

Fort Fairfield Town Council Monthly Meeting
Council Chambers
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
6:00 P.M.

I. Roll Call

Council All present (Mrs. Libby, Mr. Butler, Mr. Kilcollins, Mr. Pelletier, Mr. Ouellette)

Staff Ms. Powers, Neadra Dubois, Tony Levesque, Jenn Gaenzle, Darren Hanson, Ryan Eagles, DC Fenderson, Kevin Senal, Cheryl Boulier, Chief Cummings

Budget Advisory Committee Billie Jo Sharpe, Pat Canavan, Kevin Bouchard, Janet Mcgillan

Media Fort Fairfield Journal

II. Prayer

III. Pledge to the Flag

IV. Public Comment Period

Mr. Butler Mr. Chair, to start, I want to congratulate the graduating class of 2022, with the High School. I ve been there for the past five years, so I wish them the best on their accomplishments for their future.

Mr. Pelletier Good call.

Kevin Bouchard I m Kevin Bouchard. I m a resident of this community. I m a member of the Budget Advisory Committee. Every Department Head has done a really good job explaining the budget requests. They justified it, they researched, they did the best they could. There s a saying I learned a long time ago, it says every request can be justified, every request can be refuted. The challenge for our Town Council is to find the middle ground between those two extremes. In well-run functional communities, we generally have Managers and Councils on the same page. They re working together, they re trying to pull the community forward, you know, and it s the Department, the Town Manager s responsibility to work with Department Heads to implement the direction negotiated with the Council. My personal observation is that we have a dysfunctional Town Manager, Town Council relationship and we have hopelessly dysfunctional budget process. The point of why I m here tonight, the one voice that has hardly been heard in this entire process is that of the taxpayer. Yes, our meetings are open to the public. Yes, anyone is basically allowed to attend any meeting. The citizens of our community have voted in a town Council to conduct the business of the Town, and I suspect they trust the Council to do so to the best of their abilities and the best interests of the Town at heart. I m concerned that given the projected levels of spending in the proposed budget, as well as adjustments that would be required as a result of inaccurate calculations made with past and projected tax confirmations, we re likely to have a significant number of people who will be fit to be tied later this year when they open their tax bills. With

all the other costs that we are all experiencing, I believe there are some and there may be many individuals and businesses that will have an extremely difficult time paying the tax bills that they will

kind of a hostile deal here. They don't want to tell you everything. You kind of kept on the need to know, but our cash flow has really diminished. I'll give you an example of that, just one example how this thing figured out. Our

something to say to you about that. I don't know if it would mean no insurance or increased premiums, but all the way around, we've already decided this issue and nothing's been done to improve the roads, yet we're here again talking about it as if, you know, the original event in 2018 didn't happen. So, just keep those things in mind when we get to that section and you get into your discussions on that, so.

Mr. Kilcollins Anyone else?

Jay Reynolds Hello, my name is Jay Reynolds. I'm a lifelong Fort Fairfield resident. I don't have one one-hundredth of the financial experience of these gentlemen here, who've just given their thoughts, but I do know a little something about running an ambulance service and I ca

very disturbing, and you definitely have our full attention. First, property owned by our businesses with, with no purchases or improvements involved, so that I could get the full three years and make it apply to apples. From 2019 to 22, with the proposed increase at 30.8 is an increase in valuation of 73 percent, and I'm looking at our, our land and, and, our numbers in-house, so some people's properties could, could vary. That's an increase in valuation of 73 percent since 2019. The increase in tax dollars is 112 percent. We're trying to do business folks. New land purchased in 2021, I kept separate, and it's almost double. It's, it's a tax bill in the mid-20s to now in the low 40s. With our total, with our total valuation in Fort Fairfield, a proposed tax increase of 30.8 would be an increase of about \$80,000 a year. Year over year to our family business. This clearly is not sustainable. It's not sustainable for our business and it's definitely not sustainable for your town. When we think about where we want to build things, where we want to live, everybody has that choice and it's, it's just absolutely not sustainable. I can't pick up my land and go farm in another Town, but I can go broke. It is possible. It looks like a big company out there, but it is scary and we can go broke just like anybody else. There's a million people at every one of those chain stores knocking on their door, wanting that business trying to take it away from us and we have to do the very best we can and count every penny.

much the same opinion at 25 percent, but now we're at 50 something, mid 50, because I'm sure we'd average out differently again for each person. And, I felt, as a person that hadn't really been involved in Town politics very much, that the voices that were spoken last year were very, it was very unaccepted. Well, it didn't seem to be relayed very well or that's the feeling that I got from any of the other people that were involved in voicing. And, now, I see there seems to be more people with that same opinion, with actually almost twice the problem size-wise, and I hope that this time, I'm seeing that there's three of the, the original five that were on from last year that it didn't seem to be getting received well, that ears are opened up a little bit more and this problem can't keep, as Emily said, snowballing on. And, as Dave said, on a projected, we went to Farm Credit, it showed that we were going to be having to whatever the deficit is here, I've seen three different numbers, what is the official number? Or is this just three different budget versions?

