



Fort Fairfield Town Council Monthly Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
Wednesday, May 18, 2022
6:00 P.M.

I. Roll Call

Staff: Andrea Powers, Neadra Dubois, D.C. Fenderson, Jennifer Gaenzle, Ella Leighton, Tony Levesque, Chris Gamblin, Darren Hanson, Kevin Senal, Cheryl Boulier, Chief Cummings

Council: All present

Citizens: 9 citizens presents

Budget Advisory Committee: Aaron Brown, Billie Jo Sharpe, Kevin Bouchard

Journalism: Fort Fairfield Journal, Star Herald

Mr. Kilcollins Let the record show that all the Council Members are present. At this time, Tony, do you want to lead us in prayer?

II. Prayer

III. Pledge to the Flag

IV. Public Comment Period

Billie Jo Sharpe Hi, I m Billie Jo Sharpe, of course, you know me. I have some written, written comments here. I hope I can keep them in line. So, I was recently appointed to serve on the newly formed Budget Advisory Committee. We first met on May 12th, and had what seemed like a very productive, well-communicated meeting. There were a few members of the community present, along with a Councilor, and some good discussions came from this meeting, we at least found a starting point. The second meeting was held last night, May 17th, a few more citizens came and still a Councilor as well. It is my experience, as a former Town employee, with knowledge of how meetings are to be held in conduct and such, I was very frustrated after last nights meeting, as the dialogue changed quickly from having a recommendation for Council, it s more of a trying to make demands onto the Council. It was my understanding that we were acting advisory and would only try to come up with ideas to share with the Council. What it quickly became was a Town meeting and what it did was take the focus and attention of the Advisory Committee and shift it to the public in attendance, and it became a back and forth unproductive two-hour meeting. And it s, you know, don t get me wrong, it s nice when a member of the

public can ask a question when they don't understand a term, a statement, or didn't hear something correctly, there's no problem, you're here to understand and learn. What isn't nice, is when the member or members get loud, argumentative and disrespectful to a member of the Committee present, or other Town Officials. There was too much, this is what needs to be done or else don't pass the budget. There was inappropriate discussion started about the contract of the Town Manager and this began a very heated discussion until I had to speak up very forcefully and stop that discussion from happening. It is not appropriate, nor is it legal to have discussions about Town employees in the capacity that this Committee is serving. Now, while I thought after the first meeting that maybe this Committee could be objective and come up with some fair and just ideas because that was discussed opening, but after last night, I feel that the Committee majority has become too involved with a group of citizens that are interjecting a lot of negativity and factless claims onto it, and can't offer objective fair and just recommendations. The bully and bullying mentality on, the bully and bullying on the playground mentality of some of our citizens has got to stop. As a former Town employee, I can attest to this abuse we have withstood for almost a year from certain citizens. Do you all not realize that this is not right, not acceptable, or do you think that it is acceptable? The arguing back and forth and interruptions during these meetings have got to stop. It's time to conduct these meetings properly and keep the control. So, I ask the Town Council tonight to come up with a Code of Conduct for all Town Meetings. We are a Town Council form of government and have a Charter, and we need to follow those rules. I was hoping to be able to have a positive impact with this newly formed Budget Advisory Committee, but last night proved to me that rules and laws were broken and I want people and staff to know that I do not share all the views of this majority of this Committee. And, rather than waste my energy competing with them and the public that attends these meetings, I will resign and focus my attention on the Staff and Departments of this Town that have been beaten down to feel useless and unwanted. I will work to help be their voice. So tonight, I do officially resign from the Budget Advisory Committee. Thank you.

Mr. Kilcollins Thank you, Billie Jo.

Tammy Deschesne I'm Tammy Deschesne. I wasn't gonna speak tonight, but I'm not gonna go into what I wanted to say. All I want to say is, when you're going over the budget realize that the Department Heads in this Town have come in under budget the last few years, which, I say, that speaks a lot for them. So, think of that when you're going over your budget for them. Thanks.

Mr. Kilcollins Thank you, Tammy.

