As of April 30, 2021, our revenue is at 82.22% versus budget of 83.33%; tax collections are at \$3,284,251.87 compared to \$2,749,276.37 for the same period last year which shows an increase in tax collections of \$534,975.50 compared to last year.

We received our first payment for ambulance services on 4/26/2021 in the amount of \$843.10. It is my understanding that payments will now come in on a regular basis.

Tax collections are much better than they were a year ago. Last year we had 483 unpaid tax bills for a total of \$596,038.82; for the same period this year, we have 394 unpaid tax bills for a total of \$478,149.64. This means that we have 89 less tax bills to collect, totaling \$117,889.18 more collected this year than last year.

Expenses as of April 30, 2021 are at 80.67% versus our budget @83.33%.

Loan balances as of 04/30/2021:

Jones Fuel - \$1,680.63 – Paid in full.
Langley #5275 - \$18,616.63
Langley #5277 - \$6,699.37

As we strive to increase monthly revenue, I would like to report the increase in Tax Club participants.

For the 2019 taxes, we had 155 participants for a monthly revenue of \$15,180.65.

For the 2020 taxes, we had 180 participants for a monthly revenue of \$16,754.29, which was increase of \$1,573.64 monthly from 2019.

For the 2021 taxes, we have 207 participants for a monthly revenue of \$24,121.66, with an increase of 27 participants for 2021 taxes, we will have an increase of \$7,367.37 in monthly revenue from 2020 for the Tax Club.

C. AWS – Mr. Rogeski

Mr. Stev Rogeski, Fort Fairfield Member of the AWS Board of Directors, will provide a report to the Town Council.

Draft Minutes from the most recent AWS Board meeting were provided to Council.

D. Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget Public Hearings and Update

Public Budget Hearing 1&2/Letters from “Tax Payers” of Fort Fairfield/Article

First Public Budget Hearing:

Expenses:

The overall increase from FY20/21 for FY21/22 requested was \$65,739.00.

The CIP for FY21/22 amount requested for the reserve accounts was \$180,900.00.
The total amount increase for FY21/22 requested was \$246,639.00.

Income:

Total non-property tax revenues for FY21/22 requested was \$1,899,838.00.
Total revenues for FY21/22 requested was \$6,076,379.00.
The total amount for FY21/22 decreased was \$542,607.00.
The requested expenses minus the projected revenues have an increase of \$1,054,317.00 for FY21/22.

Citizens were reminded that the next Public Budget Hearing May 5, 2021 at 6:00PM and Council would continue to take questions and comments until the next Council Meeting on May 19, 2021. Council will vote on the FY21/22 Budget at the June 16th Town Council Meeting. No other directives were given by Council to the Town Manager on the budget presented.

Second Public Budget Hearing:

Expenses:

The overall increase from FY20/21 for FY21/22 requested was \$65,739.00.
The CIP for FY21/22 amount requested for the reserve accounts was \$180,900.00.
The total amount increase for FY21/22 requested was \$246,639.00.

Income:

Total non-property tax revenues for FY21/22 requested was \$1,899,838.00.
Total revenues for FY21/22 requested was \$6,076,379.00.
The total amount for FY21/22 decreased was \$542,607.00.
The requested expenses and the projected revenues have an increase of \$1,054,317.00 for FY21/22.

A third Public Budget Hearing was requested by Councilor Libby directed to the Town Manager. It was indicated that Council appreciates all the comments and concerns and they are taking those in to consideration. Chairman Butler asked to see the budget with the \$1,054,317.00 deficit absorbed by the departments. No other directives were given by Council to the Town Manager on the budget presented.

Fort Fairfield Taxpayers Request 5.4.2021:

I received this manifesto on May 5, 2021 at 11:17am on the day of the Second Public Budget Hearing. To reiterate, we are a Town Council, Town Manager by Charter form of Government. Our Council is our legislative body. We are not a Town Meeting form of government. The registered voters of Fort Fairfield vote in the Town Councilors.

Documents Requested:

1. Council has the Reserve Account Balances in their budget folder. This information is available at the Town Office by request.
2. This information is available in our audit. Councilors have a copy of this audit. This information is available at the Town Office by request.