Mr. Kilcollins & Mr. Pelletier Three different versions.

John Griffeth, Jr. Three different. In the worst case scenario, three different budget conversions and this would be like a business plan for us, I would assume. If we went to Jim Holdsworth, who is the head of Farm Credit East, but he's also our personal banker, and told him that our, even with our projected best case scenario numbers, we're gonna be down, we're gonna lose 1.292 million, Jim would say, boys I've been friends with ya a long time but have a good day. And that's the true story of stuff and I think that it's people that are running the Town and in charge of the budget, they need to be a little more responsible of some of these numbers. A

Mr. Kilcollins & Mr. Pelletier Thank you.

Mr. Kilcollins Anyone else?

Paul Johnson I've been doing a lot of thinking about, like, how to improve this, or how to, how to change things and improve things and I just don't, I don't see how a Town like Fort Fairfield can grow, as far as municipal budget and stuff goes. Based on really large businesses or bringing in larger businesses, I just don't think it's gonna happen. The large businesses that we do have here, the larger businesses, like the Smiths are other folks like that, own a lot of land and they do, they do stuff agriculturally, or do other things like that, the way that we can improve our budget as far as I can tell is to get more people here, people who are, who do things to improve the land or improve the, the overall tax base. I mean, I'm not about to point out by honest neighbors, but folks who will come here take a piece of land that's fallow or take a piece of land that doesn't have much value, fix it up, now it's worth something, now has some value to it, and people aren't going to do that with high taxes, they're just not. They're gonna go anywhere else, I mean, I moved here, I'm not a lifelong Fort Fairfield resident, I've only been here about 10 years, but one of the reasons why my wife and I chose here is because the taxes were reasonable and so we could have a little piece of land and I could be a fake farmer in the summer and that kind of stuff. That's farming with no contingencies, if anyone's wondering. Doesn't matter if I fail, so, so like those kinds of things, but, but we chose, we didn't choose Presque Isle or some of the other communities, simply because the taxes seemed like they were higher. But if this continues to shift, I mean it, it's just we're going to hemorrhage even more and I know that the taxes that someone will be paying the taxes, but we have an opportunity by figuring out how to keep the Mil Rate lower to have people move here, we have plenty of that, you know what I mean, for people to come here and improve it, and, I think that's where the value is. I think that's how, I don't think we're gonna get a, get a, a large business to come in and do something that will improve the revenue.

Mr. Kilcollins, Mr. Ouellette & Mr. Pelletier Thank you.

Mr. Kilcollins Anybody else? If not, we'll move on.

V. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses and Permits

As of June 10, 2022, the Town has received one On-Premises Liquor License Renewal from Boondocks Grille.

Recommendation is that Council allows the Town Manager to sign the Licowm078M Tm0 g0 G[()] TJET60

Checking account balance as of 5/31/2022 was \$84,605.89 and Machias Savings is \$5,000. Excise collected in May was \$64,272.73 compared to \$60,606.85 last year. As of 05/31/2022, uncollected Real Estate taxes for 2021 were \$364,360.02 compared to last year \$433,288.71. As of 05/31/2022, the Town's revenue was down 2.62% and expenses were up .57%.

C. AWS Report Mr. Rogeski

Mr. Rogeski was not present. No report was given.

VI. Old Business

A. Approve FY 22/23 Budget

March 10, 2022 was the first Department Head Budget Meeting with Council. Public hearings were held on April 28th, 2022 and May 5th, 2022. There have been several discussions throughout the FY22-
st Department Head Budget Meeting with Council on June 9, 2022 was to reduce municipal budget costs and to present Council with three budgets that reflected a budget with CIP Reserves fully funded, CIP Reserves partially funded, and CIP Reserves not funded. The Town Manager worked with her Department Heads to present a final budget proposal to Council this evening that reflects those directives in the most fiscally responsible way that still provides safe and effective services to the citizens of Fort Fairfield.

The FY22/23 Proposed Budget with full funded CIP Reserves shows a Municipal Expense Budget of \$5,990,095 and a Municipal Overlay of \$656,185, a combined MSAD 20 and County Tax of \$2,480,641 for an excess deficit of \$1,824,456.

The FY22/23 Proposed Budget with partially funded CIP Reserves shows a Municipal Expense Budget of \$5,700,095 and a Municipal Overlay of \$946,185, a combined MSAD 20 and County Tax of \$2,480,641 for an excess deficit of \$1,534,456.

The FY22/23 Proposed Budget with no funded CIP Reserves shows a Municipal Expense Budget of \$5,485,095 and a Municipal Overlay of \$1,188,185, a combined MSAD 20 and County Tax of \$2,480,641 for an excess deficit of \$1,292,456.

Recommendation is Town Council approve the Fort Fairfield Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget with fully funded CIP Reserves.

Ms. Powers And, I will leave that to Council to discuss.

Mrs. Libby So, I can start. We need to make a [inaudible]

Ms. Powers We need a motion, and a second, and then discussion.

Mrs. Libby I'd like to make a motion that we do not approve any of the three options, and I would like to discuss.

Mr. Pelletier I second it.

Mr. Kilcollins We've got a motion and a second, we'll vote. Melissa?

Mr. Butler We've gotta go to discussion.

Mr. Kilcollins Oh, we're going to discussion, yup.

Mrs. Libby So, my thought on this is, at the 1.2, [inaudible] without the funds in the CIP Reserves, we're still roughly around 24 mil. 19.5 to 24 is

Mr. Pelletier That, that's not accurate. If we, if we, if we accept that, I call it option one, which is the least. We would have a deficit of 1,292,456 dollars that would give us a Mil Rate of about 27.68.

Mr. Butler Where'd you get those numbers? I'm asking, I mean, we're coming out with numbers. You're coming out with numbers, I wanna know where these numbers are coming from.

Mrs. Libby I just wanna clarify, cause, so.

Citizen How about repeating the motion so we can hear it.

Mrs. Libby Okay. So the motion was, I make a motion that we did not approve any of these options.

Mr. Kilcollins And Kevin seconded it and we went for discussion.

Mrs. Libby So, and then I said that I believe at the 1.2 that gives us a Mil Rate of roughly 24. And then, Kevin said that he thinks it's higher than that.

Mr. Butler And then I asked where did we get these figures?

Ms. Powers At 19.5 Mills, if we were to do 19.5 Mills, need to show excess deficit of 1,292,356, which equals 6.9 Mills,

Mr. Pelletier That s our least option. That s the least option would give us the mil Rate of what, 26?

Ms. Powers Around 26.

Mr. Pelletier It s not acceptable. It s high. It s not acceptable for me.

Mr. Kilcollins It is.

Mr. Pelletier It s too high.

Mr. Kilcollins You know, first thing, we re here for you people. Well, we are. This, this, this has been a difficult, this has been a difficult situation, not only this year, last year, and, and, we, we, we, get put here for a big decision, and you can see our decision isn t coming easy. It s, it s, it s the input that we got this year has been, has been a lot from a lot of good people. We, we had the Committee set up, there s been a lot of work done and, and we can t ignore that. We hear from, from, you know, the businesses in our community and we want to have our community get though this and, and make it good for everybody. As we know, and, and I know, our, our backbone that s carrying us through everything today is what we have for commercial business and agriculture. We wouldn t be where we re at. Industry is, is, is gone right now. We got to look at what we have and what we have is a big part of agricultural and, and, what we have for commercial business here and this is it. This, this is what we re looking at, so if we don t make the right call, it s going to affect all of us, and, and I, and I just want everybody to know that we, we take this very serious. It s, it s, it s, it s, it s no different than you speaking to, in behalf of us, you understand too, it s, it s, it s not, and it s really not in Fort Fairfield, it s in, it s going on in every community. We ve lost a lot of impact in, in financial assistance from industries, we re still paying for it. We re faced with a lot of new systems, the State is demanding, not yet, but it s around the corner, that if a municipality is going to insure ourselves for what we need to get grants, we could feasibly see EMS is mandatory. It s not there now, but I wouldn t be surprised, and you re gonna see it in the next few years. It s, it s going to come to that. In hindsight, we have it. The expenses behind it is there, yes. You ve got a new business that started up. I feel in the next three years, the four years, we ll really see some feedback from it. We, we made a decision a couple years ago, majority of our Town will, we take the motion from what we gather and we, we set it up. It s worked well, it s hard work, we get, we get, you know, emotions from both sides, but at this point we have it. I don t want to see it deplete itself and in the second year of business. I feel three years, four years, if, if this isn t working, then we seriously gotta look at other figures. Well, I mean, it s a new business, I understand. But if you finance a, a banking institute of yourself and you ve been financing new business, are you going to jump on them the second year in business? A little. Third year you re really going to start paying attention to numbers, yes.

Citizen [inaudible]

Mr. Kilcollins Well, I m having a hard time to hear you, the echoing. I mean, right now, d like to be having discussion from the floor, but the discussion is meant for us to discuss this matter and I m just trying to air everything for what and how we feel and how serious we are taking this and I probably got carried away a little bit, I apologize.

