

Fort Fairfield Town Council Monthly Meeting  
Council Chambers  
Wednesday, June 15, 2022  
6:00 P.M.

I. Roll Call

Council – All present (Mrs. Libby, Mr. Butler, Mr. Kilcollins, Mr. Pelletier, Mr. Ouellette)

Staff – Ms. Powers, Neadra Dubois, Tony Levesque, Jenn Gaenzle, Darren Hanson, Ryan Eagles, DC Fenderson, Kevin Senal, Cheryl Boulier, Chief Cummings

Budget Advisory Committee – Billie Jo Sharpe, Pat Canavan, Kevin Bouchard, Janet Mcgillan

Media – Fort Fairfield Journal

II. Prayer

III. Pledge to the Flag

IV. Public Comment Period

**Mr. Butler** – “Mr. Chair, to start, I want to congratulate the graduating class of 2022, with the High School. I’ve been there for the past five years, so I wish them the best on their accomplishments for their future.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Good call.”

**Kevin Bouchard** – “I’m Kevin Bouchard. I’m a resident of this community. I’m a member of the Budget Advisory Committee. Every Department Head has done a really good job explaining the budget requests. They justified it, they researched, they did the best they could. There’s a saying I learned a long time ago, it says every request can be justified, every request can be refuted. The challenge for our Town Council is to find the middle ground between those two extremes. In well-run functional communities, we generally have Managers and Councils on the same page. They’re working together, they’re trying to pull the community forward, you know, and it’s the Department, the Town Manager’s responsibility to work with Department Heads to implement the direction negotiated with the Council. My personal observation is that we have a dysfunctional Town Manager, Town Council relationship and we have hopelessly dysfunctional budget process. The point of why I’m here tonight, the one voice that has hardly been heard in this entire process is that of the taxpayer. Yes, our meetings are open to the public. Yes, anyone is basically allowed to attend any meeting. The citizens of our community have voted in a town Council to conduct the business of the Town, and I suspect they trust the Council to do so to the best of their abilities and the best interests of the Town at heart. I’m concerned that given the projected levels of spending in the proposed budget, as well as adjustments that would be required as a result of inaccurate calculations made with past and projected tax confirmations, we’re likely to have a significant number of people who will be fit to be tied later this year when they open their tax bills. With

all the other costs that we are all experiencing, I believe there are some and there may be many individuals and businesses that will have an extremely difficult time paying the tax bills that they will receive. Furthermore, there's a State law that appears to place limits on municipal tax levy increases. I've tried to get the information to look at that, and I'm still waiting to hear from the Town Council. There's no easy solution to what's in front of us. It's gonna be painful for everybody. I certainly don't have an answer that'll satisfy everyone. We need to find a way to get out of the hole that we're in. We need to come up with the spending plan that works for as many people and companies as possible. This community's taxpayers, registered voters or otherwise, deserve new consideration as we deliberate these requests. Thank you."

**Council** – "Thank you"

**Dave Dorsey** – "My name is Dave Dorsey. I'm a lifetime resident of this community for 80 years. I've seen a lot come and go, but the last three four years have been real hectic. I'm going to recommend something tonight that [inaudible] here, but, I've reviewed the last three years' operations here, looked at the revenues, the expenses, the projected three-year deficits have been three years in a row of deficits. Those three years totaled three-quarters of a million dollars. But, when I started looking at the June Audit Reports, and I'll give you an example, in 2020 a budget deficit that was approved by the council for \$142,000. We spent \$1.3 million over what we generated in income. One point, I don't know what was going on, whether someone was asleep, or what, but that's the biggest deficit I've ever seen. 21 we closed the books, we had a deficit projected and approved by the Council of 266,000. We ended that year minus 981,000 over what our revenues were, so. This year, I can't tell you because I have never been able to see, until now, the actual costs we've experienced in the last 10 months. Usually when you go into 2022-2023 budget you look at what you did this past year to judge. I can't find anything, anyway. Those three totals I said, three, three quarters of a million, but, the, I'm projecting here probably, and I could be wrong so it won't be the first time, I'll bet instead of 353,000 deficit we're going to have 600,000. If that's the case, in three years, we've got \$2.9 million in deficit. That means, you went in and took out of our equity, because starting back when we started this, let's see, July 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, the 19-20 budget we got six and a half million dollars in equity, that's, you look at your assets, you take away your liabilities and you add six and a half million the last three years, we've taken almost three million dollars of that. So now, if, if, my numbers are right, in three years we got a 46 percent decline in net worth. Some of you guys in the business, you wouldn't like that in your own shop. You're probably asking somebody what happened? What did we miss? So, if, if I deducted that, I'll, I'll think probably what we're gonna have, when the auditors do, show 3.6 million dollars of net position, or what I call equity. That's fine, we've, we've done it, but, right now, looking ahead is the most important thing. Mr. Bouchard mentioned that there's, there's going to have to be some real changes made here, and if you don't believe it, go into the Town Office and get your three-year reports and analyze them yourself. If this budget, you've got three budgets in front of you, I looked at it a little bit, I'm confused, it takes a while for you to absorb it. If we even have a million-dollar deficit in our budget, you've now reduced your equity from 3.6 million to 2.6 million. And, the one thing that's bothering me more than anything, I can't get a real handle on it here, I've raised it a couple of times, we're looking at a half a million-dollar loss from ReEnergy because they didn't pay their bill, we did collect it, they didn't want to pay it, they don't even want to pay it on a partial bases [inaudible]. So, if we look at the budget you're looking at today, let's say a million and a half million there, that's a million and a half less than we got right now and we're down to two million dollars, two million one, two million two. We now, we won't have any much capital left. You've got to stop the bleeding. I'm telling ya, the train's going to go off the track, and what happens if you just extend this out a couple of years, you have no net worth. How do you go to a bank to borrow more money with no net worth? That's another thing, it's caused, this whole thing has caused us to have some real headaches. The don't come out because, as Kevin said, there's

kind of a hostile deal here. They don't want to tell you everything. You kind of kept on the need to know, but our cash flow has really diminished. I'll give you an example of that, just, just one example how this thing figured out. Our Unrestricted Reserve Account July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, this is the 19-20 year, we had \$1.2 million on it. Okay, two years later, we showed in the Audit Report a 91,000 overdraft. I can go through this balance sheet and tell you, but I haven't got time, you don't want to listen, but everything we looked at is deteriorating to the point that's affecting the financial ability in this Town. So, when you go to get a TAN loan with the bank, they may be a little tougher. We got a cash flow problem you got to stop it, the only way you're going to stop it is you live within your means, okay. You, you're providing some services we don't have the financial ability to pay for. But there are other places out there that can help us. This all started with your ambulance, regardless what you want to say, you just follow the numbers, it'll lead you right there. Maybe there's a way to get regional, that's not my area. My area would just look at where the hell are we going to go here if we don't stop this? So, we got a cash flow problem, we're borrowing more and more money than we should be borrowing and we're rolling them over rather than paying it off, it's kind of a sneaky way to do it, but I've seen that happen. So, I guess my whole pitch here tonight is, if you don't stop the bleeding, okay and man up, you're not going to have much left, because it only took you three years to lose 46 percent of your net worth and another year to [inaudible] if you, if you, if you have a million-dollar deficit and a half-million-dollar loss on ReEnergy, you've lost two thirds of your net worth, so those in the business know what that's like. So, just you gotta think, I know that people are gonna be upset, everybody wants the best. This is a little Town, maybe we can't afford the best, but I'd like to have the Town Office open and be in business instead of being bankrupt."

**Council** – "Thank you, Dave."

**Mr. Pelletier** – "That's the truth my friend."

**Dave Deschesne** – "I'm Dave Deschesne, most of you know. I just wanted to shift gears a little bit, we're all talking about the budget, but we have an ATV Ordinance on the Agenda tonight as well, and I know probably two or three of you were on the Council back in 2018 when we did this all before. This is like Groundhog's Day. We're doing it all again. Now, the word was, we got a 500-foot rule and that extends into the local Towns for ATVs and so on, that was what was said back then. Chief Newell, Chief Shawn Newell, who was our Chief then, clarified to the District Attorney's Office, the 500-foot rule only applies for a trail to trailhead on a state road. Has nothing to do with local Town roads, so if you've heard that argument the D.A. has already spoken on it, and the Council from 2018 already acted on it by quashing the Open ATV Ordinance in Town roads to begin with. Now fast forward four years, here we are again talking about the same thing. And, as near as I can tell, we haven't done anything to the roads to make them any safer nor would we have the money to do it as you, looking at the budget, can plainly see. So, if the roads haven't been improved from since the last time the Town Council said no access because of safety, what are we even doing entertaining it again? It makes absolutely no sense to me. And, then, finally, should you choose to adopt the ordinance, which is pretty loosely worded and probably technically impossible to enforce, but, should you choose to pass it and open the roads, and there's an unfortunate accident, either a property damage accident or a personal accident, it won't take a really smart lawyer to include the Town in the lawsuit, as a litigator. Now, maybe you win the case maybe you don't, but at the very least, you're gonna have to pay to litigate. Maybe you can get the insurance, insurance company to litigate for you. But, I think that Town's insurance company would take a pretty dim view of a Town Council, who against the advice of their former Public Safety Officer and now the current Public Safety Officer, Chief Cummings, who at the April meeting, essentially echoed Chief Newell's position that the roads are not safe for this type of use. They may, they may have

something to say to you about that. I don't know if it would mean no insurance or increased premiums, but all the way around, we've already decided this issue and nothing's been done to improve the roads, yet we're here again talking about it as if, you know, the original event in 2018 didn't happen. So, just keep those things in mind when we get to that section and you get into your discussions on that, so."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "Anyone else?"