3. Council was given a copy of the Fort Fairfield Solar, LLC project when they voted on the approval. This information is available at the Town Office by request.
4. Some of this information is not available to us as the vehicles were purchased several years ago and no record of their purchase is in our records. Some of those records were lost in the flood of 1994 as well. What we do have for information is available at the Town Office by request.

Questions to the Town Council from “Taxpayers”:

1. The FFFR Department was started with a loan that was voted on by Council for FY20/21. It was in the budget as a credit and debit. That loan is not a credit for FY21/22. The loan payment is a debit for FY21/22.
2. The \$39,789.00 was voted on by Council to be put in to each Department’s budget from the previous FY19/20 budget.
3. This was addressed at the February 17th Council Meeting. Council voted to put the insurance funds from the plow truck that burned into the vehicle reserve account for Public Works.
4. This was discussed at Council Meeting it was a voted on and approved by warrant, that was voted on and approved by Council for \$31,070.00. The minutes for that warrant were also voted on and approved by Council.
5. It is one Department of Firefighter/EMS providers. They are providing 24 hour/ 7 days a week/ 365 days a year coverage. I would not recommend that Council separate these in to two Departments.
6. I cannot speak to the published approximate amounts in Caribou and Limestone per capita. The per capita rate in Fort Fairfield for FY20/21 is \$35.86. (The FFFR expenses of \$1,097,888.00 minus the revenue of \$972,520.00 dived by the population of 3,496)
7. The voted on and approved amount is \$21,930 per year.
8. The actual voted on and approved amount budgeted for FY20/21 for the MPBF was \$40,500.00. The actual amount spent was \$29,792.00.
9. The Town Manager had not received any official information on the ARPA funds.
10. The requested expenses minus the projected revenues have an increase of \$1,054,317.00 for FY21/22. It should be noted that we have mil rate tax increases or decreases not percentage increases or decreases.
11. The cost of providing the services to the community are outlined in the proposed budget request. The percentage given does not properly identify municipal appropriations vs municipal tax dollars. The Council has a responsibility to properly fund the services and a Maine State Statute that must be followed by law for Capitol Improvement Planning. (30-A §§ 4312 et seq. especially § 4326 (3-A)(B).
12. Each taxpayers’ tax bill is unique to the valuation of the property, land, business, and or farm they own. There is no average increase. If a taxpayer’s tax bill went up significantly for FY20/21 it is factual to say that they had not been paying their fair share of the tax burden for over 20 years. Some tax bills went down substantially, some less so as is for the tax bills that went up substantially, some less so. What is being asked of Council is to reduce the revenue received by putting the property tax amount flat. I do not recommend Council do this.
13. This increase includes the 1% voted and approved COLA and the second Deputy Clerk.
14. This would not cover the costs to provide the service. The increases are due to the cost of the medicine that is to be replaced each time it is used in the ambulances, the

Maine State Retirement increases, Insurance increases, and the 1% COLA and benefits like FICA.

15. This a COVID budget vs a non-COVID budget. We have to pay our staff and provide for the programming.

16. The Municipal appropriation amount vs the tax dollar amount is not the same. The tax bills show on each bill the percentage that goes to MSAD 20, the County, and the Municipality. The appropriation is for all three. MSAD 20 and the County are removed from the appropriation and the revenues subtracted from that to get the municipal amount due. We cannot change the amount requested by MSAD 20 or the County. For FY20/21 MSAD 20 was 62.09% of each tax bill, the Municipality was 31.09% and the County was 6.82%.

Fort Fairfield Taxpayers Request 5.18.2021:

I received this manifesto on May 18, 2021 at 2:18pm on the day before the Town Council Meeting. To reiterate, we are a Town Council, Town Manager by Charter form of Government. Our Council is our legislative body. We are not a Town Meeting form of government. The registered voters of Fort Fairfield vote in the Town Councilors.

The FY 21/22 proposed budget does provide our community with essential services in the most cost-effective manner. Councilors are not volunteers. They are voted in by the registered voters of Fort Fairfield and they each receive a stipend of \$1,000.00 per budget year that they serve of their term.

The Public Budget Hearing list of questions was just previously answered. As stated previously at Town Council Meetings and the Public Budget Hearings please bring your questions and comments to the Town Manager in a timely manner.

This is a different percentage than what was presented in the first letter of questions to be answered. It was stated that the “28.3% average increase” versus the 22% average increase in this second round of questions.

There is no list of the citizens requesting this information for our records. We are told this is a representation of the taxpayers of Fort Fairfield, the citizens of Fort Fairfield, however there is not list of who this actually represents. I, the Town Manager am a taxpayer of Fort Fairfield and this group does not represent me.

It is repeatedly stated in this second round of questioning “further reduce this budget as necessary”. As necessary for what? If it is referring to the original request to balance the budget, again, a municipal budget is not balanced until the end of the fiscal year, for us that is June 30th of that year, and the auditors have finished their audit.

1. This increase of \$13,779.00 includes the 1% voted and approved COLA and the second Deputy Clerk.

2. I do not recommend Council reject this proposed increase. Council voted on the Maine State Retirement cost increases. The remainder of the increase is to cover the medicine that is to be replaced each time it is used in the ambulances, the Maine State Retirement increases, Insurance increases, and the 1% COLA and benefits like FICA.

3. This a COVID budget vs a non-COVID budget. We have to pay our staff and provide for the programming.

4. Reserve accounts cannot be used for decreasing taxes. Council is responsible for raising the amount of taxes necessary to provide for the services their community expects. The Council has a responsibility to properly fund the services and a Maine State Statute that must be followed by law for Capitol Improvement Planning. (30-A §§ 4312 et seq. especially § 4326 (3-A) (B).
5. This is the amount of money we actually will receive in taxes for FY20/21. This is revenue. If it is decreased to this amount, it decreases revenue. For FY21/22 that revenue would be \$3,768,762.00 in property taxes.
6. This is certainly a topic for discussion at the third Public Budget Hearing as the Town Manager was just given the information from ICMA on Monday. This information has been shared with Council as well.
7. A municipal budget is not balanced until the end of the fiscal year, for us that is June 30th of that year, and the auditors have finished their audit.

Article in the COUNTY ME:

This article is dated for May 18, 2021. I did not receive the information quoted in this article until yesterday, May 18, 2021 at 2:18pm. The correspondence from the Taxpayer Group of Fort Fairfield is dated for May 19, 2021.

What shortfalls?

We are not a Town Meeting form of government. If Council refers to the email correspondence between the Town Manager and the reporter, you will note the Town Manager has repeatedly informed them of this.

What resolution?

The budget is not inflated, there is not excessive amounts of spending. In our municipal budget, the budget is passed and voted on by Council. The expenses cannot exceed those budgeted totals. We spend only what we have been approved for. If there are expenses above \$15,000.00, by policy, those are brought to Council to discuss.

By Charter, we have a budget process. A minimum of two Public Budget Hearings held before Council's final budget vote in June.

We are already at conservative spending.

Chairman Butler did not berate the public or the Town Manager.

There are several more inaccuracies in this article, as the Town Manager has a responsibility to the community and her regular job requirements on a daily basis and will respond in a timely manner.

VI. Old Business

A. Update on Tax Acquired Property for 2018 Taxes

On Wednesday, March 18, 2021, Council approved we put out to bid property located Riverside Avenue with a minimum bid of \$2,500.

We did not receive any bids on the property located at 107 Riverside Avenue.

On Tuesday, April 13, 2021 Council approved to offer the property at 107 Riverside Avenue to abutting property owners for a minimum of \$2,500. One abutting owner, Merrilee Brooker, chose to purchase the property for \$2,500. A relative of Merrilee's came in today and paid the \$2,500.00 on Merrilee's behalf.

Please have the Councilors sign the attached Quit Claim Deed deeding the property to Merrilee Brooker.

Interested buyers are made aware of their responsibility for any outstanding utility bills connected to said property.

VII. New Business

A. Proclamation 52nd Anniversary of Municipal Clerks Week

Background: The International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) initiated the Municipal Clerks Week back in 1969 to celebrate the contributions of municipal Clerks in local government. Our profession is one of the oldest documented roles in government.

The proclamation (attached) proclaims the week of May 2, 2021 through May 8, 2021 as Municipal Clerks Week throughout the Town of Fort Fairfield and gives special thanks and recognition to the contributions of the Municipal Clerk in local government
Recommendation: Town Council sign Proclamation 21-05, Municipal Clerks Week.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion that Town Council sign Proclamation 21-05, Municipal Clerks Week.

Mrs. Libby seconded

Vote: All Affirmative.

