

**Fort Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Council Chambers**  
**Wednesday, July 20, 2011**  
**6:00 P.M.**

Councilors: David McCrea, Kim Murchison, Mark Babin, Terry Greenier and Ruel Flannery

Staff: Tony Levesque, Mike Bosse and George Watson

Citizens: 6 including media

Roll Call - Chair David McCrea asked that the record reflect that all councilors are present.

- II. Prayer – Councilor Ruel Flannery offered the prayer
- III. Pledge to the Flag - All in attendance pledged their allegiance to the Flag.
- IV. Public Comment Period – Dan introduced Vaughn (Marty) McMann, he is here to speak of a negative and discouraging experience that he and his family experienced at a Town event that was held at Farm Park.

Vaughn (Marty) McMann: He was attending the tractor pulls that were taking place at Farm Park. He was asked to move his vehicle and was directed by one of the workers there as to where he should park. He and his 7 year old moved the vehicle and when he was getting out of the car he was approached by Stev Rogeksi, who was very irate and used vulgar language. The only reason he was there was because last year during the festival his daughter had open heart surgery and he was trying to make up for what she missed last year. But not wanting to deal with this situation any more he and his family left. It just so happened that on his way out he met one of the Police Officers coming in and he relayed to her what had just happened and explained how upsetting it was. What are our rights? and boundaries, does he have the right to approach people like this?

Dan: The issue was that the field next to Farm Park, which Stev owns, was being hayed, people were parking in this field trampling the hay. So the farmer called Stev and told him he couldn't hay it. Dan agrees that this was an inappropriate way to handle the situation. The McMann's were a guest of the Town, they attended an event that was for the benefit of our community. If there is a concern of an abutter, he should have come to the Town not to the citizen. This is something that the Town is liable for. Mr. McMann is still very upset and this is very unfair to him and his family. Both Mike and Dan have apologized to Marty. They both have been contacted by numerous people who were very upset by things that happened during this event. We do not want people to feel intimidated, it is disheartening that people have to deal with something like this.

One question was raised, were there any signs or barriers so that people would not park in this field? No there was not.

David McCrea: I am very sorry that this happened to you, thank you for coming here tonight to express your feelings.

Terry Greenier: Yes, Thank you for coming, this couldn't have been easy for you.

Mark Babin: I received a letter from the Northern Maine Antique Tractor Club, with their concerns regarding the situation. This letter will be attached to the minutes.

Discussion:

Terry – Maybe a letter of apology should be sent out to the people involved with this situation.

Mark – We should also send a formal apology to the Tractor Club also.

Dave - We should encourage the recipients of this letter to share it with others and maybe post on our web site just so that no one is missed.

Terry – When people run an event on behalf of the Town we need protocol in place. Make sure when there are issues that it comes to the Town and not the people who are running the event. We need to know how to minimize this from happening again. Do you think that maybe we should send a letter to Stev, having him send an apology letter out also?

It was agreed that Dan will prepare letters on the behalf of the Councilors and express the town's apologies

V. Correspondence and Reports

- A. Licenses/Permits – One for the Fort Lion's Club – liquor licensing off site for Potato Blossom Festival.
- B. Financial Report – This is the end of the fiscal year and despite the loss of revenue from Maine Revenue Sharing, the State holding back a percentage of the homestead exemption and losing Graphic Utilities we ended the year with a surplus. Revenues were over by \$45,000.00 and expenses were under by \$75,595.00. We should be receiving a check in the amount of \$24,000.00 this week, which is the remainder of the homestead exemption. The department heads should be commended for their diligence in providing quality services to the community and staying within the very restrictive confines of our budget.
- C. Tri-Community Landfill Report - Dan – last meeting was June 17<sup>th</sup>, the pipeline project going well, ahead of schedule. Installing new upgraded scale house. Mark is getting a much needed new pick up
- D. Update on Appointment to the LDA Board of Directors – Janet McGillan's name has been submitted to the Governor's office and Dan has spoken with Mike Hersey regarding the appointment. He assured me that Janet would be given serious consideration.
- E. Update on Maine Potato Blossom Festival – Mike – This was a great event, words can't describe how amazing it was to have everyone jump in and

volunteer to work. The American by Horseback was a huge success with 80 riders. We have invited them back next year. There were a few new activities this year and all went well.

Dan – received a lot of positive feed back. Everyone enjoyed working with Mike, there is a lot of problem solving with this event and Mike stayed calm.

F. Update on Police Chief Vacancy – Joe Bubar has given his notice and will be leaving as of August 14<sup>th</sup>. An interview team consisting of David McCrea, Dan Foster, Tony Levesque, Paul Durepo, Kim Murchison and JR McGillan has been created. A classified ad has been placed in the Bangor Daily News, Presque Isle Star Herald and the Fort Fairfield Journal and in the Maine Municipal Associations web page. Plan on screening applications the first week of August and doing interviews the second week and will hopefully have a recommendation to the Council at the August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

G. Update on Atlantic Custom Processors – Spoke with Glenn Martin, they have been stripping the inside. Plan on dismantling in August. Have been receiving calls from individuals wondering if the town will be taking the facility over.

After a brief discussion the Council approved having Dan call to see if the facility could be turned over to the Town.

H. Update on Riverside Park Project –Public Works have spent three weeks putting in culverts due to the heavy rain fall, then they had festival week so they have been busy. This week they are starting back on the project and now the trusses are up.

I. Update on Road Maintenance – Have spent \$10,000.00 on gravel to put in new culverts due to heavy rain fall. First one was on June 8<sup>th</sup> then the 9<sup>th</sup> the third storm was on July 4<sup>th</sup>. There are still issues with the shoulder of the roads, the ditches are full, all of this needs to be taken care of before fall. The worst areas on the Strickland Road, Center Limestone Road and the West Limestone Road.