**Jay Reynolds** – "Hello, my name is Jay Reynolds. I'm a lifelong Fort Fairfield resident. I don't have one one-hundredth of the financial experience of these gentlemen here, who've just given their thoughts, but I do know a little something about running an ambulance service and I can read a rudimentary financial report. And, we've gone from a department that had a \$130,000 year budget to one that's proposed next year for what's that, one million something. It's gone up like 10 or 12 times. It's a nice thing to have, but I think we bit off a little more than we can chew here. I would advise you, if you haven't already, to contact Presque Isle, contact Caribou, contact Mars Hill to see if you can do something jointly with expenses, or share call or something because I think it's just very, these are hard times for rural communities and to try to break these services off into smaller and smaller units the expense goes up because the revenue is just not there to expend. So, if anything, we could do to combine with one of the other Towns, I think that would be a great idea, and you've probably already looked into it, but that's just something I think we have to look into."

**Mr. Kilcollins & Mr. Pelletier** – "Thank you."

**Gary O'Neal** – "My name is Gary O'Neal. I've lived in this Town since 1978. I'm the Vice President of the ATV Club here in the Town and I had the same problem as some of our members years ago, where I couldn't get to my house to a trail, but luckily you guys passed a Ordinance so that I can, I can, people live on my street can. People's understanding that if they open the streets up, there's going to be ATVs everywhere. Well, it's not going to be that way, all we want is to be able to go from your house to get on the trail. That doesn't mean that Joe Blow is gonna come down the street and raise hell, you know, and everything. They are taxpayers, they probably voted for some of you guys and all they want to do is be able to ride from their house, get on the trails, go to ice cream or go to Presque Isle or whatever. When you work all day, especially the way gas is, these vehicles are easy on gas, a lot easier than your vehicle that you can drive on the road, you know. So, I'm just saying that it's not going to be wall to wall ATVs on the streets. And, our streets are no wider than Presque Isle, Mars Hill, Westfield and they all have ATV friendly. And they don't have no problems. They don't have no accidents. Of course, we're going to have some bad apples, but that's at any point. But I feel that if taxpayers paying taxes in this Town, they oughtta be able to get from their house and go down to the trail and get on the closes trail to their house. Thank you."

**Mr. Kilcollins & Mr. Pelletier** – "Thank you."

**Emily Smith** – "Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to speak. I'm Emily Smith. I'm President and Managing Partner of a family business, Smith Farm Incorporated, and we have a large land base in Fort Fairfield. Currently, none of the partners are residents of Fort Fairfield, but felt compelled to come speak tonight on the proposed Mil Rate increase. I did some, some numbers at a very high level and very similar to the gentleman that spoke earlier about the three years, so I was looking at three years so that we could, we could see the full extent of the proposed increase this year, with the recent revaluation that, that just happened, so. As I understand the proposed Mil Rate increase to 30.8 is

very disturbing, and you definitely have our full attention. First, property owned by our businesses with, with no purchases or improvements involved, so that I could get the full three years and make it apples to apples. From 2019 to 22, with the proposed increase at 30.8 is an increase in valuation of 73 percent, and I'm looking at our, our land and, and, our numbers in-house, so some people's properties could, could vary. That's an increase in valuation of 73 percent since 2019. The increase in tax dollars is 112 percent. We're trying to do business folks. New land purchased in 2021, I kept separate, and it's almost double. It's, it's a tax bill in the mid-20s to now in the low 40s. With our total, with our total valuation in Fort Fairfield, a proposed tax increase of 30.8 would be an increase of about \$80,000 a year. Year over year to our family business. This clearly is not sustainable. It's not sustainable for our business and it's definitely not sustainable for your town. When we think about where we want to build things, where we want to live, everybody has that choice and it's, it's just absolutely not sustainable. I can't pick up my land and go farm in another Town, but I can go broke. It is possible. It looks like a big company out there, but it is scary and we can go broke just like anybody else. There's a million people at every one of those chain stores knocking on their door, wanting that business trying to take it away from us and we have to do the very best we can and count every penny. Fort Fairfield has competition. Again, from our in-house numbers, let's see how you can compete. Over the past five years, Limestone's increase is 17 percent. And, again this will vary on other people's tax bills because I was just using what I have in-house from land that we own and farm. Presque Isle is down 1.4 percent. Caribou is down .75 percent. This is the past five years. We've all had cutbacks. Westfield is down 1.2 percent. I know where I'm building. I know where I'm expanding. It certainly isn't in Fort Fairfield with 112 percent increase in the last three years. I sat on the City Council in Presque Isle for nine years. I was Chair there for eight and a half. Not one year that I was on the Council did we increase the municipal side of the budget. Not a penny. And, I don't have many friends in Presque Isle, I can tell you that. And I knew, probably if my house caught on fire the Fire Department probably wasn't coming. But, my son and I, we had a good plan, so. I feel for you guys and the job that you have to do looking at only 40 percent of the budget, I mean the School here, if I read it correctly it's 59 percent of the budget. That's a huge nut to crack to make enough changes to keep this level at only looking at 40 percent of the total budget. That is a huge nut to crack. I suggest the first investment being some red pens. It's, this just isn't sustainable for your town, and quite frankly, I feel terrible for you. I wish you the best of luck in getting to those changes, contracting the ambulance service, neighborhood watch with the Sheriff protection, Volunteer Fire Department. I don't know what's right for your community, I don't live here, but I do know that you're going to drive businesses, you're going to drive families, you're going to drive people out of this Town. And, I just feel really sad for the situation. Good luck."

**Mr. Kilcollins & Mr. Pelletier** – "Thank you."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "Anyone else would like to speak?"

**John Griffeth, Jr.** – "I'm John Griffeth, Jr. Griffeth Farms with my brother. Most people here know I farm with my two younger brothers, and kind of every year, they're the same things Emily said, our taxes that vary. I know, like, from our nephews that farm, how many buildings you have versus your land base, but our taxes went up almost 25 percent last year. And, if I'm correct with a 31 Mil is, it's projected that that's like 56 percent increase is what they're talking this year. Is that a close number? That's what some of the paperwork has right here is 56.5 percent. That's pretty near 75 percent increase, over 75 percent increase from what Emily was talking about two years ago. That's like the most, it's ridiculous what all the costs are. Every time I run into somebody right now, all the talk was, oh your fuel costs, oh you're this cost, the tax bill is right there, it's right there. Fertilizer-wise, I would say it's more percentage-wise, and I remember last year there was a lot of the same people in here voicing pretty

much the same opinion at 25 percent, but now we're at 50 something, mid 50, because I'm sure we'd average out differently again for each person. And, I felt, as a person that hadn't really been involved in Town politics very much, that the voices that were spoken last year were very, it was very unaccepted. Well, it didn't seem to be relayed very well or that's the feeling that I got from any of the other people that were involved in voicing. And, now, I see there seems to be more people with that same opinion, with actually almost twice the problem size-wise, and I hope that this time, I'm seeing that there's three of the, the original five that were on from last year that it didn't seem to be getting received well, that ears are opened up a little bit more and this problem can't keep, as Emily said, snowballing on. And, as Dave said, on a projected, we went to Farm Credit, it showed that we were going to be having to whatever the deficit is here, I've seen three different numbers, what is the official number? Or is this just three different budget versions?"

**Mr. Kilcollins & Mr. Pelletier** – “Three different versions.”

**John Griffeth, Jr.** – “Three different. In the worst case scenario, three different budget conversions and this would be like a business plan for us, I would assume. If we went to Jim Holdsworth, who is the head of Farm Credit East, but he's also our personal banker, and told him that our, even with our projected best case scenario numbers, we're gonna be down, we're gonna lose 1.292 million, Jim would say, boys I've been friends with ya a long time but have a good day. And that's the true story of stuff and I think that it's people that are running the Town and in charge of the budget, they need to be a little more responsible of some of these numbers. And as Emily said, some of these cuts are going to be tough, everybody has to make tough cuts right now. There's going to be people having to probably turn there heat down, a lot of people in these Towns that are on fixed budgets are gonna have to turn the heat down a lot, probably a lot colder than they even should, but just so they don't freeze. There's gonna be a lot of tough decisions, and I think some of them need to start here. Thank you.”

