

**Fort Fairfield Town Council Monthly Meeting
Gymnasium, Fort Fairfield Municipal Building
Wednesday, September 16, 2015
6:00 P.M.**

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

Staff: Tony Levesque, Billie Jo Sharpe, Tim Goff, Shawn Newell, Jim Risner,
Ella Leighton, Tom Towle, and Becky Hersey.

Citizens: 40 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. Executive Session:

Motion: Mr. John Herold moved to go into Executive Session at 6:02 PM to discuss

1 MRSA 405 (6) (E) - Consultations with Legal Counsel

Second: Ms. Susan LeVasseur

Vote All affirmative

Motion: Mr. David McCrea moved to come out of Executive Session at 6:15 PM

Second: Mr. John Herold

Vote All affirmative

- V. Public Comment- Chairman Barnes requested that there be no comments at this time regarding the Wind Ordinance. The reason for this is that we have had a public hearing and we have accepted all forms of communications up until 6:00 pm this evening on that issue. He went on to say that the Fort Fairfield Town Council received many letters and emails regarding the Wind Energy Ordinance, I have read them all at least twice and I appreciate the input. One letter from a citizen that I have known all my life and we have served on boards together in the past and in the present. In his letter of support for the ordinance was the following paragraph I also wish to raise an issue with members of the Fort Fairfield Town Council. It is my personal feeling that Chairman Barnes may have a potential conflict as a result of his affiliation with Smith Farms. Smith Farms may benefit from turbines being placed on their properties. There is a perceived feeling that a conflict exists and that Mr. Barnes should excuse himself from any future discussions and votes
concer I would like to give you some facts this evening. I have been employed by Smith Family for 26 years. The Smith family do in fact eet with Horizon Wind Energy, seven or eight years ago, and was offered potential leases and energy has not been discussed since. Further, I am nearing my third year of my council term and the Smith family has never questioned me or has had any input to my decision on this council. Therefore, I feel no conflict exist and with clear conscience will remain in

discussion and will have my vote. I feel that the person that stated this did it to intimidate me and other council members and I find it insulting and an attack on my integrity.

Mr. Stev Rogeski - Wanted to thank George Watson for all of the years of his service with the Town. He just recently retired and I think we should note what a great job he did, and that he will be missed.

Ms. Peggy Strid I own the building on 257 Main Street, it came to her attention that the Town purchased the parking lot next to her building. She and her husband have on numerous occas

legal review was completed on September 1, 2015. The WED Ordinance with the attorneys comments incorporated provided to Councilors and members of the Wind Energy Technical Review Committee. A public hearing was held on September 8, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the Gymnasium at the Community Center. A copy of the minutes and any public comments have been given to the council and are for public viewing.

Chairman Jason Barnes Councilors I feel uncomfortable with this only for the fact that we have not had an opportunity to speak about it among ourselves.

Motion: Mr. John Herold moved to approved Ordinance 15-04 for the Wind Energy Development in its past and present form.

Second: Mr. David McCrea	Vote	Robert Kilcollins- aye
		Susan LeVasseur aye
		John Herold aye
		David McCrea aye
		Jason Barnes - nay

Discussion:

Mr. John Herold stated that he wanted to keep it simple, there has been a lot of discussion on this matter in the past year. We have tried to impress on people that this ind power, it is about safety, welfare and well-being of the citizens of Fort Fairfield. not perfect, the committee members are human, they are not perfect. Having said that, we tried to get this as good as we could, we went over and over things, discussed things at great length, lots of research and this is what we came up with right now. However, it can be changed in the future, just like any other ordinance it can be changed. Also it is self-rule, it gives our town the ability to take the direction it wants to go in certain matters, what certain standards it wishes to apply to e we revert back to the State standards. By some accounts they are too lenient and by some standards they are too strict. The only place that cares about Fort Fairfield is Fort Fairfield and if we lose that ability to manage our own affairs, set our own direction and have municipal self-rule. We need to pass this ordinance.

Ms Susan LeVasseur The council has five choices to make, should that be made public now. So that they understand Johns statement better. I want everyone to understand what is going on, the council has five chooses and they are:

- a. We can adopt the ordinance as written, a referendum may apply.
- b. Adopt the ordinance as amended by the Council, a referendum may apply.
- c. Reject the ordinance, initiative may apply.
- d. Post pone to the next regular council meeting.
- e. Council takes no action, initiative may apply.