Mr. Butler Mr. Chair?

Mr. Kilcollins Yes. No, well you had during Public Comment Period was the time this discussion. Here, now, is for Councilors.

Mrs. Libby So, to get back on track, so my thought on this was that this option, if it brings us up to 26, that's 6.5 Mil increase roughly, again the Mil Rate is an estimate. But, I don't know how that will, well I do know how that will effect taxpayers, and I, that doesn't sit well wi

enforcement and safety, but when you have, when you have to wait 20 minutes, you have to wait for Presque Isle to come over to put a fire out in your house, or you have to wait for 15, 20 minutes for an ambulance to come down there and you've got somebody laying on the floor dying, where do we put the price? I understand. My taxes went up too. My father called an ambulance three times last year before he passed away, three times last year, and they were in his house within two minutes, from here. The service we had before, they never showed up, even when they left from here, 20 minutes to get to a call. Is that feasible? I don't think so. I think, I think that the safety and the lives of our community, and even the structures if we had a fire, the School Department had a fire, there's nobody here to cover a fire, who's going to be there? We have to wait for Presque Isle while our kids are in buildings that are burning. This is what I've thought about with this, this route. I never thought about that what's going to cost taxes and every time somebody throws out figures 20 percent, 30 percent, I ask where they got those figures. I don't know where they get the figures, nobody can tell me. But I'm not worried about that, I'm, I worry about your potato houses, I worry about your family, and I worry about your houses. And this is what started the whole Firefighter EMT. They're not just Firefighters, they're both EMTs and Firefighters. And, this is the way, this is where I went and this is the safety of the Town of Fort Fairfield, and I'm sorry if I get upset because I'm very passionate about saving somebody's life and saving somebody's house. Thank you.

Citizens Citizens talk inaudibly about Public Comment Period.

Mr. Butler I'm all

This is too much, it s too much money. We re gonna, we re gonna, we re gonna sink the ship, someone s used that term, and I think we are. We need to button down, I don t know how we re gonna do it, but that s gonna be, it s not gonna be my job, I m glad it s not going to be my job, but we need to do something and this budget, we can t accept these budgets. I m not in favor, none of these, all three of these, I m not in favor of any of it. Anyway.

Mrs. Libby You wanted me to repeat the motion?

Mr. Ouellette Yes.

Mrs. Libby I just made a motion that we didn t approve any of the options.

Mr. Ouellette Did not?

Mrs. Libby Did not. Did not.

Mr. Kilcollins And you seconded it.

Mr. Pelletier I seconded it, yes.

Mr. Kilcollins So, we had discussion, we ll vote. Melissa?

Mrs. Libby So the motion is to not approve, and my vote is Aye.

Mr. Butler No.

Mr. Ouellette Aye.

Mr. Pelletier Not approve, Aye.

Mr. Kilcollins And I vote Aye. So, do we have another motion on the table?

Mr. Ouellette Do you want to motion it?

Mr. Pelletier Go ahead.

Mr. Ouellette The Town s financial condition has deteriorated in the past five years or few years. The debt has gone from 600,000 just three years ago to 4.1 million today. The payments on these loans are more than 28,000 per month. 336 per year. That is almost 2 mil just in loan repayments. Since we are in a declining financial condition with increasing deficits and increasing debt, we need to consider a flat budget as first step to getting spending under control and getting out of this hole. I move that we pass a flat budget that keeps consolidated expenses at the same level as the current 21/22 budget. That is my motion.

Mr. Pelletier I second it.

Mr. Kilcollins We had a motion and a second, we'll go to discussion.

Mr. Butler What was his motion? I couldn't hear it.

Mrs. Libby Flat budget.

Mr. Kilcollins His motion, flat budget.

Mr. Butler Right now [inaudible]. What do you mean by flat budget? Last year's budget?

Mr. Ouellette Last year's budget.

Ms. Powers I

Mr. Kilcollins Right. School can increase, and we can't. Plus, the advances of payroll and benefits to the PD and doesn't meet standards, so we'd have to go through their bargaining thing so we, we'd have to be within them standards or we're, we're gonna be, yeah, we're gonna be in a mess. That's where we're at.

Mr. Pelletier What'd they give us for a Mil Rate?

Mr. Kilcollins What would that give us?

Ms. Powers I really wish you guys would [inaudible]

Mr. Kilcollins I understand.

Ms. Powers We do not have all the numbers. The Mil Rate cannot be set until October 1st, and I really fear, because I've told Council before, that Municipal Tax Recalculation Form, that doesn't tell you everything. That is one section of 452 pages [inaudible] in the Tax Assessor's Office. And there are 15 pages [inaudible] within that, and none of us are licensed Tax Assessors. We cannot figure those formulations for ourselves. Unless you get your license [inaudible].

