



**AGENDA  
Caribou City Council  
Regular City Council Meeting  
7:00 P.M. Monday, March 10, 2014  
Caribou City Council Chambers**

1. Public Input
2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest from the City Council regarding any agenda item.
3. Consider authorizing the minutes of the following meetings:
  - a) February 24, 2014 Council Meeting 2-5
4. Consent Agenda
  - a) February 2014 Fire Department Report 6-7
  - b) February 2014 Police Department Report 8-9
  - c) February 2014 Financials
  - d) Appointment of Registration Appeals Board 10
  - e) Sale of Tax Acquired Property 11
5. Airport Terminal Master Plan Update 12
6. Vehicle for Fire Department 13-16
7. Discussion on Budgeting Process 17
8. Recreational Trails Grant 18-19
9. Administration Ordinance Changes 20-55
10. Other Business
11. Executive Session pursuant to MSRA Title 1 § 405 (6) (E) to discuss pending or contemplated litigation.
12. Executive Session pursuant to MSRA Title 1 § 405 (6) (C) to discuss economic development.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

Regular City Council Meeting, March 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Regular City Council Meeting, April 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.



A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 24, 2014 in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Gary Aiken, Deputy Mayor David Martin, Philip McDonough II, Joan L. Theriault, David R. Genthner, Sr., Shane McDougall, and Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr.

Austin Bleess, City Manager and Tony Mazucco, Assistant City Manager were present.

Department Manager: Scott Susi, Fire Chief.

Natalie De La Garza, representing the Aroostook Republican; and Time Warner covered the meeting.

Council Agenda Item #1: Public Input

Since the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, Milo Haney has researched and has learned that the City is paying for the Park 'n Ride lights. Mr. Haney spoke in opposition to the number of lights and suggested that one light would be sufficient. Mr. Haney wants to see a breakdown of how much it cost the City to haul snow for the ski sprints that were held earlier in February. Mr. Haney asked questions about rumors he had heard regarding accidents with Public Works equipment. Administration confirmed that there had been two accidents and that both had occurred within Caribou City limits.

Council Agenda Item #2: Declaration of Conflicts of Interest from the City Council regarding any agenda item.

None.

Council Agenda Item #3: Consider authorizing the minutes of the following meetings:

- a) January 13, 2014 Workshop Minutes
- b) January 27, 2014 Meeting Minutes
- c) February 12, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by K. Murchison, to accept the minutes of January 13, 2014, January 27, 2014, and February 12, 2014 as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

- a) January 2014 Fire Department Report
- b) January 2014 Police Department Report
- c) January 2014 Financials
- d) Liquor and Special Amusement Licenses
  - a. Napolis Restaurant, LLC
  - b. Caribou Inn and Convention Center
- e) Approval of Quit Claim Deeds
  - a. John Rines
  - b. Rhonda and Bruce Gustafson

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Genthner, to approve the Consent Agenda with Business Items A, B, C, D, and E as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #5: Accepting Bids on Tax Acquired Properties

Unless waived by the Council, the City's Tax Acquired Properties Policy requires that 20% of the sale amount be placed in the Tax Acquired Properties Remediation Account. Concerning this evening's sales, Manager Bleess recommends that requirement be waived and to put \$27,721 into the Municipal Building Reserve.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, to accept the bids from Lisa Dobbs for Map 4 Lot 25-K in the amount of \$60,112 and Roscoe Mata for Map 24 Lot 63 in the amount of \$20,010. (6 yes) So voted.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Martin, to reject the bid from Tracy Babin for Map 16 Lot 8-J for \$675.00 as it does not meet the minimum bid. (6 yes) So voted.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by S. McDougall, to place 20% of the proceeds into the Tax Acquired Properties Remediation Account, \$40,000 into the revenue line, pay off back taxes, and to place the balance in the Municipal Building Reserve. (6 yes) So voted.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Genthner, to accept the offer from Lena Giggey for the mobile home at Map 18 Lot 31-72 in the amount of \$250. (5 yes, 1 no, S. McDougall)

Council Agenda Item #6: Purchase of Command Vehicle for Fire Department

In October 2013, Fire Chief Susi sought Council approval to replace the current rear wheel drive vehicle. At that time, the Council deemed the proposed purchase price to be too high. Administration is seeking Council approval to purchase a former police vehicle from the Town of Madawaska. The vehicle is a 2011 Ford Expedition with 5,000 miles for \$23,000.

There was discussion among the Councilors as to whether the Fire Department already owned a vehicle that could serve as a Command Vehicle. Councilor Theriault commented that the Library did not get the person they requested, the swimming pool is being closed, and lights have been turned off. The City has done so much yet the Chief has hired people and gotten some of the things he needs. She wondered if the purchase could be delayed until the City replaces another police cruiser and have the Fire Chief use the retired police cruiser. Councilor McDonough suggested that the City continue to search for a government surplus vehicle.

