

November 8, 2012

12-33 wksp.

A Council Budget Workshop meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 8, 2012 in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr., Deputy Mayor David Martin, John R. Boone, Philip McDonough II, Gary Aiken, and Joan L. Theriault. Absent and excused was Mary Kate Barbosa.

Austin Bleess, City Manager; Wanda Raymond, Finance Director; David Ouellette, Director of Public Works; Michael Shrewsbury, Community Development Director; Kathleen A. Mazzuchelli, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation; Stephen Wentworth, Code Enforcement Officer; Scott Susi, Fire Chief; Elizabeth A. O'Bar, Tax Assessor; Diane C. DuBois, Library Director; and Michael Gahagan, Police Chief were present.

Also Attending: Paul Theriault, Susan White, Milo Haney, Paul R. Camping, Freeman Cote, and Wilfred Martin.

Mark Putnam, representing the Aroostook Republican and Time Warner covered the meeting.

Item #1a: Executive Session: Consider moving to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Chapter 13 Section 405 (6)(A).

6:00 p.m. Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Martin, to move to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Chapter 13 Section 405 (6)(A). (6 yes) So voted.

6:23 p.m. Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by G. Aiken, to come out of Executive Session. (6 yes) So voted.

No action taken.

Item #1b: Executive Session: Consider moving to Executive Session for the purpose review and development of Mediation Materials for Teamsters Local 340 Police and Fire and Ambulance Units, pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §405 6 D.

6:24 p.m. Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by G. Aiken, to move to Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing and development of Mediation Materials for Teamsters Local 340 Police and Fire and Ambulance Units, pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §405 6 D. (6 yes) So voted.

6:53 p.m. Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Martin, to come out of Executive Session (6 yes) So voted.

No action taken.

Item #1c: Executive Session: Consider moving to Executive Session for the purpose review and development of Negotiation Positions for AFSCME Local 220 Public Works, pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §405 6 D.

Executive Session under Item #1c was not held.

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Item #2: Workshop to discuss 2013 Budget

City Manager Bless reviewed the Department Managers' proposed changes to the draft 2013 Budget:

1. Code Enforcement and Section 8 Housing
  - Code Enforcement Officer – reduce hours to 32 hours for 45 weeks
  - Separate Code Enforcement and Section 8 Housing into two departments
  - Hire a full-time Housing Director and a half time individual
    - This will provide a clearer picture of expenses
2. Public Works Department
  - Chip Sealing
3. Capital Expenses
  - Reductions in Recreation, Fire, Ambulance, and Police Capital Expenses

Regarding the draft 2013 Budget, Mr. Bless requested direction from the Council for both the Department Managers and himself.

Currently \$175,000 is in the budget for the Airport project. The Council needs to carefully consider the Airport and this expense as this \$175,000 would leverage over \$3,000,000 in Federal monies that would be go into the local economy.

The Library roof project is budgeted at only \$80,000 as the City has applied for and hopes to receive the balance from the King Foundation.

For 2013, the Tax Assessment quarterly review monies have been removed.

Ambulance Department Capital Expense program has been expanded out and Chief Susi stated that he can make it work.

The Library Assistant Director position has been reduced eight hours weekly plus no health benefits.

The Public Works Department has eliminated the open truck driver position.

The Recreation Department has reduced the number of hours for Custodians.

Councilor Martin would like to have a goal set to eliminate some of the street lights. He suggested that the amount could be reduced by 20% or 25%. Then have the Public Works Director and Police Chief determine which street lights would be eliminated. Councilors J. Theriault, J. Boone, and P. McDonough agreed with Councilor Martin. Chief Gahagan did caution the Council about reducing the number of street lights and reminded them of what activities occur in the dark. The Mayor would like to work with the power company to see a change over to LED lighting.

It is Manager Bless' understanding that the State of Maine has budgeted their share of the Airport project costs. The Airport Committee will meet Friday November 9<sup>th</sup> to review expenses and potential revenues.

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Councilor Martin noted that the City does not have a PILOT agreement with the Micmacs and the Band owes a great deal of land. They should be paying a fair share. He commented that tax exempted organizations; such as, churches and post office should be approached for donations.

Director Ouellette reviewed his budget and individual lines.

- Reduced wages by \$32,000 – eliminated position
- Change to the overtime line
- Approximately \$10,500 reduction to health insurance line
- Reduced the gas line by \$4,000
- Reduced the Liquid Asphalt line by approximately \$38,000

Overall the Director has reduced Public Works budget by \$126,000.

The Council and Director discussed asphalt versus chip sealing. Councilor Martin would like to eliminate one mile of asphalt and use chip sealing. Director Ouellette suggested chip sealing Limestone and Brook streets. He offered that chip sealing works well when it is placed over asphalt. He recommends that the City continue with the current road program. It was Council consensus to do a couple miles in town chip sealing during 2013.

The Mayor asked the Director to update the Council regarding the Public Works' acquisition of trucks through the DRMO.

The City Manager commented that the Council might want to look at the reserves to help some of the projects; such as, the airport project.

The Public Hearing on the 2013 Budget will be Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

There was a discussion regarding Fire Hydrants. The Public Works Department does the snow removal around hydrants. It takes an experienced backhoe operator a day and a couple of hours to clean the hydrants. The City is not paid by CUD to do this. The Public Works Department is paid for the work they do for the school system. Several parking lots are plowed by the City. Councilor McDonough stated that the City should give or sell the parking lots plus he would like to know the history of Caribou's parking lots.

The City does not fund the snowmobile trail maintenance account.

Item #3: Adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary