

Fort Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
Wednesday, January 21, 2015
6:00 P.M.

Councilors: David McCrea, Jason Barnes, Susan LeVasseur, John Herold and Robert Kilcollins
Staff: Bill Campbell, George Watson, Tony Levesque, Tim Goof and Ella Leighton
Citizens: 1

- I. Swearing in of Councilor John Herold by Rebecca J. Hersey, Town Clerk
- II. Roll Call - Chair David McCrea asked that the record reflect all councilors present with the exception of Susan LeVasseur.
- III. Prayer – Tony Levesque offered the prayer
- IV. Pledge to the Flag - All in attendance pledged their allegiance to the Flag.
- V. Public Comment- None
- VI. Election of Chairperson
Current Chairperson: David McCrea

Motion: John Herold moved to appoint Jason Barnes as Chairperson.
Second: Robert Kilcollins Vote – All Affirmative

VII. Appointments

- A. Tri Community Landfill: Currently Stev Rogeski

Motion: John Herold moved to re-appoint Stev Rogeski to the Tri Community Board.
Second: David McCrea Vote – All Affirmative

- B. Finance Committee: Currently Robert Kilcollins, Susan LeVasseur, Jason Barnes with David McCrea and John Herold as Alternate

Motion: David McCrea nominated Robert Kilcollins, John Herold, and David McCrea to the Finance Committee and Susan LeVasseur and Jason Barnes as Alternates.
Second: John Herold Vote – All Affirmative

- C. Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors: Currently Jason Barnes with Susan LeVasseur as the Alternate

Motion: John Herold moved to re-elect Jason Barnes as a member of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, with Susan LeVasseur remaining as an Alternate
Second: David McCrea Vote – All Affirmative

VIII. Scheduling of regular Council Meetings: Currently – Third Wednesday of Month.

Motion: Robert Kilcollins suggested keeping with prior practice to keep the current schedule of the third Wednesday of every month.

Second: David McCrea

Vote – All Affirmative

IX. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses / Permits- One Liquor License for Frontier Fish and Game

B. Financial Report – Governor’s Tax Changes – Mike –Expense wise we are in line with what we expect for the year. Payroll in most of the departments are at or below the 50% mark. Currently we are heating with fuel oil, with the cost around \$2.00 per gallon, it is more efficient to heat with oil instead of coal. On the revenue side we are fairing okay with revenue sharing down slightly and excise tax up slightly. Unfortunately the State Road Aid will be down approximately \$8,400.00 for the year or 8%. We will look at beginning to pay down the TAN over the next few weeks. Also, attached is a bulletin put out by MMA that describes what the Governor is proposing for changes in the tax code. If this passes it will have a significant impact on our budget. Tony has assigned some numbers to some of the governor’s proposal, one being the elimination of municipal revenue sharing which would affect us to the tune of \$213,000.00. One mil equals approximately \$150,000.00 so as you can see this loss of revenue will probably be around 1 ¼ increase in the mil rate. Also the elimination of the homestead exemption for anyone under the age of 65 and it would double the homestead for anyone over 65. If this plan goes through we would actually gain \$50,000.00. Then the BETE and the BETR program would be eliminated over a 4 year period. We would lose in taxable valuation approximately 16 million dollars and over the 4 year period we could lose approximately \$386,000 in revenue, 25% per year. So that’s about ½ of a mil per year for four years.

C. Tri-community Landfill Report – Stev thanked the council for their continued support of his position on the Tri-community board. At the last meeting they reviewed the 2014 year, they saw approximately \$35,000.00 in profit compared to last year they had a loss of \$35,000.00. We should be pretty proud of Mark’s crew. While Mark was out of town there was a fuel spill. One of our waste haulers coming in hit the guard rail with their fuel tank and split it open. The crew was well aware of what to do, they mopped it up and called DEP. There was an inspection done and the crew passed. This was all done by the time Mark came back. We also talked about the heavy ash waste from RE-energy and how we are going to use it to build roads and we gave Mark permission to use some of his crew to help haul that with the idea that RE-energy will reimburse for any cost. There were a couple of haulers that expressed some concerns because we raised the annual rates to \$200.00. One of the reasons we did this was because up until this year if someone demolished a building the

cost would be paid by the town. We changed that so that the hauler or the building owner would now pay the per ton rate. There was a brief discussion to clarify who is responsible for assigning someone to pick up the cardboard. It was decided that Mark would be doing this. The haulers do get paid for cardboard that they bring in.