Councilor Martin is not convinced that a Command Vehicle is needed. Chief Susi stated that everything he needs to respond to a fire scene is in the vehicle and because of this the vehicle goes home with him at night. Otherwise he would need to go from his home to the station to the fire scene. Councilor Murchison noted that the Chief is on call 24-7 and he does not want to see the Fire Chief not having the tools he needs. Councilor Murchison recommends the authorization of this expense. Both Councilors Martin and Theriault commented that several people in the community have spoken to them about the use of the current vehicle. Councilor McDougall stated that the Chief is doing his job and the vehicle is a tool of his job.

Councilor McDonough stated that he does not feel that we have the capacity for a Command Vehicle. He stated that there are enough vehicles in the inventory that if, we need to transport equipment that it can be transported. Councilor McDonough does not think the City makes effective use of all the equipment we currently have. There was discussion as to what a Command Vehicle is, whether there is a need, or whether to pay the Chief a car allowance or mileage. Councilor Murchison stated that this vehicle is a health and safety issue and it is a Command Vehicle because our Commander is in it.

It was suggested by Councilor Genthner, that Chief Susi develop a list of what is needed in a vehicle. He further stated that this area is SUV territory versus a Ford Crown Victoria. With this being the second time that the purchase of a Command Vehicle has come to Council for authorization, Manager Bless requested additional guidance from Council. The current vehicle has reached or is reaching the end of its usable life and that is why money has been budgeted in the Capital Reserve Account. When asked how the vehicle was used today, Chief Susi reported that he traveled to two fire inspections, City Office, lunch, and this evening's meeting. The Chief stated the vehicle is used when he needs to obtain necessary parts and go to the local hospital on behalf of the ambulance service.

Councilor McDonough requested justification for this type of vehicle, the need for four-wheel drive, and what other assets in the Fire Department could be used for those purposes. The need to justify the purchase of a new vehicle was questioned by Councilor McDougall because the Council had already justified the purchase of a new vehicle through the budgeting process. The Mayor offered that the Capital Budget has been set but that doesn't mean that those moneys will all be spent. It was noted that the purchase of this vehicle was budgeted for in the 2013 Capital Budget rather than the 2014.

The Mayor stated that a 2011 Ford Expedition would not be his choice of vehicle because he would guess that most of the Chief's traveling occurs in town and gas mileage for vehicles has improved over the last three years. Councilor Martin does not support the purchase of this vehicle but he has been convinced that a vehicle purchase is justified. He suggested that the Chief look at something new and more energy efficient.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, not to move forward, at this time, with the purchase of the Command Vehicle. (4 yes, J. Theriault, D. Martin, P. McDonough, G. Aiken, 3 no, D. Genthner, K. Murchison, S. McDougall) So voted.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, at the next Council Meeting to have a discussion regarding the justification for a Command Vehicle. (4 yes, J. Theriault, D. Martin, S. McDougall, P. McDonough, 2 no, D. Genthner, K. Murchison) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #7: Discussion on Budgeting Process

Since the adoption of the current City Charter, the Revenue Budget is not set until June which is six months into the Budget. The City's software is not designed to have the annual budget entered piecemeal into the system causing expenses to be tracked by manually entering the data into spreadsheets thus allowing entry errors to occur. Last year the Council discussed whether or not it would be beneficial to move the City budget cycle from a calendar year to a fiscal year. The Mayor requested that the City obtain a legal opinion as to whether the City can adopt the Expense and Revenue Budget at the same time under the current Charter.

Manager Bless explained the difference between the Contractual Allowance and Bad Debt within the Ambulance Department. Currently both are being shown on the expense report. Typically in municipal budgeting bad debt is reported as an expense. To conform with best accounting principles, Contractual Allowance should be shown as a reduction in revenues versus an expense. The net effect on the budget would be the same.

Council consensus: Contractual Allowance should be moved to the revenue side.