Mr. Kilcollins So, upward of 20, flat rate of 26 with my numbers.

Ms. Powers There is no way to judge what the Mil Rate will be for this Municipality [inaudible] our fiscal year does not line up with the State's fiscal year, and the information that we get from that does not come until September, then we set the Rate in October. I can only give you my best estimate, based on information I currently have. But, I do not want to be held to those estimates, because lots of things could change between now and then. We've already seen turmoil at the State level, yes?

Mr. Kilcollins Yes.

Ms. Powers It can trickle down to us. So, we need to be careful in saying, this is what our Mil Rate will be, [inaudible] we have this for a fact. So, you can understand the difficulty, but you're laughing.

Mr. Pelletier Well, well, I'm, I'm laughing because we need to be reasonable in what we ask our taxpayers to pay for taxes because the State average is 16.4 and the County average is 18.313.

Ms. Powers There is no State average. The Mil Rate is specific to your community and the amount of tax payers that you have. There is no such thing as an average Mil Rate, because from community to community, to community, it's based on your budget and the amount of tax payers that you have, and the services that you provide with that budget. There is no average Mil Rate.

Mr. Pelletier To get an average Mil Rate, they take all the counties.

Ms. Powers Anybody can do an average of Mil Rates.

Mr. Pelletier Well, that s what I just said.

Ms. Powers But in reality, there is no average

math, if the State comes back and our valuation tanks or whatever they say it does, then, yes, it could be a possibility, but I highly doubt that given the State's understanding of the tenuous situations in all Municipalities across the State. Please understand, that we work very hard every day for this community every day and we love this community [inaudible] and we are here [inaudible], and we have staff who don't even live in Fort Fairfield, but they serve this community as if they did, and they love this community just as much. So, when you sit here and ask for things, even after they've gone through all this since January, it's as if, for them, you don't have a concern for their level of skill, dedication to the community, these are all things that I've heard from my staff. They're concerned for if they are residents of what that means for services in the community. So, these are all tough decisions that Council has to make and we understand that, and we want you to know that we understand that, but they want to know, they want to feel heard, that's all, be

Mrs. Libby So, in order to put this on the table I make a motion that we meet somewhere in the middle of those two places between this unfunded CIPs and the Flat Budget. There s got to be somewhere in the middle of those two numbers and we need to see what that looks like.

Mr. Ouellette I ll run one my by you that does that, and it was presented to us by the Budget Advisory Committee.

Mr. Butler She already made a motion.

Mr. Kilcollins She made a motion, we just need a second.

Mr. Ouellette I didn t even hear a motion.

Mr. Kilcollins Oh. She, she made a motion that we have something between your motion and yeah, something in between. But we gotta have a second. Then we go to discussion.

Mr. Butler What are we looking for?

Mrs. Libby Yeah, we have to see what that looks like.

Mr. Kilcollins You don t have to vote, but if we don t vote about that, then we re going to arbitrary [inaudible].

Mrs. Libby Do we have a second before we can discuss?

Mr. Pelletier I ll second it. Second. You gotta second.

Mr. Kilcollins So, we had a motion and a second, so now we ll go to discussion.

Mrs. Libby Okay, so, just to clarify, and I believe the Town Manager is looking at numbers so we can kind of see what this looks like, but, there s gotta be a middle ground. It has to work for the Departments, it has to work for the tax payers, and I know it s going to be hard on both ends, I get it. I m a taxpayer, I understand that. The Departments, I don t want to see the Departments not funded. I think we need them and I want them to be funded so that they can be run perfectly, but. I mean, I know I m just throwing out a Mil Rate to look at that s maybe your figure for me, but a 26 Mil Rate to me is still a big jump from 19.5. So, yes, there s been increases, we can adjust to those, but I don t think we can adjust all the way to 26. So that s my.

[inaudible] discussion between Mr. Kilcollins, Mr. Pelletier and Mr. Ouellette

Mr. Ouellette I hate to ask you this again, but, repeat it.

Mrs. Libby Yep. So, I just said that

Mr. Ouellette You need to look at me when you do it so I can hear you.

Mrs. Libby We need to look at the options we were given, and look between the lowest option and look between the flat budget. There s got to be some middle ground in those two areas. And, it can, it s gonna be hard for everybody. It s gonna be hard for the taxpayers and it s gonna be hard for the Departments. But, there s gotta be a middle ground

Mrs. Libby The Town Manager has some numbers for us, as to what I would be looking at for figures, so [inaudible].

Ms. Powers Based on Councilor Libby's motion, that puts Municipal Expenses at \$5,020,509.50. So, Municipal Overlay is \$1,625,771 with a deficit of \$854,870 with a, do not quote me on this, but a Mil Rate of 24 Mils.

