

**Fort Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Council Chambers**  
**Wednesday, February 15, 2017**  
**6:00 P.M.**

Councilors: Jason Barnes, Mitchell Butler, John Herold, Melissa Libby and Scott Smith  
Staff: Tim Goff, Darren Hanson, Rebecca Hersey, Ella Leighton, Tony Levesque, Shawn Newell and James Risner.  
Citizens: 2 including media

- I. Roll Call – Chair Jason Barnes asked that the record reflect all councilors were 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-

Mr. Mitchell Butler stated that a couple of citizens spoke to him, one being a resident on the Morse Road who stated that they were quite happy with the 25 mph speed limit signs that were going up. The second person had a problem with the sidewalks by Borderview not being cleared off. He notified the town and was happy he got a response back and was very happy to see public works there the next day cleaning the sidewalks off. Mr. Butler congratulated the town and said thank you for a job well done, you made these residents happy.

V. Correspondence and Reports

- A. Recognition of Former Library Board of Trustees Member – Mr. James Risner asked that this be removed as the member was unable to attend and to have it tabled until the March 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.
- B. Licenses / Permits- Ms. Hersey – As of February 15<sup>th</sup> we received one application for a Liquor License with Catering Permit from the Fort Fairfield Lions Club.
- C. Financial Report – Excise collections as of January 31<sup>st</sup> were \$340,816.60, which is 61.97% of the budgeted amount. On January 23<sup>rd</sup> we received State Revenue Sharing in the amount of \$18,274.28. Expenses as of January 31<sup>st</sup> are at 60.57% of the budgeted amount. We received payment in lieu of taxes from the Fort Fairfield Housing Authority on January 20<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$13,979.39. Cash flow is good, we have a balance in checking in the amount of \$118,105.08, \$400,000.00 in savings and the TAN has a zero balance. Our 45 day foreclosure notices were mailed on January 20<sup>th</sup> to property owners for their 2014 taxes. We sent 44 notices compared to 66 last year. The total unpaid taxes for 2014 were \$31,355.80 compared to \$36,903.37 for 2013.
- D. Tri-community Landfill Report – Mr. Tony Levesque attended the meeting as Mr. Risner and Mr. Rogeski were both unavailable. Mr. Levesque stated that it was his

pleasure to represent the Town Manager at the meeting. They appointed the officers, the new chairman will be Fred Ventresco, and Austin Bless is staying on as Vice Chair until he leaves, the Treasurer is Mark Draper and the Secretary is Mr. Risner. This was just their regular business meeting, they approved their minutes and their financial statements. Tony stated that they are in very good shape and are managed very well. They are slightly ahead for their budget on receipts and right on par for expenses. They spoke of a purchase of a pickup truck that was budgeted and previously approved for, they had let it go on a year or two longer than they wanted to. They are now accepting debit and credit cards. Looking at options for the recycling center and they are moving igloos to Allagash. They approved the purchase of a piece of equipment for gas extraction.

- E. Update on the Maine Volunteer Fire Assistance Program – Chief Baldwin – The Fire Department applied for a matching grant from the Volunteer Firefighters Assistance (VFA) program for a portable fire pump, pager and radios. The communications part (radios and pager) was not funded but the department has been awarded money for the portable pump. The amount awarded was less than applied for due to lack of funding for the entire program. The Chief re-analyzed our needs for the pump and determined that a smaller pump will meet the Fire Department needs. This will also reduce the financial burden on the Town.