Council Agenda Item #8: LDA Board Appointment Recommendation

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by K. Murchison, to recommend to the Governor the reappointment of Miles Williams to the Loring Development Authority Board of Directors for another four year term and to authorize Manager Bless to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of the Council to the Governor. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #9: Community Development Advisory Committee

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, to appoint Mark Reschke, Carolyn Reschke, Bethany Zell, Barbara Aiken, Janine Murchison, Michele Smith, and Idella Thompson to the Community Development Committee. (5 yes, 1 abstention, K. Murchison) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #10: Other Business

- A. Councilor McDonough introduced Ordinance No. 1, 2014 Series, An Ordinance amending Chapter 2 Administration, Short Title: An ordinance amending the Personnel Policy of the City of Caribou.
- B. Motion made by K. Murchison, seconded by D. Martin, to set March 10, 2014 as the Public Hearing date for an ordinance amending the City's Personnel Policy. (6 yes) So voted.
- C. Motion made K. Murchison, seconded by P. McDonough, to allow Scott Michaud (employee #133) to purchase, with no cost to the City, his years of service to the City from the Maine State Retirement System. (6 yes) So voted.
- D. Anyone interested in serving as a Ballot Clerk is encouraged to contact the City Clerk's Office by March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- E. The City has received a Safety & Health Award for Public Employers (SHAPE). The City of Caribou is the first municipality to ever earn a four year extension. For the next four years, the City will not be required to have additional inspections. The Mayor extended his thanks to the employees for a job well done.

Council Agenda Item #11: Executive session pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Chapter 13 Section 405 (6)(A) to discuss personnel matters.

The executive session was not held.

Motion made by K. Murchison, seconded by P. McDonough, to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting Date:

Regular City Council Meeting, March 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Regular City Council Meeting, March 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary

**CFAD MONTHLY REPORT  
February 2014**

Total Fire/ Rescue Calls	9	Total Amb. Calls 118 inc. Air & Assists
-Alarms for Fires (33)	4	- Ground Amb.: 109
-Alarms for Rescues (66)		- Air Amb. Flights: 3
-Silent Alarms	5	- Amb. Assist Calls: 6
-Haz-Mat		- ALS Calls 56
-Grass Fires		- BLS Calls 45
-Chimney Fires		- No Transport 11
-False Alarms		- <b>Calls Turned Over: No Calls Turned Over</b>
-10-55's		Total Out of Town Amb. Calls 20
-Aid to Police	1	Total Out of Town Fire/Rescue Calls 0
-Public Service	1	Est. Fire Loss, Caribou \$3,000
		Est. Fire Loss, out of City \$
Total Hours Pumped	5 min.	Total Est. Fire Loss \$3,000
Gallons of Water Used	100	Total Maint. Hours 7 mhrs.
Amt. of Hose used:	150'	Total Training Hours 208 mhrs.
Ladders Used (in Feet):	(75' Ariel)___1___	Miles Traveled by all Units 8,849
Thermal Imaging Camera Used:	3	Fire Permits Issued 17
CO2 Meter Used:		
Rescue Sled & Snowmobile:		<b>*Color Guard Training</b>
Rescue Boat:		
Jaws Used:		<b>Total Fire &amp; Amb. Calls 127</b>

**MUTUAL AID TO:**

P.I.F.D.	1
F.F.F.D.	
L.F.D.	
W.F.D.	
Stockholm F.D.	
North Lakes FD	
Crown Amb	2 Stby - 1 Dispatched
Van Buren Amb.	1 - Intercept

**MUTUAL AID FROM:**

P.I.F.D.
F.F.F.D.
L.F.D.
W.F.D.
Stockholm F.D.
North Lakes FD
Crown Amb

**OUT OF CITY FIRES/RESCUES**

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b># OF CALLS</b>	<b>MAN HRS.</b>
Woodland		
New Sweden		
Connor		
Westmanland		

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Scott Susi, Chief  
Caribou Fire and Ambulance

**BREAKDOWN OF FIRES  
For February 2014**

<b>Situation Found</b>	<b># Of Incidents</b>	<b>Fire Casualties</b>	<b>Est. Property Damage</b>
1. Private Dwellings inc. Mobile Homes	4		\$3,000
2. Apartments (3 or more)			
3. Hotels & Motels			
4. Dormitories & Boarding Homes			
5. Public Assembly (Church, Restaurant)			
6. Schools			
7. Institutions (Hospitals, Jails, Nursing Homes)			
8. Stores, Offices			
9. Industry, Utility, Defense			
10. Storage			
11. Vacant Buildings or being Built			
12. Fires outside structure w/value (crops, timber, etc.)			
13. Fires Highway Vehicles			
14. Other Vehicles (planes, trains, etc.)			
15. Fires in brush, grass w/no value			

**Other Incidents**

16. Haz-Mat	
17. False Calls	
18. Mutual Aid Calls	1 - PIFD
19. Aid to Ambulance (10-55's)	
20. Aid to Police	1
21. Investigation (Smoke, CO <sub>2</sub> or Alarm)	2 - (2 - Alarms)
22. Service Calls	1 - (Radio Tower)