September 16, 2015

Fort Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes

I think this affects the Town of Fort Fairfield, I want to

A 24.25 mil rate and transfer of \$50,000 (G 1-3325-00) to Community Center Reserve for FY 15/16 budget and surplus miscalculation, due date of March 1, 2016 for FY 15/16 personal property taxes.

Motion: Ms. Susan LeVasseur to increase the rate at 24.50 mil rate and transfer of \$50,000 (G 1-3325-00) to Community Center Reserve for FY 15/16 budget and surplus miscalculation, due date of March 1, 2016 for FY 15/16 personal property taxes.

Second: Mr. Robert Kilcollins Vote All affirmative

- B. General Assistance Ordinance The State has issued new maximums for the 2015-2016 General Assistant Ordinance. These are updated annually and are effective beginning October 1st September 30th. Appendices A & C are the only Appendices that have changed and affect Aroostook County this year. The law requires that the municipal officers adopt the ordinance and/or Appendices after notice and hearing. It is recommended that a Councilor need to introduce the attached ordinance during the September 16th Council meeting and direct staff to hold a public hearing on the ordinance.

Motion: Mr. David McCrea introduced the General Assistance Ordinance with the new maximums that the State has issued for the 2015-2016 year and direct staff to hold a public hearing on the ordinance.

- C. Tax Anticipation Note As is customary to aid the Town with cash flow during the 2nd and 3rd quarters of the Fiscal Year, we put out to bid the interest rate on a \$600,000 line of credit. Two invitations were sent out, one to Katahdin Trust Company and the other to Machias Savings Bank. Machias presented an option 1 at 1.15% and option 2 at 1.65%. In order to take advantage of option one we would need to open our primary operating account with them. The Town has had an account with Katahdin for 26 years and their rate was 1.39%. It is recommended that the Council move to approve borrowing \$600,000.

Second: Mr. Robert Kilcollins

Vote All affirmative

D. Ordinance for Lease of Puddledock, 38 Dorsey Road

Bear Day Care, LLC of the Puddledock building located at 38 Dorsey Road terminates on October 31, 2015. They would like to continue leasing the building and premises for use as a licensed Daycare. The proposed lease is for one year with three one year options, for a total period of up to four years. The current monthly rent is \$300.00. An ordinance is required in order to lease any lands of the Town (Town charter, Section C-14, A (5)). It is recommended that a Councilor needs to introduce the attached ordinance during the September 16 Council meeting and direct staff to hold a public hearing on the ordinance.

Motion: Mr. John Herold introduced Ordinance 15-05 to lease 38 Dorsey Road (Puddledock) to Mama Bear Daycare LLC (Heather Beaulieu) and direct staff to hold a public hearing on the ordinance.

E. Maine Municipal Association Annual Business Meeting Voting Delegate Each year the Town Council elects one individual to represent the Town as a voting delegate and

held 1:30 2:30 on Wednesday, October 7th at the Augusta Civic Center. Tony Levesque and James Risner are planning on attending this year. It is recommended that ing delegate and Tony Levesque as the alternate.

Motion: Mr. John Herold moved to approve appointing James Risner as the ing delegate to the MMA annual meeting and Tony Levesque as the alternate.

Second: Ms. Susan LeVasseur

Vote All affirmative

IX. Minutes: Council Meeting August 19, 2015

Motion: Mr. Robert Kilcollins moved to approve Minutes of August 19, 2015 as written.

Second: Ms. Susan LeVasseur

Vote All affirmative

X. Warrants: #4 in the amount of \$129,016.29, #5 for \$166,439.01

Motion: Mr. David McCrea moved to accept warrants #4 and #5 as presented.

Second Mr. John Herold

Vote All affirmative

X. Other None

XI. Executive Session 6:52 PM

Motion: Mr. John Herold moved to go into Executive Session to discuss

- A. MRSA 405 (6)(A) Personnel
- B. MRSA 405 (6)(C) - Disposition of Property

Second: Mr. David McCrea

Vote All affirmative

Came out of executive session at 7:20 PM

Motion: Mr. David McCrea moved to approved paying the water bill in the amount of \$1,481.82 that is due on 19 and 21 Richard Street and execute the necessary paperwork to conditions within one year or the \$1,481.82 will be due back to the Town.

Second: Mr. Robert Kilcollins

Vote All affirmative

XII. Adjournment at 7:25PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca J. Hersey
Council Secretary