Danny Dufour I don't normally do this. But I have to come here and speak on behalf of Billie Jo. You know, for the last year or so she's been coming home stressed, crying, going on about a lot of things that have been said. Taxes. They took the brunt of it, the Town Office. Taxes going up, she was in the review for slander, many of things untrue. She's one of, I think and I've heard a lot from other Townspeople, that she was one of the best Clerks that we had. She loved her job, loved it. She'd come home ever night pulling her hair out, you know, ever since this tax, new tax they come out where Portland come up and reevaluated. You know, it's been downhill from there. She tried, sh11(er)-5(nQqEMC /P A MCID 5 Bsh11(er)-5(r

it from home, right? She says, you know, you can't go by that, you can't go by this, she knows what she's doing, I don't believe they do. There's, there's a lot of things that, you know, that the Town Manager has to deal with, all the different Departments, keep them under budget, blah blah blah, there's a lot to do, right? One person, two people wanna stand up here and say you're not doing your job right. I'm just wondering if she was a man, it would be different? There's a lot of women in this Town can't take it anymore. They're being overrun. Jim, I hate to pull, pin you out on this, but it started out with that, right? You and your wife going around with your petition, putting Billie Jo in the paper. How do you think that made her feel? You pissed me off, I wanted to make a, I wanted to come up to you and talk to you about it. Good friend of my father, right? You want to cut the EMS out. My father lives across the street over here. He would have been dead if EMS hadn't been over there as soon as they were. He would have been dead. He had no breath left in him. When he called 911 he had to leave the phone down, couldn't talk, his heart was at bare bottom, and nothing left, he'd have been dead, there's no question if EMS hadn't been there in five minutes. They put the air, oxygen to him, revived him. Your best friend. You want to count on all these programs. You got all the answers, right? You slandered Billie Jo in the paper. You got all the answers. You took names that were on that petition and you put them on a different date, because what you were doing before, it even happened before they approved it, the Council, you had already gone around and put a bunch of names on this petition you had, and then you found out, you, you can't do it until after. You just copied and pasted or whatever you did to another petition and then you blamed her. She went to school, she took all the courses that she had to, to do her job and do it 100%. But you come in and corrupt the whole thing. She was only telling you how to do your job, how you should do it, but, instead, what you do? You slander her in the paper. What do you think that did to her? I heard it every night. It's not right. You people, you don't do it the way the law is. You want it and you use your, your manhood or whatever it is, right, to get, get your point across, instead of using any of the laws that are there? That's what they do, that's what Andrea does. She hasn't done one thing in this Town that these people haven't approved, whoever's on the Council. She suggests. She brings it forward, right, you guys vote on it. Does she vote on it? Who's getting all the slander? Her, Billie Jo, name any woman in this Town, I'm sure they got a heap of it. If she was a guy, I'm certain they're not going to stand up to him. I'm certain of it.

Mr. Kilcollins Thank you.

[Applause and thank you's]

Mr. Kilcollins Anybody else? We'll move on to Correspondence and Reports.

V. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses/Permits Ms. Dubois

As of May 13, 2022, the Town has received one off premises Catering Permit Application from Northern Maine Brewing Company. Recommendation is that Council allows the Town Manager to sign the Permit for Northern Maine Brewing Company.

Motion: Mr. Butler makes the motion.

Second: Mr. Ouellette seconded.

Discussion: None.

Checking account balance as of 4/30/2022 was \$171,629.67 and Machias Savings is \$5,000. Excise collected in February was \$55,212.39 compared to \$62,664.53 last year. As of 04/30/2022, uncollected Real Estate taxes for 2021 were \$448,816.67 compared to last year \$478,149.64. As of April 30, 2022, the Town's revenue was up 2.15% which equals the Town's expenses that were up 3.26%. The Town received April Revenue Sharing in the amount of \$44,536.69 on 04/20/2022. Total revenue sharing received to date is \$647,809.36. The Town is at 75.03% vs the budgeted of 83.33% that is down 8.3% from the State equaling \$71,359.81.

C. AWS Mr. Rogeski

Mr. Rogeski gives his report on the last AWS meeting, which was April 29th, and discusses a fire that happened at the Landfill. Mr. Rogeski also reports on the finances, which are ahead of schedule by five percent, as of the end of March.

D. Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget Public Hearings Update

Ms. Powers The first order will be the Minutes from the first meeting of April 28, 2022. If Council wanted to vote on those minutes.

Motion: Mrs. Libby makes the motion to approve the Minutes.

Second: Mr. Butler seconded.

