

Fort Fairfield Town Council Monthly Meeting  
Council Chambers  
Wednesday, May 15, 2024  
6:00 PM

THE TOWN OF FORT FAIRFIELD FY 2024-2025 BUDGET 2<sup>nd</sup> HEARING  
Report from the Budget Advisory Committee

- I. Roll Call  
Council – Keith Thibeau II, Pat Canavan, Kevin Pelletier, Jim Ouellette, Shane McGillan  
Staff – Tim Goff, Neadra Dubois, Tony Levesque, Darren Hanson, Jack Shannon, Lacey Wallace, Evan Cormier  
Budget Advisory Committee – Billie Jo Sharpe, Chuck Ainsworth, Stev Rogeski  
Media – Fort Fairfield Journal, Star Herald  
Citizens – One (1)
  
- II. Prayer  
Tony Levesque provided prayer before the meeting.
  
- III. Pledge to the Flag  
All attendees pledged their allegiance to the flag.
  
- IV. FY 24/25 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Public Hearing  
  
Public Hearing started at 6:00 PM.  
  
Chairman Thibeau started the meeting by introducing Chuck Ainsworth.  
  
Mr. Ainsworth gave a presentation, with a handout (see attached), to the Council on behalf of the Budget Advisory Committee with their suggestions/recommendations on the proposed budget.  
  
Chairman Thibeau asks if there are any other comments to be given on the budget or Mr. Ainsworth's presentation.

As there were no other comments made, Chairman Thibeu closed the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:20 PM.

V. Public Comment Period

Tony Levesque recognizes National Police Officer Day and the local Police Officers.

Town Manager Goff recognizes Dave McCrea for serving the Council for many years and who was a teacher for many years. Mr. McCrea has recently received his honorary doctorate from UMPI for his commitment to education and service in the community.

VI. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses and Permits

None to report.

B. Financial Report

Town Manager Goff gives the Town's Financial Report. He states that the Town is sitting in a good position and overall will end the year in the black. He states that the Town is not in a great financial position, but it has improved. Town Manager Goff also discusses the FY 24/25 Budget.

C. Aroostook Waste Solutions Report

Stev Rogeski gives the monthly report on AWS. The last meeting was April 19<sup>th</sup>. March finances were up. Mr. Rogeski talked about PFAS removal and the battery recycling project to reduce fires at the landfill. The Town and Fire Department will be helping with the battery recycling/battery disposal containers. The Town and Fire Department are not quite ready for this to be launched.

D. June Meeting Date Change Reminder

Town Manager Goff reminds the Council and the Public that the June Council Meeting has been moved to June 12<sup>th</sup>. He hopes to have the final budget vote at that meeting.

E. Undiscovered Maine Update

Town Manager Goff talked about his involvement with a pilot program from the University of Maine School of Business. Fort Fairfield ended up being the only

Town to participate in this program. Town Manager Goff worked with students from the University of Maine at Orono to focus on coming up with economic development ideas of utilizing The Aroostook River. In the wrap-up of the program, the students presented a website that they built that included different amenities, tours and mapping to make the river more accessible and the area more visible.

F. Arbor Committee Call for Nominees

Town Manager Goff speaks about the Arbor Committee. They are at risk of disbanding due to lack of bodies on the Committee. The Committee has asked the Town Manager to go to Council and publicly seek nominations for the Arbor Committee. If anyone is interested, they can go to the Town Office to get an application, talk to staff in the Office, talk to the Town Manager, talk to a Council member, and get on the Arbor Committee.

G. Fire/EMS Department Graduates

Town Manager Goff, as well as Fire Chief Jalbert, want to congratulate the four recent graduates from NMCC's Paramedicine program that currently work for Fort Fairfield Fire/EMS. Town Manager Goff congratulates Lieutenant Jack Shannon, Firefighter/EMT Lacy Wallace, Firefighter/EMT Matt Beil and paid call EMT Evan Cormier. They do a great job serving the community and furthering their education just makes them even more valuable to the community.

VII. Old Business

Nothing to report.

VIII. New Business

A. Authorization of CDS Match

Staff worked diligently to prepare a request for consideration by Senator Susan Collins and her team for a FY 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending request. Looking at the quotes for Town received to fix the Public Works Garage, it was nearly the same price as purchasing a new plow truck. Both grants would have required a 25% match from the community and knowing that the Town could wait a year, or two, if funding for a truck was awarded but not received until Congress passes its next budget, it was decided to seek funding for a new plow truck. If the request is to move forward for consideration, the Town Council would need to approve the expenditure of \$69,257 required for the match. The recommendation is for Council to approve funding the matching funds for the CDS grant request in the amount of \$69257.

Motion: Councilor Ouellette motioned to approve the matching funds.  
Second: Councilor McGillan seconded.  
Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

B. Appointment to NMDC

Historically the Town Manager, or their proxy in their town, serves on the NMDC executive board. It is very helpful to the Town Manager to sit in on those meetings to understand what programs are out there, what opportunities are being presented, what they are funding for other projects. Town Manager Goff asks Council to nominate him to serve on NMDC's Executive Committee and an alternate member, Council Chair, in the event that the Town Manager wouldn't be able to attend.

Motion: Councilor Ouellette motioned in favor of the recommendation.  
Second: Councilor McGillan seconded.  
Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmed.

IX. Minutes of the April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Council Meeting

Motion: Councilor Ouellette motioned to approve the minutes.  
Second: Councilor Canavan seconded.  
Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmed.

X. Warrants: #19 – \$115,838.70 #20 – \$392,926.91

Motion: Councilor McGillan motioned to approve the warrants.  
Second: Councilors Ouellette and Canavan seconded.  
Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmed.

XI. Other

Nothing to report.

XII. Public Comment Period

No comments made.

XIII. Executive Session – 1 MRSA §405(6)(A) – Personnel Matter

Motion IN: Councilor Ouellette motioned to go into Executive Session.  
Second: Councilor McGillan seconded.

TIME IN: 6:52 PM

Motion OUT: Councilor Ouellette motioned to come out of Executive Session.  
Second: Councilor Canavan seconded.

TIME OUT: 7:45 PM

XIV. Adjournment

Motion: Councilor Ouellette motioned to adjourn.  
Second: Councilor Canavan seconded.

Vote: All Affirmed.

Council adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Neadra E. Dubois, Council Secretary

