

Fort Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
Wednesday, February 15, 2012
6:00 P.M.

Councilors: David McCrea, Kim Murchison, Mark Babin, Terry Greenier and John Herold

Staff: Bill Campbell, Paul Durepo, Mike Bosse and Tony Levesque

Citizens: 4 including media

- I. Roll Call - Chair Kim Murchison asked that the record reflect all councilors are present with the exception of Terry Greenier.
- II. Prayer - Councilor Mark Babin 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- two liquor license one for Frontier Fish and Game Club and the other for the VFW

 - B. Financial Report – Dan – We continue on track through seven months of this year. Our income is basically consistent with our budget, interest income is down some, as well as excise tax. Revenue sharing is actually ahead for a change. Expenses are consistent with the budget. All line items are tight as we have continually reduced budget amounts leaving little room for surprises. For example we had a broken gate valve at the pump station that cost \$2,600.00 to repair. Along with 600 gallons of heating oil put our emergency management fund over budget by \$328.00. The biggest issue that we may have is the gas/diesel at the highway garage which is estimated to will be over budget by \$15,000.00 - \$20,000.00 this year.

David McCrea – Is this increase in the gas/diesel because of the increase in price?

Dan – This is because of a multiple of things. One is because there was an \$8,000.00 accounts payable in the prior year that was paid from this years budget. Second, in June and July the highway had to haul a lot of gravel due to the heavy rain fall. This was triple of what is normally spent. Third, yes cost has gone up.

 - C. Tri-Community Landfill Report – Stev Rogeski – Have been talking with the Presque Isle landfill, trying to come up with some idea’s so that maybe we can help each other. We have been approved to mix seepage with the leach aid piping them together to Caribou, this in itself will save a lot of money. The budget for 2012 has been approved.

- D. Update on Senior Citizens Housing – Dan – We are continuing to work on the budget issue. Maine State Housing is reviewing cost in relation to proposed income with John Egan. We should be going out to bid by the end of March first part of April and starting construction in May or June.
- E. Update Health Clinic – Dan – We are working on grant application, we have had the Public Hearing already. This grant needs to be in by March 9th. Dan has met with the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary and talked with them about the senior housing, clinic and the budget issues. Had a lot of questions regarding the Clinic, they are please that we will have the enhanced level of service and with the FQHC structure, which will take the burden off of them. Had a lot of positive comments.
- F. Police Department Update – Bill – We have had our first guest in the canine clinic. The Dog was with us for only 22 hours when the owner came in to pick him up. He was very comfortable and was feed and watered. Shows the procedures in place will work and is beneficial to us as well as the owners. The last two days of January the police officers called all dog owners and if they were not reached by phone, they made house calls. Out of a little over 500 dogs there is still approximately 104 left to be registered. We didn't make these calls to harass anyone but to save them the \$25.00 late fee. On the 16th all the full time officers will be taking a class and be certified on the taser, this is something they will be doing every year. He also mentioned the accident that happened on Presque Isle Street, it was a cold day and two officers came in on their day off, the Fire Chief and his men were there along with DEP. Just another example of how departments work well together.
- G. Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting –Mike- We had a great meal at our annual meeting, we served around 85 people. We crowned Brent Churchill as citizen of the year, White Smiles Dentistry as business of the year. Pat Canavan received the Chambers spirit award. Bill and Dawn Findlen received the lifetime achievement award and the community spirit award was given to Mike and Marsha Boulter, David McCrea, Fran Gustin, Steve and Sarah Ulman for their part in bringing America by Horse Back to Fort Fairfield.
- H. Update on Paving Bond Application – The Board of Directors at the Maine Bond Bank has approved our application for the spring bond issue.
- I. Review FY 12/13 Budget Workshop Schedule – Dan - Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, April 4th starting at 3:30 PM and the first public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday May 2nd at 6:00 PM. Met with the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary to discuss the clinic project and the new senior citizens complex and the significant issues regarding the upcoming budget.

- J. Update on Recent Purchase of Boralex - Re-Energy Holding Inc purchased four plants in Maine. Talked about doing an expansion in Fort Fairfield plant, which should bring in more jobs. They want to play an active roll here in Fort Fairfield. Re-Energy stated that the council showed great foresight when they decided to keep the rail here.
- K. Update on Purchasing the Apartment Building on Main Street - We are still waiting for the title to be released
- L. Review Request from Acadia Healthcare – Currently Scott and Steve Clark have an old box truck that is parked next to their business that they use to store gas cylinders in. They are not allowed to store them in the building, for insurance purposes. They would like to dispose of the truck and replace it with a moveable storage building of the same size. The parking lot belongs to the town and they have asked us permission to set this storage shed next to their business.
It does not impact the town, it does not preclude others from utilizing the parking lot and it would be a help to a local business.
- M. Review Referendum to Dissolve AOS Mid-County School System - After four years of beating and thrashing it appears we are going to end up where we started, on our own and thankful for it.
- N. Review Heating Oil Consumption – We have spent 70% of the Library’s budget, 60% of Public Works and 27% of the Community Center. Converting to coal at the Community Center has not only saved us a significant amount of money but it has been trouble free. As we look to next years budget and beyond it would be wise to consider making a change as well for Public Works. If we chose to put in the new system in the Public Works garage we would reduce our costs by nearly half.
- O. Review 1989 Road Grader Repair – The bearing let go in the road grader that allows the machine to articulate, which can be useful depending on what it is doing. The cost for the parts to repair it was estimated at \$9,548.67 with one part not available due to its age. What Public Works finally decided to do was to weld the grader so that it would be functional but it would no longer have the ability to articulate. Due to its age and availability of parts it was felt that spending \$10,000.00 to repair it would not be a good use of community funds.
- P. Update on Coastal Enterprises Annual Meeting – John Egan of CEI has help with the senior housing project. Dan will be going to their annual meeting at the end of the month.