**Mr. Kilcollins & Mr. Pelletier** – “Thank you.”

**Shane McGillan** – “I'm Shane McGillan. I'm a resident here in Town. Some people that spoke before me shared a lot of concerns on the business side and business side and financial side of the Town, what the current budget will do to effect businesses and people here. I don't need to hit on that as much, now I'm 30 years old, just turned 30 last week, I have a lot of friends that they're looking to start a family, they're looking to start, you know, they're moving back here, they want to live here, they want to, they want to be here. With this information, what's going on right now, they're concerned, not for themselves, the concerns of, you know, did we make the wrong decision to move here? Should we go somewhere else? To build a Town and keep it economically sustainable, you need to have young people here and people here that'll support it. With this current budget that's put forward, that's and you know, people get that tax bill, that increase they're going to be nervous and they'll look to go somewhere else. I know a guy personally who's looking to build a house here in Town on a lot. He told me yesterday that he's going to hold off til he sees what goes through with this because he said if I, if that's going to be the case, then I'll go to Caribou or Presque Isle and build a house. You know, if you don't think it has an effect, it sure does. That goes for business too. People are here insisting that on property that want to do something here, go somewhere or come into Town, they're going to look at that and say no thank you. I know it's gonna to be difficult and there's gonna to be some difficult decisions that have to be made, but in order for this Town to stay relevant, there needs to be some changes, because the budget that's put forward is of, you know, approving it as a vote for irrelevance. So, needs to be some changes. Thank you.”

**Mr. Kilcollins & Mr. Pelletier** – “Thank you.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Anyone else?”

**Paul Johnson** – “I’ve been doing a lot of thinking about, like, how to improve this, or how to, how to change things and improve things and I just don’t, I don’t see how a Town like Fort Fairfield can grow, as far as municipal budget and stuff goes. Based on really large businesses or bringing in larger businesses, I just don’t think it’s gonna happen. The large businesses that we do have here, the larger businesses, like the Smiths are other folks like that, own a lot of land and they do, they do stuff agriculturally, or do other things like that, the way that we can improve our budget as far as I can tell is to get more people here, people who are, who do things to improve the land or improve the, the overall tax base. I mean, I’m not about to point out by honest neighbors, but folks who will come here take a piece of land that’s fallow or take a piece of land that doesn’t have much value, fix it up, now it’s worth something, now has some value to it, and people aren’t going to do that with high taxes, they’re just not. They’re gonna go anywhere else, I mean, I moved here, I’m not a lifelong Fort Fairfield resident, I’ve only been here about 10 years, but one of the reasons why my wife and I chose here is because the taxes were reasonable and so we could have a little piece of land and I could be a fake farmer in the summer and that kind of stuff. That’s farming with no contingencies, if anyone’s wondering. Doesn’t matter if I fail, so, so like those kinds of things, but, but we chose, we didn’t choose Presque Isle or some of the other communities, simply because the taxes seemed like they were higher. But if this continues to shift, I mean it, it’s just we’re going to hemorrhage even more and I know that the taxes that someone will be paying the taxes, but we have an opportunity by figuring out how to keep the Mil Rate lower to have people move here, we have plenty of that, you know what I mean, for people to come here and improve it, and, I think that’s where the value is. I think that’s how, I don’t think we’re gonna get a, get a, a large business to come in and do something that will improve the revenue.”

**Mr. Kilcollins, Mr. Ouellette & Mr. Pelletier** – “Thank you.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Anybody else? If not, we’ll move on.”

V. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses and Permits

As of June 10, 2022, the Town has received one On-Premises Liquor License Renewal from Boondocks Grille.

Recommendation is that Council allows the Town Manager to sign the License Renewal for Boondocks Grille.

Motion: Mr. Butler makes the motion.

Second: Mrs. Libby seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

B. Financial Report

Checking account balance as of 5/31/2022 was \$84,605.89 and Machias Savings is \$5,000. Excise collected in May was \$64,272.73 compared to \$60,606.85 last year. As of 05/31/2022, uncollected Real Estate taxes for 2021 were \$364,360.02 compared to last year \$433,288.71. As of 05/31/2022, the Town's revenue was down 2.62% and expenses were up .57%.

C. AWS Report – Mr. Rogeski

Mr. Rogeski was not present. No report was given.

VI. Old Business

A. Approve FY 22/23 Budget

March 10, 2022 was the first Department Head Budget Meeting with Council. Public hearings were held on April 28th, 2022 and May 5th, 2022. There have been several discussions throughout the FY22-23 budget process. Council's directive to the Town Manager at the last Department Head Budget Meeting with Council on June 9, 2022 was to reduce municipal budget costs and to present Council with three budgets that reflected a budget with CIP Reserves fully funded, CIP Reserves partially funded, and CIP Reserves not funded. The Town Manager worked with her Department Heads to present a final budget proposal to Council this evening that reflects those directives in the most fiscally responsible way that still provides safe and effective services to the citizens of Fort Fairfield.

The FY22/23 Proposed Budget with full funded CIP Reserves shows a Municipal Expense Budget of \$5,990,095 and a Municipal Overlay of \$656,185, a combined MSAD 20 and County Tax of \$2,480,641 for an excess deficit of \$1,824,456.

The FY22/23 Proposed Budget with partially funded CIP Reserves shows a Municipal Expense Budget of \$5,700,095 and a Municipal Overlay of \$946,185, a combined MSAD 20 and County Tax of \$2,480,641 for an excess deficit of \$1,534,456.

The FY22/23 Proposed Budget with no funded CIP Reserves shows a Municipal Expense Budget of \$5,485,095 and a Municipal Overlay of \$1,188,185, a combined MSAD 20 and County Tax of \$2,480,641 for an excess deficit of \$1,292,456.

Recommendation is Town Council approve the Fort Fairfield Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget with fully funded CIP Reserves.

**Ms. Powers** – “And, I will leave that to Council to discuss.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “So, I can start. We need to make a [inaudible]”

**Ms. Powers** – “We need a motion, and a second, and then discussion.”



**Mrs. Libby** – “I’d like to make a motion that we do not approve any of the three options, and I would like to discuss.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “I second it.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “We’ve got a motion and a second, we’ll vote. Melissa?”

**Mr. Butler** – “We’ve gotta go to discussion.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Oh, we’re going to discussion, yup.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “So, my thought on this is, at the 1.2, [inaudible] without the funds in the CIP Reserves, we’re still roughly around 24 mil. 19.5 to 24 is”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “That, that’s not accurate. If we, if we, if we accept that, I call it option one, which is the least. We would have a deficit of 1,292,456 dollars that would give us a Mil Rate of about 27.68.”

**Mr. Butler** – “Where’d you get those numbers? I’m asking, I mean, we’re coming out with numbers. You’re coming out with numbers, I wanna know where these numbers are coming from.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “I just wanna clarify, cause, so.”

**Citizen** – “How about repeating the motion so we can hear it.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Okay. So the motion was, I make a motion that we did not approve any of these options.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “And Kevin seconded it and we went for discussion.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “So, and then I said that I believe at the 1.2 that gives us a Mil Rate of roughly 24. And then, Kevin said that he thinks it’s higher than that.”

**Mr. Butler** – “And then I asked where did we get these figures?”

**Ms. Powers** – “At 19.5 Mils, if we were to do 19.5 Mils, need to show excess deficit of 1,292,356, which equals 6.9 Mils, roughly, plus 19.5 Mils is 26 Mils.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “So the 1.2 would be 9.6. Okay.”

**Ms. Powers** – “Again, that is not, you cannot say that we do not have [inaudible].”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “That’s our least option. That’s the least option would give us the mil Rate of what, 26?”

**Ms. Powers** – “Around 26.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “It’s not acceptable. It’s high. It’s not acceptable for me.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “It is.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “It’s too high.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “You know, first thing, we’re here for you people. Well, we are. This, this, this has been a difficult, this has been a difficult situation, not only this year, last year, and, and, we, we, we, get put here for a big decision, and you can see our decision isn’t coming easy. It’s, it’s, it’s the input that we got this year has been, has been a lot from a lot of good people. We, we had the Committee set up, there’s been a lot of work done and, and we can’t ignore that. We hear from, from, you know, the businesses in our community and we want to have our community get through this and, and make it good for everybody. As we know, and, and I know, our, our backbone that’s carrying us through everything today is what we have for commercial business and agriculture. We wouldn’t be where we’re at. Industry is, is, is gone right now. We got to look at what we have and what we have is a big part of agricultural and, and, what we have for commercial business here and this is it. This, this is what we’re looking at, so if we don’t make the right call, it’s going to affect all of us, and, and I, and I just want everybody to know that we, we take this very serious. It’s, it’s, it’s, it’s, it’s no different than you speaking to, in behalf of us, you understand too, it’s, it’s, it’s not, and it’s really not in Fort Fairfield, it’s in, it’s going on in every community. We’ve lost a lot of impact in, in financial assistance from industries, we’re still paying for it. We’re faced with a lot of new systems, the State is demanding, not yet, but it’s around the corner, that if a municipality is going to insure ourselves for what we need to get grants, we could feasibly see EMS is mandatory. It’s not there now, but I wouldn’t be surprised, and you’re gonna see it in the next few years. It’s, it’s going to come to that. In hindsight, we have it. The expenses behind it is there, yes. You’ve got a new business that started up. I feel in the next three years, the four years, we’ll really see some feedback from it. We, we made a decision a couple years ago, majority of our Town will, we take the motion from what we gather and we, we set it up. It’s worked well, it’s hard work, we get, we get, you know, emotions from both sides, but at this point we have it. I don’t want to see it deplete itself and in the second year of business. I feel three years, four years, if, if this isn’t working, then we seriously gotta look at other figures. Well, I mean, it’s a new business, I understand. But if you finance a, a banking institute of yourself and you’ve been financing new business, are you going to jump on them the second year in business? A little. Third year you’re really going to start paying attention to numbers, yes.”

**Citizen** – “[inaudible]”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Well, I’m having a hard time to hear you, the echoing. I mean, right now, I’d like to be having discussion from the floor, but the discussion is meant for us to discuss this matter and I’m just trying to air everything for what and how we feel and how serious we are taking this and I probably got carried away a little bit, I apologize.”

**Mr. Butler** – “Mr. Chair?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Yes. No, well you had during Public Comment Period was the time this discussion. Here, now, is for Councilors.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “So, to get back on track, so my thought on this was that this option, if it brings us up to 26, that’s 6.5 Mil increase roughly, again the Mil Rate is an estimate. But, I don’t know how that will, well I do know how that will effect taxpayers, and I, that doesn’t sit well with me, but I also know that this budget is bare bones for the departments. So, my biggest thing with this is I don’t know a way to fix this. So, I’m looking for opinions from you guys, thoughts, I mean, to be honest, 26 is not, but the 22 that the Committee recommended was not feasible either.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “What’s that Melissa?”

**Mrs. Libby** – “The Budget Committee recommended 22 Mil and that’s not feasible to sustain your departments.”

**Mr. Butler** – “Mr. Chair, I would like to reiterate, from years ago, why we went the direction we went. We lost our ambulance service, and at the time, [inaudible], we lost our ambulance service, and at the time, we had no Fire Department, we had to a Volunteer, we had the Chief, the Chief wad out on a call. We set off the pletron four times for assistance, there was nobody there. We decided, at the time then, when we lost the ambulance service, that we were gonna hire somebody that’s Fire and an EMT related. So, we hired Firefighter EMTs so we’d have somebody come to cover a fire. Because, if we could eliminate the EMT service, the ambulance service, and went back to the Volunteer fire Department Service, we would have nobody. Nobody during the eight to four shift during the week that would cover a fire. We’re talking about businesses going up in Town and having a business, but if that business caught on fire between eight and four, Monday through Friday, there was nobody to respond. The Chief, we had, we had a Fire Chief all the part-time people, which, and, I got nothing but praise for, they’re great on the evenings, and they’re great on the weekends. They went through a structure fire this weekend and they saved the structure. But during the daytime, eight to four, we had nobody, so by having an ambulance EMT, we had a crew to go out. Well, I had my next door neighbor’s house burned, within four minutes, the Fire Department was there, whereas before, we had a full-time Chief, and we had to wait for somebody. Truck can’t leave the station unless there’s two people in that truck. So, if you wait for 20 minutes to get somebody to just respond you house is gone. You’re talking about businesses, your business are gonna be going down the tubes. We had some business out, out that caught fire in the middle of the night, the Fire Department was there. They may not have saved the building, but they saved the buildings along side it. During the day time, you have a fire, there’s nobody there, and this is why we went Firefighter EMT, and, and, yeah, and we discussed the cost. It was discussed at the time a lot of you people weren’t here at the time, but it was discussed. What, what price do you put on life when you have to wait 13 minutes or 15 minutes for an ambulance to get from Presque Isle to your house, or from Caribou to your house? When your, when your spouse is having a heart attack and they’re laying on the floor, where do you put the value for that, and then when you house is burning down and you’re waiting for somebody because there’s nobody down at the station that can leave and you’re waiting for that Fire Truck to come out and your house is burning and there’s nothing there until we get someone from Presque Isle or Caribou. So that’s the point that I would like to start this whole thing. I’m very passionate about safety of our citizens, I always have been. I’ve been in law enforcement most of my life and I’ve always backed anything to do with Municipal with law

enforcement and safety, but when you have, when you have to wait 20 minutes, you have to wait for Presque Isle to come over to put a fire out in your house, or you have to wait for 15, 20 minutes for an ambulance to come down there and you've got somebody laying on the floor dying, where do we put the price? I understand. My taxes went up too. My father called an ambulance three times last year before he passed away, three times last year, and they were in his house within two minutes, from here. The service we had before, they never showed up, even when they left from here, 20 minutes to get to a call. Is that feasible? I don't think so. I think, I think that the safety and the lives of our community, and even the structures if we had a fire, the School Department had a fire, there's nobody here to cover a fire, who's going to be there? We have to wait for Presque Isle while our kids are in buildings that are burning. This is what I've thought about with this, this route. I never thought about that what's going to cost taxes and every time somebody throws out figures 20 percent, 30 percent, I ask where they got those figures. I don't know where they get the figures, nobody can tell me. But I'm not worried about that, I'm, I worry about your potato houses, I worry about your family, and I worry about your houses. And this is what started the whole Firefighter EMT. They're not just Firefighters, they're both EMTs and Firefighters. And, this is the way, this is where I went and this is the safety of the Town of Fort Fairfield, and I'm sorry if I get upset because I'm very passionate about saving somebody's life and saving somebody's house. Thank you."

**Citizens** – Citizens talk inaudibly about Public Comment Period.

**Mr. Butler** – "I'm allowed to say this right now."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "Well, it, it, Gary, no, you gotta sit. Not, we can, we can have it, I can set it up, but right now, the discussion is amongst us on what budget we're going to be talking about, Gary."

**Gary Sirois** – "We did that [inaudible] budget. [inaudible] you had to say [inaudible]."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "I understand, but just wait and I'll give you a chance, just wait."

**Gary Sirois** – "Well, if you're not going to listen to the citizens, you might as well go crawl in a hole somewhere [inaudible]."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "Gary, we'll, please. So, anybody else?"

**Mr. Pelletier** – "Well, you know, I'd just like to say that"

**Mr. Ouellette** – "After he speaks, can you repeat your motion after he speaks?"

**Mr. Pelletier** – "I wanna comment on Mitch's comment. I mean, we're all concerned about citizens and citizens safeties and our services that we have here in Town. I'm all, but I'm, the amount it's costing the taxpayers to keep the service in service, is very expensive. I've just, we've just listened to a lot of concerned citizens, and they've, they're concerned because of the, the amount of taxes that they're paying and if we, we vote in this, this budget, that's, that's a lot of money, and so it's a huge increase, and I'm not in favor of it, I'm just not in favor of it. I think that there are other ways we can have our services, but we've got to cut back, we're gonna have to sharpen our pencils and cut back.

This is too much, it's too much money. We're gonna, we're gonna, we're gonna sink the ship, someone's used that term, and I think we are. We need to button down, I don't know how we're gonna do it, but that's gonna be, it's not gonna be my job, I'm glad it's not going to be my job, but we need to do something and this budget, we can't accept these budgets. I'm not in favor, none of these, all three of these, I'm not in favor of any of it. Anyway."

**Mrs. Libby** – "You wanted me to repeat the motion?"

**Mr. Ouellette** – "Yes."

**Mrs. Libby** – "I just made a motion that we didn't approve any of the options."

**Mr. Ouellette** – "Did not?"

**Mrs. Libby** – "Did not. Did not."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "And you seconded it."

**Mr. Pelletier** – "I seconded it, yes."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "So, we had discussion, we'll vote. Melissa?"

**Mrs. Libby** – "So the motion is to not approve, and my vote is Aye."

**Mr. Butler** – "No."

**Mr. Ouellette** – "Aye."

**Mr. Pelletier** – "Not approve, Aye."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "And I vote Aye. So, do we have another motion on the table?"

**Mr. Ouellette** – "Do you want to motion it?"

**Mr. Pelletier** – "Go ahead."

**Mr. Ouellette** – "The Town's financial condition has deteriorated in the past five years or few years. The debt has gone from 600,000 just three years ago to 4.1 million today. The payments on these loans are more than 28,000 per month. 336 per year. That is almost 2 mil just in loan repayments. Since we are in a declining financial condition with increasing deficits and increasing debt, we need to consider a flat budget as first step to getting spending under control and getting out of this hole. I move that we pass a flat budget that keeps consolidated expenses at the same level as the current 21/22 budget. That is my motion."

**Mr. Pelletier** – “I second it.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “We had a motion and a second, we’ll go to discussion.”

**Mr. Butler** – “What was his motion? I couldn’t hear it.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Flat budget.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “His motion, flat budget.”

**Mr. Butler** – “Right now [inaudible. What do you mean by flat budget? Last year’s budget?”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Last year’s budget.”

**Ms. Powers** – “I’m just cautioning you from doing that, because Council has already voted on Collective Bargaining.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “You’ll have to start over.”