[inaudible] discussion between Mr. Pelletier and Mr. Ouellette

Mr. Pelletier Of what?

Mr. Kilcollins 24 Mils.

Mr. Ouellette I would like to hear Melissa's motion again, slowly.

Mrs. Libby So, it would be that we would have an excess deficit of \$854,870 with a Mil Rate of roughly 24.

Mr. Kilcollins But that would make the Department Head's union stay [inaudible]

Mrs. Libby There would be a lot of adjusting to do and working with the Departments and try to figure how that all works out.

Mr. Ouellette What would that call for a revenue from the townspeople?

Mr. Pelletier An increase in taxes. What do you mean?

Mr. Ouellette What would that call for, for a dollar figure for the tax increase?

Ms. Powers \$854,870.

Mr. Pelletier Are you looking for a percentage?

Mr. Ouellette No, I understand what she is saying.

Mr. Kilcollins Then, that wouldn't put us in arbitrary with the Department Heads.

Mr. Ouellette So is there a second?

Mr. Kilcollins Yeah, he seconded it.

Mr. Pelletier I seconded it.

Mr. Ouellette We just di

Mr. Kilcollins Aye.

Motion: Mrs. Libby motioned - I make a motion that we meet somewhere in the middle of those two places between this unfunded CIPs and the Flat Budget.

Second: Mr. Pelletier seconded.

Discussion: See above.

Vote: motion passed (3 Ayes, 2 Nays)

[inaudible] discussion between Mr. Kilcollins, Mr. Pelletier and Mr. Ouellette

B. Industrial Park Parcels

The Town has received an offer to purchase parcels of land in the Fort Fairfield Industrial Park. They are looking at the 10 12-acre parcel on the Eastern End. Council has voted (Council Meeting 5.20.2020) on the value per acre to be \$16,500 for the Industrial Park parcels.

The offer is to build an additional solar farm in the Fort Fairfield Industrial Park. Council has already signed a letter of intent with Fort Fairfield Solar, LLC for the back parcels.

Recommendation is that Council opens up discussion on an ordinance citing solar energy projects in the Fort Fairfield Industrial Park.

Mr. Butler So, whereabouts in the Industrial Park is that?

Ms. Powers [inaudible] closest to Public Works.

Mr. Butler I know we have some interest in some parcels, but it's not this, is it?

Mr. Pelletier Is that back where the truck dumpers were? Back in that area? That's the Eastern end, right? Be the Northeastern end.

Ms. Powers Yes. Yes.

Mr. Pelletier How much of that property they looking at?

Ms. Powers 16.5.

Mr. Pelletier No, I mean how many acres?

Ms. Powers It's a one time purchase versus the lease that we have for 20 years and beyond for Fort Fairfield Solar, which in the end, is more than the one time purchase [inaudible].

Mr. Pelletier How many acres? Andrea, how many acres?

Ms. Powers 10 to 12. But, if you take 10 to 12 acres of land for an additional solar farm, you're taking 10 to 12 acres away from potential growth. Because you can't tax a solar farm.

Mr. Pelletier

Ms. Powers No. This is a completely different company.

Mrs. Libby Right. But this would only effect Fort Fairfield Solar if they were to choose to [inaudible].

Ms. Powers It would effect Fort Fairfield Solar from expanding, it would effect K-Pel from expanding further from what they ve already offered and it has been agreed to by Council and it would effect any new businesses coming into the Industrial Park.

Mr. Pelletier Okay. Yeah, so, I, I wasn t real clear. So, when they re up and running, the Town of Fort Fairfield can buy power from them?

Ms. Powers We already have an agreement with them. And, they re putting solar panels on the roof of the Town Office and parts of the Municipal Building that can stand it [inaudible].

Mr. Ouellette If that were to pass, how many acres would be left in the park? Any idea?

Ms. Powers [inaudible]

Mr. Pelletier It s kind of used to take up the whole park, between them and K-Pel, right? Okay. I m good.

Mr. Kilcollins Do you need a motion?

Ms. Powers No. I just wanted Council to be aware of it. We have no [inaudible]. The Industrial Park seems to all of a sudden to be a key location for these companies that are trying to get into our community [inaudible] and we already have Fort Fairfield Solar [inaudible] and so, they are trying to get in on it. So, we may want to consider an Ordinance, one way or another, what we want to do about it.

Mr. Ouellette Where did the Industrial Park actually start? From 161?

Mr. Pelletier I think as soon as you turn off the Caribou Road, right?

Mr. Kilcollins Yes.

Mr. Ouellette And all the potato houses on that run are part of the Industrial Park?