B. NMDC Membership Board Appointments

NMDC will be holding their annual election meeting in June, 2021 for the election of Executive Board Members whose terms are expiring in 2021. The Executive Board is elected from the NMDC Membership.

The appointment(s) last year were: Mitch Butler, Councilor
Andrea Powers, Town Manager

Recommendation: Council votes to approve the above-mentioned names for the NMDC Membership Board Appointments.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the above-mentioned names for the NMDC Membership Board Appointments.

Mr. Babin seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

C. Fort Fairfield Frontier ATV Club

Mr. Ken Stratton of the Fort Fairfield Frontier ATV Club is asking for Council to approve the use of an access route on the North Caribou Road from the bridge to the trail entrance.

Mr. Stratton will be available for discussion on this topic.

Ken Stratton - I am the president of the ATV club. For years now we've been trying to connect to caribou and or limestone. We have it this year, we had two plans. Plan A was to go over the bridge and swing left and use the snowmobile trail. But because of one land owner we couldn't, so we tried Plan B, which was to get over the bridge and to the right and down Riverside; You approved that last year, we ran into one issue with one land owner, but it has been resolved. So, Plan B is ago, I still like to have approval for the North Caribou Road if we need it so they don't have to wait two months if Plan B fails.

If Plan B ever fails, we don't want to lose this connection to Limestone, so I guess, as of right now, Plan B is a go. We really don't need the Caribou Road right now. But if this land owner has an issue, and shuts down that small portion of trail, then that whole section is shut down. It's the same policy with Plan A on the other side of the Limestone Road on the snowmobile trail, if there's ever an issue there, they will shut it down. If I had to come back to the Town Council for approval on that section that I'm asking for on the North Caribou Road that will take a month. If I can at least get your approval even though it won't be used right now, for now, through where Riverside Park is now. Originally, I was intending to go 1000 feet down North Caribou Road to just before the cemetery. Now we have the dog park there. So rather than come in after the dog park is there any way to come in before the dog park. I just want to get the approval so that if something goes wrong on the route that we have now with one landowner, that I can hopefully go the other route without having to shut down the trail. There's no issue with it being under 1500 feet and right now connecting to a Town road, turning right going down Riverside Avenue is still not an issue. But once you add that state road that's on the bridge plus the North Caribou Road, the two are added together is more than 1500 feet, which is why I need permission from the Town.

Ms. Powers - That was not relayed to me before this meeting tonight asking to be able to go through that grassy area before the dog park. That's the park where the children play, dogs are in the dog park, and our residents are. I would not recommend that.

Councilors discussed that going through Riverside Park is not an option at this point and to speak to the Utilities District and try to work out an arrangement with them and present it to Ms. Powers in the future and Council would work with the ATV Club to help them get access for Plan A.

Mr. Babin made a motion to table approval of the use of an access route on the North Caribou Road from the bridge to the trail entrance.

Mrs. Libby seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

D. Fort Fairfield Public Works Back Hoe

We recently discovered an antifreeze leak which led to finding a 4-inch crack in the engine block of our 1993 416b Cat Backhoe. This machine is almost 30 years old and although we are usually all for rebuilding equipment, I do not believe putting a new engine in this machine would be a good long-term investment for the town. Although we have started looking into costs of new and used replacement machines, I do not have a recommendation on which way we should go and will not until next year's budget is settled.

Recommendation: Council waits to make a decision on the purchase of a back hoe for the Public Works Department.

Mr. Babin made a motion that Council waits to make a decision on the purchase of a backhoe for the Public Works Department.

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Discussion:

Mr. Kilcollins - I just wanted to take a minute and let Council know that I know the mechanic that has worked on this piece of equipment and he did everything possible to keep that thing rebuilt. He's been retired for two years. The machine has already served its purpose in the Community, so I just wanted to let the floor know and other Councilors that it is quite a big piece of needed equipment.

Vote: All Affirmative.

E. Industrial Park Parcels

We have received an offer to purchase a parcel of land in the Fort Fairfield Industrial Park. They are looking at the 5-acre parcel on the Southern End. Council has not yet determined a value for the Industrial Park parcels.

The current assessed value of 5 acres of industrial land is valued at \$82,500.00.

Recommendation: Council votes to establish the Fort Fairfield Industrial Park parcels be valued at \$16,500.00 per acre.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to establish the Fort Fairfield Industrial Park parcels be valued at \$16,500.00 per acre.