- D. Update- Wind Energy Technical Review Committee – Tim – We continue to meet regularly, one of biggest issues we have been focusing on are, classification of wind towers. We are also working on bringing in a sound professional to teach us about sound and noise, the difference between the two and how these machines will impact the community. The members have all visited the Mars Hill Wind Facility to get a better sense of what these facilities are. The group is now working on permitting authority and licensing.

Discussion –

Jason Barnes - How is the momentum, is it going fairly well?

Tim – Everything is going good. It is very technical and requires attention and a lot of learning. Feel like the members have taken this task very seriously. The next meeting is the 27th at 4pm.

- E. Department Report: Police –Bill – Have the opportunity to take part in a high visibility OUI enforcement grant detail. It will run from April through to September. We will run one detail per week for 1- 6 hours per detail if approved, we would probably incur cost of \$7,000.00 to \$8,000.00, and the grant would also pay all benefits. Also a couple of weeks ago we received vehicle monitors for our cruisers, these will trace battery life, mileage, speed and etc. We did this for safety issue for our officers. As of tomorrow morning all of our mandated training will be completed and I have to have this turned in by January 31st. This training is required so that the officer can keep their certifications. Next week for four days all the officers will be in active shooter training. This is being put on by the border patrol at no cost to us.
- F. Department Report: Marketing efforts – Tim – showed the councilors the new web site, which combines the Towns, the Chamber of Commerce and the Potato Blossom web sites.
- G. Department Report: Fire/Ambulance/Emergency Management Department - It is with regret that we accept the resignation of Mike Jalbert as our Fire Chief. Mike has worked for the town for 15 years and will be deeply missed. He has been an exemplary employee and it will be hard to replace him with someone of his kindness, knowledge, style and expertise. We have begun advertising the position, the deadline for applications are January 26th.

H. USDA/NRCS Grant – Dam Inspection – Tony – Early 2014 the State of Maine requested an inspection of our Libby Brook and Bryant Pond Dams. Because we cannot mechanically shut the gates, they have been unable to inspect them, they have been told that there are no funds to repair them. Tony received a letter informing him that the NRCS has received funding in the amount of \$40,000.00 for the two dams. Gannett Fleming, Inc. will be doing the assessments.

I. Key Bank Building- Mike – We received a letter from Paul Moir, owner of the former Key Bank building on Main Street. Tim, Tony and Mike toured the building and found that for a building of its age it is in relatively good shape with most of its aesthetic value preserved. Mr. Moir is offering this building to the Town for the amount of \$75,000.00, with a payment plan of \$15,000.00 per year for 5 years, at no interest. This building is increasingly becoming a burden to the owner’s family and he realizes the history in this building and does not want to tear it down.

X. Old Business

A. Consider Quit Claim Deed to Troy Ladner – all taxes, interest and fees including taxes for the current year on this property located at 8 Franklin St have been paid in full.

Motion: David McCrea moved to approve the Quit Claim Deed for property located at 8 Franklin St. owned by Troy Ladner

Second: John Herold

Vote – All affirmative

XI. New Business

A. Consideration of body cameras reimbursement from AEMA- Chief Campbell is asking permission to purchase two police body cameras. We have all seen the headlines of recent and I cannot think of any reason why having this equipment would not be helpful for our police to be protected, to have much needed evidence in event something went wrong and to simply does their job better. The quote from Kustom Signals Incorporated in the amount of \$1,945.00 and also \$560.00 for a two-year warranty for each camera. The Aroostook Emergency Management Agency will reimburse the cost of \$1,945.00 by utilizing a federal grant that they applied for on behalf of the Aroostook County chiefs of Police Association.

Motion: David McCrea moved to approve the purchase of two police body cameras and the purchase of a two-year warranty of each one and accessories.

Second: Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

Bill mentioned the high visibility OUI enforcement detail grant.

Motion: John Herold moved to approve the high Visual OUI informance grant

Second: Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

XII Minutes: Council Meeting December 17, 2014

Motion: Robert Kilcollins moved to approve Minutes of December 17, 2014 as written.

Second: John Herold

Vote – All affirmative

XIII Warrants: #12 - \$76,593.67, #13 - \$57,961.22 and #14- \$339,453.12

Motion: David McCrea moved to accept warrants #12, #13 & #14 as presented.

Second: John Herold

Vote – All affirmative

XIV Other - NONE

XV Executive Session 7:25 PM

Motion: David McCrea moved to go into Executive Session to discuss

1 MRSA 405 (6) (C) - Economic Development

1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) - Personnel

Second: Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

Came out of executive session and adjourned at 8:15 PM

No Action Taken

Respectfully submitted,

Council Secretary

Rebecca J. Hersey