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A special meeting of the Caribou City Council was held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 29, 2009 in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr., Mary Kate Barbosa, Christopher A.R. Bell, Karla M. Bell, R. Mark Goughan, David Martin, and Miles R. Williams.

Steven R. Buck, City Manager, was present.

Also attending the meeting were Philip J. McDonough II, Vaughn M. Brewer, Freeman Cote, Doug Morrell, Wilfred Martin, Donald Goughan, Bryan Harper, Lionel Ouellette, Joan Theriault and other interested citizens.

Council Agenda item #1: Public Input (There was no public input).

Council Agenda item #2: Consider setting a Mil Rate for the commitment of the 2009 Property Taxes.

City Manager Buck presented a PowerPoint slideshow entitled "2009 Municipal Tax Rate Calculation". A few of the areas he noted were:

- Net change of \$1,544,900 in Taxable Valuation.
- Second year of the State BETE program for Business Equipment Tax Exemptions. This year the State will reimburse at 90% of revenue lost.
- Caribou is now part of the Eastern Aroostook Regional School Unit – RSU 39. The City of Caribou's share of the RSU 39's budget is \$2,990,387, which is a decrease of \$129,460 from the 2008 Caribou School Department's budget.
- Caribou's estimated 2009 State Revenue Sharing is \$1,250,000. This is \$242,948 less than 2008 receipts.
- All the numbers to calculate the Mil Rate have been set or decided up to this point by a majority vote of the City Council.
- The 2008 mil rate was 24 mils, if the Council retains this mil rate the overlay for 2009 will be \$184,522.51.

Because of 2010 economic projections, the City Manager recommends that the City have a strong overlay while achieving the Council's overall objectives. The City Manager answered Mayor Murchison question regarding the amount overlay would be with the minimum (23.34 mils) and maximum (24.51mils) tax rates. Councilor D. Martin asked what the mil rate would be if the City returned to the taxpayers the school department saving (RSU 39). Mr. Buck calculated that it would be 23.53. Councilors C. Bell and M. Williams voiced their support for retaining the mil rate at 24 mils. Councilor M. Goughan expressed his interest in reducing the overlay and the mil rate.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by M. Goughan to set the Mil Rat at 23.53 mils. (2 yes, M. Goughan, D. Martin, 5 no, MK Barbosa, C. Bell, K. Bell, M. Williams, K. Murchison). Motion failed.

Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by MK. Barbosa to set the Mil Rate at 24 mils. (5 yes, MK Barbosa, C. Bell, K. Bell, M. Williams, K. Murchison, 2 no, M. Goughan, D. Martin) So voted.

Councilor Goughan wants the minutes to reflect that the Mayor did not permit a prepared statement to be read by a Caribou citizen during Council Agenda item #2.

Council Agenda item #3: Consider setting the date of commitment for the 2009 Property Taxes to be committed to the Tax Collector as July 1, 2009, pursuant to MRSA Title 36, §505 (1).

Motion made by K. Bell, seconded by C. Bell to set the 2009 Tax Commitment Date as July 1, 2009 for the Board of Assessors to commit the same to the Tax Collector. (7 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #4: Consider establishing a date that the 2009 Property Taxes will be due and payable, pursuant to MRSA Title 36, §505 (2). Recommend July 1, 2009.

Motion made by M. Williams, seconded by MK Barbosa to make the 2009 Property Taxes due and payable July 1, 2009, pursuant to MRSA Title 36, §505 (2). (7 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #5: Consider establishing a date for interest to begin accruing on any delinquent 2009 Property Taxes, pursuant to MRSA Title 36, §505 (4).

Motion made by M. Williams, seconded by K. Bell to set the date for interest to begin accruing on any delinquent 2009 Property Taxes as October 1, 2009. (7 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #6: Consider establishing a Rate of Interest to be charged on delinquent 2009 Property Taxes, pursuant to MRSA Title 36, §505(4).

Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by MK. Barbosa to establish the Rate of Interest at 9% for Delinquent 2009 Property Taxes pursuant to MRSA Title 36, §505(4). (7 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #7: Consider establishing a Rate of Interest for the Overpayment and or Abatement of property taxes for 2009, pursuant to MRSA Title 36 § 506 (A).

Motion made by K. Bell, seconded by C. Bell to set the Rate of Interest for the Overpayment and or Abatement of property taxes for 2009 as 4% less than the State rate of 9% for delinquent taxes, or 5% for delinquent taxes, pursuant to MRSA Title 36 § 506 (A). (7 yes) So voted.

Mr. Buck explained the LD 1 Tax Levy Limit worksheet and noted Line 12 indicates the City is \$350,781.69 under the state allowable level of taxation. He noted that the City is in good fiscal shape and this excess capacity is carried forward to next year in the event that additional funds need to be raised from taxation.

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Council Agenda item #8: Consider placing to Bid Tax Acquired Property Tax Map 7, Lot 39-31.

The Tax Acquired Property is a vacate trailer in the Caribou Trailer Park with an outstanding tax balance of \$2,135.87. The City Manager recommends that the Council set a bid minimum of at least \$2,500.00 as to provide additional monies for advertising costs. Mr. Buck pointed out the 2009 property valuation as being \$19,000.00 and that it is a very viable unit.

Motion made by M. Williams, seconded by D. Martin to place the Tax Acquired Property Tax Map 7, Lot 39-31 out to bid with a minimum bid of \$8,500.00. (7 yes) So voted.

Mayor Murchison read a letter from Vaughn Keaton representing Caribou Friends of Scouting. Mr. Keaton extended that organization's appreciation to Dave Ouellette and the Public Works Department for their part in Caribou's annual brush pick-up program.

Motion made by, C. Bell, seconded by, K. Bell, to adjourn the meeting. (7 yes) So voted.

6:49 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary Pro-Tem