**Ms. Powers** – “I caution Council against making that flat budget motion, because you have already made agreements with Collective Bargaining, with your PD, as well as Public Works and if you vote in a flat budget, you will have to come to terms with both Collective Bargaining regents of both Departments.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “I don’t think it’s feasible to have a flat budget.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “If we were to vote in a flat budget, what would that give us for?”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Because, the budget we had last year, versus the expenses we have, the increase in fuel, the increase in all of those things.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “A flat budget would give us a Mil Rate of what would it give us for a Mil Rate? 23.6? Does that sound right?”

**Mr. Butler** – “Well, if you’re going with the same amount we did last year, it would be the same.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “No, it wouldn’t be.”

**Ms. Powers** – “[inaudible]”

**Mr. Butler** – “That’s right, that’s right. School can increase and we can’t.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Right. School can increase, and we can’t. Plus, the advances of payroll and benefits to the PD and doesn’t meet standards, so we’d have to go through their bargaining thing so we, we’d have to be within them standards or we’re, we’re gonna be, yeah, we’re gonna be in a mess. That’s where we’re at.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “What’d they give us for a Mil Rate?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “What would that give us?”

**Ms. Powers** – “I really wish you guys would [inaudible]”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “I understand.”

**Ms. Powers** – “We do not have all the numbers. The Mil Rate cannot be set until October 1<sup>st</sup>, and I really fear, because I’ve told Council before, that Municipal Tax Recalculation Form, that doesn’t tell you everything. That is one section of 452 pages [inaudible] in the Tax Assessor’s Office. And there are 15 pages [inaudible] within that, and none of us are licensed Tax Assessor’s. We cannot figure those formulations for ourselves. Unless you get your license [inaudible].”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “So, upward of 20, flat rate of 26 with my numbers.”

**Ms. Powers** – “There is no way to judge what the Mil Rate will be for this Municipality [inaudible] our fiscal year does not line up with the State’s fiscal year, and the information that we get from that does not come until September, then we set the Rate in October. I can only give you my best estimate, based on information I currently have. But, I do not want to be held to those estimates, because lots of things could change between now and then. We’ve already seen turmoil at the State level, yes?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Yes.”

**Ms. Powers** – “It can trickle down to us. So, we need to be careful in saying, this is what our Mil Rate will be, [inaudible] we have this for a fact. So, you can understand the difficulty, but you’re laughing.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Well, well, I’m, I’m laughing because we need to be reasonable in what we ask our taxpayers to pay for taxes because the State average is 16.4 and the County average is 18.313.”

**Ms. Powers** – “There is no State average. The Mil Rate is specific to your community and the amount of tax payers that you have. There is no such thing as an average Mil Rate, because from community to community, to community, it’s based on your budget and the amount of tax payers that you have, and the services that you provide with that budget. There is no average Mil Rate.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “To get an average Mil Rate, they take all the counties.”

**Ms. Powers** – “Anybody can do an average of Mil Rates.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Well, that’s what I just said.”

**Ms. Powers** – “But in reality, there is no average Mil Rate because these are false numbers. I have only presented Council with exact, factual numbers, there are no false numbers in here. So, I must remind Council, that when you look at these budgets that, and I understand, I understand the situation we’re in, and I understand the situation my Staff is in, they must truthfully tell you what it costs to provide the services that is expected of them. I present that information to you and then Council has to make a decision on those, based on those numbers. But again, we have been accused of things that are not happening. These are actual, researched numbers for what it costs for this community. Now, I understand that people are upset about, if your tax bill went up substantially, it is evidently clear that you were not paying your fair and just burden of the tax burden in the municipality prior to the revaluation. That is why we had to do that. That is literally why we had to do that. Because your properties were not valued at true and just value until recent. So, [inaudible], and we were told, you have to do that, so we did it, because that was the right thing to do. And, I understand that nobody knew that the pandemic was coming directly after that, and no one knew the rise and costs of everything was coming directly after that, or the recession, or any of those things. We are, if you have a rising cost for you, it makes evidently clear sense to us that there will be rising costs for us as well. Which we have actually explained to you repeatedly, at several meetings. So, and you have seen that there is no excess spending here, and [inaudible] you asked us to show you what Capitol Improvement Planning Reserves [inaudible] would look like, if you look at your very last page, all Municipal Expenses are more than covered by our Municipal Revenue. The Revenue that we bring into the Municipality by 1,188,185 dollars. That’s how much we’ve trimmed from our budget from January, that you’ve asked us to trim. So, it’s not like we haven’t gone back and, and made tough, tough decisions per Department. The excess deficit that you are seeing, comes from our responsibility to the School and to the County and that is by vote that we have to pay. This, if we didn’t have the bill from the County or the School, we would have an overlay, but, but we are responsible for that, and so based on that, that is what we have [inaudible] excess deficit, because Council voted for a new Department. And, we have to let that Department grow, earn its revenue that we’ve asked Council to be patient with and figure out where we stand with that Department. There is no way to know that within just a couple of years. Yes, and you all know this, we have met with Presque Isle, Caribou, Limestone, Mars Hill, Houlton, we know what to expect, and we know that it takes time to figure out where that Department is going and what works best for the community, and that is all we are trying to do for Council. I would strongly caution you not to pass a budget, some sort of budget for our, our Departments moving forward, because this discourse that we are feeling through this whole, this whole process, we’ve already lost a lot of good Staff, and my fear is that if you do not pass a budget, whatever that budget may be, whatever Council deems appropriate, [inaudible] because whatever you decide, we will do, just as we did last year, but I will also caution you, last year you were told it would that 28 Mills that would be the Mil Rate and that everybody’s tax bills were going to go through the roof, and I cautioned you then, and I’m cautioning you now, that was not the case. In fact, our Mil Rate went down to 19.5 Mills. It was nowhere near 28 Mills. So we have to remember, please, these are projections, that’s why it’s a proposed budget until tonight. Once Council decides on the budget, that is the budget moving forward and can do nothing about it. There are a lot of things that get said that I’m not responding to during the Council Meeting, because it’s not my place to respond to those. If Council asks me to respond, then I will. But, I can tell you, there’s a lot of information that is shared and is incorrect. 30.8 Mills is not going to happen. Even at the highest number that we are asking for, based on my



math, if the State comes back and our valuation tanks or whatever they say it does, then, yes, it could be a possibility, but I highly doubt that given the State's understanding of the tenuous situations in all Municipalities across the State. Please understand, that we work very hard every day for this community every day and we love this community [inaudible] and we are here [inaudible], and we have staff who don't even live in Fort Fairfield, but they serve this community as if they did, and they love this community just as much. So, when you sit here and ask for things, even after they've gone through all this since January, it's as if, for them, you don't have a concern for their level of skill, dedication to the community, these are all things that I've heard from my staff. They're concerned for if they are residents of what that means for services in the community. So, these are all tough decisions that Council has to make and we understand that, and we want you to know that we understand that, but they want to know, they want to feel heard, that's all, because in amongst a lot of this, it happened [inaudible], at Department Head meetings, when they speak closely about, and they aren't given the opportunity to speak outside of that. But I am telling you tonight that they have a lot of feelings that you share, and with all the citizens that are here today. They share those feelings with you as well, but they also have a job to do, and we cannot do that if we are not properly budgeted [inaudible]."

**Mr. Ouellette** – "I have a motion on the floor."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "We had a motion and a second. We had discussion. We'll go for vote."

**Mr. Butler** – "Can we repeat the motion, please?"

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "You wanna repeat the motion?"

**Mr. Ouellette** – "I move that we pass a flat budget that keeps Consolidated Expenses at the same level as the current fiscal year 21/22 budget."

**Mr. Pelletier** – "I seconded it."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "He seconded it, we had discussion, so we'll go for vote."

**Mrs. Libby** – "No."

**Mr. Butler** – "No."

**Mr. Ouellette** – "Aye."

**Mr. Pelletier** – "Aye."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "And I vote No. So, we'll have another, entertain another motion?"

**Mrs. Libby** – “So, in order to put this on the table I make a motion that we meet somewhere in the middle of those two places between this unfunded CIPs and the Flat Budget. There’s got to be somewhere in the middle of those two numbers and we need to see what that looks like.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “I’ll run one my by you that does that, and it was presented to us by the Budget Advisory Committee.”

**Mr. Butler** – “She already made a motion.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “She made a motion, we just need a second.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “I didn’t even hear a motion.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Oh. She, she made a motion that we have something between your motion and yeah, something in between. But we gotta have a second. Then we go to discussion.”

**Mr. Butler** – “What are we looking for?”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Yeah, we have to see what that looks like.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “You don’t have to vote, but if we don’t vote about that, then we’re going to arbitrary [inaudible].”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Do we have a second before we can discuss?”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “I’ll second it. Second. You gotta second.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “So, we had a motion and a second, so now we’ll go to discussion.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Okay, so, just to clarify, and I believe the Town Manager is looking at numbers so we can kind of see what this looks like, but, there’s gotta be a middle ground. It has to work for the Departments, it has to work for the tax payers, and I know it’s going to be hard on both ends, I get it. I’m a taxpayer, I understand that. The Departments, I don’t want to see the Departments not funded. I think we need them and I want them to be funded so that they can be run perfectly, but. I mean, I know I’m just throwing out a Mil Rate to look at that’s maybe your figure for me, but a 26 Mil Rate to me is still a big jump from 19.5. So, yes, there’s been increases, we can adjust to those, but I don’t think we can adjust all the way to 26. So that’s my.”