- Q. Update on 2012 River Watch – Tony - The Flood watch meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2012 at 10:00am here in the Council Chambers. About a month ago Tony started looking at the National Weather Services Flood Forecast. So far we have had a good winter, it has been mild with no signification snow fall. The River froze low than thawed and refroze high. Hopefully there will be no issued with the ice out.
- R. Discuss Concerns regarding Pollack Building – We currently have a redemption center in the old Pollack Building and its structural integrity has been a concern for a while. Tony and Dan met with Jim Ireland and John Strid who inspected the facility a couple of years ago. John’s recommendation was to brace the outer walls and possibly to run cables on the inside to try and straighten the structure. The walls could then be reinforced. Jim did brace the outside walls but was unable to do anything to try and bring the structure back to perpendicular. He was going to dissemble half of the structure to reduce the hazard but has not done that either. Currently some of the braces have broken indicating that the building is continuing to shift creating significant concerns for the abutting landowner. Tony and Tim Roix will inspect the building to determine if it should be condemned.
- Tony – Inside it appears that the rafters, stringers and trusses are whole and straight. The bracing outside may have been broken either by vandalism or by someone moving equipment by it but they have not moved. It does not appear to be leaning anymore than it was. At this time our inspection shows that the structure is not showing any immediate danger
- S. Discuss Concerns regarding Residence at 21 Center Street –This home was partially destroyed by a fire on February 7, 2011. The building remains in an uninhabitable state and is a safety issue for the neighborhood. Tony sent a letter out August 2011 requesting that this site be cleaned up and the structure be made habitable.

VI. Old Business

- A. Approve Energy Efficiency Project at Public Works – George has submitted a proposal to upgrade the lights in three areas in the Public Works Garage. He has received two bids with Todd Maynard’s of \$2,935.99 being the lowest. We will receive a rebate from Efficiency of Maine for \$865.00 and with anticipated energy savings of \$1,000.00 a year. Pay back would be no more than two years. This would be funded from Public Works reserve account.
- Motion: Mark Babin moved to approve George’s request to upgrade the lights in three areas of the Public Works Garage, funding for this will be from the Public Works reserve account.
- Second: David McCrea
- Vote – all affirmative

- B. Approve Fire Department Grant Request- The Fire Department is requesting authorization for another grant to purchase 6 more portable radios. This grant is for \$3,000.00 and if successful would pay 100% of the cost of the new equipment with no cost to the town.
Motion: John Herold moved to approve the Fire Department request to apply for another grant to purchase 6 more portable radios at no cost to the town.
Second: David McCrea
Vote – all affirmative

VII. New Business –

- A. Approve Agreement between the Town and the Dept of Public Safety- Bill worked for the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency and they have requested that he participate in their resident agent program. We see this as a positive step in helping to control the drug traffic in this community. Bill's experience in this field and being able to utilize the resources at MDEA will enhance the police department's ability to do their work. Any time that is spent by Bill working under this program would be reimbursed 100% by MDEA.
Motion: David McCrea moved to approve the Contract MDEA's Resident Agent Program
Second: Mark Babin
Vote – all affirmative
- B. Appoint a Councilor to Negotiate Labor Contract with Public Works, would like to meet in May to start the process of negotiating a new three year contract and would like to have one Councilor to participate in this process.
Motion: Mark Babin moved to appointed David McCrea to participate
Second: John Herold
Vote – all affirmative
- C. Approve Contract for Dispatching Services – We received a new contract with the Department of Public Safety to provide dispatching services for our police and fire departments. The contract is for one year and the cost is the same as this year, \$8,214.00
Motion: John Herold moved to approve the new dispatching contract for the cost of \$8,214.00
Second: Mark Babin
Vote – all affirmative
- D. Approve Installation of Coal Boiler at Highway Garage – we have been very successful in reducing our costs to heat the community center while maintaining appropriate temperatures in the building. We have been exploring the possibility of replicating this heating option at the highway garage.
Motion: David McCrea moved to approve going forward with the project of installing a coal furnace at Public Works up to the cost of the new coal furnace at the Community Center.
Second: Mark Babin
Vote – all affirmative

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- VIII. Minutes: January 18, 2012 -
Motion: David McCrea moved to approve Minutes of January 18, 2012 as written.
Second: John Herold Vote – All affirmative
- IX. Warrants: #15 - \$413,744.28 and #16 - \$294,221.97
Motion: John Herold moved to accept warrant #15 & #16 as presented.
Second: David McCrea Vote – All affirmative
- X. Other - NONE
- XII. Adjournment at 7:00PM

Respectfully submitted,

Council Secretary
Rebecca J. Hersey