

2014/15 Budget Public Hearing Minutes
Council Chambers
May 21, 2014
6:00 P.M.

The purpose of this hearing is to allow for public comments regarding the Town of Fort Fairfield 2014-2015 2nd Budget. Any comments will be received until the Town Council Meeting on May 21, 2014 at 6:00pm.

Mike began by saying that he had spoken with Marc Gendron and got final numbers from the school department, the school board has approved a flat funding for their budget from last year. So the latest version of the Towns budget has changes in the consolidated income and the consolidated expenses.

David: looking at these, are we at a point that we know dollars wise where we are with new requests for money or is it still to be determined?

Mike: There will be some last minute changes but to my knowledge the last items that were on the block was the school and we have that number. Then last time we spoke of the dump sticker and it was the consensus that it remain at \$50.00 unless the council changes that. Then if there are any other changes to the outside agency line items that we have discussed in the past.

With no other comments or discussion regarding the 14-15 Budget the Chair called the Town Council meeting to order at 6:06PM.

Fort Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
Wednesday, May 21, 2014
6:00 P.M.

Councilors: David McCrea, Jason Barnes, Robert Kilcollins, Susan LeVasseur and John Herold

Staff: Ella Leighton, George Watson, Vicki Page, Tony Levesque, Mike Jalbert and Tom Towle

Citizens: 2 including media

- I. Roll Call - Chair David McCrea asked that the record reflect all councilors are present
- II. Prayer – Tony Levesque offered the prayer
- III. Pledge to the Flag - All in attendance pledged their allegiance to the Flag.
- IV. Public Comment Period – None
- V. Correspondence and Reports

- A. Licenses/Permits- None
- B. Financial Report – Mike B. – On the Revenue side, all items seem to be on track. State Revenue sharing also being on track for this year with what was budgeted. One other item that is being monitored closely is the Landfill permit expense line, this line will end up over what was projected for the budget. This amount was placed at \$80,000.00. The actual projected, when the permit fees are netted out, to be approximately \$85,406 if the \$50.00 permit continues to be sold. Other expenses are pretty much on track with only a couple of exceptions. The community center and highway heating accounts will be over for the year by \$6,100, due to a couple of factors. Both coal furnaces have been shut down for the season. Our cash flow has stabilized, we are anticipating tapping into the Sweep Account from time to time.
- C. Tri-Community Landfill Report – Stev Rogeski –. Our last meeting was on May 16th, our budget is in line for this time of year. Small exception is that we are doing a waste swap with Pine Tree, we are a little behind right now with what is coming in from Pine Tree. They have a problem with odor at their landfill so they have requested some of our MSW to mix with their FRP waste to keep the smell down, they are going to replace the tonnage. We have had some problems with our scrap metal bids, they prefer not to have the metal cans that are in that metal pile. Mark has worked it out so that we can take these metal cans to American Steel in Caribou.
- D. Department Report: Annual Community Blight Review – Tony and George have done their annual town wide inspection. Tony addressed the perception that our town is accumulating a lot of garbage on the roads and around buildings, that is not happening. Did see a lot of junk as they had in the past along the roads. We have three or four vacant structures that are going to be addressed. There are 22 names on the list that have been on there for two years and some for at least 15 years, some of those are non-resident owners. There are a few on the list that complaints have been received. In 2005 we sent out 83 letters, 2013 there were 37 letters and this year we will be sending out 41 letters. As a whole we have a nice looking community. The first letters intend is to be amicable, its purpose is to address the hazards. The second letter which is one step short of a notice of violation is co-signed by the Police Chief. Once they get the notice of violation the clock starts ticking for the fines, it is \$100.00 per day and for a repeat offender it could be as high as \$225.00 per day.
- E. Quality of Place Council/- Presque Isle Street Project Update – The south side of the house has been resided, they are putting the electrical, heating and plumbing in. The garage roof will be replaced. By the end of next the week the exterior will be near completion.
- F. Librarian Search Update - Sharon Nadeau retired earlier this year. We advertised for a part-time librarian position. Seven resumes and letters of application were received, Interviews were conducted on May 8th with three applicants by Library staff, trustees and Mike.
Attached to these minutes is the resume of their nominee for the Part-Time Librarian.

VI. Old Business –

- A. Librarian Recommendation – Mike – Would like to nominate Vicki Page for the part-time Librarian position, she is a former resident and is now living in Limestone. She is very enthusiastic, and very well qualified for this position.

Motion: Susan LeVasseur moved to approve the hiring of Vicki Page as the part-time Librarian

Second: John Herold

Vote – All affirmative

- B. Homeless Shelter – Financial Support – As instructed by the council, Mike looked for funds to cover the request from the Homeless Shelter. The Poor Relief account shows a credit balance of \$4,076.27. They have requested \$5,244, giving that amount would empty that account and then some. Perhaps we can give them \$2,000 for this year.

