

Fort Fairfield Town Council Special Meeting Minutes  
Council Chambers  
Tuesday, June 28, 2022  
6:00 P.M.

I. Roll Call

Council: All present

Staff: Andrea Powers, Neadra Dubois, D.C. Fenderson, Tony Levesque, Kevin Senal, Darren Hanson, Ella Leighton, Jennifer Gaenzle, Chief Cummings, Steve Turner

Budget Advisory Committee: Kevin Bouchard, Janet McGillan, Pat Canavan

Legal: Richard Flewelling (MMA Legal)

Citizens: 9 present

II. Prayer

III. Pledge to the Flag

IV. Public Comment

**Kevin Bouchard** – “You don’t think I’m gonna keep my mouth shut, do you?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “I was waiting.”

**Kevin Bouchard** – “You’ve known me for a while. I got two things I would like to address with you tonight. One has to do with how you conduct yourselves and your meetings. The other has to do with the Ordinance that allegedly appears to be the subject of this Special Meeting. Looking at what was made available to us, as the Agenda for tonight’s meeting, it would appear that this Special Meeting has been called for the purpose of having a Public Hearing on the Ordinance 22-05. That doesn’t make any sense, because that was already held. So you gotta wonder if the Meeting wasn’t called for the Council to act on this ill conceived Ordinance. Well, that Ordinance is not an emergency by any stretch of the imagination. It does not rise to the level to call a Special Council Meeting. So, why are we really here? It appears to me that the Fort Fairfield Town Council and Town Manager are conducting the business of this Town in a manner that’s deliberately organized to stifle input from taxpayers and citizens of the community. Your Agendas do a piss-poor job of detailing what’s to be considered at your Meetings, you make Public Comment available only at the very beginning of the meeting, and if the Public does not really know what will be discussed at the meeting, it’s extremely difficult for them to offer pertinent comments. One has to wonder how your behavior stacks up against the Freedom of Access Act. I, for one, would like to see the Council to become more upfront and more transparent as to matters that come before you at the meetings. This could be as simple as

requiring that any item that will come before you for a formal vote be properly identified on your Agendas. If someone, like the Town Manager, wants to spring something on you at the last

done after the fact. So if there's any change, it can be done. It'd be, I think, beneficial for citizens in Town to know that. The other item I have is, I have the Agenda for tonight's Meeting here, that's provided here. I went down to the bank and looked at the one at the bank and they're a little bit different. On Old Business, the one at the bank, Katahdin Trust, there's only one item under Old Business, and it's what's posted here. But under Other, there's nothing. So, I kinda feel that they should kinda be the same as they go out to the public, unless there's a reason for change. I know it says on it this was edited because there was a Council conflict, someone couldn't be here or whatever, it should say the same thing before you guys go into a meeting, cause this one has five bullets under Other and the one at the Town and Katahdin Trust doesn't have any. And, I have a picture of it if you want to see it. That's all I have. Thank you."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "Thank you, Shane. Anybody else? If not, we'll mo

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Well, there’s a lot to it. Like, Mr. Bouchard illuded to. Knowing what it will do, ISO Rating is very important, and that’s what each Fire Department is rated on and that’s what your Fire Insurance is rated on, so it is important to get it right.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Right. I’m just not sure how it’ll affect our ISO Rating when it’s geared towards billing. That’s what my question is on that, cause, in my almost 10 years in insurance, I don’t know how Fire Department billing affects. It’s your distance from the Fire Department that affects your insurance rating, not necessarily how the Fire Department does the billing. So that’s why I’m just asking. I want to make sure that I’m understanding where the”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Every ambulance service or Fire service that I contacted was different, how they billed.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “They are. Yup.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Some only have Fire, not Fire and Ambulance. I think it’s an important thing to have, but I think it needs to be researched a lot more than just this. I performance needs to be made for us to have any idear on how much this is gonna cost us. Or, how much did you bring in for income?”

**Ms. Powers** – “D.C. is here and he actually spoke to that, when it was presented.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Absolutely.”

**D.C. Fenderson** – “Good evening. This ordinance would have zero affect on ISO. I actually just spoke to ISO earlier in the week, today, to do our update for our ISO rating that we should hopefully have soon and hopefully it will improve. This also will cost the Town and taxpayers nothing, because it is designed to bill those that have insurance. To be fair and equal, everyone who has a structure fire will receive a bill, but as you can see in the Ordinance, it is up to you all to decide, if you choose, to bill citizens or not. If you specifically write you will only bill insurance companies, no insurance company will pay it. I know this because I have researched the over 250 communities that do this billing through Central Maine Cost Recovery, which is the largest fire billing agency in New England. This Ordinance is based on those 250 City Ordinances, Town Ordinances put together. The one that works the best to get the most back from insurance companies, that wording that works best. So, yes, they’re, every Town has different wording in their Ordinance. Some are very short, some are longer. This Ordinance is compiled to fit our Town and to make sure that we’re able to recover the most from insurance companies. Currently, we recover zero from fire calls. Zero. So, any amount of money we able to recover would be money that we don’t currently recover. So, again, to clarify, this would cost the taxpayers zero, this would have no effect, positive or negatively on the ISO Rating, and this has been thoroughly researched by the leading company that does Fire Department cost recovery in New England, not just Maine, but all of New England. And, this is an Ordinance that I worked on with them, using the templates from those other Towns, so it has been thoroughly researched. If there’s any other questions.”

**Ms. Powers** – “To clarify, this is for Fire, this is not EMS?”

D.C. Fenderson– “This has nothing to do with EMS billing. This is solely for a Fire Department response, not to do with an ambulance, or if you, if an ambulance comes and transports somebody, this is just the Fire related expenses. When I say Fire related, so this could be a hazmat spill where there’s no fire but we respond and do clean up, or anytime the Fire Department goes and somebody is not transported by an ambulance.”

Mr . Ouellette– “So did you do a performer on this?”

D.C. Fenderson– “No, this is, this is an area, again, any amount of money that we were able to recuperate from insurance companies is if we’re able to recuperate one dollar, that’s one dollar we did not have.”

Mr. Ouellette – “Where will the dollar go?”

D.C. Fenderson– “To our equipment, our vehicle replacement. Which hasn’t been funded in the last two years.”

Mr. Butler – “Does Presque Isle and Caribou do this?”

D.C. Fenderson– “Caribou does and Presque Isle, I’m not sure if they’ve officially done it, but it is something that is in the works for them as well.”

Mr. Butler – “I see. Okay.”