J. Update on Coal Furnace Installation – The new furnace has been order and should be here next month and Jeff Murchison will be installing. One of the issues is that the 5000 gal. oil tank will need to come out and two 300 gal tank installed. The oil furnace will be left and used as a back up.

K. State Emergency Response Commission Reporting Requirement – George received a request from the Maine Emergency Management Agency regarding the need for the town to provide them with a list of any fuel tank that holds more than 10,000 lbs of fuel. He provided them the information and subsequently received the bill in the amount of \$200.00. If we don't comply then we would no longer be eligible for FEMA funds.

L. Update on Police Dispatching –Two years ago the State Police sent us a bill

for meeting our dispatching requirements in the amount of \$32,000.00, which was an increase from \$8,000.00. Caribou agreed to provide the service for \$11,000.00 a year. The State Police recently approached us and are now willing to provide this service for \$8,214.00. The switch over happened in July.

VI. Old Business -

- A. Approve Ordinance #11-02 to Sell McShea Siding – A public hearing was held on July 13<sup>th</sup> and no comments regarding the sale was received. Smith Farms will be paying the town \$40,625.00 which is the assessed value of this property. They intend to build grain silos along the rail siding with an estimated investment of \$150,000.00.

Motion: Ruel Flannery moved to approve ordinance #11-02 to sell McShea Siding to Smith Farms in the amount of \$40,625.00

Second: Mark Babin

Vote – All affirmative

- B. Approve Ordinance #11-03 to Amend Zoning Map – This ordinance allows the structure owned by Al Tompkins to be rezoned residential allowing for the property to be sold. A Public hearing was held on July 13<sup>th</sup> and had a couple of concerns regarding the impact on the area. Both concerns were addressed satisfactorily.

Motion: Mark Babin moved to approve ordinance #11-03 amending the zoning for tax map 35 lot 23A and part of tax map 35 Lot 23

Second: Kim Murchison

Vote – All affirmative

VII. New Business

- A. Introduce Ordinance #11-04 to Amend the Zoning Ordinance – The purpose of this ordinance is to allow the Planning Board to review applications allowing for a commercial structure located in the Highway Oriented Zone to include a single family apartment.

Ordinance #11-02 was introduced by Ruel Flannery, a public hearing will be scheduled then brought to the Council.

- B Approve Placement of new MPS Service Poles – Maine Public is replacing 38 poles, (which is 90% of the poles) on the Conant Road.

Motion: Ruel Flannery moved to approve Maine Public to place the new Poles at the locations as determined by the Public Works Director

Second: Kim Murchison

Vote – All affirmative

- C Approved MMA's Nomination Committee Recommendations for Board of Directors –

Motion: Kim Murchison moved to approve voting for Stephan Bunker, as Vice-President for a 1-year term and Errol Addition, Beurmond Banville and Laurie Smith as directors with a 3 year term each

Second: Ruel Flannery

Vote – all affirmative

- D Approve Contract to Purchase Winter Sand – George has requested that he be able to purchase sand from O'Neal Construction as he did last year. They

are willing to sell for the same price as last year, \$12.50 a cubic yard.

Motion: Ruel Flannery moved to approve the purchase of the winter sand from O'Neal Construction

Second: Kim Murchison

Vote – All affirmative

- E Consider Mitigation of Hazardous Property at Fairmont Siding – This building has created concerns for citizens. There are a number of windows that are in danger of falling out, there is a second floor porch that is in danger of falling off the structure. If the Town demolishes this building this expense will be the owners

Dan Thanked Barb Griffeth for coming to address this issue.

Motion: Kim Murchison moved to approve a Public Hearing to be schedule before the next council meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup>, abutters and the owner will be notified

Second: Mark Babin

Vote – All affirmative

- F. Review Demolition of Residence at 109 Riverside Ave – The Council had approved demolition of the tax acquired property located at 109 Riverside Ave. This small home is in poor condition and is on a nonconforming lot making the area very congested. It was approved allowing a citizen tear this property down for the materials; however since then this individual has decided that he did not want to assume this responsibility. The shingles contain asbestos and will have to be contracted out to be removed and the cost for this is \$1,770.00. Once this is done public works with tear down the house.

Motion: Ruel Flannery moved to approved to paying the \$1,770.00 to have the shingles removed with funds coming out of the emergency reserve account.

Second: Mark Babin

Vote – All affirmative

- G. Approve Capital Equipment Purchase for Public Works – There are two requests from George, one to partially replace the body of the dump truck and two to replace George's pick-up

Motion: Mark Babin moved to allow the repair of the Sand truck in the amount of \$4,857.18 to be paid out of the reserve account and to hold off on the new truck

Second: Ruel Flannery

Vote – All affirmative

VIII. Minutes: June 15, 2011

Motion: Kim Murchison moved to approve Minutes of June 15, 2011 as written.

Second: Terry Greenier

Vote – All affirmative

IX. Warrants: #24 - \$116,115.86; #1- \$195,887.16

Motion: Ruel Flannery moved to accept warrant #24 #1 as presented.

Second: Kim Murchison

Vote – All affirmative

X. Other - None

- XI. Executive Session -  
move into executive session at 7:17 PM

MRSA 405(6)(C) – Economic Development  
MRSA 405(6)(D) – Labor Negotiations  
MRSA 405(6)(A) – Personnel

Out of executive session at 7:57 PM

It was moved by Ruel, seconded by Mark to approve labor contract with the New England Police Benevolent Association and the Fort Fairfield Police Officers from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2013.  
Vote – All Affirmative

- XII. Adjournment at 7:59 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca J. Hersey  
Council Secretary