Mr. Pelletier I think maybe, I don t know, some of them are, I don t think all of them are.

Mr. Kilcollins I think the zone, Tony, am I right, that zone of area it would be included in Industrial Park? Right. Okay.

Mr. Ouellette 161, right Tony?

Mr. Kilcollins Yeah, when you take the left off 161. Cheney Grove Road.

C. ATV Ordinance

A Public Hearing was held for the

Mrs. Libby I just said the Chief already gave us his, his statement in our packet. It says, as a resident of Fort Fairfield, I'd like to go on record stating that I do not support the use of ATVs on the public roadway within the Town of Fort Fairfield.

Mr. Butler Mr. Chair, we've gone through this, when I first came back as a Councilor, a few years back, we had the President of the ATV Club, that wanted us to extend down the Dorsey Road so they can make the loop complete, so they wouldn't have to, and it was passed. But, every year now, we're gonna, and, and I'm a firm believer, I'm looking at the safety and I'm looking at the safety down Roosevelt Avenue, you've got the 's turns and stuff like that, the streets not wide enough and these vehicles don't have any safety inspections on them whatsoever and so we don't know if the brakes are good or if the brakes are bad. And, you know, we talk about the few bad apples, but on the April 22nd meeting, Mr. Stratton acknowledged that last fall, 2021, they lost, no police force, the drivers took ATVs, drivers took advantage of it. I hope that don't happen again. Well, there's liability in this and if we pass an Ordinance, we're just allowing Willy Nilly going through all these back streets and turns and stuff like that, and somebody gets hurt, yes, we probably will be held responsible for it. And, and that was my, our main concern, especially down the 's turns stuff like that, especially there where the kids, and now they're out of school, they're out there walking. I've had senior citizens call me at my house and request that I not vote for this and for the same concerns that they're, they're walking down the street and walking on the side streets and they have to be dodging, dodging ATVs.

Mr. Pelletier Are other Towns open to ATVs?

Mr. Butler Not all Towns are open to, certain Towns are open, they got their, their

Mr. Pelletier What

Mr. Butler And if we pass an Ordinance where they can utilize the streets and Game Wardens will not come in Town and enforce the laws.

Mr. Ouellette Right.

Mr. Butler You know, and I m concerned about, you know, I m talking about this well attention, they got this ATV going down side of the road, they ve got a kid coming up meeting with the ATV, first thing that the kids got to roll out by a passing car. Our streets aren t wide enough for ATVs. If we had sidewalks, if we had wider streets or something like that, you know, m, m all for ATV trails, I m all for it.

Mr. Pelletier Is Presque Isle open? Presque Isle s open? But, it s broke here. Easton? Mars Hill?

Mr. Butler We ve gone through this before. And every year it comes up, it comes up time and time again.

Mr. Ouellette I went way back in the minutes, at one point, it was allowed to have ATVs on some of these trails but it never was put down on paper and it never continued. This Ordinance was passed or at least voted on for the Council to allow them to have more access.

Mr. Butler We brought it further down Forest Ave. We extended down to Forest Ave.

Mr. Kilcollins I don t think there s been any record of any bad accident since we ve opened it on Forest Ave. has there been reports?

Ms. Powers That would be Chief Cummings, but I can tell you from the original Ordinance that Councilor Ouellette is referring to, to change implements was because of the inability to Police the inside Town streets, and that s when that all came about in 2018. And since then, Council has graciously opened up lots of other areas throughout the community to create areas for ATV riders to connect so that they re not stopping or missing their connection points. What this really entails, is moving about a community inside that local area. I know we don t [inaudible]. Again, my recommendation was not to approve this particular Ordinance, I think we need more time to write the Ordinance properly, so that [inaudible] the citizens of Fort Fairfield as well as the ATV riders of Fort Fairfield. That s why I made my recommendation. It s not necessarily that I m against the ATVs, it s that the Ordinance, as written, I don t think that it benefits all the citizens of Fort Fairfield.

Mr. Kilcollins Has the Ordinance, as written, been reviewed by our attorney?

Ms. Powers Yes. He was only asked to review it, based on if the language in the Ordinance is correct, which is what he was by Council to do, so that s what he did.

Mr. Kilcollins Did he see any?

Ms. Powers She didn't vote.

Mr. Butler She didn't vote, Bob.

Mr. Kilcollins Pardon me?

Ms. Powers She vote.

Mr. Kilcollins I thought she, oh okay.

Mrs. Libby I was questioning. I'd like to see it rewritten, Aye.

Mr. Butler Aye.

Mr. Ouellette She voted Aye?

Mr. Kilcollins They voted Aye.

Mr. Ouellette Which is to pass it?

Mr. Kilcollins No. Is to have it relooked and rewrote.

Mr. Ouellette To look at it?