Ms. Powers– “And, if I remember correctly from the last time you presented this, without this Ordinance we cannot”

D.C. Fenderson– “Correct. Without an Ordinance, you cannot bill for Fire Cost Recovery because there’s nothing in statute that says you can bill. The only way you can bill, is by creating a Town Ordinance. That’s why every Town has to adopt an Ordinance if they want to bill for Fire Department Cost Recovery. So, and it also would apply to, like car crashes. We can bill the auto insurance for the clean up and the response. It also allows the Council to revisit the pricing and, and this price scale incase prices should go up or down, it allows for that as well. So, it’s, the reason this Ordinance is so long is because it has, there’s been so much research and effort put into it to make sure A, it’s effective at getting insurance companies to pay because that’s, that’s the target audience is the insurance company, it’s not the person that just lost their house. But to be fair just like with medical billing, everyone has to get a bill and the bill has to be based on the same set standard pricing. So, it will come to you guys if the person doesn’t have insurance and you, or whoever is in you spot, will make a determination on whether anyone has to pay.”

Mr. Pelletier – “Okay, so, so, on the Memorandum, Section 1. Cost Recovery Billing Authorized, this is any person in or business who shall receive emergency medical or Fire Department services requested by any such person or on behalf of such person by any other person acting in good faith and in the interest of health or safety of such services, recipients shall pay for the Town of Fort Fairfield a fee for services provided. Then, Section 2. Definition of Services, you’ve got billable costs associated to personnel and apparatus, response to fire permit violations, response to a hazardous material incident, response to a vehicle crash or vehicle fires, response to an aircraft crash, response to fault fire or sprinkler

alarms, response to water related emergencies, stand standby for utility lines in the roadway, scene and safety control at traffic accidents, any, any other incident as determined by the Fire Chief, so these are all, these are all things that you can bill for?"

**D.C. Fenderson** – "Yes. It basically, anytime the Fire Department goes to a call that isn't an ambulance call."

**Mr. Pelletier** – "So, either the insurance company is gonna to be paying or the individual's gonna be paying."

**D.C. Fenderson** – "Correct."

**Mr. Pelletier** – "That's the way I'm understanding it, is that right?"

**D.C. Fenderson** – "Or you are, you as the Council, are able to waive the fee. But, yes, the intent, and how ever community that has accepted this Ordinance, is the intent is to collect from the insurance company. Many insurance companies have it built into a plan that if they receive a bill, they pay a certain fraction. 75 dollars, a hundred dollars, whatever it may be. We can't ever seek that unless you have an Ordinance that allows you to bill."

**Mr. Pelletier** – "Thank you."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "Anyone else?"

**Mrs. Libby** – “So, as far as concerning insurance, the concern that was brought up, I can tell you that this billing does not affect the ISO Rating, as far as insurance is concerned. So, if that’s the concern then that’s my comfort level on it. So, are there other concerns? Because I don’t have any with it, I just want to know if there’s other”

**Mr. Butler** – “My only, it’s not a concern, we were talking budgets and stuff like that, and, and revenues and other Towns are going, thank you, but they’re, you know, when you respond some of these fire for that Kevin has so welcoming read, written, read for us, you know, this is just to recover some of the stuff in the Fire Department, sending the Fire Truck out on something that’s you know, that probably could have been preventable, or, you know, that with insurance with an air crash and stuff like that. I mean, it’s just to recoup some type [inaudible] sending that truck out.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Well, it gives us the right to be able to bill the insurance company. And, as a Council, if an insurance company does not approve a claim and the citizen is billed, we have the right to waive that bill.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “[inaudible] before the Council?”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Yes. So, we’re not billing the citizens extra, we’re allowing them the ability to bill the insurance companies. Which, right now, they don’t have, so we can’t collect on services from insurance companies.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Right. I think, I think as this Ordinance is, is put into place, as it’s being used, we may find that there’s some adjustments that we can make. But, at least right now, they could start, you know, acting on this as soon as they could. And it’s, it’s, you know, if there is some good information that comes about we, we can always add it to it.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “I don’t know if the public is aware of what the Ordinance, Ordinance is. Obviously they didn’t come to the hearing.”

**Interruption - Janet McGillan** – “Didn’t know about the hearing.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “I think they need to know more about this before we push this through.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “I think it’s our job as the Council to explain it to them when they have questions though, so, if we understand it and we feel comfortable, it’s our job to make the decisions”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Well, I certainly don’t understand it. And, I researched it quite a bit and talking to Fire Chiefs, three of them that I talked to, they want me to come sit down with them, tell me how it works, each community is different, their billing is different because they provide services for other communities as well.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Did you sit with our Fire Chief?”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “No. I did not.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Did you reach out to our Fire Chief, the one that asked for the Ordinance?”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “I just got his information on paper.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Okay. Because that would probably be my first stop would be my recommendation.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “I just got this packet at six o’clock last night, so I don’

Second: Mr. Ouellette seconded.

**Ms. Powers** – “For clarification sir, can you make sure that we list the Town Council Meeting and the Ordinance as listed, before asking for votes [inaudible]. It’s more than one set of Minutes.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Yeah, the, the ORD 22-05 Public Hearing on 6/22/22, for the record we’ll add that to that Motion.”

Motion: Mrs. Libby moves to approve the Minutes from the Town Council Meeting and the Ordinance Public Hearing.

Second: Mr. Pelletier seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

#### B. Clarification of FY 22.23 Budget Motion and Vote

Background: Council voted on the motion “I make a motion that we meet somewhere in the middle of those two places between this unfunded CIPs and the Flat Budget.”

Discussion: There was no actual budget amount voted on by Council. To operate starting FY22.23 on July 1, 2022, the Town Manager’s Office will need to know the budget amount.

Recommendation is Town Council makes a motion with clarification on FY22.23 Budget.

**Ms. Powers** – “The motion and vote for fiscal year 22/23 that was made and passed on 6/15/2022 was an arbitrary monetary amount.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “So as it stands, at this time, we’re looking at a number that was ranging in that 5,258,095?”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “We voted on a budget that would give us a deficit of \$854,870. With what I received last night, and I looked at, it looks like a deficit of \$1,006,615. That’s a difference of \$151,745 of extra spending. I move to the Council direct the Manager to redo the budget expense sheet to match what was voted on the last budget meeting, which would leave us a deficit of \$854,870.”

**Ms. Powers** – “So, if Council were to do that, because we received our second ARPA funding, so we can’t use that in the revenues, you’ll notice your revenue is different as well. But, we can’t use that amount for the next fiscal year, so we have to remove that from the revenue side, because we are receiving it in this fiscal year.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “The ARPA amount 173,675, that was in the last Consolidated Income, it wasn’t in this one, so you removed it.”



**Mr. Ouellette** – “Can we base it on the number that we did use last year? I remember seeing a number that came in that we used.”

**DC Fenderson** – “I believe the number is the same number from last year.”

**Ms. Powers** – “It is the same number as the 400, but they didn’t bill, so we haven’t received an income.”

**DC Fenderson** – “I, I, I have yet to receive 365 days worth of billing, so I can’t update that number until I do. Hopefully that will be soon, because as I’ve said, now everything up to three days ago has now been submitted and billed, so that, that income should be coming in shortly.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “When I look at the numbers, that could easily be a Mil.”

**DC Fenderson** – “I understand what you’re saying, but I, I’m unable to give you a more updated number until I actually get 365 days worth of bills paid.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Do you have a total amount that was billed?”

