

Minutes
Fort Fairfield Town Council Monthly Meeting
Council Chambers
Wednesday, December 15, 2021
6:00 P.M.

I. Roll Call

Councilors: All Councilors present with the exception of Melissa Libby.

Staff: Ms. Powers, Neadra Dubois, Chief Cummings, Jennifer Gaenzle, Darren Hanson, Ella Leighton, Tony Levesque, Kevin Senal, Jonathan Stokely, Michael Alther

Citizens: Six

II. Prayer

III. Pledge to the Flag

IV. Public Comment Period

Mr. Butler thanked the Fire Rescue Team for service provided to on of his family members. He commented on the fast response time, professionalism and friendliness of members of the Team.

Mr. Kilcollins commented on behalf of his customers on how well the Police Department has treated the citizens of Fort Fairfield.

V. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses and Permits

As of December 13, 2021, we have not received any license or permit renewals.

B. Financial Report

Tax Collector, Ella Leighton, is happy to inform you that Personal Property taxes for 2020 have been paid in full.

2019 Personal Property unpaid taxes still have a balance of \$311,591.55 for ReEnergy. The most recent e-mail was sent to Mr. William Ralston on 10/18/2021. As of today, Ella Leighton, has not received a response from Mr. Ralston.

Real Estate uncollected taxes for 2021 are \$3,134,509.14 compared to last year's uncollected balance of \$3,272,634.43 for a difference of \$138,125.29 more collected this year.

Real Estate Tax Liens for 2020 have an unpaid balance of \$48,162.10 for 69 accounts. Compared to Real Estate Tax Liens for 2019 at the same time last year at 81 unpaid accounts for an unpaid balance of \$219,134.67.

The Town received Revenue Sharing in the amount of \$67,494.64 on 11/22/2021. Total revenue sharing received to date is \$354,947.09. The Town is at 41.27% vs budget of 41.67% which is down \$4,666.26.

Checking account balance as of 11/30/2021 was \$628,621.82 and Machias Savings is \$5,000.

Excise collected in November was \$35,640.06 compared to \$33,929.40 last year.

As of 11/30/2021, uncollected Real Estate taxes for 2021 were \$3,114,742.71 compared to last year \$3,178,288.04.

C. Appointment/Reappointment Registrar

The Town Registrar position is up for Reappointment, as the current Town Registrar has filled the position of the new Town Clerk. Ms. Dubois will appoint one of her Deputies at the January Regular Town Council Meeting.

VI. Aroostook Waste Solutions Stev Rogeski

A motion was made by Stev Rogeski; and was seconded by Ken Murchison; to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Review and approve the financial statements for the period ending October 31, 2021

Mark briefly reviewed the financial notes that were provided in the Board packet.

A motion was made by Dana Fowler; and was seconded by Stev Rogeski; to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Review and approve the warrant for checks numbered 26001 to 26081

A motion was made by Ken Murchison; and was seconded by Stev Rogeski; to approve the warrant as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mark reported on the following:

- a. Landfill inspections: representatives of the Maine DEP recently inspected both landfills. Generally, both inspections were positive, with a couple of minor action items to be addressed at the Presque Isle Landfill.
- b. Covid update: there was an exposure at the TCL office, with all office employees subsequently testing negative; and one employee at the Presque Isle landfill has tested positive, and that person is quarantining. Cary Medical Center has been very helpful with arranging testing and reporting results.
- c. Bank CD bids: Mark sought quotes for the re-investment of a total of \$3 million in Certificates of Deposit that have matured. The highest bids were received from Aroostook County Federal Savings and Loan.

5. Review and approve the 2022 Budget

Mark noted that he and Sharon are very confident with the 2022 budget as it is currently drafted. He specifically reviewed the following line items: contract income, Owner income, permit fee income, other income, demolition debris income, contaminated soil income, recycled goods income, salaries and wages, special waste fees, heating fuel, electricity, capital equipment, vehicle fuel, closure/post-closure care cost, interest income on investments, and owner reserve supplement. As presented, the budget is balanced, with no increase in the Owner Community tipping fee, except for the new \$1/ton State fee assessed on all disposed MSW.

A motion was made by Stev Rogeski; and was seconded by Ken Murchison; to approve the 2022 budget as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion regarding staffing

Due to the meeting being held via Zoom, Mark suggested that this discussion be postponed until a future, in-person meeting.

7. Schedule next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for **January 28, 2022**.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Draper, Solid Waste Director/Treasurer

VII. New Business

A. Special Council Meeting January 3, 2022

Recommendation: Council approves the Special Council Meeting scheduled for January 3rd, 2022 at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to approve the Special Council Meeting scheduled for January 3rd

Warrant #12 in the amount of \$415,576.78 was completed on 12/08/2021.
This warrant included SAD in the amount of \$178,532.09.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to approve Warrant #10 in the amount of \$279,323.85,
Warrant #11 in the amount of \$361,860.40 and Warrant #12 in the amount of \$415,576.78.

Mr. Babin seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative

X. Other

Ms. Powers read the following memo prepared by herself to the Town Council:

Councilor Babin and Councilor Smith, thank you for your unwavering support and unrelenting guidance that helped in leading our path to success. With much appreciation and gratitude for your exceptional work and dedication throughout the years.

As you move on into the next chapters of your lives, know that you will be missed, that our very best wishes and thoughts go with you, and know that we will never forget your professional expertise, mentorship. Our best wishes go with you.

So, in recognition of your commitment and dedicated service to the Town of Fort Fairfield, thank you.

A photo of the outgoing Councilors was taken by Ms. Powers.

XI. Executive Session 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Personnel Matters

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to enter into Executive Session 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Personnel Matters.

Mr. Babin seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: All Affirmative.

Council entered into Executive Session at 6:13 pm.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to allow Town Manager to sign a new Public Works Union Contract.

Mr. Babin seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

XII. Adjournment

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Babin seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Council adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Neadra E. Dubois,
Council Secretary

*added after posting