

**Fort Fairfield Town Council Monthly Meeting**  
**Council Chambers**  
**Wednesday, August 19, 2015**  
**6:00 P.M.**

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

Staff: Tony Levesque, Ella Leighton, Jennifer Gaenzle, William Campbell,  
Cody Fenderson, Rebecca Hersey, Tim Goff and James Risner

Citizens: 35 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-

Rick Shepherd stated that about one year ago we had a public crisis; a lot of people showed up and made their concerns known to the Town Council. The Council reacted by creating the moratorium, at the same time they created a twelve member committee and to quote the minutes of the a c re known to be fair-minded individuals, known to share views in a respectful way and have a high level of integrity He went on to say that he attended many of the meetings, he saw this and he agrees with s of hours in drafting this ordinance and I

Carl Young, Fort Fairfield Resident, made a comment about agenda item 10-A Wind Energy Briefing. Stated that he thought this was an interesting title being he was part of the Wind Energy Development Committee. The title implies that maybe this information could have been used by the committee during its deliberations as far as preparing the ordinance. He questioned the time of any Wind Energy Development briefing, the committee started its work back in November 2014 and just finished its work in early August. There is an eight month period where the Town Council was holding regular meetings at which point such a briefing could have been given. Seems that a more appropriate time for that would have been at one of those eight Council meetings or at the Public Hearing. So the purpose - they consider tabling that item and rescheduling that briefing to be combine with the Public Hearing or some other time.

V. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses/Permits None

B. Financial Report -Mr. James Risner All personal property taxes were collected in full as of July 31<sup>st</sup>, this includes uncollected personal property taxes in the amount of \$11,342 for the years of 2010-2013. This is the first time in recent memory that all personal property taxes have been collected in full and is the result of diligent work done ces

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were mailed on August 7<sup>th</sup>, there were 225 notices in the amount of \$204,370.00. Our expenses are in line with our budget. On the revenue side is looking good as well, State revenue sharing for July was \$31,199 which is up from last year by \$19,975. Excise tax for July was \$89,734, up from \$46,630 last July. The preliminary audit results for

- F. 68<sup>th</sup> Maine Potato Blossom Festival Update Mr. Goff successful, exceeded our goals. We expanded the musical lineup, brought in good crowds. We have had a festival organizing committee meeting already, we had a few new faces at the table and members came up with
- G. Internet Access Survey Mr. Goff has been working to better understand the challenges our community is faced with when it comes to access to high speed internet and seek solutions to improve access and speeds for residents. Many areas of Fort Fairfield have limited-to-no access to the internet, while much of the rest of the community has access to low-speed service. One of our biggest barriers is our rural setting, which makes the investment of ten to thirty thousand dollars a mile for fiber optic cable, the backbone of high speed internet infrastructure, cost-prohibitive. We need to actively seek out any available grants for broadband access improvements and work to develop public/private partnerships in order to make this substantial investment in our communications infrastructure a reality. We have crafted an internet access survey that we encourage all residents to participate in. The responses gathered will be used to help craft our grant proposals and provide data to companies interested in investing in our community. This survey can be found on the Town Website, or can be completed in person at the Town Office and we also have plans to do some door-to-door survey work during the week of August 24<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- H. Wind Energy Technical Review Committee Mr. Langley Thanked the Town Council for their patience and thanked the committee itself. The committee consisted of Dick Langley, Jim Everett, Carl Young, Heather Cassidy, Tim Goff, Brent Churchill, David McCrea, Phil Christensen, Todd Maynard and John Herold. Everyone came to the table free of bias with no predisposition, the votes were not unanimous, but there was a pretty strong consensus with every issue. We put together a strong ordinance, I hope you have all read it and I hope you endorse it. Mr. Langley invited the Council to the Public Hearing and extended an open invitation to meet with the Wind Energy Technical Review Committee any time.

Ms. Susan LeVasseur Thanked the committee for their hard work.

## VI. Old Business

- A. Ordinance for Acquisition of Commercial Property - The owners of a parcel of land on Main Street, (parcel 28-66) have offered to sell the property to the Town of Fort Fairfield for \$5,000.00. Councilor John Herold intro5( Tm[H)]-4(e)-5( off54.8[-])TJTBT1 0 -5( T

- B. Puddledock Roofing Project, Results of Bids The Town received two bids on this project. The lowest responsive and responsible bid was from NicCait Construction, Inc., of Presque Isle for the amount of \$7,250. All work to be completed by September 30, 2015. This will be paid from account G-1-3330-00.

Motion: Mr. John Herold moved to approve awarding the Puddledock Roofing Project to NicCait Construction in the amount of \$7,250.00.

Second: Ms. Susan LeVasseur

Vote All affirmative

- C. Disposition of Tax Acquired Property, 19 and 21 Richard Street Mr. James Risner The Town Council at its June 17, 2015 regular meeting signed a quitclaim deeds and real estate transfer tax declarations for the tax acquired properties at 19 and 21 Richard Street. The successful bidder failed to complete the purchase in the time slated and therefore the bid acceptance was voided. Melissa and Tyler Libby expressed interest in possible acquiring both properties. They were in the process of getting estimates on bringing each property to a livable condition at the time of the July 15, 2015. The Town received on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, a proposal from the Libby in the amount of \$3,667.94. This is a \$5,590.90 less than what is owed on the properties. As of August 15, 2015 the amount owed on the two properties was \$9,258.84. It is recommended that the

AS IS WHERE IS condition with no guarantees expressed or implied, plus any cost incurred between now and closing.

Motion: Mr. David McCrea moved to approve selling 19 and 21 Richard Street to the Melissa and Tyler Libby for \$5,150.75 in AS IS WHERE IS condition with no guarantees expressed or implied, plus any cost incurred between now and closing.

Second: Mr. John Herold

Vote All affirmative

## VII. New Business

- A. Ordinance for Wind Energy Development Mr. James Risner - The committee has completed its work on preparation of a Wind Energy Development (WED) Ordinance and voted at its August 10, 2015 meeting to forward the ordinance to the Town Council. The committee was established in October 2014. It consists of twelve members made up of councilors, citizens, Quality of Place Council members and Town staff and was charged to formulate a Wind Energy Development Ordinance for the Town of Fort Fairfield. They met on a bi-weekly basis for over 10 months in order to write the WED ordinance. Once the ordinance is introduced a Public Hearing will be scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the Gym.

Motion: Ms. Susan LeVasseur introduced Ordinance 15-04 for Wind Energy Development.

- B. Retirement of Public Works Director- Mr. Watson has given formal notice, effective September 10, 2015. He has been in this position for 15 years. Advertisement for the position have been placed in the Aroostook Republican, Star Herald and posted on the

accepted until August 28<sup>th</sup>.

VIII. Minutes: Council Meeting July 15, 2015

Motion: Ms. Susan LeVasseur moved to approve Minutes of July 15, 2015 as written.

Second: Mr. David McCrea

Vote All affirmative

IX. Warrants: #1 in the amount of \$424,673.44, #2 for \$146,069.23 and #3 for \$353,460.67

Motion: Mr. Robert Kilcollins moved to accept warrants #1, #2 and #3 as presented.

Second Ms. Susan LeVasseur

Mr. James Risner The public hearing is only going to address the ordinance, not going to address how we think we should address this or that. So if someone comes in and wants to talk about wind power in general they should be told that is not the forum to do it. If Council wants to do that at their September meeting that is their prerogative. But I think it is very important to let the public know the public hearing on the 8<sup>th</sup> is just on the ordinance, we need to keep the comments brief.

Mr. David McCrea It is not a place for debate at the public hearing it is a place for everyone to make their comments that will be recorded and will be information for this Council to digest and help us make up our mind. I think if there is information that  
15 minutes.

Mr. Jason Barnes I would like to proceed.

Mr. Phil Christensen I am offended! You asked Mr. Shepherd to keep it quiet, keep it cool and not say much. Now I apologize for this outburst, but you asked him not to say much. Now what possess you to want these people to give us a speech about pros of wind power?

Mr. Jason Barnes Public comment period was just that, this was on the agenda and planned for and these people were given up to 15 minutes to present a brief summary and I would very much like to proceed.

Mrs. Katie Chapman of EDP Renewables passed out a handout, which is attached to these minutes. She stated that she is available to answer any questions. She gave an overview of who EDPR is, they currently operate 30 wind farms in the US. They employ over 300 people and they are the third largest US operator of wind power in net megawatts. They anticipated 16 permanent jobs in Aroostook County. Community engagement is key to them, they are committed to communities. Local regulations benefit both the developer and the community with clear expectations such as, where should a project be located, what size is appropriate, what other elements would the community like the developer to take into account. The key is really what questions the developers may have coming in should be answered in the onset of the ordinance. Such that we know what our risks are and we are also able to design the project with the community in mind. In the Townships that they are working in that do have an ordinance is actually a benefit to us, because it very clearly defines the communities concerns and how we should address them. The key to ordinances and zoning or some combination thereof, is that we really have to have clear standards that are achievable. I was a little surprised by the amount of trepidation that I hear about a wind project. In my view an ordinance, zoning or local regulations should address those concerns on the onset so that it is clear to developers that this is a kind of project that will fit well with our community and this is where we want it and here is the criteria that we want you to take into account. I do not see an ordinance as a bad thing, I see it as a benefit to everyone. They are also donating two million dollars to the Aroostook energy efficiency program.

XI. Executive Session - No executive session

XII. Adjournment

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Motion: Mr. David McCrea moved to adjourn adjourned at 7:25 PM

Second: Mrs. Susan LeVasseur

Vote All affirmETB( 2 .y)TJETB