**DC Fenderson** – “I have not got that. I have requested, but I did not get that back from [inaudible].”

**Mrs. Libby** – “And, if we didn’t receive anything for 365 days, do we, 0.0047( ) TJET 0.00000912 0 6

**DC Fenderson** – “We do not pay. We pay a percentage of what they receive in income. So, we haven’t paid bills because she hasn’t been in to send us a bill. But we are receiving payments for the things she has submitted for bills. And, just so you know, we’re not the only ambulance service that has this problem. I know of at least three other in Aroostook County that have switched because of the same issue, and there are two other ones that I’ve spoken with that are in the process of switching now.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “When you bill like that, you don’t know when you’re going to get your money.”

**DC Fenderson** – “Correct.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “If they’re waiting that long to bill and then it goes to the insurance company and you’re going to wait for them, so it’s, it could be months before you get paid.”

**DC Fenderson** – “Correct. Comstar, everything’s submitted now, up to like I said, three days ago, and then there, it looks like Tuesdays and Thursdays, or Mondays and Thursdays are the days they’re billing. So, Thursday, they should be billing those six, plus whatever we have today for runs.”

**Ms. Powers** – “If I remember correctly, it’s in a system now. They, they go in and find the bills, we don’t.”

**DC Fenderson** – “So, they have a different, they, so, everything’s automated with Comstar. Maine Billing did everything the old way – paper bills, calling on the phone, faxing. Comstar’s all electronic, so I went through the process with them of switching us, them to our billing agent, automating our system, so now they get all of our runs. They get into our EMS system, get our runs, they submit it electronically to all the insurance companies and the insurance companies can then send us electronic funds transfer. So, the cut down, the turnaround time on the actual bill is significantly reduced. Whereas before, Maine Billing got into our billing com, they printed our bills, they went through it, they coded it, they sent a paper bill to the insurance company, the insurance company would then approve it or deny it based on how long they took them to bill it, send an appeal, then, they would send a check to them in the mail again. So, it’s significantly decreased the amount of the turnaround time for payment, but again, I don’t know for sure how long that will be. I know it will be significantly less. They’ve only been a week and a half since they’ve been approved to actually bill, so. And, every Chief I’ve talked to, including large departments at Bangor, Scarborough, Van Buren just switched, so everyone I’ve talked to has had great success and it’s a lower percentage that we’re being charged on our recovered amount. I believe Maine Billing was five and a half or six and Comstar is five. It’s, it’s cheaper and it’s more efficient.”

**Mr. Butler** – “So, we really haven’t seen a lot of revenue coming in because of the other company?”

**DC Fenderson** – “Correct. Correct. So, that’s a problem has been addressed and hopefully the next time we meet I’ll be able to speak with you and give you a better update and better pictures.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Thank you.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “

enough to provide for our Staff, not to provide services for the Town. So I answered that question, yes, it covers us being able to pay our Staff at the rates that they're supposed to be paid at."

**Mr. Pelletier** – "With the raises? The percentage of the raise and all that was in there?"

**Ms. Powers** – "And the Collective Bargaining [inaudible]."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "Yeah, the 5,258,095 would, would make it work minimal."

**Mr. Pelletier** – "That would give us a deficit of 854,000?"

**Mrs. Libby** – "But, it still affects services, services, services will be affected by that amount."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "Yes, services will be affected."

**Mrs. Libby** – "I don't know what those will be, but."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "We don't know that yet. This, that's the minimal bottom number that's it, anything less than that, I mean, even at the number we're probably gonna have a hiccup or two and, and know that something could come about, you know. That's not funding any of the reserves, that's not, that's just turning a budget. I mean, it's"

**Mrs. Libby** – "It's very far from ideal, but."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "It's scary."

**[interruption] Kevin Bouchard** – "Just a stupid, dumb questions question, Consolidated Expenses 22/23, dated June 13<sup>th</sup>, the sheet that has zero reserves, has total expenditures of \$7.9 million, you're proposing five?"

**Ms. Powers** – "No, that's without the School."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "That's without the School."

**[interruption] Kevin Bouchard** – "I understand."

**[interruption] Janet McGillan** – "So, how are you gonna do that? You gonna [inaudible] the school? The Town is responsible for the School, so you can't drop the School out."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "No, I realize that."

**Mrs. Libby** – "What will happen is our, we're gonna lose some services, there's gonna be some stuff that's gonna. It will be able to pay staff, but there's gonna be, I mean, there's only so much to go around, so, I don't

**[interruption] Kevin Bouchard** – “I don’t know where you’re getting your number, Bob, I mean, that’s, that you’d be slash and burn to get to five million.”

**Ms. Powers** – “We have Municipal Expenses and Municipal Revenue. The amount of money that is on here, on your Consolidated Expenses, that comes from the School, is not part of our Municipal Expense and our Municipal Revenue. It is why each tax bill has a breakdown of what your Municipal Expense, your School Expense and your County Expenses on your individual tax bills. It shows you what your tax dollars are going towards. So, what we’re discussing is I need to know what the Municipal Expense amount is from Council for me to be able to move forward with the budget as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, 22/23. There is nothing else you can do about the School or the County.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “5,258,095 thousand.”

**[interruption] Kevin Bouchard** – “Just, Bob, 5258095?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “52589500.”

**[interruption] Sharon Ouellette** – “So that is the last column. That is the million-dollar deficit and that is a 25 Mil, so we all understand what that is.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Yeah, it’s, it’s in that equation, but I’m not basing it really at the Mil Rate, other than what I picked up on from last year, but don’t, I mean, that’s my figures and I’m just trying to go into each Department and draw a line and even at that amount, it’s, it’s, it could suffer some Department Heads. But, I’m just looking at, you know, both sides of the table.”

**Ms. Powers** – “In the Original Budget that was presented to Council in March at the first Department Head Budget Hearing, we have since cut \$1,474,026 from Municipal Budget to accommodate Council’s requests each time we meet. And, we are very below bare minimum, so services will have to be cut and it’s just a fact you can only provide services for the amount of money that you have to do that with. So, we can’t, you know, pretend that we can buy tires for the Public Works Department, you know, later this year if we need them if the money is not there. But, what I will tell you, is that I am not going to choose a number for you tonight Councilors. You have to give me that number. I can tell you what I want, but you are not going to like it because I already presented it to you, and you said no.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “The specific number you’re looking for is the Municipal Expense number, correct?”

**Ms. Powers** – “The Municipal Expense. I have to have that or I cannot run a budget for fiscal year 22/23.”

**[interruption] Kevin Bouchard** – “If no budget passed, the Charter provides that the last passed budget can be used.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Alright, using the number from last time, and I just need someone to please verify that I’m correct, the Municipal Expense would be \$4,868,764.”

**Ms. Powers** – “You’ve just eliminated your Fire and EMS Service by doing that.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “The only number I, this is my push on it, that came up with, that won’t eliminate, not saying that all departments will be running at 100 percent, it won’t, would be 5,258,950, would, that’s a slash, that’s just. That’s gonna make everybody get up and go to work in the morning.”