**Total Calls for the Month:** \_\_\_\_9\_\_\_\_

Caribou Police Department							
FEBRUARY 2014 MONTHLY REPORT							
OFFENSE			Amount	OFFENSE			Amount
1	<b>Complaints</b>	2030	40	Violation of Interim License	0		
2	<b>Motor Vehicle Accidents</b>	20	41	Following Too Close	0		
3	<b>Escorts</b>	1	42	Violation of Permit	0		
4	<b>Theft Complaints</b>	13	43	Failure to Stop at Stop Sign	0		
5	Crim. Mischief Complaints	3	44	Failure to Stop for Pedestrians	0		
6	<b>Animal Complaints</b>	8	45	Passing Stopped School Bus	0		
7	<b>Domestic Complaints</b>	8	46	<b>Stops and Checks M/V</b>	1653		
8	<b>Burglary Complaints</b>	6	47	<b>Parking Tickets</b>			
9	<b>Oper. M/V Under the Infl.</b>	2	48	<b>Business Alarms</b>	16		
10	Criminal Trespass Comp.	6	49	M/V Permits	4		
11	<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	1	50	<b>Handling Prisoners</b>	50		
12	Unsecured Doors&Windows	0	51	Running Intoxilyzer	5		
13	Motor Vehicle Complaints	27	52	No Insurance	9		
14	<b>Missing Persons</b>	3	53	<b>Warrant Arrests</b>	14		
15	Harassment Complaints	9	54	Neg. Worthless Instrument Arrests	0		
16	Assault Complaints	3	55	Leave the Scene of Accident	0		
17	O.A.S. Arrests	1	56	Failure to Yield the Right of Way	0		
18	<b>Juvenile Complaints</b>	1	57	Arson Complaints	0		
19	<b>Fight Complaints</b>	0	58	Suicide Complaints	0		
20	Noise Complaints	0	59	Disorderly Conduct Complaints	7		
21	Criminal Threat Complaints	2	60	<b>Unlawful Sexual Contact</b>	0		
22	Lost & Found	3	61	<b>Gross Sexual Contact</b>	1		
23	Neg. Worthless Inst. Comp.	0	62	Unattended Death Reports/Hospice	2		
24	<b>Prowler Complaint</b>	0	63	Burglary Arrests	0		
25	Criminal Trespass Arrest	0	64	Violation of Probation Arrests	0		
26	<b>Assist Other Agencies</b>	24	65	Criminal Records Check	23		
27	<b>Assault Arrest</b>	0	66	Refusal to Sign U.T.T.	0		
28	Drunk Complaint	0	67	Violation of Liquor Laws Arrests	0		
29	Litter Complaint	0	68	Violation of Tobacco Laws Arrests	0		
30	<b>Theft Arrest</b>	1	69	Violation of Drug Laws Arrests	5		
31	Oper.Unregistered M/V	2	70	Failure to Produce Pawn Slips	0		
32	Oper M/V Without a License	0	71	Snowsled & Snow Complaints	0		
33	Driving To Endanger	0	72	Juvenile Arrests	0		
34	Expired Inspection	4	73	Prov. A Place for Minors to Consume Alc.	0		
35	Inadequate Exhaust	0	74	Criminal Mischief Arrests	0		
36	Unnecessary Noise	1	75	Violation of Bail Conditions	3		
37	Eluding an Officer	0	76	Seatbelt Violation	0		
38	<b>Speeding</b>	16	77	Disorderly Conduct Arrests	1		
39	Fail to Stop for an Officer	0	78	Receiving Stolen Property	0		

**Caribou Police Department**

OFFENSE		Amount	OFFENSE		Amount
79	House Watch Requests	4	91	Misuse of E-911 System	0
80	Robbery	0	92	911 Calls	18
81	Truant from School	2	93	Warnings	40
82	Criminal Threatening Arrests	0	94	Assault Domestic Violence	0
83	Terrorizing Arrests	0	95	Check on Well Being	10
84	Loaded Firearm in a M/V	0	96	Police Information	11
85	Making a False Public Report	0	97	Suspicious Activity/Person/MV	18
86	Child Endangerment Complain	2	98	Civil Complaint	3
87	Tampering with a Witness	0			
88	Violation Of Protection Order	0			
89	Poss. of a Firearm by a Felon	0			
90	Multi-handgun purchase	4			

Respectively Submitted,

Chief Michael W. Gahagan  
Caribou Police Department



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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CARIBOU, MAINE

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To: Mayor and City Councilors  
From: Austin Bleess, City Manager  
Date: March 10, 2014  
Re: Appointment of Registration Appeals Board

Due to the recent passing of James Moore, we have an opening on the Registration Board of Appeals. Municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more must have a Registration Appeals Board to hear appeals of persons aggrieved by a decision of the registrar to either remove a name from the voting list or refuse to place a name on the voting list.

The Democratic Party has nominated Gary Sanfacon to replace Mr. Moore.