Discussion:

Mr. Kilcollins I would like to take a minute to just let the Committee know, I know there's going to be some learning curves, that I do know. I've been serving on a Council in our Municipality, off and on for many years, and I'm still learning, and I don't expect everybody that is on the Committee is gonna pick up and run with this, and there's a lot of tension, not just in our community, in every community right now, with all the budgets that all the other communities are working with. I can say, I did take time and review the meeting online, and, I, I would like to hope to think that everybody can get the kinks out of what we're doing. Like, I say, I know, I know this isn't gonna take off running like a well-oiled machine. Everybody's got ideas, and I think there's, there's gonna be some mistakes made. Along with making mistakes, if we realize that, and we can, we can admit it, learn from it, and move forward, that was the whole idea behind this Committee. I, I do want everybody to know that after listening to the meeting, I realized there were some hiccups, and I just hope that working forward we can, we can get through them, and gain ground with it. I think there is some opportunities in it, I, I do. I think that used for the right reasons, we can gain some good information from the Committee to us. But, we're all on the same team here, and we got to work together. And, like I said, I know there's gonna be some, there's, there's gonna be some mistakes made. That's just, that's, makes us human and we'll get through them. But, we got to focus on the reasons that we're there, and I would like to see, you know, the up and coming meetings, that we can gain some valuable opportunities to gain some information. And I, at this point, feel really bad that Billie Jo is at this point, stepping down. If there's a reconsideration, I, I would be open for it. I, like I, like I said, I can't emphasize enough, I know going into this, there was going to be some bumps, hopefully no bruises, that's for sure, but I, I just, I apologize greatly to you and anybody else that might have been affected by some things that might have, might have got off track, but hopefully we can learn from them and move forward. And, so, that's where I'm at with it. So, I just want to say, I apologize sincerely.

Mr. Butler Mr. Chair, I would just like to question, obviously there was one Councilor at the meeting. I didn't even know there was a meeting going on. So, I don't know how the public or somebody would know there's a meeting going on,

any questions on anything that's in there, I'd be more than happy to try and answer them for you. And, like I say, if Council has something more specific like, we'd like you to address ABC, we'll gladly do that.

Mr. Kilcollins Well, I think it's a learning curve.

Mr. Bouchard Yeah, unless you want us to do 120 hours worth of work in 2. To the question of meetings, our perception is there's a lot to do between now and your next meeting. We've scheduled ourselves every Tuesday at six o'clock for meetings. I'm not sure about how the initial meeting was publicized, but at our first meeting, like all your Council Meetings, are posted, I think two or three places in Town, something like that.

Ms. Powers Three places.

Mr. Bouchard Okay, we tried to, to follow that, that same methodology. One of the things I'm going to ask Tuesday night, is if we put a posting, one posting, for every meeting we're going to have until your vote, so that people know it, and then, we did not discuss that amongst the Committee, this is Kevin asking you, is there a spot that can be generated on the Town's website?

Ms. Powers You would just ask permission from the Town Manager's office to post to the website and to Social Media and we can certainly do that for you, and because by State Statute, you are considered a Municipal Official now, you need to post your meeting minimum of three days in advance of your meetings. So, before every meeting for every Tuesday meeting, you would need to post in those three spots.

Mr. Bouchard Can we post one notice that has four meetings on it?

Ms. Powers I can verify that for you, Sir, and let you know tomorrow.

Mr. Bouchard Again, I don't know the specifics of what [inaudible]. My perception as far as notice is concerned is usually it's a minimum requirement.

Ms. Powers For us, we have to post every meeting. There is no, we can't just post for the year and it say every third Wednesday. But I can find out as the Budget Advisory Committee if that is allowable.

Mr. Bouchard We will do whatever the rules say we're supposed to. I, I'd rather err on the side of putting more information, again, this is Kevin, I'd rather err on the side of putting more information out than less, if I possibly can. I want to thank Ms. Powers, also. I didn't think that our packets would manage to make it here tonight. Well, you need to know, I appreciate your help, okay. We're looking at this crazy, short window that we're trying to get stuff done.

Ms. Powers Before we move on, in the face of the information that was given and moving forward, as you had said, you want correct information, the Fort Fairfield Mil, and it's M-I-L, it's not M-I-L-L.

Mr. Bouchard You can point your finger here on that one.

Ms. Powers Because, your calculation is incorrect. Your information is incorrect. So, if you would like cor

[Applause]

VI. Old Business

A. Update on Tax Acquired Properties

The following property was put out for bid with a minimum bid of \$1500. Bid closing was March 30, 2022 at 12:00 noon. Bids were opened March 30, 2022 at 12:05pm.