**Mr. Butler** – “And what would the deficit be with that figure, Bob?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “What would that be? Would you have a quick number on that Andrea?”

**Ms. Powers** – “Yes. \$1,244,201.”

**Mr. Butler** – “One million what?”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Two hundred

**Mr. Ouellette** – “I move that we table the budget vote until the Town Council has had time to review these new budget numbers.”

**Mr. Butler** – “[inaudible] we have to have a budget by the 1<sup>st</sup>.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “I don’t want to kick the can down, but.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “But then we just have to have another meeting and sit here and do the same thing, so we might as well just do it tonight.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “We gotta have it before the first, don’t we Andrea?”

[interruption] **Kevin Bouchard** – “No you don’t.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “We don’t.”

**Ms. Powers** – “So, just like last year, according to Charter, you, one we have to run off of the last but, you have to. You can’t just continuously run off of the previous years, you’ll have to meet again, you have to discuss it until you come to a vote. It’s not, it’s not just a reason to stay with a flat budget, because really, a flat budget doesn’t exist for us. Because we have Collective Bargaining Agreements and inflation. You’re lying to your citizens if you tell them that you can run things for the same amount that you had last year in the budget, if you ask for that again this year, because you have been repeatedly told and shown that, that is not possible to do. In order to provide the services for the citizens at the level of care that they’ve been asking for and what they have always had.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “And that’s how I come up with that number. Basically took last year’s, added the inflation we have, plus the contracts that we’ve signed, and I know it’s not right to the penny, but it’s not far off. I don’t know what else to do. I don’t know how far off that would be, but it’s, it’s, it’s in line. I mean, I’m sure there’s some, there’s some tweaks but, I’m sure we’re not far off from that number. I think that number would, would work on what we have to do. No necessities [inaudible].”

**Mrs. Libby** – “So the amount that I originally said is the difference of 151,000 and without that amount we can’t fund services.”

[inaudible side-conversation between Mr. Pelletier and Mr. Kilcollins]

**Ms. Powers** – “Well, we went through everybody’s budgets the very next day and we have to cut services significantly.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Do you have an example of what services you guys discussed? Like. I just don’t want to make a decision without all the information.”

**Mr. Hanson** – “I understand the frustration here, but this is my biggest concern is that we have this much labor and I’ve got to watch it do this much work for a year, and you are the folks that are going to suffer from us doing this much work. We’re talking about half the plow runs, we really are because the, the cost of fuel has gone up so much, those trucks will not run without fuel. When the last budget came down, the discussion, I understand it was

kind of vague, but we went back and looked at it, and said this is what's gonna happen. We had to, we had to cut fuel back by \$25,000 in a year where fuel prices have over doubled. That, I don't think you can say any more. The men want to get out and do something, they."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "Thank you, Darren."

**Mrs. Libby** – "Yes, please."

**Chief Cummings** – "So last year, the Police Department budget was significantly slashed due to zero staffing. If we flatline a budget, I believe the budget that was passed last year was \$456,000. If we flatline our budget to that, I'll essentially have to lay off a Police Officer, we will not have the adequate Police coverage. So far this year, our officers have dealt with 1107 calls for service, including very serious crimes, sexual assaults, rapes, domestic violence, very dangerous incidents with firearms. Our budget covers one officer working 20 hours a day, plus on-call time. There's, there are no elaborate items in our budget. We, we met after the last Council meeting and I was told to cut close to \$33,000 from the budget. Out of a \$580,000 budget, that's significant. It takes away over-time that we need to send a Police Officer to the Police Academy for four months, takes away equipment, fuel, I'm concerned that we won't adequately be able to function off of that. Any questions? Thank you."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "Thank you, Shawn."

**Mrs. Gaenzle** – "For the Library, I wouldn't even be able to keep the heat on. At \$6,000, which was what was in my heat budget for last year, I can't even keep the heat running. I hit \$8,000 this year, I had to take from other line items. I upped it for this budget. If you go back to that \$6,000, you're gonna have busted pipes, you're gonna have water damage, you're gonna lose your building."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "Thank you."

**DC Fenderson** – "After our last meeting, we went back and I had to cut \$168,000 more than we already cut, so that meant nine line items were zeroed. Zero dollars. Plus five other line items were substantially cut. I've talked to you all numerous times about maintenance and vehicles and funding reserves, and we've talked about how we need to use our maintenance budget to repair our vehicles, so maintenance was one that I kept a little money in. It should be enough for about three weeks before we run out of money for vehicle maintenance, so if we cut more, I just don't know where you want me to cut it from and still be able to provide a service."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "Thank you."

**Mr. Senal** – "After last budget, Council asked us to pay \$36,000 from Rec Department budget. That \$36,000 took away from our ability to fix the steps that are broken out front and currently, right now dangerous, took away some plans for renovating inside for storage spaces, which we can no longer use because they are not fire rated, as well as we had to get rid of some staffing and some programs. So, already some programs have been cut. So, I mean, it's definitely one of those things where I, I don't envy your decision, but just know that already the decision that you made has cut programming in our community."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Thank you. So, if we, I’m lost, did we get a motion? You know, at this point, we, we, that’s, that’s [inaudible] the best I can do. Somebody want to give a motion.”

**[interruption] Janet McGillan** – “Can I ask a question on the monies that are supposed to be filled out for the Fire Department for the EMTs? We can’t even know what a budget number is? Now it’s like a \$300,000, \$400,000? There’s some money that could be used for part of this budget, if it’s coming in. I mean, there’s your buffer, if that’s what it needs to be.”

**Ms. Powers** – “It’s already included in the revenue.”

**[interruption] Janet McGillan** – “Well, what’s the number then? You couldn’t tell us what it was.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “408,642 was last year’s amount.”

**[interruption] Janet McGillan** – “And it’s going into this year’s budget?”

**Mrs. Libby** – “The same amount is going into this year’s budget, the 408.”

**[interruption] Janet McGillan** – “

County. That's it. Whatever happens throughout the fiscal year, next year, could change infinitely, as we saw during the Pandemic. Things can change from day to day, what our expenses and revenues are that come in and go out, so there is no such thing as overspending any of that stuff. That's why I need a number so that I don't overspend anything. Otherwise, I could be overspending. If you have an amount in your head that you think you're supposed to be at and you don't tell me what that is, and you're asking me to guess to get to that point, then we have to have some other serious conversations. I need an actual monetary amount so that I make sure that we do not go over that amount."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "52 58 95."

**Mr. Pelletier** – "How much?"

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "52 58 95."

**Mr. Ouellette** – "I'd be more receptive to five million even."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "Won't work. Five million won't put us, we're close, you're close, but five million won't meet the contract payroll contracts that we have set."