We need Council approval on this nomination.



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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CARIBOU, MAINE

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To: Mayor and City Councilors  
From: Austin Bleess, City Manager  
Date: March 10, 2014  
Re: Sale of Tax Acquired Property

In accordance with the Tax Acquired Property Policy we have received offers on two different pieces of property.

Map 21, Lot 12-A (.25 acres of land only) an offer of \$100

Map 8, Lot 39 (.25 acres of land only) an offer of \$100

Both offers are from Lena M. Giggey. The last time these properties went out to bid the minimum bid was \$100 and we received no bids.

We will need Council approval to sell these lots in accordance with the Tax Acquired Property Policy.



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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CARIBOU, MAINE

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To: Mayor and City Councilors  
From: Austin Bleess, City Manager  
Date: March 10, 2014  
Re: Airport Terminal Master Plan Update

The next project on the airports Capital Improvement Plan is the update of the Airport Master Plan. This plan was last updated in 1998 and most of the recommendations in this plan have been completed. In working with our Airport consultant, it was proposed that a hangar, be designed (2015) and constructed (2016) to grow revenue.

However, the FAA is requesting that the City update the Airport Master Plan before we proceed with any hangar construction. The reason behind this is FAA wants to insure that what they invest in has been planned and that future development is in line with the future needs of the airport. Our airport consultant agrees with this approach and propose to conduct a Terminal Master Plan Update instead of a full Airport Master Plan Update. Over the past 4 years, most of the work completed at the airport has resolved most of the issues usually identified in a full Master Plan Update.

The estimated cost of this is \$30,000 of which the City would be responsible for 5%, or \$1,500. We have put aside enough money in 2014 to cover this expense. The current runway expansion project is also on track to be under budget for our engineering costs and our consultant has assured me that the City will be able to pay our portion of this Terminal Master Plan Update project from the runway project budget.

The outcome of this study will identify layout for future hangar development and in turn, will allow the necessary design and permitting to be completed in forthcoming years. Once design and permitting is complete, other potential aircraft owners will have the ability to erect their own hangars without the headaches of State permitting procedures. By constructing a City owned hanger at the airport we will be able to lease out the space to local and transient aircraft owners and generate more income at the airport.



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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CARIBOU, MAINE

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To: Mayor and City Councilors  
From: Austin Bleess, City Manager  
Date: March 10, 2014  
Re: Vehicle for Fire Department

At the last meeting the Council asked for justification on the purchase of the vehicle for the Fire Department. Here are a list of the duties that the Chief compiled and those that are in the Job Description for the Fire Chief.

**LIST OF OUTSIDE DUTIES**

1. State Fire Chiefs
2. Aroostook County Fire Chiefs (Evenings/Weekends)
3. Aroostook Region 5 Meetings
4. County EMA (Evenings)
5. Council Meetings In And Out Of Caribou (Contracted Communities)
6. Ems Education Committee (NMCC) (Evenings)
7. CFAD Meetings And Training (Evenings/Weekends)
8. Maine Fire Service Training
9. Billing Customers (Ambulance Billing)
10. Hospital Relations And Issues (Cary/TAMC)
11. Community Meetings (DHHS)

**MUTUAL AID CALLS**

1. Washburn
2. Presque Isle
3. Fort Fairfield
4. Limestone
5. Mapleton
6. Stockholm
7. North Lakes

**FIRE USE**

1. Fire Command
2. Traffic Control At Scene
3. Mutual Aid
4. Extra For Car Accidents

**EMS RELATED**

1. Station Coverage (Short Handed)
2. Education/Training
3. Ambulance Billing Contracts

**COVERAGE AREA**

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>FIRE</u>	<u>AMBULANCE</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u>AREA</u>
CARIBOU	X	X	8,189	81sqmi
CONNOR	X	X	457	40sqmi
WOODLAND	X	X	1213	35sqmi
NEW SWENEN	X	X	602	35sqmi
WESTMANLAND	X	X	62	37sqmi
T16-R4	X	X	110	47sqmi
STOCKHOLM		X	253	39sqmi
PERHAM		X	386	34sqmi
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11,272</b>	<b>348sqmi</b>

**FIRE/MUTUAL AID CALLS 2013**

NIGHTS AND WEEKENDS-56

**EMS COVERAGE 2013**

32 CALLS COVERED

**AMBULANCE BILLING**

3 COMPANIES UP TO 5

**GRANTS** – These are Grants or Equipment that the Chief has received since assuming the role, which is a savings to the City of Caribou.

\$45,000.00 MICS. GRANTS

\$633,400.00 DRMO EQUIPMENT

As part of the DMRO equipment we recently received about \$100,000 worth of Jaws of Life equipment for a cost to the City of \$1,200.