**[inaudible] discussion between Mr. Kilcollins, Mr. Pelletier and Mr. Ouellette**

**Mr. Ouellette** – “I hate to ask you this again, but, repeat it.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Yep. So, I just said that”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “You need to look at me when you do it so I can hear you.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “We need to look at the options we were given, and look between the lowest option and look between the flat budget. There’s got to be some middle ground in those two areas. And, it can, it’s gonna be hard for everybody. It’s gonna be hard for the taxpayers and it’s gonna be hard for the Departments. But, there’s gotta be a middle ground, and it’s only, I think the only fair way to do it, where everybody has to adjust, and I mean, I’m a taxpayer too, but I don’t wanna pay a higher amount of taxes, but I also don’t want to see our Departments not be funded, people lose jobs and us lose services. So, but there’s gotta be a way to adjust either the services or, you know, the tax amount that we’re gonna have to pay, there’s gotta be somewhere in between those two.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “And you have to listen to what some experienced people are telling us, that, I’m not experienced at Municipal budgets, I’m experienced at budgets, I had to deal with it for 36 years, but we’re going down the rabbit hole and we’re there and we’re not even discussing the end of this year in our budget, and we’re not, we’re not ended yet. So, what we owe for this year’s TAN Loans is not addressed yet, so that’ll probably be rolled over into next year.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “See, flat budget, if we pass it, isn’t enough for the Department Heads and they go arbitrary, then we have to go in front of their union and it could put them out of work until we come with an agreement.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “So, we need to table this and discuss the salaries.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “I don’t know how much time we got.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Well, we got 15 days.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Do we?”

**Mrs. Libby** – “So, okay, I’ve had discussion with some of the Department Heads and [inaudible] that’s why I’m bringing all of this to light. That’s one, it causes a really bad atmosphere for them workwise.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “I understand, I was there when.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “And, we already can’t pay the, you know, the work. We’re struggling because, you know, cash flow and things like that, so by taking this to another meeting or another day, that’s not going to help.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “No, it should be settled tonight.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Right. Yes.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “But we got to get just above that flat rate, to make [inaudible].”

**Mrs. Libby** – “The Town Manager has some numbers for us, as to what I would be looking at for figures, so [inaudible].”

**Ms. Powers** – “Based on Councilor Libby’s motion, that puts Municipal Expenses at \$5,020,509.50. So, Municipal Overlay is \$1,625,771 with a deficit of \$854,870 with a, do not quote me on this, but a Mil Rate of 24 Mils.”

**[inaudible] discussion between Mr. Pelletier and Mr. Ouellette**

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Of what?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “24 Mils.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “I would like to hear Melissa’s motion again, slowly.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “So, it would be that we would have an excess deficit of \$854,870 with a Mil Rate of roughly 24.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “But that would make the Department Head’s union stay [inaudible]”

**Mrs. Libby** – “There would be a lot of adjusting to do and working with the Departments and try to figure how that all works out.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “What would that call for a revenue from the townspeople?”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “An increase in taxes. What do you mean?”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “What would that call for, for a dollar figure for the tax increase?”

**Ms. Powers** – “\$854,870.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Are you looking for a percentage?”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “No, I understand what she is saying.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Then, that wouldn’t put us in arbitrary with the Department Heads.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “So is there a second?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Yeah, he seconded it.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “I seconded it.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “We just discussed it. Call for a vote?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “So, we’ll call for a vote.”

**Mr. Butler** – “I need to know the figures.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Alright.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “[inaudible]”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Can you say that a little bit louder, please?”

**Mrs. Libby** – “The deficit of \$854,870 with an estimated Mil Rate of 24. But, that also comes with, there’s gonna be adjusting and services are probably, probably gonna change, I don’t know how. So, it does come with a consequence and it still comes with a high price for the taxpayers. 24 is still high, but.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “It’s gonna be a change for everything, it is.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “But, our Manager is saying that with that Mil Rate, you’re gonna cover the extra salaries, the increase in salaries, is that what you’re saying?”

**Ms. Powers** – “Yes.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “We’d meet the salary profile on all them.”

**Ms. Powers** – “Correct.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Right, yeah. So we’ll, are you all set for the vote Mitch?”

**Mr. Butler** – “Yeah, I said my piece. I don’t want public comments anymore.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Aye.”

**Mr. Butler** – “Aye.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Nay.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Nay.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Aye.”

Motion: Mrs. Libby motioned - “I make a motion that we meet somewhere in the middle of those two places between this unfunded CIPs and the Flat Budget.”

Second: Mr. Pelletier seconded.

Discussion: See above.

Vote: motion passed (3 Ayes, 2 Nays)

**[inaudible] discussion between Mr. Kilcollins, Mr. Pelletier and Mr. Ouellette**

## B. Industrial Park Parcels

The Town has received an offer to purchase parcels of land in the Fort Fairfield Industrial Park. They are looking at the 10–12-acre parcel on the Eastern End. Council has voted (Council Meeting 5.20.2020) on the value per acre to be \$16,500 for the Industrial Park parcels.

The offer is to build an additional solar farm in the Fort Fairfield Industrial Park. Council has already signed a letter of intent with Fort Fairfield Solar, LLC for the back parcels.

Recommendation is that Council opens up discussion on an ordinance citing solar energy projects in the Fort Fairfield Industrial Park.

**Mr. Butler** – “So, whereabouts in the Industrial Park is that?”

**Ms. Powers** – “[inaudible] closest to Public Works.”

**Mr. Butler** – “I know we have some interest in some parcels, but it’s not this, is it?”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Is that back where the truck dumpers were? Back in that area? That’s the Eastern end, right? Be the Northeastern end.”

**Ms. Powers** – “Yes. Yes.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “How much of that property they looking at?”

**Ms. Powers** – “16.5.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “No, I mean how many acres?”

**Ms. Powers** – “It’s a one time purchase versus the lease that we have for 20 years and beyond for Fort Fairfield Solar, which in the end, is more than the one time purchase [inaudible].”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “How many acres? Andrea, how many acres?”

**Ms. Powers** – “10 to 12. But, if you take 10 to 12 acres of land for an additional solar farm, you’re taking 10 to 12 acres away from potential growth. Because you can’t tax a solar farm.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “So that corner they’re looking at beyond that, is that also part of the Industrial Park? Or are they in the far North, Northeast corner of that property.”

**Ms. Powers** – “Top corner. Minimal Northeast. That section to the right, away from [inaudible]”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “I get ya. It’s a good size, good size solar farm, then, 16 acres.”

**Ms. Powers** – “Then again, solar farms cannot be taxed.”

**Mr. Butler** – “Now, they can’t be taxed?”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “They can’t be taxed?”

**Mr. Levesque** – “The current law, in the State of Maine, is that if you have a renewable energy project, that is a certain size, [inaudible] they can apply for renewable energy conception and [inaudible] the value of the property, personal property would be, and then they would be reimbursed 50 percent of the value of the personal property. I don’t believe Real Estate is exempt at all, at this time. [inaudible]”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Can the Town purchase power from that site?”

**Ms. Powers** – “[inaudible] Fort Fairfield Solar, LLC.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “But that site up there is not, not up and up and running yet, so when they are, can we, can we buy power from them?”

**Ms. Powers** – “[inaudible]”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “How many acres are they the ones [inaudible]?”

**Ms. Powers** – “So we worked out [inaudible] Town, to get them much more acreage for their live kilowatts [inaudible]”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Is it kilowatts or megawatts? It’s megawatts, isn’t it? Yeah. Okay.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “So this would just effect if Fort Fairfield Solar wants to expand.”

**Ms. Powers** – “No. This is a completely different company.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Right. But this would only effect Fort Fairfield Solar if they were to choose to [inaudible].”

**Ms. Powers** – “It would effect Fort Fairfield Solar from expanding, it would effect K-Pel from expanding further from what they’ve already offered and it has been agreed to by Council and it would effect any new businesses coming into the Industrial Park.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Okay. Yeah, so, I, I wasn’t real clear. So, when they’re up and running, the Town of Fort Fairfield can buy power from them?”

**Ms. Powers** – “We already have an agreement with them. And, they’re putting solar panels on the roof of the Town Office and parts of the Municipal Building that can stand it [inaudible].”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “If that were to pass, how many acres would be left in the park? Any idea?”

**Ms. Powers** – “[inaudible]”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “It’s kind of used to take up the whole park, between them and K-Pel, right? Okay. I’m good.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Do you need a motion?”