Mr. Smith seconded.

Discussion:

Mr. Smith - Is there any plans for this property?

Ms. Powers - Yes, we've had an offer to purchase five acres of parcel on the south end of the industrial park.

Vote: All Affirmative

F. Spirit of America Award Nomination Quality of Place Council

The Spirit of America Foundation was established in Maine to encourage volunteerism and commendable community service. Since the first Spirit of America Foundation award was presented in 1991 to Alma Jones by Augusta's mayor, over 500 Spirit of America ceremonies have taken place.

The Spirit of America award is presented to a local person(s), project, or group for outstanding community service using Fort Fairfield's criteria to honor the recipient(s). The Spirit of America Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity established in Augusta, ME in 1990 to honor volunteerism.

The Fort Fairfield Quality of Place Council has been exemplary in their community building efforts for over a decade.

Recommendation: Council votes to approve the Spirit of America Award Nomination to the Quality of Place Council.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to approve the Spirit of America Award Nomination to the Quality of Place Council.

Mr. Babin seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

G. Puddle Dock Rentals

There has been interest in rental of the Puddle Dock facility and with Governor Mills following a review by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Governor Janet Mills announced that the State of Maine will adopt the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new guidance which allows fully vaccinated Americans not to wear face coverings indoors, effective May 24, 2021.

Maine will also lift the physical distancing requirement at indoor public settings where people are eating or drinking and therefore would be removing their face covering.

I am requesting that Council adopt a written policy signed and acknowledged by the renters of the Puddle Dock facility to be added to the contract for rental:

Puddle Dock Rental Policy –

To ensure the health and safety of our renters of Puddle Dock, we have implemented policy for the following:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Renters and or guests are currently welcome to wear personal face masks and gloves while visiting the property.

Physical Distancing. Renters and or guests are welcome to practice physical distancing by standing at least six feet away from others while in the property. Furniture and other physical layouts should be arranged to ensure such appropriate distancing, complying with, or exceeding, local and state mandated occupancy limits.

A \$50.00 cleaning and sanitizing deposit is required upon signing of contract.

Renters who choose to cancel their events altogether are subject to the terms agreed upon in the contract.

Recommendation: Council votes to approve the above policy addition to the Puddle Dock Rental Agreement.

Mr. Babin made a motion to approve the Policy addition to the Puddle Dock Rental Agreement.

Mr. Smith seconded.

There was discussion in regards to possible discrimination with the recommended policy among persons who are vaccinated and those who chose not be vaccinated. Town Staff stated that the proposed policy would follow the CDC guidelines.

Vote: Mark – No
Bob – No
Melissa – Yes
Mitch – Yes
Scott – Yes.

Motion passed 3-2.

H. MSAD 20 Elementary Truck Project Day June 4, 2021

The principal of the For Fairfield Elementary School requested that the Municipality participate in their Touch a Truck Project. Ms. Parks writes:

Our students see big transportation trucks and massive pieces of farm equipment frequently. They hear sirens and see lights as emergency vehicles and law enforcement professionals race to help others. They see construction vehicles performing road work. They see trash collection and tow trucks out and about. They even see helicopters and hot

air balloons in the sky. What they seldom get is an opportunity to see and touch these vehicles up close, and talk to the folks who operate them. Can you help us?

On Friday, June 4 from 10:00 – 1:30 we want to give the elementary students the opportunity to get an up-close look, and hopefully a touch, at some of the big machinery that is part of the community. If you can help by parking one of your vehicles on the elementary grounds, I know that our students will be thrilled.

We will be participating by bringing equipment from the Fort Fairfield Fire Rescue, Police Department, Public Works, and Recreation Department.

I would encourage Council to attend the event as well.

I. Concert at the Gazebo Maine Army National Guard Band and Ice Cream Social

On July 2, 2021, the Maine Army National Guard Band will be in Fort Fairfield, Maine to perform a concert at the Gazebo in downtown Fort Fairfield.

There will be an ice cream social sponsored by Hometown Proud Hillside IGA.

The Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce will be there assisting with the ice cream social, promoting the Chambers Smokin' BBQ Cook-off, and presenting give-a-ways.

The municipality encourages its citizens to bring your chairs and gather to enjoy the evening together.