**Function:**

**The functions of the department are divided into five areas; Administrative, Fire & EMS Education, Fire Suppression, Hazardous Materials Incident and Below Grade Rescues and the Emergency Medical Care including, at times, long distance transfers of our citizens.**

**1. Administrative Responsibilities:**

- a. General administration of full time and paid call Fire & Ambulance Department
- b. Monitor and coordinate training and license updates for entire department. In Fire, training to Firefighter II and Hazardous Materials to Operations Level. In Ambulance, training to Paramedic Level.
- c. Conduct Fire/Arson or Patient Care Investigations
- d. Code Enforcement of City and State Statutes relating to the Fire Department
- e. Monitor all building and equipment maintenance
- f. Attend City, County and State meetings relating to Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- g. Work with City Code Enforcement to ensure that the citizens are protected to the fullest extent of Local and State Life Safety Codes
- h. Work with Police Department to provide the best and safest crowd and traffic control at all emergencies involving Fire or EMS Incidents
- i. Work with Caribou Utilities and Public Works Departments to insure that adequate water and hydrants are available in an emergency
- j. Work with Local and State Medical Directors relating to all EMS matters.

**2. Fire and EMS Education Responsibilities:**

- a. Over see all Public Education Programs such as Learn Not To Burn, Extinguishers, Safety Talks and Special Clinics
- b. Over see all work with School Systems in Fire Prevention and Education
- c. Chimney and wood stove inspections, including Education and Installation and Maintenance
- d. Fire Inspections of all businesses and, on request, Private Homes
- e. Fire and EMS training and updates
- f. Public speaking on Fire and Medical Emergencies
- g. Over see public education on use of Fire Extinguishers and Smoke and CO Detectors
- h. Attend all Fire and EMS meetings on training requirements.

**3. Fire Suppression Responsibilities:**

- a. Assume Command in suppression of Fire in Caribou and all surrounding communities who contract with Caribou
- b. Assume Command at all Hazardous Material Incidents in the above areas
- c. Provide Emergency Evacuation in the above areas when needed and find housing for evacuees
- d. Provide safety for the Firefighters and Fire Victims during an emergency
- e. Provide Mutual Aid for fire suppression to surrounding towns when available
- f. Assume Command of all Mutual Aid forces and equipment from surrounding towns.

**4. Emergency Medical Care Responsibilities:**

- a. Provide 24-hour emergency medical care and transportation of the sick or injured for Caribou and all surrounding communities who contract with Caribou for similar services
- b. Provide emergency medical care and transportation of firefighters when needed
- c. Provide a transfer service to the sick or injured to areas outside the County, and or, State when requested by Cary Medical Center
- d. Stay in compliance with Local and State License requirements regarding Emergency Medical Care

- e. Provide 24-hour Emergency Air Transfer Service when plane is available
- f. Assume Command at all Mass Casualty Situations and or Rescue Operations for Caribou and all surrounding Communities who contract service with the City of Caribou
- g. Provide Mutual Aid to all Ambulance Services in the County when available.

**5. Hazardous Material and Below Grade Rescue Responsibilities:**

- a. Assume Command of our equipment, personnel and all mutual aid forces and equipment
- b. Assume Command of Caribou Utilities and Public Works personnel and equipment during a rescue operation.
- c. Provide response and care to the Operations Level of training. Advanced level requirements will have to be hired from Madawaska Haz Mat Team
- d. Call in Technical Level personnel and provide medical evaluations on team members and decon for those contaminated.

**The Caribou Fire and Ambulance has written Mutual Aid Agreements with all surrounding communities on a “Request Basis”.**

The vehicle that is used by the Chief is also used at times to help block traffic so a police officer does not need to be dedicated to the scene.

This vehicle is not used for personal reasons. It is used by the Chief to perform the necessary work duties. It is a take home vehicle given the 24/7 nature of this position. We do refer to this vehicle as a command vehicle, as that what it is in our department. Command vehicles are certainly different from city to city.

The current vehicle is in need of some repairs. As this replacement has been schedule for 2014 for several years, and to date \$24,000 has already been set aside for this purchase we have brought it to the Council. We do anticipate being able to sell the current vehicle for \$3,000 - \$4,000 as well.

We appreciate Council direction on which way they would like to go on this.



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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CARIBOU, MAINE

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To: Mayor and City Councilors  
From: Austin Bleess, City Manager  
Date: March 10, 2014  
Re: Discussion Budgeting Process

At our last meeting the Council asked me to seek a legal opinion on the budget and whether or not it could all be passed at the same time. I have asked Rick Solman to review this. He has reviewed the charter and cautioned against adopting the expense and revenue budget at the same time in December due to the wording in the Charter of “current year” when it talks about the Revenue Budget.