**Ms. Powers** – “No. I just wanted Council to be aware of it. We have no [inaudible]. The Industrial Park seems to all of a sudden to be a key location for these companies that are trying to get into our community [inaudible] and we already have Fort Fairfield Solar [inaudible] and so, they are trying to get in on it. So, we may want to consider an Ordinance, one way or another, what we want to do about it.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Where did the Industrial Park actually start? From 161?”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “I think as soon as you turn off the Caribou Road, right?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Yes.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “And all the potato houses on that run are part of the Industrial Park?”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “I think maybe, I don’t know, some of them are, I don’t think all of them are.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “I think the zone, Tony, am I right, that zone of area it would be included in Industrial Park? Right. Okay.”



**Mr. Ouellette** – “161, right Tony?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Yeah, when you take the left off 161. Cheney Grove Road.”

C. ATV Ordinance

A Public Hearing was held for the Ordinance 22-04 **An Ordinance Providing for All Terrain Vehicle Regulations** in the Council Chambers of the Fort Fairfield Municipal Building on June 1, 2022 at 6:00pm. There were four (4) citizens that spoke against the Ordinance, there were eight (8) citizens that spoke for the Ordinance, and one (1) citizen that spoke neither for or against at the public hearing.

The Town Manager’s Office collected emails from citizens from June 1, 2022 to June 15, 2022. We received seven (7) emails that spoke against the Ordinance, three (3) emails that spoke for the Ordinance, and one (1) email that spoke neither for or against the Ordinance.

“An Ordinance Providing For All Terrain Vehicle Regulations 22-04.”

Recommendation is that Town Council does not approve Ordinance 22-04 **An Ordinance Providing For All Terrain Vehicle Regulations** as written.

Motion: Mr. Butler made the motion.

Second: Mr. Ouellette seconded.

Discussion:

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “I would just like to say, I know this is, this ball’s been rolling in our community for quite a while and I can honestly say, that Mr. Stratton has finally brought the ATV Club to what it is today, not him single-handedly, but the front-runner, he’s had a lot of support. It’s been a hard battle over the years. I know economics are changing every day and the goodness of recreation with that and now the new option that the railroad route that is potentially gonna open up in the next year or so, is gonna really make a lot cleaner runway for exposing Fort Fairfield and the sport has only increased over the years dramatically, dramatically. I feel the Ordinance is, is worth looking at. In that Ordinance, I would like our Chief to regulate and deregulate any options of law in that Ordinance. I hate to be, my opinion to put that power within him, but it needs to be. So we have a greater source of feedback and we know the legalities of, of anything that is open as it’s being operated. I, I would like to see that in the Ordinance, if it could be.”

**Mr. Butler** – “Mr. Chair, we’re voting on the Ordinance now, ask for the Chief’s input right now we’d have to table this for another meeting.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Right. He already gave us his input, right here. He says he wants to go on record and say that he does not support the use of ATVs.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Melissa, I’m sorry. I’m sorry, I can’t hear ya.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “I just said the Chief already gave us his, his statement in our packet. It says, as a resident of Fort Fairfield, I’d like to go on record stating that I do not support the use of ATVs on the public roadway within the Town of Fort Fairfield.”

**Mr. Butler** – “Mr. Chair, we’ve gone through this, when I first came back as a Councilor, a few years back, we had the President of the ATV Club, that wanted us to extend down the Dorsey Road so they can make the loop complete, so they wouldn’t have to, and it was passed. But, every year now, we’re gonna, and, and I’m a firm believer, I’m looking at the safety and I’m looking at the safety down Roosevelt Avenue, you’ve got the ‘s’ turns and stuff like that, the streets not wide enough and these vehicles don’t have any safety inspections on them whatsoever and so we don’t know if the brakes are good or if the brakes are bad. And, you know, we talk about the few bad apples, but on the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Mr. Stratton acknowledged that last fall, 2021, they lost, no police force, the drivers took ATVs, drivers took advantage of it. I hope that don’t happen again. Well, there’s liability in this and if we pass an Ordinance, we’re just allowing Willy Nilly going through all these back streets and turns and stuff like that, and somebody gets hurt, yes, we probably will be held responsible for it. And, and that was my, our main concern, especially down the ‘s’ turns stuff like that, especially there where the kids, and now they’re out of school, they’re out there walking. I’ve had senior citizens call me at my house and request that I not vote for this and for the same concerns that they’re, they’re walking down the street and walking on the side streets and they have to be dodging, dodging ATVs.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Are other Towns open to ATVs?”

**Mr. Butler** – “Not all Towns are open to, certain Towns are open, they got their, their”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “What’s the majority, I mean, does anybody know what the majority of Towns are open to ATVs?”

**Mr. Butler** – “A lot of people use Millinocket down there, Kevin, and I’ve talked to some people down in Millinocket and some people say, you know, it’s the worst mistake they made, because, I mean, our streets are, I mean, our streets aren’t wide enough for this, you know, when you’ve got kids walking down there and you get kids on bikes and stuff like that, now these kids are dodging ATVs going down the side of the road and they’re going up the road just like a car.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Maybe I’m getting wrong information, but it’s my understanding that the ATVs just want to go from point A to point B to get onto a trail. It’s not to drive all the streets. That’s, I mean, that’s what I’m hearing. Am I, am I being told wrong? Mitch, I mean, you’re gonna get some bad apples that are gonna do that.”

**Mr. Butler** – “Well, that one bad apple, Kevin, is gonna cause a life. You’re talking about bad apples, and Mr. Stratton honestly said, yes it go out of had last year because we had no Police force, they can’t enforce it. They can’t enforce, okay. So now we’ll get, we’ll get that, I lost my train of thought.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Mitch, they’re enforcing it off the streets. Not our PD but the Game Warden Service.”

**Mr. Butler** – “And if we pass an Ordinance where they can utilize the streets and Game Wardens will not come in Town and enforce the laws.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Right.”

**Mr. Butler** – “You know, and I’m concerned about, you know, I’m talking about this well attention, they got this ATV going down side of the road, they’ve got a kid coming up meeting with the ATV, first thing that the kids got to roll out by a passing car. Our streets aren’t wide enough for ATVs. If we had sidewalks, if we had wider streets or something like that, you know, I’m, I’m all for ATV trails, I’m all for it.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Is Presque Isle open? Presque Isle’s open? But, it’s broke here. Easton? Mars Hill?”

**Mr. Butler** – “We’ve gone through this before. And every year it comes up, it comes up time and time again.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “I went way back in the minutes, at one point, it was allowed to have ATVs on some of these trails but it never was put down on paper and it never continued. This Ordinance was passed or at least voted on for the Council to allow them to have more access.”

**Mr. Butler** – “We brought it further down Forest Ave. We extended down to Forest Ave.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “I don’t think there’s been any record of any bad accident since we’ve opened it on Forest Ave. has there been reports?”

**Ms. Powers** – “That would be Chief Cummings, but I can tell you from the original Ordinance that Councilor Ouellette is referring to, to change implements was because of the inability to Police the inside Town streets, and that’s when that all came about in 2018. And since then, Council has graciously opened up lots of other areas throughout the community to create areas for ATV riders to connect so that they’re not stopping or missing their connection points. What this really entails, is moving about a community inside that local area. I know we don’t [inaudible]. Again, my recommendation was not to approve this particular Ordinance, I think we need more time to write the Ordinance properly, so that [inaudible] the citizens of Fort Fairfield as well as the ATV riders of Fort Fairfield. That’s why I made my recommendation. It’s not necessarily that I’m against the ATVs, it’s that the Ordinance, as written, I don’t think that it benefits all the citizens of Fort Fairfield.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Has the Ordinance, as written, been reviewed by our attorney?”

**Ms. Powers** – “Yes. He was only asked to review it, based on if the language in the Ordinance is correct, which is what he was by Council to do, so that’s what he did.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Did he see any?”

**Ms. Powers** – “There were no suggestions being noted.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Right, but he didn’t may any statements on any subjects? He didn’t? No.”

**Ms. Powers** – “No, he can’t. He can only tell you if the language is correct.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “But we could work with Chief to rewrite an Ordinance that is safe and serves the people that are wanting to be able to have access. I just said that it’s possible for us to rewrite this Ordinance so it’s not saying, no that you can’t do that, it’s saying to rewrite this paperwork, this documentation, in a way that makes it so that you can have some access but that you still can, we can still make sure that everybody’s safe.”

**[inaudible] side conversation between Mr. Kilcollins and Mr. Pelletier.**

**Mrs. Libby** – “We just need to make sure that it says that in the Ordinance so that it’s correct.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Melissa, if we pass, if the Council passed an Ordinance, this Ordinance, then we would, would or should expect to review often the updates on violation of the complaint?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Right.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “We want to make it very clear that this is a trial period and the Ordinance may be revoked.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Simple as that.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Immediately if they are, there are any valid complaints. The ATV community deserves a chance to show that this Ordinance will not cause havoc for our Town’s people. The ATV community should step up and help to monitor for violators and encourage riders to follow the rules. Having, I don’t have an ATV, but I do have a vehicle that I put in the ATV trail, and if I ride with this Ordinance, there’s nobody in God’s world wanting to stop me, but that’s not the case with a lot of people that ride ATVs, but we hear them go down the road, we go, we might see them, not here, but I’ve seen them on two wheels right down the asphalt down in San Francisco, we don’t want that. I think they deserve the right to a chance to see if we can make it work, if not then we revoke it.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Right. So, we had, we had discussion, if everybody’s done discussion, we had a motion and a second we’ll go for vote. Melissa?”

