

Fort Fairfield Town Council Monthly Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
Wednesday, January 19, 2022
6:00 P.M.

I. Roll Call

Councilors: All present.

Staff: Ms. Powers, Neadra Dubois, Tony Levesque, Jennifer Gaenzle, Chief Cummings, Ella Leighton, Darren Hanson, Shannon St. Pierre, Mitch Dufour, Deputy Chief Cody Fenderson

Citizens: Eleven citizens present (five from Quality of Place)

Local Media: Star Herald and Fort Fairfield Journal

II. Prayer

III. Pledge to the Flag

IV. Public Comment Period

Mr. Butler

up my father again and treating him with really great respect.
the service here. Number two, again, most people know I usually walk here in the mornings at the gym and one of the taxpayers (one of the citizens) said that they were very fortunate that we have a place, the Armory, to walk and they are very grateful for

Mr. Kilcollins

the boys, the past week or two, has been doing a lot of willed preparation out in the country, windrowing the banks on the secondary roads, it makes a world of difference. I know, I live that way. I just want to thank them. Also, the Police Department, hats off,

V. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses/Permits

The Town has received an application for an On-Edge Variety on January 7, 2022.

Recommendation: Council Approves the application for On-Premises Liquor License

Mr. Butler motioned to approve the application for On-Premises Liquor License for

Mr. Ouellette seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: All Affirmative

B. Financial Report

From the Treasurer:

The Town received December Revenue Sharing in the amount of \$59,018.58 on December 22, 2021. Total revenue sharing received to date is \$413,965.67. The Town is at 47.97% vs budgeted of 50.00% which is down \$16,035.83.

On November 5, 2021, LJM, LLC, deeded to the Town of Fort Fairfield, property located at 39 Cheney Grove; identified as Map 35 Lot23-F and recorded in Book 6261 Page 188. The property has an assessed value of \$9,400.

The 2021 Real Estate Taxes on this property is \$176.28. Since the Town is exempt from paying taxes, the Tax Collector is asking the Council to approve writing off \$176.28 in real estate taxes as uncollectable.

Card and the tax bill for this property for the Council to look at.

Mr. Butler made a motion to approve the writing off of \$176.28 in real estate taxes as uncollectable.

Mrs. Libby seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative

C. Aroostook Waste Solutions Report Mr. Rogeski

Mr. Rogeski reported that they did not have a meeting in December and there was nothing specific to report

Ms. Powers mentioned that the next meeting is the 28th of January.

VI. Proclamation Fort Fairfield Quality of Place Council 2021 Spirit of America Award

The Spirit of America Foundation was established in Maine to encourage volunteerism and commendable community service. Since the first Spirit of America Foundation award was presented in 1991 on November 26th to Alma Jones by Augusta's Mayor, William Burney, well over 500 Spirit of America ceremonies have taken place all over the great State of Maine.

The Spirit of America award is presented to a local person(s), project, or group for

The Spirit of America Foundation has awarded the Fort Fairfield Quality of Place Council the honor of the Town of Fort Fairfield Spirit of America Award 2020.

Recommendation: Council votes to accept the Proclamation for the Fort Fairfield Quality of Place Council the Spirit of America Award.

Mr. Butler made the motion to accept the Proclamation for the Fort Fairfield Quality of Place Council the Spirit of America Award.

Mr. Ouellette seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: All Affirmative

Whereas, The Spirit of America Foundation established in Maine to encourage volunteerism and commendable community service, and

Whereas, The Fort Fairfield Quality of Place Council continually shows itself to be a dedicated, dynamic service organization within the community of Fort Fairfield, and

Whereas, The Fort Fairfield Quality of Place Council has shown a commitment to initiate and take actions that enrich the quality of life for Fort Fairfield citizens, and implemented ways to improve the quality of life within the community of Fort Fairfield, and

Whereas, The Fort Fairfield Quality of Place Council has had a significant impact on the lives of the citizens of Fort Fairfield, and

Whereas, The Fort Fairfield Quality of Place Council works with other organizations, volunteers and committee members to greater the impact of their service projects within the community of Fort Fairfield, and

Whereas, It is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Fort Fairfield Quality of Place Council.