Heirs of Rodney P Turcotte. 357 Dorsey Road Total Taxes Due \$1,213.19. Assessed Value is \$12,500. Minimum Bid Recommendation is \$1,500. SOLD to Joseph & KatieAnn Yoder for \$8,250.00. The Quit Claim Deed was prepared.

The following property was put out for bid with a minimum bid of \$9,500. Bid closing was March 30, 2022 at 12:00 noon.

Heirs of Rodney P. Turcotte 125 Fort Hill - Total Taxes Due \$9,404.12. (Includes \$7,175 Clean-up) Assessed Value is \$9,320. Minimum Bid \$9,500. SOLD to Timothy & Susan Everett, abutting owners, for \$9,500.00. Quit Claim Deed prepar

B. Proclamation 53rd Anniversary of Municipal Clerks Week

Background: The International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) initiated the Municipal Clerks Week back in 1969 to celebrate the contributions of municipal Clerks in local government. Our profession is one of the oldest documented roles in government.

The proclamation proclaims the week of May 2, 2022 through May 6, 2022 as Municipal Clerks Week throughout the Town of Fort Fairfield and gives special thanks and recognition to the contributions of the Municipal Clerk in local government

Recommendation is that Town Council sign Proclamation 22-05, Municipal Clerks Week.

Motion: Mrs. Libby makes the motion for Council to sign Proclamation 22-05.

Second: Mr. Butler seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative

C. NMDC Membership Board Appointments

NMDC will be holding their annual election meeting in June, 2022 for the election of Executive Board Members whose terms are expiring in 2024. The Executive Board is elected from the NMDC Membership.

The appointments last year were Mitch Butler, Councilor; Andrea Powers, Town Manager.

Recommendation is that Council votes to approve the above-mentioned names for the NMDC Membership Board Appointments.

Motion: Mrs. Libby makes the motion.

Second: Mr. Pelletier seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

D. TAN Katahdin Trust Company

Background: As is customary in the past to aid the Town with cash flow in anticipation of tax revenue for the Fiscal Year (FY), a TAN has been voted on and approved by Council at Council Meetings. The request for next year's TAN (\$1,000,000.00) is prior to our Tax Commitment for better cash flow until tax payments begin.

A TAN is short-term obligation of a municipal government to finance current expenditures pending receipt of expected tax payments. TAN debt evens out the cash flow and is repaid at the end of the Fiscal Year once tax revenues are received.

Recommendation is that the Town Council authorize the Council Chair and the Town Manager to sign for the FY 2022/2023 TAN with Katahdin Trust Company at 3.12%, at \$1,000,000.00.

Mr. Pelletier

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

Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity established in Augusta, ME in 1990 to honor volunteerism.

The Fort Fairfield Middle High School JMG program has been exemplary in their community building efforts for over a decade.

The recommendation is that Council votes to approve the Spirit of America Award Nomination to the Fort Fairfield Middle High School JMG program.

Motion: Mr. Butler makes the motion.

Second: Mr. Pelletier seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmed.

G. Allen s Environmental USACE Inspection

The Fort Fairfield Dike is under the Levee Safety Program with USACE (United States Army Corps of Engineers). In order to stay in the program, we must meet certain inspection requirements at the one (1), five (5) and ten (10) year inspections.

This year is an extensive inspection that must be conducted in order to remain in the program. The closest company that can provide the inspection and the certification is Allen s Environmental. The next closest company is in Lisbon Falls, then New York State.

Allen s Environmental will be able to perform the inspection before USACE s arrival this year. Attached to this MEMO is the quote from Allen s Environmental for \$26,300.00.

The recommendation is that Council votes to allow the Town Manager to use G1-3010-00 Admin Reserves to pay \$26,300.00 to Allen s Environmental for the inspection of the Fort Fairfield Dike.

Mr. Pelletier But, what s that involve?

Ms. Powers We have to make a, we can t have a discussion until after.

Mr. Pelletier I understand, I understand that, but maybe, maybe Darren can answer this question. Is that, is that?

Ms. Powers Hanson?

Mr. Pelletier Whoa, that

Mr. Kilcollins an explain the procedures we have to, Darren can answer this.

Director Hanson video inspection of, of basically around 3,000 feet of underground pipe. Close to 500 feet of it will be done by a submarine with sonar. It called a pressure conduit, it ter all the time, you can Environmentalists had to buy specialized equipment for this.

Mr. Pelletier o those are the lines from the river into the gate, into the gate and then from the pump and be in that area?