**Mrs. Libby** – “And, we’re voting on not approving, correct? As written.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Mitch?”

**Mr. Butler** – “Aye.”

**Ms. Powers** – “She didn’t vote.”

**Mr. Butler** – “She didn’t vote, Bob.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Pardon me?”

**Ms. Powers** – “She didn’t vote.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “I thought she, oh okay.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “I was questioning. I’d like to see it rewritten, Aye.”

**Mr. Butler** – “Aye.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “She voted Aye?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “They voted Aye.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Which is to pass it?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “No. Is to have it relooked and rewrote.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “To look at it?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Yeah, no, yeah, their vote is to not accept this Ordinance. Is just to not accept it. So, Aye is to not accept it. You’d have to Nay it, if you want it.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Nay.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Nay.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “And I vote Nay.”

Motion: Mr. Butler motioned.

Second: Mr. Ouellette seconded.

Discussion: See above.

Vote: Motion did not pass. (2 Ayes and 3 Nays)

A. Approve FY22/23 Permits and Licenses – Mr. Levesque

Tony Levesque, Code Enforcement Officer, held a Public Hearing at 12 noon on June 9<sup>th</sup> in the Municipal Council Chambers. A list was provided that showed the prior license holders and noted the applications and fees received on the following permits: Victualers, Refuse Haulers, Dance, Special Amusement, Septic System Installers, Automobile Graveyards, Hawkers and Peddlers.

Tony stated for the record that he recommends the issuance or renewal of all licenses listed as the fees are collected.

Tony also stated that there were not any other comments orally or in writing prior to the start of the hearing.

The floor was opened to comments and questions.

Tony mentioned for the record that he did not have any authority in the issuance of the licenses until the Town Council voted to authorize the issuance of the licenses.

There being no further comments, the hearing was closed at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted respectfully by Code Enforcement Officer, Tony Levesque

Recommendation is that the list of permits and licenses as follows is to include this list from the Code Enforcement Officer.

Motion: Mr. Butler made the motion.

Second: Mrs. Libby seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmed.

B. Approve FY22/23 Appointments of Town Officials and Board Members

1. The following Town Officials require annual reappointment:

**Darren Hanson** as Road Commissioner

**Deputy Fire Chief Cody Fenderson** as Health Officer.

**Richard A. Levesque** as Plumbing Inspector

**Richard A. Levesque** as Code Enforcement Officer

**Trudy O'Neal** as Sub-Registrar

The Town Clerk sent letters to all Board members to inform them of their terms expiring June 30, 2022 on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Members have until June 30<sup>th</sup> to resign if they wish.

As of June 15, 2022 we have received two applications, from Dan Foster and Annette Thompson, who is interested in serving on the Library Board of Trustees, with more applications to come. The Librarian has informed me of two Board Members, (John Krause – term ending 2025, and Kendall Stratton – term ending 2024), who wish to resign before their terms end. Stacy Michaud, of the Fort Fairfield Housing Authority, has informed me of a new applicant for the Board, Mark Neddeau, and Sean Bernard wishes to continue on the Board for another term in place of Donna Currie.

Staff will continue to advertise for individuals to fill vacancies moving forward.

The recommendation is that Town Council appoints the Town Officials as presented, we'll have to discuss the applications received for the Library Board of Trustees, Mark Neddeau and Sean Bernard to the Housing Authority Board, and reappoints all other Board and Committee members whose terms are expiring on June 30, 2022.

Motion: Mr. Butler made the motion.

Second: Mrs. Libby and Mr. Ouellette seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmed.

C. Authorize Audit Services from Felch & Company, LLC

The Town has used Felch & Company for several years and has been very satisfied with their work.

Attached is a proposal from Felch & Company, LLC to utilize their services to complete the Town's financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2022. The proposal states the audit will begin on approximately July 25, 2022 with reports issued later in September, 23 2022.

The fee for this years' audit is \$10,250.00.

Recommendation: Town Council authorize the Council Chair, Chairman Kilcollins, to sign the proposal from Felch & Company, LLC to conduct an audit of the Town's financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2022.

Motion: Mrs. Libby made the motion.

Second: Mr. Ouellette seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmed.

D. Minutes for Special Town Council Meeting on 6-1-22 and ORD 22-04 Public Hearing on 6-1-22

Motion: Mr. Ouellette made the motion.

Second: Mr. Pelletier seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmed.

VIII. Warrants: #24 \$277,788.11 #25 \$326,421.98

Warrant #24 in the amount of \$277,788.11 was completed on 05/25/2022, leaving checking account balance at \$15,985.22. This warrant includes SAD 20 payment in the amount of \$178,532.09.

Warrant #25 in the amount of \$326,421.98 was completed on 06/09/2022, leaving checking account balance at \$84,135.10.

Motion: Mr. Ouellette made the motion to accept Warrants 24 and 25.

Second: Mr. Pelletier seconded.

Discussion:

**Mr. Butler** – “Andrea, what’s the difference between, I mean, I, I know the difference, but why is there such a difference between the checking account from one.”

**Ms. Powers** – “Because Capitol comes in. That comes in and changes the amount. The first Warrant number 24, ended on 5/25/2022, the second Warrant ended on 6/9/2022.”

Vote: All Affirmed.

IX. Other

A. Town Office Closure for End of Fiscal Year Closure of Financial Records

The end of fiscal year 2021/2022 is June 30, 2022. The Town Office will need to be closed that day to prepare and close out the fiscal year. The Town Office will reopen on July 1, 2022 at 7:30am.

Recommendation is that Town Council vote to approve the closing of the Town Office on June 30, 2022 for end of fiscal year closing of financials.

Motion: Mr. Butler motioned.

Second: Mr. Pelletier seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmed.



B. Resolution 22-06 CDBG

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Fort Fairfield wishes to apply to the Department of Economic and Community Development for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to carry out a community development program; and

**WHEREAS**, the planning process required by Maine Law and the CDBG Program have been complied with, including participation in the planning process by low and moderate income families and individuals and the community has conducted at least one duly advertised public hearing.

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Town of Fort Fairfield that the Town Manager, Andrea L. Powers:

1. Is authorized and directed to submit an application for the following program(s) within the State of Maine's CDBG Program: 2022 CDBG Economic Development Program to the Department of Economic and Community Development on behalf of the Town of Fort Fairfield, substantially in the form presented to this council;
2. Is authorized to make assurances on behalf of the Town of Fort Fairfield required as part of such applications; and
3. Is authorized and directed, upon acceptance of said funds to carry out the duties and responsibilities for implementing said program(s), consistent with the Charter of the Town of Fort Fairfield and the laws and regulations governing planning and implementation of community development programs in the State of Maine.

Recommendation is that Town Council signs Resolution 22-06.

Motion: Mr. Butler motioned.

Second: Mrs. Libby seconded.

Discussion:

**Mr. Pelletier** – “How much is the grants for? The amount of the grants?”

**Mr. Levesque** – “200,000.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “200,000?”

**Ms. Powers** – “This is for Farmer Thibeau.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Oh. Okay.”

**Mr. Levesque** – “[inaudible]”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Packing shed?”

**Ms. Powers** – “Equipment Shed.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Okay.”

Vote: All Affirmed.

C. SPE Foundation Grant

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.

The Parks and Recreation Department received notification that they have been awarded a grant from the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Foundation. This grant is two parts:

Part 1) The Recreation Department would receive a 3D printer to incorporate into the recreational programs, starting with their summer Rocket Science program. The value of the printer is about \$650.00.

Part 2) In order to facilitate the SPE Foundation’s mission of supporting the development of plastics professionals by funding quality educational programs, grants and scholarships emphasizing science, engineering, sustainability, and manufacturing while working to create inclusive opportunities for students around the world, they received approval from the Superintendent and Middle High School science teachers to agree to a PlastiVan visit. PlastiVan was originally a van that had plastic engineers who traveled to communities and taught classes revolving around the science of plastics. They now fly and drive to offer this service to communities. This part of the grant puts a plastic engineer in the school, and they bring the supplies to teach a polymer science class at the school for kids in the community. The value of this part of the grant is \$1,750.00.

The total value of this grant is roughly \$2,400.00.

Should you have further questions, the point of contact is Ms. Eve Vitale, SPE Foundation, Chief Executive.

Recommendation is that Town Council accepts the anonymous donation to the Rec Department, in the amount of roughly \$2,400.00.

Motion: Mrs. Libby motioned.

Second: Mr. Ouellette seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

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

Motion in: Mr. Buter motioned.

Second: Mrs. Libby seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Motion out: Mr. Butler motioned.

Second: Mrs. Libby seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

No action taken.

XI. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Butler motioned.

Second: Mrs. Libby seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Town Council Adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Submitted respectfully,

Neadra E. Dubois,  
Council Secretary