Now, Therefore, We, the Town Council of Fort Fairfield, do hereby recognize the Fort Fairfield Quality of Place Council on this day January 19th, 2022, for their exemplary citizenship and outstanding achievements and honors brought upon this community as the Town of Fort Fairfield Spirit of America Award Winner.

The Fort Fairfield Quality of Place Council is the Town of Fort Fairfield 2021 Spirit of America Award winner.

Throughout the Town of Fort Fairfield, and further extend appreciation to our Fort Fairfield Quality of Place Council to all their Members for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to our community.

Ms. Powers took a photo of the five Quality of Place members that were at the Town Council Meeting, holding the framed Proclamation.

VII. Old Business

A. Mission Broadband

Mark Van Loan from Mission Broadband was here in October to discuss their findings from the RFPs for the Town Wide Broadband RFP project and to answer any questions that Council may have had regarding the presentation.

While here, Mr. Van Loan also shared ideas on Community Outreach for Council.

Council has two new members that have not heard this presentation and have not had the time to look at the information that was presented.

Recommendation: That Council delay answering the RFPs until all Council Members are able to update themselves better on this topic.

Mr. Butler made the motion to delay answering the RFPs until all Council Members are able to update themselves.

Mrs. Libby seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: All Affirmative

VIII. New Business

A. County Broadband Committee Outreach Letter

On December 22, 2021 the County Broadband Initiative sent out the information Council has before them concerning their latest outreach attempts. They are taking a critical first step in what will be huge strides for Aroostook County communities and they are asking for help to make it happen. The document includes details on how the community can help.

The County Broadband Committee (CBC) received a \$20,000 planning grant from ConnectMaine. This will enable CBC to kick this effort off with funding for important tasks like engineering design, modeling options and mapping. They may also receive an additional \$10,000 for these project costs by participating in the newly formed Community of Practice effort under the Maine Broadband Coalition.

There is a possibility for more funding through the estimated over \$400 million being allocated to the State of Maine in support of statewide broadband access improvements. CBC needs to develop a broadband coverage map of every road in every community in Aroostook. They have created a questionnaire to verify speeds for download and upload.

music and public address functions for the recreation areas surrounding the building. The total combined donations equal \$500.00.

Recommendation: That Town Council accepts the donation of \$250.00 each, from

Mr. Butler makes a motion for the Town Council to accept the donations for \$250.00 each, totaling \$500.00.

Mr. Pelletier seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: All Affirmative

C. FFFR Forestry Grant*

A letter from Deputy Chief Cody Fenderson:

In late 2021, Fort Fairfield Fire Rescue applied for the Maine Fire Service, Volunteer Fire Assistance grant for the 2022 year. This is a matching grant program that assists department with purchasing equipment that supports Forest and Wildland Fire operat

operat
Forest Rangers met to review applications on December 22, 21021.

Fort Fairfield Fire Rescue has been selected and awarded a total of \$2,225.95. This represents fifty percent of the cost to purchase two radios, one backpack blower, four flame flapper tools, four McLeod tools, four Pulaski tools, eight collapsible backpack pumps, and eight hundred feet of forestry hose. These were items we chose as a department to strengthen our wildland fire capabilities, and are the only things that this grant will support.

They request that the council approve Chief Browning or Deputy Chief Fenderson to sign the acceptance forms for the grant, purchase the equipment out of our current budget, and submit the receipts for reimbursement of the \$2,225.95 that was awarded through this 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.

Fort Fairfield Fire Rescue has been selected and awarded a total of \$2,225.95 from the Maine Fire Service, Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant. This is a matching grant.