**Ms. Powers** – "Having a hard time understanding how just throwing a number out there, when you've been presented with budget numbers of what it costs to provide these services and then coming up with an arbitrary number, it's very difficult for me to understand why. I understand that Council does not want to raise the Mil Rate to raise taxes, but we have to remember, that if you are experiencing inflation at home, we are definitely experiencing inflation here with the Town. Because we are not responsible for just one household, we are responsible for all households, and we have to provide services for all of them, the businesses, the citizens, the visitors, everyone that comes to Fort Fairfield, who lives in Fort Fairfield, who works in Fort Fairfield. And, in order to do that, we have given you what those numbers look like. Now, Council did not like any one of the three budgets that were presented that were asked to be presented, so we did, and you, you came up with a motion that is again, an arbitrary monetary amount, and I'm asking you, again, to come up with an amount that actually befits and befalls the budgets that were presented to you. So, making the statement that I'm more comfortable with five million dollars because of what you think the Mil Rate will be, I don't understand how you can do that without understanding what my Staff has just told you was going to happen. So, please be careful, whatever your number is, this is my, my last plea for you, please be careful whatever that number is that you vote on tonight, that you want me to follow and have my staff follow, please be very thoughtful and you understand what that's doing, that what that amount is and what that will do for next year's fiscal year."

**Mr. Pelletier** – "Where'd you get that number from?"

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "Collected, collected data from the Budget Advisory Committee. Numbers that they had come up with and then followed on where we were on payroll contracts and then looked at basically last year's budget and then just met criterias of handing her a budget and it's going to work but there's, tBudget0 G[00B4}TJET0.00000912 0 612 792 reW\*ñBT/F1 1d you

acquired, not right by myself, it was a good part from the Budget Advisory Committee, numbers that I pulled from them mostly, and then from what I reviewed. I promise, if we get, if we get a motion for 5,258,950 everybody will sleep well tonight. We're not, we're not gonna sleep with satin sheets, but we'll sleep and we'll be able to move our community and Town forward."

**[interruption] Kevin Bouchard** – "So, you're not gonna vote on the School and County Budget?"

**Mr. Butler** – "We can't."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "We did. We have no say in that."

**Mr. Butler** – "We have no, we have no say on the County Budget or the School."

**[interruption] Kevin Bouchard** – "I know you don't, but you have to approve it. You gotta vote that in your budget. [inaudible]"

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "Well, once I vote this in, that amount plus what their amount is, is automatic, I mean it's added."

**Mrs. Libby** – "This Consolidated Expense form that we have in front of us with the amount"

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "And I couldn't have gotten that amount without the Committee."

**Mrs. Libby** – "Could you clarify?"

**[interruption] Kevin Bouchard** – "I get it. You gotta, you gotta approve it."

**Ms. Powers** – "Yep. That's just the amount that you"

**Mrs. Libby** – "I can't hear."

**Ms. Powers** – "This is what I gave to my Staff, the next day after, and that's how we came up with making those cuts, and all of the services that are, are cut now based on, on that amount. There will be loss of Staff and lots of services."

**Mrs. Libby** – "On the amount that's on this page. So, that's where the extra that Bob is saying would come in."

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "My figures are, yup. It's been a tough battle, but I can assure you that it, it would work, if we got a, if we got a motion for that amount."

**Mrs. Libby** – "Can you verify that information for us, Andrea?"

**Ms. Powers** – "So, we had to cut \$437,586 from...what was your number? What was it?"

**Mr. Kilcollins** – "5258950."

**Ms. Powers** – “So, we won’t have to cut staff. We’ll probably still have some loss of services because we took the percentage of what was cut versus the budget amount for each department. So, instead of just, you know, six, divided it by six, you can’t do that because if you do, you automatically eliminate departments by doing that. Because we have some Departments that have less than \$150,000 for their fiscal year budget and we have some that are over a million. So, it was based on the percentage of their budgets. So for some of these Departments it will put money back into it, their budgets.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Do you have a copy of the three options that you presented to us?”

**Ms. Powers** – “No, because Council said they didn’t want them. The first one that was asked for was totally funded with CIPs, Capital Improvement Plan Reserves, the second one was partially funded Capital Improvement Plan Reserves and the third one that was asked of was no funding of the Capital Improvement Plan Reserves, the CIPs. [inaudible]”

**[inaudible side-conversation between Mr. Kilcollins and Mr. Pelletier]**

**[interruption] Kevin Bouchard** – “The first one [inaudible] on the second page, those are your numbers. When I take what you told me, those are the numbers [inaudible]”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Yup. Okay.”

**[inaudible side-conversation between Mr. Kilcollins and Mr. Pelletier]**

**Mr. Butler** – “Bob, your 525895, the School Budget and the County Taxes are included in that figure?”

**Ms. Powers** – “Not included in that number. That’s the Municipal number and then the full budget includes the School’s amount and then the County Taxes. The School’s amount is \$2,203,432 and the County Taxes \$277,209.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Yup, \$950. Thank you, Ella.”

**Ms. Leighton** – “You’re welcome.”

[long pause]

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “But that’s beating the numbers using all the input from the, from the Budget Advisory Committee, it’s using all the numbers on the deductions that the Department Heads has done the past three meetings, and that’s it.”

[interruption] **Kevin Bouchard** – “I’m, I’m not quite sure about the Budget Advisory Committee.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “No, no. I should, I should word that differently. I, I picked up an idea that there was numbers, and I apologize. I didn’t bring my scheme booklet that I had showed you, but I picked up a number from what you guys had picked up and then it put me in gear to follow through with the rest of the information, because at this point in time, the cuts that everybody made, where we have contracts on employee, if we go below that, it’s, it’s, it’s not, we’re voiding contracts.”

[interruption] **Kevin Bouchard** – “The Budget Advisory Committee was not in line with your recommendation.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “No. Oh, absolutely not. No, no, no, no. I’ll, I’ll make that for the record. No, you’re exactly right. There was information in that I picked up that I used to get that number, but not any recommendation, no. absolutely not.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Well, when I add that total I get \$7,738,950 higher than the Consolidated Expenses sheet that we have in front of us. Am I wrong?”

**Ms. Powers** – “Well, yeah, because the one that’s in front of you is the \$5,020,000.”

**Mr. Butler** – “Mr. Chair, I make a motion that we run with the numbers 52 58 950.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “And a motion, do we have a second?”

[long pause]

**Mr. Ouellette** – “I make a motion that we approve for that dollar figure, instead of 5258 we put five million even.”

[long pause]

**Mr. Pelletier** – “I’ll second it.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “You can’t do it because Mitch already has a motion on the table.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Oh, that’s right, okay.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “I’ll second Mitch’s so we can discuss a little bit more.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “We had a motion and a second, so we’ll go for discussion.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “So, my thought on this is what you’re proposing is going to put us at 25 and a half to 26 Mil, roughly. If we look at the non-funded CIPs that puts us at 26 is what our prediction.”