VIII. Minutes of the April 14, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Mrs. Libby made a motion to approve the Minutes of the April 14, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

IX. Warrants: Warrant #24: \$125,351.94; Warrant #25: \$381,737.65

Warrant #24 in the amount of \$125,351.94 was completed on 04/26/2021.

Warrant #25 in the amount of \$381,737.65 was completed on 05/12/2021. This warrant includes monthly payment to SAD #20 in the amount of \$195,991.92. Checking account balance as of 05/12/2021 is \$1,296,349.95 and Machias Savings is \$5,000.00.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to approve Warrants #24 and #25 as written

Mr. Smith seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

X. Other

A. *Change Date for next Council Meeting

Council Chair Mitch Butler has requested a date change for the June 16, 2021 Council Meeting to be moved to June 17, 2021 at 6:00pm.

Recommendation: Council votes to accept the proposed date and time change for the June 16, 2021 Council Meeting to June 17, 2021 at 6:00pm.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to accept the proposed date and time change for the June 16, 2021 Council Meeting to June 17, 2021 at 6:00pm.

Mr. Babin seconded.

Mr. Butler noted it was his request for the date change as his wife has a medical appointment in Boston.

Vote: All Affirmative.

****Donation of Granite Urns and pedestals from Wright Family***

In July of 2020 both of the urns in front of the library were damaged during an act of vandalism on the flower pots around town, with one completely beyond repair. At that time Theriault Equipment donated \$500 towards the replacement costs for the urns.

In May 2021, the Wright family accepted the \$500 donation and donated the balance, valued at \$300.00, needed to purchase two beautiful granite urns owned by their parents. The urns are given in memory of their parents Robert and June Wright by their children, Brian, Rod, Cheryl, Brent and Marcia.

The new urns will be installed by a donation of labor from Chris Campbell of Campbell's Masonry.

The Library wishes to send a deep, heartfelt thank you to all involved, Theriault Equipment, The Wright Family and Campbell Construction, in getting our beautiful urns replaced and safely installed.

****National Endowment for the Humanities and American Library Association Grant Applications***

This past week the Library applied for a \$19,200 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This grant money would be used for the Jesse Drew Historical Archives to install a rolling library ladder, add acrylic liners to all the wooden shelving to protect the books from varnish damage, install UV filters on all the windows and fluorescent lights, install foam spacers between the large bound newspaper books and one year payroll of our archival aide. Awarded notification is scheduled for September 2021.

Additionally, this coming week the library will be applying for an American Library Association Grant. If awarded this grant will pay for many additional services for the community such as expanded public parking area next to the Block House, picnic tables for sitting outside the library, internal wiring upgrades possibly the payroll of the library for 1 year and much more. Award notification is scheduled for June 25th 2021.

This library has also contacted projectConnect to install WIFI boosters outside the library that will expand the existing free WIFI to the lower library garden, all other green areas of the library property and cover the whole rear parking area. This is slated for installation in the next 4-6 weeks.

****Third Public Budget Hearing***

I recommend that the council vote to approve a third public budget hearing for Thursday June 3 2021 at 6pm.

Mr. Babin made a motion to approve a third public budget hearing for Thursday June 3 2021 at 6pm.

Mr. Smith seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

XI. Executive Session 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Personnel Matters
Executive Session 1M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(H) Code Enforcement

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion that Council enter into Executive Session regarding 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Personnel Matters

Vote: All Affirmative

Council entered into Executive Session regarding 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Personnel Matters at 7:29 pm.

Mr. Babin made a motion that Council come out of Executive Session regarding 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Personnel Matters.

Mrs. Libby seconded

Council came out of Executive Session regarding 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Personnel Matters at 8:05 pm.

Action taken: None.

Mrs. Libby made a motion that Council enter into Executive Session regarding 1M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(H) Code Enforcement

Mr. Babin seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Council entered into Executive Session regarding 1M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(H) Code Enforcement at 8:05 pm.

Mr. Babin made a motion that Council come out of Executive Session regarding 1M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(H) Code Enforcement.

Mr. Smith seconded

Council came out of Executive Session regarding 1M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(H) Code Enforcement at 8:17 pm.

Action taken: None.

XII. Adjournment

Mr. Babin made a motion to adjourn

Mrs. Libby seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Council adjourned at 8:17 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Billie Jo Sharpe, Town Clerk
Council Secretary

**Added prior to Council Meeting*