VI. Old Business – None

VII. New Business

- A. Pioneer Wireless Pole Permit - Mr. Tim Goff - The Town of Fort Fairfield has been working in partnership with Pioneer Broadband to expand high-speed Internet access in rural, underserved sections of our community. The Town and Pioneer Broadband submitted a grant application to the ConnectME Authority. Pioneer Broadband was awarded nearly \$200,000 for the project to construct fiber to the home to serve residents and businesses along sections of Presque Isle Road, Houlton Road and Maple Grove Road. As part of this construction project, Pioneer Broadband has applied for permission to locate a utility pole and cables in the Town's right-of-way near the intersection of Maple Grove Road and Houlton Road (Route 1A). The utility pole is necessary for Pioneer Broadband to construct an electronics cabinet which would house equipment used to provide Internet service to the area. The cabinet cannot be attached to the existing poles in this area as Emera Maine and Time Warner Cable do not allow this type of equipment to be attached to their utility poles.  
Once permission is granted by the Town Council, Pioneer Broadband will install the pole and the electronics which power the project, with the goal of having the service ready for customers later this spring.

Discussion: Mr. Jason Barnes asked how the Presque Isle portion of this project was going.

Mr. Goff – Before you attach fiber to poles you have to put a thing called strand

up, that strand is then attached to most of the poles. There were some poles in Presque Isle that needed to be put into place and there was a gap between the Mall and State Street intersections. They had to go into the permitting process, which was complicated a little bit by the new by-pass that is going to happen in that area. Even when they were attaching the strand they come up with a couple of poles that were not up to standard, that have to be replaced this spring, which is another setback.

Mr. John Herold asked that based on zoning, electrical standards and DOT safety requirements, is there anything about this location that will create a hindrance? Has this all been looked into by someone?

Mr. Goff – Yes, Mr. Hanson went out and took a look, it is in a good area that will not be in anyone's way. It is in the right of way with the other poles that are already located there.

Motion: Mr. John Herold moved to approve Pioneer Broadband's application for the pole placement near the intersection of Maple Grove Road and Houlton Road.

Second: Mr. Mitchell Butler

Vote – All affirmative

- B. Community Bandstand – Mr. James Risner - The Town's Community Bandstand collapsed just before 2:00 am on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hanson, Director of Public Works, has researched companies that build structures that replicate the size and design of the Community Bandstand. Fifthroom is the only company that he has found that will build a structure like the Community Bandstand, the information on two structures from Fifthroom is attached. Assembly of the structure will need to be done by a local contractor. Fifthroom needs a three month lead to build the structure. The plan is to bring something to Council in March to make a decision and still have time to have it in place for the 70th Maine Potato Blossom Festival, July 8–16.

Mr. Jason Barnes – What is the status of the insurance claim?

Mr. Risner – We have the clean-up that starts the 27<sup>th</sup> and that has been submitted and approved by adjuster. We know what the amount is that it's covered for and unless the construction of putting it together is extraordinarily high we have enough to cover the cost. We have also considered that the electrical work will be done pro bono by Mike Greenlaw and K-Pel has offered to help out.

Mr. John Herold stated that he didn't see where they followed our blue prints, I assume that they have their own blue prints.

Mr. Risner – We provided them with our blue prints.

Motion: Mr. Mitchell Butler moved to approve Minutes of January 18, 2017 as written.

Second: Mr. Scott Smith

Vote – All affirmative

IX Warrants: #15 - \$79,841.30 and #16 - \$115,779.97

Motion: Mr. John Herold moved to accept warrants #15, & #16 as presented.

Second: Mr. Mitchell Butler

Vote – All affirmative

X Other – None

XI Manager's Report – Mr. James Risner submitted this to the Council for information purposes only.

Mr. Risner took the opportunity to thank Mr. Levesque for filing in while he was out.

Mr. Barnes repeated the same sentiment.

XII Executive Session

Motion: Mr. Mitchell Butler moved to go into Executive Session at 6:19 PM to discuss

MRSA 405 (6) (F)

Second: Mr. John Herold

Vote – All affirmative

Motion: Mr. John Herold moved to come out of executive session 6:26 PM

Second: Mr. Mitchell Butler

Vote – All affirmative

XII. Adjournment –

Motion: Mr. Mitchell Butler moved to adjourn at 6:27 PM

Second: Mr. John Herold

Vote – All affirmative

Respectfully submitted,

Council Secretary  
Rebecca J. Hersey