He did say that the adoption of the Revenue Budget could be done in January as long as the timelines of the reports were followed. As all of the timelines are “on or before” this would allow to meet the timelines and approve a revenue budget in January. We would need to modify the revenue line items in June for things such as Homestead Reimbursement, BETE Reimbursement, and the Taxes for commitment.

If this is something the Council would like to do we can have the revenue budget ready for either the next meeting or the first meeting in April.



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CARIBOU PARKS AND RECREATION  
CARIBOU, MAINE

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To: Mayor and City Councilors  
From: Kathy Mazzuchelli  
Date: March 10, 2014  
Re: Recreation Trails Grant

Since the 1990's, the City of Caribou has worked diligently to develop an interconnected network of trails to benefit the residents and businesses in and around Caribou. In 2004 Kent Associates was contracted by the City to work with residents, businesses and city staff to develop a trails plan to meet four basic needs:

- Improving connectivity and access
- Meeting multiple user group needs
- Addressing landowner concerns
- Enhancing economic development potential associated with recreational trails

During the process, Kent Associates completed an assessment of existing and potential trails; mapped existing trails and delineated proposed connections and links; worked closely with a Trails Advisory Committee made up of a variety of users; and held public hearings to garner input from residents and interest groups. In the end, the City was able to develop a comprehensive, long term trails development plan that has been a working tool since its completion.

Since the plan was approved Parks and Recreation officials and City officials have worked on certain components of the plan along with interested parties. At this juncture, we are respectfully requesting the Caribou City Council to allow the Parks and Recreation Department to apply for a Recreational Trails Grant to begin work on Segment B1 and D of the plan identified as the Riverfront Multiuse Trail and the West Side Riverfront Connector.

The sections identified were developed between 2008 and 2009 but only for all terrain vehicles and are commonly referred to as the Lagasse Trail North and South. The trail was developed and funded by the ATV Grants In Aid Program. The trail begins off the old Aroostook Valley Railroad off outer York St., moves along York St for a ways then follows the powerline east from York St. along the edge of the Jacobs Apartments, through Big Cheese Pizza where it crosses South Main St. The trail then proceeds east utilizing a section of Armco Ave then continues down under US Rt 1 to Lower Lyndon St. At this intersection the trail moves along Lyndon St to the Lyndon St Boat Launch where a removable wharf provides seasonal access across Caribou Stream. The trail then accesses Water St to Broadway to Limestone St then crosses the railroad tracks and travels parallel to US Rt 1 and Rt 89. It currently utilizes the old railroad bridge over Rt 89 and continues to the existing Bangor Aroostook Trail adjacent to the Otter St Park and Ride.

When combined with the cross town connector, it provides local residents with an 11.3 mile loop trail within the City with varying terrain and access to the Aroostook River, Caribou Stream and hundreds of miles of rail-trail without having to travel busy roadways. The primary goal of the

grant application would be to enhance the trail for bicycle and pedestrian traffic thus developing a cohesive system of multiuse trails in and around the City itself for locals and visitors to utilize.

The grant is a matching grant and the City would be required to match 20% of the cost. The 20% match would be comprised of both cash and in kind labor. Prospective funding components would include G-365-03 Land Acquisition/Easements; G-1-365-04 Rails To Trails Program; G-365-13 Recreation Collins Pond Ext. and TIF Funds. The grant is comprehensive and will take a several months to prepare for a November 14, 2014 submittal. Once submitted it would go through a grant review with notification coming in February or March of 2015 and work commencing in the spring of that year should the application be successful.

Monday, March 10, Parks and Recreation staff will make a presentation to the City Council about this project. We hope the City Council will look favorably upon this request.



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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CARIBOU, MAINE

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To: Mayor and City Councilors  
From: Austin Bleess, City Manager  
Date: March 10, 2014  
Re: Administration Ordinance Changes

To keep up with best practices the Administration Ordinance, which serves as the Personnel Handbook for the City is here for council debate this evening. It is important for personnel policies to be reviewed periodically and kept up-to-date. This is essential not only to remain in compliance with current law, but to ensure that policies accurately reflect current operating procedures and management structure.

There are several small technical changes that are a part of this.

Some of the larger changes include:

- Redefining the hours of work for Regular Full-Time and Part-Time employees to conform to the standards the federal government implemented as part of the Affordable Care Act.
- Allowing for the vacancies to be filled internally through promotion rather than requiring all positions to be posted internally and externally concurrently.
- Moving from a Vacation and Sick Time policy for new employees to a Paid Time Office policy.

All of these changes have been discussed with the Personnel Committee, which is made up of the Council.