Director Hanson are four lines that go from the river into the landside and then, there are, there are lines that run the length of the Dike at their toe drains.

Mr. Pelletier , how long is gonna be good for?

Director Hanson o, one thing that we looked into Councilors, is that if we can get this certain certification, this will be good for, for ten years. So, if you think about it that way, it to provide us insurance from the Army Corps of Engineers. If something happens to our Dike and it fails, without this, we

Ms. Powers

Mr. Pelletier tcha. Okay.

Director Hanson , I believe with this, after \$10,000.

Mr. Pelletier orry, I just didn , so I just wanted clarification is all.

Ms. Powers is the time to ask.

Director Hanson

Ms. Powers spection with them also, but this is, we have to do this very extensive inspection and we thought we had it last year, and then their engineers have informed us this winter that it ve to have more extensive inspection.

Director Hanson Not everything was completed.

Mr. Butler the setup now that we ll be all done the right way this time?

Ms. Powers
by them.

cations from them and signed off

Director Hanson lved with this for seven years and we
goal that if you vote yes tonight, we will have achieved that goal. We won
the videoing is done. They will put us in a program and we will be good.

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Ms. Powers

Director Hanson ? Thank you.

Mr. Kilcollins & Mr. Pelletier you, Darren.

Mr. Kilcollins e had a motion and a second and discussion. We ote.

Vote: All Affirmative.

VIII. Minutes of the April 13, 2022 Regular Council Meeting

Motion: Mr. Butler makes the Motion.

Second: Mrs. Libby seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

IX.

A. DPI / K-Pel

Ms. Powers , quite a few things listed under other, and I see that Mr. Colton is here also, so I was just going to brief you on, but I don't know as well. I noticed you had your maps out earlier, so I didn't know if there was more that you wanted to do than what I was going to share with them, but.

Mr. Colton I don't know if they can share with them, so.

Ms. Powers Okay, so, Maine International Trade Center has grants available to businesses who work in international trade, which K-Pel does. They, they deal with other countries, and because of that, they can apply for specific grants. And so, I was going to ask Council to work with them, and K-Pel to try to get the grant money to purchase the land at Cheney Grove. Because you had made the designation last year, that you would like each acre at 18.5, so if we can work with them to get them what they need, I think that would be very beneficial to the construction part of their manufacturing. The Governor also is very interested in businesses that are doing manufacturing as well, so there are other projects and programs that I think would be helpful to what they need.

Mr. Kilcollins I think the wheel turns.

Ms. Powers So, I move at the speed of Municipal Government. So, I can only do what, as far as answers that I receive back. Do you have a timetable, Sir? Yesterday?

Mr. Colton Yes, yet. There are some things in the works at the moment, that it is.

Ms. Powers Yes, I think so.

Mr. Kilcollins I think it, like, immediate?

Mr. Colton I would. Without opening up that, without me having that discussion with the owner, I know he has the ability of needing to do something as soon as this summer. But, you know, everything has moving pieces.

Ms. Powers That is impossible.

Mr. Pelletier If I can speak. In the past, when I was on the Town, and I know others have dealt with other Towns, but when Towns had property, this Town offered me a deal. I'm no longer involved with them at all. I mean, they have the name, but that's not what I'm no longer involved, so the Town offered me a 26 acres across my shop, 12, 14 years ago to develop to build a development out there. I got involved in some other stuff, so it didn't seem like a good deed that property to me and I had three years to develop it. Three years to develop it, if I didn't develop in three years, the Town got it back. Simple. But, it didn't seem like a good deal. But, I know they do that in the past to others, and these guys want to build, they want to put people to work. If they end up with this property, it becomes taxable property, and they build on it, and just, it's around. I, I for one, as a Councilman, don't want to interfere with these guys in any way at all.

Ms. Powers about I put a packet together of a proposal of what would be beneficial for the business as well as the community and have Council take a look at that, and then forward that onto the Maine International Trade Center and see what they can do to help us?

Mrs. Libby I just want to make sure that they aware that we make it possible for you guys.

Mr. Colton , we , as far as. As far as, as far as we are concerned, I mean, I don't create the wrong impression, but with everything we to put time and resources towards, you know, developing grant, you know, in writing them number one, I never written one before, do have a clue, so I don't hat consumption that is has, but I can tell you I don't me to write a grant. We , is moving pretty fast.

Mr. Pelletier

Mr. Colton We t the moment, as well, so.