Recommendation: That Town Council accepts the \$2,225.95 grant and allow Chief Browning and or Deputy Chief Fenderson to sign the acceptance forms for the grant, purchase the equipment out of the FFFR current budget, and submit the receipts for reimbursement of the \$2,225.95

Mr. Butler makes a motion for the Town Council to accept the grant of \$2,225.95 and allow Chief Browning and Fort Fairfield Fire Department to purchase the equipment out of the current budget and submit the receipts for reimbursement of the \$2,225.95.

Mr. Ouellette seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: All Affirmative

D. Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Nomination Forms.

The Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for the Citizen of the Year Award and Lifetime Achievement Awards to be given at their Annual Dinner.

The Citizen of the Year Award recipient is an outstanding individual recognized for their impact on the lives of the citizens of Central Aroostook County. This special individual is someone who has had notable contributions and successes in the communities and shows dedication and spirit beyond what is considered regular duty.

The purpose for this nomination is to recognize contributions of a community driven person. Please use a separate sheet of paper to list the reasons for nominating a candidate for this award, reasons such as, community contributions, present & past community activities, charity/philanthropic efforts, ways this person has improved the quality of life in Central Aroostook County and any other pertinent supporting information.

The Lifetime Achievement Award recipient is an outstanding individual recognized for their impact on the lives of the citizens of Central Aroostook County. This special individual is someone who has had notable contributions and successes in the communities.

The purpose for this nomination is to recognize contributions of a community driven person over the whole of a career. Please use a separate sheet of paper to list the reasons for nominating a candidate that has achieved notable successes during their lifetime, such as their impact in the areas of helping children in education, recreations or self-improvement activities, helping the elderly of our community and assisting the general public on safety issues, improved living situations, work for the betterment of the communities or any other pertinent supporting information.

The Chamber has extended the nomination deadline to January 20th, 2022.

E. Ordinance Discussion Budget Committee Proposal

After reviewing the Charter, this would require an ordinance conforming to the adoption procedures of the Charter.

According to Section C-14(A)(1) of the Charter, an ordinance is required in order to

budget committee would constitute a town agency and that its members would constitute town officials. For these reasons, the Charter envisions that such a body may be created only by ordinance adopted by the council in accordance with the adoption procedures described in Section C-15 of the Charter.

The Council is the municipal legislative body with the power to adopt ordinances, but the Council may do so only after publishing the ordinance using proper procedure and language and only after a public hearing on the ordinance is held at least seven days following publication (see Section C-15(B) of the Charter). An ordinance to establish a budget committee would not be eligible for adoption as an emergency ordinance under the procedures described in Section C-16 of the Charter.

70 information packets. It does not follow our procedure or language according to our Charter.

Recommendation: Council discusses whether they would like to proceed with an Ordinance for Budget Committee to be introduced at a Special Council Meeting or the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting in February.

Mr. Butler makes a motion to not proceed with an Ordinance for Budget Committee.

Mr. Pelletier makes a motion to proceed.

Mr. Kilcollins directs back to the first motion, to clear it from the table.

Mrs. Libby second .

Discussion:

ML

with this committee. It would be an advisory committee and it will be what looks like

a two-
-year term of individuals that
would be on the committee. They would sit down, they would meet and discuss
whatever they wanted to discuss and then they would put together a report for us to
view.

MP

ML

MP

ML

that we

MP

form of government, according to Attorney Flewelling from MMA Legal and
Attorney Currier from our own Town

M . L

MP

Ordinance would have to
be redone to fit the language of our Charter. But, it would still require five to seven
members for Council to determine, you have to have an odd number, then Council

language, Council would have to determine what they want their language to state for
composition appointment, qualifications, terms and vacancies.

ML So, other than giving citizens an additional voice, what does this do to
the Town? Like, what, other than just giving, like, them an extra voice, giving extra

MK

laws that we follow, for Municipality, versus what we could have, other than a
committee
government, of what we do,

MP

MK

pursue in depth, more of the budget, that could be a helpful, for information only, and

M . B

MK

MB

We are a Town Council form of

our Founding Fathers created and
established this Town, these subjects have been brought up. Now, we have, I believe
last year maybe five public meetings, in all those public meetings and in front of
public comment, which we listened
to the citizens and the comments before we make our decisions on the budget. This
has been a

g that our Founding Fathers
years;

Fort Fairfield and their concerns on the budget, we had, even after the last budget we
do the Charters, that the citizens do have a say. We, as a Council, are the Budget

what our citizens tell us, and what they would and how we would (mumbling) what
we votes on them, or the way they want establish a citizen
committee to go over a budget, a lot of them what I hear is we need to reduce the
. But, we also have to
understand that sixty-five to seventy percent of our budget we have no control over.
We have no control over the school budget. We have no control over the county

wanted to bring my last bill, and I came in, I was going to bring it with me and I

County,
and School is our little Municipal Budget. To reduce the taxes the way you want,
(mumble),

the School Budget. So, we, even on the last process, we passed the budget, and the
until we got the bill from the School Department. And, even at
that and all the bills so far, the Town Manager and the Department Staff, we reduced
our bu
diligence as a Budget Committee. So, and we did listen to the citizens, they said they
to leave the taxes where they were, well, we did one better, we reduced it.
And this process has been working for many, many years, long before I was even

sense in changing the Charter and bringing on a Committee
money here but got sixty-something percent of our budget

emergency services, we need the services in the Town Office, and in order to get the
tax rate down where some people want, we have to eliminate all the Municipal.

izens.
Ambulance
Service, they need the Fire Department, they need the Police Department.

MP
of anybody tal

MK , yes.

MP away services in Fort

MB

Department, Get rid of the Ambulance Service

MP

where there would be any problem having an advisory

MK

MP **i**

MK

MP

MK

M P

MK

, in
t, at a short, I feel a short period of time. s a

from, what are we looking at for revenue sharing, where the flation of everything that

MP

out and things calm down with the budget, that we are gonna have a hard time to find people to be on this Committee.

NB , on the Town, like I said, we

NK

NB well-established
a

We do listen to the people in Town, and I talk to the people in Town, and I know every one of you in here talk to people in Town to reduce the budget and to see what they can. But, this, the form of government that we are, this is something that we

NK

ML advisors to anything, or is it just to the
budg

MB

NP

MB

ML

MB

ML

MB

ML

MB

ML

MB

Budget Committee. And, we don't to do

ML

MB

a

a Budget Committee established. So, all of the other Boards/Committees that we have were already established prior to, and this one was not because Council meets with Department Heads individually, and then, you have two Public Hearings as well, or as many Public Hearings as you like to have and then you vote, finally, in June on based on all the information you have gathered from those. So, essentially, the Budget Committee is the Council.

ML

it, so I just want to

MD

the five of us on here

~~ML~~
~~NB~~ r
~~MP~~
~~NK~~

to not

p
~~NK~~ n points at each of the Councilors

~~ML~~
~~NK~~
~~MP~~ t
~~SB~~
~~NK~~
~~ML~~
~~NK~~
~~MP~~
~~NK~~
~~ML~~
~~NB~~
~~MP~~
~~MD~~
~~NK~~

No discussion on a motion to t

Vote: Mrs. Libby and Mr. Butler voted Aye Pelletier, Mr. Ouellette and Mr.

IX. Minutes of the January 3, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting.

Mr. Butler made the motion to accept the Minutes for the January 3, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting as written.

Mrs. Libby seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative

X. Warrants: #13: \$302,889.11 #14: \$457,153.85

A. Warrant: #13

Warrant #13 in the amount of \$302,889.11 was completed on 12/20/2021.

B. Warrant: #14

Warrant #14 in the amount of \$457,153.85 was completed on 01/06/2022. Please note that this amount includes \$178,532.09 for SAD #20.

Mr. Butler made the motion to accept Warrants as written.

Mr. Pelletier seconded.

Discussion: None.

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Butler made the motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Libby seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Neadra E. Dubois,
Council Secretary

■

■
■
■
■

4, 02 2