**Ms. Powers** – “26.5 to 27.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “I’m just looking at it as if we’re going to be at 26 or 26 and we can be at 26 with out Departments funded versus 26 without them funded. I don’t want to be at 26 to begin with, it’s not where I want to be, I don’t think that’s where any of us want to be.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “No. None of us want to be there.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Just think of what that percentage increases to our, to everybody’s families.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Yeah.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “That’s like 24, 25 percent?”

**[interruption] Sharon Ouellette** – “No. It’s like 31 percent. I

told us on multiple occasions that you're not willing to fund what it costs to provide those services at that level that is being expected. So, whatever you give us for a number, just like I told you previously before, we will do whatever it is you tell us to do, but you need to understand whatever that is may affect how services are run in the Town of Fort Fairfield for fiscal year 22/23. So, and that's like, that's Council's decision to make. You, by Charter, decide on what that is, you had that back to me and I facilitate that budget for the year. But I, I have to let you know and remind you that it is going to affect services one way or the other, whether it eliminates, depletes, however you want to talk about it, and unable to afford it, but you, you have to understand it is, it is basic black and white. The services that are being required to be provided, cost this much money. We have presented that budget to you and what we think is fair and just for running those services in the community. If you are adamant about a Mil Rate that we cannot provide for you today, given that we can't do that until the fall because we do not run on a calendar year, we run on a fiscal year, then I, I can't tell you honestly what that is. I know you asked me to give you my suggestion of what that might be, but I cannot give you a firm answer on that because I do not have all of the numbers. I have all of the numbers on what it costs to run the services that are required of us by Council, but I don't have what that number looks like for a Mil Rate. So, the decision, and it is a difficult one, we know that, we don't take this very lightly either, we know that this is a very difficult decision for Council to make, because you are ultimately making the decision what to provide for the citizens of Fort Fairfield. So, we understand that, and that's why we're asking you to clarify this tonight, because what was given to us previously at the Budget Meeting June 15<sup>th</sup>, doesn't give us that information, and it's wrong for us to just work and spend money that doesn't exist, that has not been voted on. So, I, I understand that but I want to clarify, it's not about that we can't afford it because you raise the taxes in any community in the State of Maine based on the services that are provided, that the budget is what it is to run those services. Now, the Mil Rate gets set based on the other information that comes in, so your, your valuation, your Homestead, your Bette, your Veterans, all of those things all calculate that Mil Rate in that formula at the end, that's how you get a Mil Rate, and that's how you raise the taxes in order to pay for those services that you have budgeted for. So, it's not about whether afforded, not afforded, that sort of stuff, it's, it's about what do you want to provide for services for citizens, and you need to understand that when you come to a conclusion on a number, that number will affect what is provided for services. Good, bad or, or other, I mean, that's just the way it is."

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Well, we've got services that we spent a lot of money for, that we really probably shouldn't have spent the money for, we should've gone about it a different way to keep our costs down and now we're stuck with them, but, now we're seeing results of those decisions that were made before some of us came on this Council. So, I don't know what we're gonna do with it, but, taxes, people were complaining about the taxes, well they are complaining about the taxes, and the taxes are high and nobody wants to pay a 26 Mil Rate. Or 25, or 24. But the bills have gotta be paid.”

**Ms. Powers** – “Right, 78(, T[00B6}TJETQn4W\*nBT/F1.62 609 g0(he)h0.00000912 0 612 792 reW\*n6

**Ms. Powers** – “The Mil Rate is not what we should be hung up on. What we should be hung up on, is what do you want to provide for services?”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “I think everybody wants the services, but we just gotta get the cost down.”

**Ms. Powers** – “I think getting it down by \$1.4 million is an excessive amount.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Yeah, I mean, we’re at the point where, like you had made a motion at 5 million, the difference in a final number of a Mil Rate on 5 million or the 258,000 you probably wouldn’t even justify it, it would be roughly the same, but if we, it, it’s, I know, it’s hard. 5 million is what we need, but we need the 258,000 to meet the minimum need.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “If you have the right budgets amount locked in, that’s coming in, then I feel comfortable with doing it.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Right.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “But we don’t have those numbers, we’re missing some of them, and we have for the last couple of years.”

**Ms. Powers** – “No, every year.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Every year.”

**Ms. Powers** – “Be clear about this, every year we do not have those numbers until the fall before Mil Rate gets set. That’s why Mil Rate gets set October 1<sup>st</sup>.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “I’m not arguing that.”

**Ms. Powers** – “This is not a new thing. This happens every year, and it’s very difficult on my side of things to have to project what the State’s going to do. I, I don’t know what that’s going to be, and, again, it’s based on all of the rest of the work that the Assessor’s Office does as well that affects our value.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Well, the difference between the straight 5 million and adding the 258”

**Ms. Powers** – “Right. It’s a Mil and a half. You’re over [inaudible].”

**Mr. Butler** – “But there’ll be loss in services.”

**Ms. Powers** – “With the, I’m sorry, say that again?”

**Mr. Butler** – “There’ll be a lot more loss of services [inaudible].”

**Ms. Powers** – “If you do 5 million, yes, because I’ll have to cut an additional, on top of the 437,586, I’ll have to cut an additional 20,000 from the budgets that we already just cut.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “In the 5,258,900”

**Ms. Powers** – “No, the 5,020,509.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “But the number that Bob’s proposing, we wouldn’t cut services?”

**Ms. Powers** – “No.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “And that puts us at 25 and a half to 26, roughly?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Janet Mills may be very generous this year too.”

**[interruption] Kevin Bouchard** – “What’d you smoke for supper tonight?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “She wants to get re-elected.”

**Ms. Powers** – “Well, I, I, but we can’t, we should not be getting hung up on Revenue Sharing either because that fluctuates so much between now and September. As you see, when we collect Revenue Sharing throughout the year, that fluctuates as well, so midway through the year, we’re seeing like a loss, the percentage point, we actually were over by 12,000 something this year in Revenue Sharing. So it changes and it always seems to catch up at the end of the year, if not go further. But, I don’t ever, you know, put that and think that that’s going to happen every year. We have to, you know, the numbers that are given to us are the numbers that we need to use.”

**[long pause]**

**Mrs. Libby** – “So, the Consolidated Expense form that we have in front of us, versus the number that Bob is telling us, is less than what’s on there?”

**Ms. Powers** – “The number that 12 792 reW\*nBT( 12 Tf1 0 0 1 170.78 346/F1 12 Tf1 0 0 1 188.18 346.

**Mrs. Libby** – “Okay.”

**Ms. Powers** – “Councilor Butler’s motion and then discussion.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Okay. [long pause] I don’t think we have any other option, honestly.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Doesn’t look good.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “When I add Bob’s numbers, I get higher than the grand total on this Consolidated Expenses sheet.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “You will, because”

**Ms. Powers** – “Because what he has proposed is higher than the 5,020,000.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “[inaudible] 5 million.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “So it’d be”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “So that’s why my 5 million works out [inaudible] 20 thousand.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “His is higher by \$238,441.”