Mr. Kilcollins so, any, any obstructions in your way, other than this, would stop you to start breaking ground, if you could, say in the next two weeks? Is it, is it that quick that you guys are?

Mr. Colton , I don't foresee us breaking ground within two weeks, if that asking.

Mr. Kilcollins what I don't . If, if you guys have a idea of an offer or what you need to move forward, that , that I, I, I know there probably looking at one of the best persons to help you on a grant than the Town Manager is. And, she nd.

Mr. Colton I looked in, you know, I talked with the folks over at NMDC a while back, you know, about the possibility of grant money as far as either purchasing land and buying equipment, because the amount of equipment that we , it , you know, it upwards of a billion dollars, so, you know, it , money's hard for everybody these days so. But, when I talked with NMDC, they just said this, as far as they were concerned, there I kind of gave up on that whole idea.

Ms. Powers is tied up [inaudible], so they wouldn't ve access to the International Trade Service.

Mrs. Libby type of an offer at this point on the land, still in discussion, or?

Mr. Colton not made any offers because the question, we actually, if you remember, posed the question with them, what can you offer, what can you do to help us, understanding that money and we to do what we want to do, and if we put up another building that n extreme cost, so we would be totally appreciative of anything that the Town could do to help us out towards expansion, towards putting people to work, towards

creating more tax infrastructure for you folks. I mean, it a win-win for everybody as far as that goes.

Mr. Kilcollins, that .

Mr. Colton ow what was available or what you could do. Don ow how hard your hands are tied, or like, or, you know, what you .

Mr. Ouellette that stops us from Motioning what Kevin just mentioned, offering PDI that piece of property for a dollar for three years, with the understanding that you build on it within the next three years, and if you don

Ms. Powers And, certainly, Council could schedule a Special Council Meeting to vote on that.

Mr. Kilcollins ht.

Mrs. Libby , I recommend that we have this together within the next two weeks. Is that a reasonable time frame?

Ms. Powers

Mrs. Libby Would that be reasonable for you guys, within two week time period?

Mr. Colton Are you folks getting together again in two weeks?

Mrs. Libby

Mr. Kilcollins a Special Council Meeting together, yep.

Vote for Special Council Meeting in two weeks: All Affirmative.

B. Fort Fairfield LOI Yes Letter

Ms. Powers reads a portion of the letter:

The Office of Community Development (OCD) has reviewed the submitted Letter of Intent to apply for the 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Economic Development Program (EDP). Our review showed that the Town of Fort Fairfield, on behalf of Thibeau Farms, LLC, has met the requirements established by Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1973, as amended and the State of Maine CDBG program.

Ms. Powers

Mr. Kilcollins n Other?

Ms. Powers .

C. Versant Easements for Fort Fairfield Solar LLC

Versant Power has a request to provide service to the new Solar Farm (Fort Fairfield Solar, LLC) that will be at the old ReEnergy plant location at Cheney Grove. In order to serve them with the voltage needed Versant Power needs to upgrade the facilities to accommodate. In order to complete the rebuild, Versant Power will have company owned facilities upon Town properties. The company acquires the right to enter, set and maintain the facilities with an easement. The attached easements are needed to complete this project.

Also attached, is the layout of the work to be completed to assist with the easements. The easements relate to WP1, WP2, WP3, WP4, WP5, WP7 & WP9.

accident and they did not get it repaired properly, leading to engine failure. They are replacing the ambulance with a new ambulance and are no longer using this vehicle. I have worked with Director Hanson, as well as Whited Ford to get cost estimates to remove the blown engine, install a new engine, and repair all body work that needs to complete on the vehicle. The total estimated cost is \$19,000.00. We are requesting that you allow us to make an offer of \$800.00 for the unit. This would come from our current working budget.

For an all-in total of \$19,800.00, we would have a fully functional ambulance with a new engine. To purchase this same unit, with a functioning, original engine, would be between \$30,000 and \$40,000. This would provide us with a third ambulance that would have a significant useful life.

Having a third ambulance would allow Fire Rescue to work on increasing revenue as we would have the ability to provide long distance transfers when staff are available. Currently, we are usually unable to send long distance transfers as it would reduce our ability to cover the emergency calls in our town. This used ambulance would be used as a second out ambulance if we were to send another unit on a transfer. There is a large demand for long distance transfers and this is the only way for the department to increase revenue without expanding to cover additional Towns.

We recommend the council allows Deputy Chief Fenderson to offer the City of Presque Isle \$800.00 for their 2010 Ford E-450 ambulance with the funds to be taken from the Fire Departments current budget.