Motion: John Herold moved to approve giving the Homeless Shelter \$2,000 instead of the \$5,244 that they have requested. This is to be funded from the Poor Relief Fund

Second: Susan LeVasseur

Vote – All affirmative

- C. Tri Community Landfill Sticker Information – At the last council meeting Mike was asked several questions on the Tri Community Landfill Permits. He presented to the council information that he receive from the staff at Tri Community. For 2014, beginning December 1st to June 30th they have sold 252 stickers. In 2011 a total of 320 were sold and in 2013 a total of 345 were sold. So we are down 27% from last year for the same period. From now until June 30 it is anticipated that they will sell another 94 permits.

Discussion:

David: Basically means by one way or another, the citizens of the town pay the tonnage fee.

Mike- Correct, last year's budget was for \$80,000.00 and it is being increased this year to \$86,000.00, every month we pay \$8,515.00 to the landfill.

John: So everybody in town if they are a tax payer or not benefits in some fashion to that waste stream that ends up in the landfill and the tonnage is paid for by the Town in the form of tax revenues and this payment includes the individuals who go out and buy a \$50.00 permit in addition to this. As an example a household uses a trash hauler, in addition a permit sticker is purchased then they pay their taxes. They are paying all three forms of revenue to the town. It comes down to permit holders bearing the cost of the revenue that the town needs in order to make the budget.

David: If we went back to the \$10.00, it would impact this budget that we have been working on, to what degree?

Mike: It would impact it by approximately \$16, 284.00

David: So our taxes will increase by a little over .1 mils, our taxes would go up by \$16,284.00 that all tax payers will pay for. So it is a questions as to whether the permit holders will bear the burden of this \$16,282.00 or if the taxpayers will.

Motion: John Herold moved to approve returning the Tri Community Landfill permit sticker fees back to former cost of \$10.00 each beginning December 1, 2014.

Second: Robert Kilcollins

David McCrea, John Herold, Jason Barnes and Robert Kilcollins Voted affirmative with Susan LeVasseur Voting Against

VII. New Business –

- A. Approve changes to Employee Policy Manual- Since we are hiring a Part-time Department head we need to address this in the employee policy manual. The changes will allow a part-time department head to have a pro-rata share of vacation time, sick time and holiday pay. Since they are part-time they are not eligible for paid health insurance, paid retirement or any other paid benefit

Motion: John Herold moved to approved the changes to the Employee Policy Manual as shown in attached memo.

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

- A. Approval Quit Claim deed – Tax Acquired Property, Ann Reidinger – The Town took title on Ann Reidinger’s property due to non-payment of taxes. Traditionally the town allows the owner to work on a payment plan so that we do not have to take custody of the homes. Ann has secured a buyer for her home and the buyer fronted the funds to pay off the taxes due. The taxes were paid in full on May 15th.

Motion: John Herold moved to approve the Quit Claim deed to Ann Reidinger, for property located on the Old East Road.

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

- B. Approval for Public Works Reps to attend State Surplus Auction – with authorization to spend up to \$30,000.00

Motion: John Herold moved to approve for George and a couple of his staff from Public Works to attend State Surplus Auction on May 29th – with authorization to spend up to \$30,000.00

Second: Susan LeVasseur

Vote – All affirmative

VIII. Minutes: Council Meeting April 16, 2014 and Public Budget Hearing April 30, 2014-

Motion: Jason Barnes moved to approve Minutes of April 16, 2014 and April 30, 2014 as written.

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Second: Robert Kilcollins

Vote – All affirmative

IX. Warrants: #22 - \$90,512.19 and #23 - \$111,969.27

Motion: Susan LeVasseur moved to accept warrant #22 & #23 as presented.

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

XI. Other – None

XII. Executive Session – 7:19 PM

Motion: John Herold moved to go into Executive Session to discuss

1 MRSA 405(6) (A) Personnel

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

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote – All affirmative

Came out of executive session at 8:20 PM

Motion: Susan LeVasseur moved that the Town to accept the proposal from Stainless Foodservice Equipment (SFE) with modifications, see SFE proposal attached. The contract would be for a three-year lease with rent amounting to total of \$4800 for the first 12 months. This will allow for, six months being rent free and six months paid in advance at the signing of the contract. The remaining two years would give SFE the option to pay yearly in advance at a rate of \$850 per month or \$10,200 for the year or to pay \$900 per month due on the first of each month for the remaining 24 months. None of these funds will go toward the purchase of the property. The lease will stipulate that the town will initially cover the cost of labor for repairing the exterior and making the building relatively water tight, SFE will supply materials. The town will also maintain mowing of the lawn in summer and the bulk of snow removal in winter. SFE will agree to have the Town as a Named Insured on their Insurance Policy.

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote—All in favor

Motion: John Herold to adjourn at 8:22 PM

Second: Jason Barnes

Vote—All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Council Secretary
Rebecca J. Hersey