**[inaudible conversation between Councilors]**

**Mrs. Libby** – “Because it doesn’t. This is still cut of services, what’s on this paper. This is off of the 854,870 and it’s a substantial cut.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Maybe we can’t afford a new service.”

**[long pause]**

**Mrs. Libby** – “So that puts us at a deficit of \$1,245,056, Bob’s figure.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “1,244,201.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “\$1,245,056 versus the 1,006,615. 238...”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “I mean, I don’t propose it’s the perfect budget by no means, but at this point, where, were it’s at, pages are going to be turned and we can move forward, and like I say, it’s, it’s no extravagant budget by no means. There’s sacrifices gonna be made, but.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “So the difference is \$238,441, but the Departments are able to be funded?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Right.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Yes. Okay, without cuts?”

**Ms. Powers** – “Well, I mean, we already made the cuts.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Right, without additional.”

**Ms. Powers** – “With this, we’ll be able to put some of that back in there for them so that we’re not seeing the excessive cuts in services and loss of jobs.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “It’s just, it’s just bare bones you’re gonna get.”

**[interruption] Sharon Ouellette** – “Melissa, what’s your Mil Rate for that? Mil Rate?”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Yeah, about 26.”

**[interruption] Sharon Ouellette** – “26 Mils?”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Roughly, estimated.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “And I mean, if we get, there’s all kinds of ifs, we could get extra Revenue Sharing, we could get, we could get”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “We could get a bigger bill.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “It’s not gonna get any worse.

**Mr. Ouellette** – “We could get a bigger bill.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “You know. At least, you know, this whole system is working in that direction.”

**Ms. Powers** – “So, Fort Fairfield traditionally has an aging fleet. All of our equipment, our vehicles, traditionally everything is very old and outdated.”

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fiscal, or, you know, really getting into your fiscal year, these are things that you have to keep in mind moving forward as well. I just want Council to understand, that yes, you know, whatever number you, you give me tonight we will work through, but those decisions have consequences so we have to be conscious of that moving forward.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “I looked at our long-term debt [inaudible].”

**Ms. Powers** – “Do you? Because I would like to discuss that, if you don’t mind? You made reference of the Town being an outstanding principal balance debt of \$4.1 million and we do not have an outstanding principal debt of \$4.1 million. We have a loan outstanding principal balance with the ambulances with Aroostook Savings and Loan that has five years left on it, so essentially really four years left on that loan, and that’s at \$211,275.91. We have the Ladder Truck at \$450,806.98, also again at four years left. We have the EMS services that’s 12 years left on that 15-year loan, at \$989,774.92. We have one year left of a paving bond with the State of Maine at \$51,970 and we have a five-year Town Office Bond with the State of Maine at \$293,655. So, as of yesterday afternoon at 4:30, our outstanding principal balance for the Town of Fort Fairfield was \$1,997,482.81, not \$4.1 million.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “Do we have a loan out with the Bank of Boston?”

**Ms. Powers** – “No. [inaudible] We have bond. Paving bond and when they built the Town Office.

**Mr. Kilcollins**- “You know, and at that amount, there won’t be any roads repaired. Minor maintenance will be done, but no.”

**Ms. Powers** – “So, within, within four years, you will be, you will remove \$51,970, you will remove \$211,275.91, you will remove \$450,806.98, leaving you with under a million dollars in outstanding principal debt, in, in four years.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “That puts us in good shape. We’re in good shape right now, yes.”

**Ms. Powers** – “If Council would ask questions of the Town Manager’s Office, I would be very happy to give that information. But, if I don’t know what your questions are, I can’t answer those.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “No, we’re, we’re, we’re very fortunate that we have Department Heads that take as serious in their jobs to do what they do and provide us with the services, and it was tough this year to cut like we did and, you know, we, we’re sorry but at this point we’re still fortunate to have great Department Heads running for us. We appreciate it. Everything. And that’s in that rundown of that dollar value, it’s, it’s, it’s, it’s a band-aid, for this year, that’s a band-aid, but it’ll work. Nobody’s gonna get rich off that number.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “We gotta vote.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “We got a motion, do we have a second on that amount?”

**Mrs. Libby** – “I seconded.”



**Mrs. Libby** – “Right, so you guys are doing all this work for nothing, because you’re not working off the correct numbers. So, if we don’t circumvent the Town Manager’s Office and the information comes from the Town Office, then you would be getting the correct, most accurate, up to date information.”

**[interruption] Kevin Bouchard** – “The Ordinance specifies that she will cooperate with us in our requests.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “To be fair to the Budget Committee, they need a year to perform.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Oh, absolutely. However, to be fair to the taxpayers, that one person cannot supply the information to the Budget Committee and expect them to go with those numbers and then make a recommendation to us, because they’re not even having the correct numbers. So, I make a motion that we revise the Ordinance for the Budget Committee, so that it does not circumvent the Town Manager’s Office.”

**Ms. Powers** – “Amend?”

**Mrs. Libby** – “To amend, yes, to amend the Ordinance.”

**Mr. Butler** – “I’ll second that.”

**Mr. Pelletier** – “But isn’t the Budget Advisory Committee getting information from the Town Manager, right now?”

**Ms. Powers** – “No.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “No, they’re getting information from, they can get it from the Town Office, if I’m correct, but they can also get it from us, as Councilors, but we, as the Council, shouldn’t be individually feeding them information, is what I’m saying, because then they’re, they’re forming a bias, and in getting information from, like, say you think one thing and I think another thing and you’re feeding them all this information, then you can bias the Committee, and the Committee should not be biased, the Committee should work off of solely the information, the correct information, and form their own opinions. We shouldn’t give them our opinions because then it completely messes up the whole way that they should be operating.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “They’ll get their information just like we get it, from the Town Manager.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “But to follow through what you’re saying, but then we need a Hearing on this.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “I don’t know what we need to do in order to be able to amend it.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “I don’t think we need a hearing to add to it.

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Yes, we do.”

**[interruption] Kevin Bouchard** – “Yes, you do. You’re changing an Ordinance?”

**Mrs. Libby** – “Okay, so then, if we need a Hearing, then I think we should have a hearing. Because it doesn’t, it doesn’t work the way that it was.”

**Mr. Levesque** – “Mr. Chair and the Councilors, if your vote to amend the existing Ordinance, what needs to be done, it needs to be crafted, sent to the Town Council with recommendation from the Town Council, Town Manager at that point, this introduced, there will be a Public Hearing advertised and held. After the Public Hearing is advertised and held, you have to have a second Council Meeting, which could be the same night as the Public Hearing. At the time that you’re discussing, considering the amended Ordinance, if that’s what happens, you have three options. You can approve the Ordinance as presented, you can deny the Ordinance as presented, or you can strike the Ordinance on the floor, based on comments that you receive, anything like this word, add this word, whatever it is, but that the process if you vote to amend that Ordinance, it would come back to you and then be introduced and so forth, we have to carry on business.”