Thank you,

D.C. Fenderson

Ms. Powers So, this is a bid, by the way, but we need the permission to make a bid on it.

Mr. Pelletier So, this money will be coming out of the 21/22 budget, not the

Ms. Powers Not 22/23. And this is the opportunity, Council did direct Fort Fairfield Fire/Rescue to find other ways to bring in their more revenue, and this is quite honestly, as DC stated many times, transfers are the largest amount of revenue without having to purchase a brand-new ambulance to do that,

a very low estimate, is about a thousand dollars per transfer and we've turned down 72 of them. Those are just the ones that we've been by the phone to be able to write down the information on the transfer. There's been many that have come in at 2 AM or while we're at a fire scene, we've turned down more than that, that's what I can tell you for sure.

Mr. Pelletier Are those local transfers?

D.C. Fenderson So, I know Council originally said we didn't want to do any transfers, I have snuck some local transfers in, but I'm sure that we can still cover our emergency calls. So, the third ambulance would be for long distance transfers and generally EMS terms, long-distance transfers is anything out of Aroostook County. So, if I have crew and staffing available, I'll send a crew to do a TAMC to Houlton or a Houlton to Fort Kent. As long as I know they're here and I'm available or another staff member is available to first respond in our first ambulance is out. Our big problem is, I'm sure you've all seen it, as soon as one ambulance goes somewhere in Town, the second ambulance is right behind it. We could go a day with no call, the next day we'll have six calls within an hour. So, by sending somebody on a long-distance transfer that takes one of our ambulances out for 12 hours and that's what. My understanding intended and Council's initial intent was to make sure we had 911 coverage for our citizens. So getting the third ambulance will ensure that you do both 911 but also try to get some more money. Again, it's a hot topic. I can't make any money any other way than transfers for the Department, and you can't really do transfers without risking 911 coverage without another ambulance. So, this is the best option I've been able to find, but like I said in the Memo, if that ambulance didn't have a blown engine, and it's got 147,000 miles, it would probably be closer to 40,000 [inaudible].

Mr. Butler And this is one of the main reasons why we lost our ambulance service, because they want to switch over to just transfer because that's where the money is, and this is why we're in the boat we're in today.

D.C. Fenderson So the big difference we talked about medical insurance and paying. Emergency calls are always highly contested by medical insurance companies. They don't want to pay, they want to argue about what care you provided and was it really necessary. With transfers, most of the transfers are pre-approved by the insurance company and they're required, every transfer is required to have a medical necessity sheet signed by a doctor saying it's medically necessary, so we don't argue about the payment from the insurance company as much as we do [inaudible].

Mrs. Libby And do we have enough staff to do the transfers?

D.C. Fenderson I do. The majority of the 70 some transfers we turned down had been because we couldn't safely cover the 911 calls if the transfer was gone because it's so far. I, again, I don't want you to think that I

agree to work with us. So, if you work on that, that is the only way that you can positively increase that. And, I have all the large, you guys, through ARPA, have approved all of the large ticket items that would go in the ambulance, so we could still have them for training as our initial purpose, but we'd also be able to staff and stock that ambulance. The big cost that was left was just the purchase of the ambulance [inaudible].

Mr. Pelletier So, have you looked that unit over, inside and out, and it's got everything that needs to be in it?

D.C. Fenderson I'm very intimate with the unit because it was my ambulance when I was at Presque Isle Fire. It's the best ambulance they have, even though it has a blown engine. I have spoken with Deputy Chief Allen, the stretcher mount, they're leaving it in it, we're getting it, so it's, it's really the problem is, is the engine and there's some minor body work that Director Hanson and I and Chaz can look at and it's, it's still in very decent and still my favorite ambulance, even with a blown engine.

Mr. Kilcollins So did we get a Motion?

Motion: Mr. Ouellette makes the Motion.

Second: Mr. Pelletier seconded.

Discussion: Above.

Vote: All Affirmative.

F. Budget Advisory Committee

Mr. Bouchard I don't know if this is appropriate. I'd like to go back to what I had before. I don't officially speak for the entire Budget Advisory Committee, but I'm pretty sure the Committee was welcome to any Councilor's presence at our meetings. To be honest with you, at the first meeting, we were wondering why you weren't all there. We didn't listen, we didn't know all the particulars, we were just walking into the dark, we had a date and a place.