Mr. Kilcollins Yeah, no, yeah, their vote is to not accept this Ordinance. Is just to not accept it. So, Aye is to not accept it. You'd have to Nay it, if you want it.

Mr. Ouellette Nay.

Mr. Pelletier Nay.

Mr. Kilcollins And I vote Nay.

Motion: Mr. Butler motioned.

Second: Mr. Ouellette seconded.

Discussion: See above.

Vote: Motion did not pass. (2 Ayes and 3 Nays)

A. Approve FY22/23 Permits and Licenses Mr. Levesque

Tony Levesque, Code Enforcement Officer, held a Public Hearing at 12 noon on June 9th in the Municipal Council Chambers. A list was provided that showed the prior license holders and noted the applications and fees received on the following permits

_____ as Sub-Registrar

The Town Clerk sent letters to all Board members to inform them of their terms expiring June 30, 2022 on June 9th. Members have until June 30th to resign if they wish.

As of June 15, 2022 we have received two applications, from Dan Foster and Annette Thompson, who is interested in serving on the Library Board of Trustees, with more applications to come. The Librarian has informed me of two Board Members, (John Krause term ending 2025, and Kendall Stratton term ending 2024), who wish to resign before their terms end. Stacy Michaud, of the Fort Fairfield Housing Authority, has informed me of a new applicant for the Board, Mark Neddeau, and Sean Bernard wishes to continue on the Board for another term in place of Donna Currie.

Staff will continue to advertise for individuals to fill vacancies moving forward.

The recommendation is that Town Council appoints the Town Officials as presented, we ll have to discuss the applications received for the Library Board of Trustees, Mark Neddeau and Sean Bernard to the Housing Authority Board, and reappoints all other Board and Committee members whose terms are expiring on June 30, 2022.

Motion: Mr. Butler made the motion.

Second: Mrs. Libby and Mr. Ouellette seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmed.

C. Authorize Audit Services from Felch & Company, LLC

The Town has used Felch & Company for several years and has been very satisfied with their work.

Attached is a pr financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2022. The proposal states the audit will begin on approximately July 25, 2022 with reports issued later in September, 23 2022.

The fee 10,250.00.

Recommendation: Town Council authorize the Council Chair, Chairman Kilcollins, to sign the proposal from Felch & Company, LLC to conduct an audit tatements for the year ending June 30, 2022.

Motion: Mrs. Libby made the motion.

Second: Mr. Ouellette seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmed.

D. Minutes for Special Town Council Meeting on 6-1-22 and ORD 22-04 Public Hearing on 6-1-22

Motion: Mr. Ouellette made the motion.

Second: Mr. Pelletier seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmed.

VIII. Warrants: #24 \$277,788.11 #25 \$326,421.98

Warrant #24 in the amount of \$277,788.11 was

B. Resolution 22-06 CDBG

WHEREAS, the Town of Fort Fairfield wishes to apply to the Department of Economic and Community Development for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to carry out a community development program; and

WHEREAS, the planning process required by Maine Law and the CDBG Program have been complied with, including participation in the planning process by low and moderate income families and individuals and the community has conducted at least one duly advertised public hearing.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Town of Fort Fairfield that the Town Manager, Andrea L. Powers:

1. Is authorized and directed to submit an application for the following program(s) within the 22 CDBG Economic Development Program to the Department of Economic and Community Development on behalf of the Town of Fort Fairfield, substantially in the form presented to this council;
2. Is authorized to make assurances on behalf of the Town of Fort Fairfield required as part of such applications; and
3. Is authorized and directed, upon acceptance of said funds to carry out the duties and responsibilities for implementing said program(s), consistent with the Charter of the Town of Fort Fairfield and the laws and regulations governing planning and implementation of community development programs in the State of Maine.

Recommendation is that Town Council signs Resolution 22-06.

Motion: Mr. Butler motioned.

Second: Mrs. Libby seconded.

Discussion:

Mr. Pelletier How much is the grants for? The amount of the grants?

Mr. Levesque 200,000.

Mr. Pelletier 200,000?

Ms. Powers This is for Farmer Thibeau.

Mr. Pelletier Oh. Okay.

Mr. Levesque [inaudible]

Mr. Pelletier Packing shed?

Ms. Powers Equipment Shed.

Mr. Pelletier Okay.

Vote: All Affirmed.

C. SPE Foundation Grant

Title 30-A M.R.S.A. §5654 states that a conditional gift for any specified public purpose offered to a municipality may be accepted or rejected by its legislative body.

The Parks and Recreation Department

Vote: All Affirmative.

No action taken.

XI. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Butler motioned.

Second: Mrs. Libby seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Town Council Adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Submitted respectfully,

Neadra E. Dubois,
Council Secretary