**Mr. Ouellette** – “Thank you, Tony.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “I, I feel that, that they have worked hard in what they had information. They served their duties well, I think it would be well suited for them to gain access. Like we are able to gain access from the Town Manager, along with we all learned the first little curveball here, you know, and a popgized to the Committee sometimes, doesn’t make it right. I, I, they hit the floor with their feet just running and, and well, we were gonna make mistakes, but I think adding from what we’ve learned, it would only benefit the Budget Committee [inaudible].”

**[interruption] Kevin Bouchard** – “I’ll share with you my perspective, okay? We were put in a room, we had Freedom of Access Presentation on that computer, we were left to our own devices. No direction, no guidance, no input, okay? So if we failed, and again this is Kevin speaking, not the Budget Committee, if we failed in our attempts to do what we perceived we were supposed to do, tell us what you want us to do and tell us how you want us to do it and I’m pretty sure that the Committee will respond to your requests. It amazes me how well this group of seven works together. You know, Jim’s been to some meetings, you’ve been to a few meetings, it’s, it’s a phenomenal group of people that I never in a hundred years would’ve thought things would’ve gone that smoothly. Give us some direction and I think that you’ll find that we will follow your instructions. We’ve been begging for that for over a month now.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Absolutely. I agree.”

**Ms. Powers** – “So, to be clear, what I’m asking for is the Ordinance to be repealed, not the Budget Advisory Committee, because the Ordinance, as it stands, is ineffective. Again, as Mr. Bouchard stated, they were just thrown into it. There was no direction, there was no training, there was no information, there is no chain of command of information, there was nothing that would indicate to them what it takes to provide information for the Council. Budget Advisory Committees across the Country, not just in the State of Maine, across the Country do work with their Managers Offices, because many of them are in charge of the budget. How are you to get your information if you are not working with that Office that provides that information? There’s a lot of miscommunication, a lot of opinions as opposed to facts that are shared because they have nothing else to go on.”

**[interruption] Kevin Bouchard** – “Straighten us out. Tell us what [inaudible].”

**Ms. Powers** – “I can’t because the Ordinance does not allow me to, and that is how. No, my integrity and my job is very important to me and that Ordinance circumvents my Office completely, as you said, by design, and I, for one, do not agree with that because if you want a true and just system that actually is working for the benefit of the citizens, then you need to have the Office that prepares the budget part of what they’re doing and giving that information. The only thing I could give you is what I gave Council to begin with, which I provided every member of the Budget Advisory Comm

**Mrs. Libby** – “I’m happy to motion that we can repeal the Budget Advisory Committee, but I want to make sure that we get another Ordinance put in place because I think that the Budget Advisory Committee can be very effective I think we set them up for failure and I think that was nothing of their doing. They did not have all of the correct information, they worked off of what they had. They had no direction. They’re very smart people trying to do the best they could to help the Town and they need to have a better setup to be able to operate.”

**[interruption] Kevin Bouchard** – “You don’t need to change the Ordinance to do that. We, we can work within those parameters.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “I just think that if, I didn’t, I didn’t vote on this Ordinance to begin with because I didn’t think it was written correctly to begin with, so for me personally, I would like to see a completely new Ordinance, not that I want a new Committee, Not that I want a different Committee, that’s not the case. It’s, it’s the way that the Ordinance is written, for me, so.”

**Ms. Powers** – “If Council should so choose to repeal this Ordinance and would like to see a new one for the July Council Meeting, I can make sure that that is a priority with us.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “I would like to see that. Because I do, I didn’t want the Committee to begin with because of I was worried that there would be so much extra conflict, but with the people that we have on the Committee, I think there’s a lot of really good, well educated people that can help us, if it’s done correctly and I don’t think this is correct.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Oh, I agree.”

**Ms. Powers** – “And by doing it in July, it begins the entire process”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “That’s right.”

**Ms. Powers** – “For them from the beginning of the fiscal year to the end of the fiscal year, and what goes on in between that process with the Audit, everything. So they will be fully educated, moving into the next round, versus a month before they were to give [inaudible].”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Proper wording to add to this.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “So I guess I’ll just rephrase. The motion is that we repeal the current Budget Advisory Committee Ordinance and ask the Town Manager to rewrite a new Ordinance for us to review at the next Council Meeting.”

**Mr. Butler** – “Second.”

**[interruption] Kevin Bouchard** – “What does your Charter provide for the procedure to do that?”



**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Yes. Well, appointed, that’s wording it justifiably, legal terms, appointed would stay appointed to this new Ordinance.”

**Ms. Powers** – “I think it’s, it’s again ineffective if you don’t, because if you disband what we’ve just started and you’re wanting to bring them through this process for the next year, why would you, why would you get rid of what you have?”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “I just want to make sure that nothing changes.”

**Mr. Butler** – “We’re not getting rid of the Budget Committee, we’re just getting this Ordinance and then reword a new Ordinance.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Right. We’re gonna amend it and add to it so it isn’t gonna circumcise anybody that’s on there.”

**Mr. Butler** – “No. It’s gonna go through legal, we’re gonna have, we’ll have a new Ordinance.”

**Mrs. Libby** – “New Ordinance. Get rid of this one, write a new one.”

**Mr. Butler** – “But the Budgets Committee will still be the same.”

**Ms. Powers** – “I would recommend that you do that.”

**Mr. Kilcollins** – “Yes. Yes. For the record, I’d like that noted.”

**Mr. Butler** – “Well, we’ll have to vote on this first, then we’ll have to introduce another.”

Motion: Mrs. Libby made the motion to repeal the Ordinance.

Second: Mr. Butler seconded.

Discussion: Above.

Vote: Motion passes. (3 Ayes, 2 Nays)  
(Ayes: Mrs. Libby, Mr. Butler, Mr. Kilcollins)  
(Nays: Mr. Ouellette, Mr. Pelletier)

**Mr. Butler** – “Mr. Chair, I make a motion that we get another Ordinance worded the way that it’s supposed to be worded so they work with the Town Manager and also the Committee that is on board right now stay the same.”

Motion: Mr. Butler made a motion for a new Ordinance.

Second: Mrs. Libby seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: Motion passes. (3 Ayes, 2 Nays)

Discussion: The Town had four applications; Ms. Annette Thompson, Mr. Dan Foster, Mr. James Smith, and Mr. Ken Peters.

Recommendation: Town Council appoint Ms. Annette Thompson to fulfill the term ending June 30, 2025 and Mr. James Smith to fulfill the term ending June 30, 2024 to the Library Board of Trustees.

Motion: Mr. Butler motioned.

Second: Mrs. Libby seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: Motion Passes (4 Ayes, 1 Nay)  
(Ayes: Mrs. Libby, Mr. Butler, Mr. Pelletier, Mr. Kilcollins)  
(Nays: Mr. Ouellette)

## VII. Adjournment

Motion: Mrs. Libby motioned.

Second: Mr. Butler seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmed.

Council adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Submitted respectfully,

Neadra E. Dubois,  
Council Secretary