Mr. Kilcollins I don't know, but legally, the way the government established the

Ms. Powers In the Ordinance, it doesn't call for Council. Council should not be there. It doesn't call for Council to be there.

Mrs. Libby I'm just throwing it out there, if there is a Councilor there, that I would like to be there as well, that if one can go, it should be.

Mr. Bouchard If there's an issue about capacity, can you not attend as a private citizen?

Ms. Powers As a Municipal Official, they cannot attend as a private citizen. They are beholden to the position that they hold.

Mr. Bouchard Interesting.

Unkown Citizen Isn't, so many Councilors, you'd have to call a meeting, correct?

Ms. Powers They'd have to post that they were in attendance.

Mr. Kilcollins Okay, if that's all in Other

Mr. Ouellette We really didn't discuss what the Budget Advisory Committee report was sent to us and we were asked to [inaudible]. I move, based on the recommendation of the Budget Advisory Committee, that the Council

Mrs. Libby And that will be our final meeting before we vote?

Ms. Powers Before you vote on June 15th.

Mr. Kilcollins Then we'll have that more accurate information.

Ms. Powers And, but again, between June and October those numbers can change again.

Mr. Kilcollins Then, we'll know what we're gonna have for the final number and we can decide if we want to go with this, or this, or what direction that we feel.

Ms. Powers And again, I would also like to, since we're on this topic of discussion and discussion has been open to me as well, I would just like to remind Council and the Budget Advisory Committee that the Municipal expenses for this year are more than covered by the Municipal income that comes in by \$392,098. The excess that you are seeing, the \$2,088,543 comes from MSAD 20 and Aroostook County Tax. That's important to remember when you come and ask me to lower everything to a minimum 22 Mil Rate.

Mrs. Libby So, in our discussion, I would just like to say that I think it would be more beneficial if we were to have another working meeting with the Department Heads instead of force them to try and make numbers match a specific Mil Rate. I think that maybe we could have another working meeting where they come, we have additional questions, we look a little bit deeper into things, instead of doing, telling them here's what you're gonna do and, and we work with them instead of tell them what we want and demand something. I mean, obviously we want to have a good budget that benefits our citizens, that benefits our Departments, but I don't think we want to tell them what to do, we want to work with them in order to, to find, you know, a common ground. At least, everybody's probably going to have to give and nobody's probably gonna like it on either end unfortunately, like, they're gonna have to give a little, the taxpayer

Mr. Kilcollins I, I would like to see this as much as anybody, because I, I know what my taxes cost me per year, but with the information that we get from the Budget Committee that they re going to identify some corrections and where we stand from here, I, I would, I would like to let this stay open until we meet at least one more time.

Mrs. Libby I think we have to vote on the Motion though.

Mr. Kilcollins Right. So, at this time

Mr. Pelletier Could we table it?

Mr. Kilcollins We could, yes. I, I, the Motion that he presented, we have to deal with that Motion. We can t table it unless that was the Motion to do. At his Motion, so at this point we ll go for vote on the subject of 22 Mils.

Motion: Mr. Ouellette

Second: Mr. Pelletier

Discussion: Above

Vote: Motion did not pass

3 Nays, 2 Ayes

Mrs. Libby, Mr. Butler, Mr. Kilcollins Nay

Mr. Ouellette, Mr. Pelletier Aye

Mrs. Libby I d like to make a Motion that we meet with the Department Heads in a working meeting, and if the Budget Committee can be involved, I think that would be even better.

Ms. Powers The Budget Advisory Committee?

Mrs. Libby Yes.

Ms. Powers You would like an invitation sent to them as well?

Mrs. Libby Yes, please.

Ms. Powers We will send you the email with the date.

Mr. Kilcollins Now, will that have to be a scheduled?

Ms. Powers Yes, Sir.

Mr. Kilcollins Right, okay. I was just jumping, I didn t want to jump in the fire.

Mrs. Libby Do we have to vote on that?

Ms. Powers Yes, in order to direct me to act, to get my Staff to do this, yes. So, I can find a date that works for Council as well as Department Heads.

Mr. Kilcollins Do we need a Motion for that?

Mrs. Libby I made a Motion.

Motion: Mrs. Libby made the Motion.

Second: Mr. Butler seconded.

Discussion: Above.

Vote: All Affirmative.

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

Motion

XIII. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Butler made the Motion to Adjourn.

Second: Mrs. Libby seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Town Council Meeting Adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Neadra E. Dubois,
Council Secretary