We have scheduled the public hearing on this ordinance for tonight. We need to take public comment on the ordinance before the Council may act on this.

The ordinance is on the following pages.

Councilor McDonough introduced the following ordinance:

Ordinance No. 1, 2014 Series  
City of Caribou  
County of Aroostook  
State of Maine

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 **ADMINISTRATION**

Short Title: An ordinance amending the Personnel Policy of the City of Caribou.

The City Council of the City of Caribou, County of Aroostook, State of Maine, pursuant to the requirements of the City of Caribou Charter, Section 2.11 (1) does ordain the following:

**Section 1:** Chapter 2 of the Caribou City Code is hereby repealed.

**Section 2:** Chapter 2 of the Caribou City Code is replaced with the attached ordinance, Exhibit A.

This ordinance, being introduced on February 24, 2014 and a public hearing being held on March 10, 2014 was duly passed by the City Council of the City of Caribou, Maine, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Aiken, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth G. Murchison Jr, Councilor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shane McDougall, Councilor

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Martin, Councilor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Philip J. McDonough II, Councilor

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Genthner Sr, Councilor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joan Theriault, Councilor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jayne R. Farrin, City Clerk

## INTRODUCTION

The Caribou City Council believes that it is important to work together harmoniously in a spirit of friendliness and cooperation to maintain a comfortable working atmosphere. The City Council strives for excellence, and the best and most qualified persons seeking employment with the City will be selected to serve the City of Caribou.

The people of Caribou are the center of the City's activities. The reason for local government is to meet the needs of the people and its community. Municipal government's defining role in the success of the community is to provide the most cost efficient delivery of services while creating and maintaining the infrastructure necessary to facilitate the future economic and social well being of the community within the governmental structure so empowered by the will of the people. To provide this service, the most qualified City employees may be ultimately involved with health, safety, welfare, education and the convenience of the people.

This handbook is designed to inform the employee about the City's personnel policies and procedures and to help them understand their benefits and responsibilities as an employee of the City. It is the responsibility of the employee to become familiar with and gain an understanding of this handbook. Employees who may need any part of this handbook clarified should direct their questions to the Human Resources ~~Department~~Director. All employees are required to sign a receipt of this handbook containing the City's policies and procedures. A copy of this receipt will be placed in the employees' personnel file.

While the City of Caribou has developed the plans, policies and procedures described in this handbook, the policies are provided for general information only and are not a statement of contractual obligation guaranteeing employment for any specific duration. The employee may end employment "at will", absent any contractual agreement, without cause or advance notice. The City of Caribou may end employment "at will"; absent any contractual agreement, for cause. Advanced notice of termination should be made in all possible situations. This Personnel Policy is not to be interpreted as creating contractual rights in any employment. Conflicting changes in state, or federal laws take precedents over this Personnel Policy.

~~This handbook is not an employment contract and certain policies or procedures may be changed according to the chartered authority of the Caribou City Council by an act of ordinance subject to a public hearing. The employee will receive updated information concerning any changes in policy.~~

## FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The City of Caribou operates under the Council-Manager form of government by a Charter so created in March of 1967. The Council is comprised of seven members elected at large who determine policies, make laws and ordinances, adopt budgets and determine the tax rate.

~~The election of Councilors is done~~Councilors are elected each year on a rotating basis with 2 councilors one year, 2 the next and 3 the following year on a nonpartisan ballot. Each

year, the Council elects a Mayor from among its members.

The Council appoints the City Manager, who is responsible for all administrative matters, such as, enforcing the law in accordance with the City Charter and ordinances and policies adopted by the Council, and appointing department heads, except those positions appointed by the City Council as specified in the City Charter. Employment of all personnel is the responsibility of the City Manager.

## **EMPLOYMENT SECTION**

~~This section deals with the various categories surrounding employment. It will help you understand the process of applying for a job and the many different items that pertain to the employment process~~

~~All applicants must submit a written application for employment to the department in which they would like to be hired, or to the City Manager.~~

~~Employment of all personnel is the responsibility of the Department Head with the approval of the City Manager through authority of the City Charter.~~

## **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

The purpose for an affirmative action program is to continue to create an equitable environment among the employees. The City of Caribou's affirmative action program contains the following objectives:

- ✓ To examine all employment policies and procedures systematically to ensure that no employee or applicant is discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, religion, sexual orientation or other protected class.
- ✓ To develop and implement affirmative action plans which will be followed in recruiting, employing and promoting qualified individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, religion, sexual orientation or other protected class.
- ✓ To foster a non-threatening environment in which employees are assured that discrimination is neither condoned nor tolerated.

## **GENERAL LABOR POLICIES**

Each employee is encouraged to seek information or advice from the Human Resources Director or Department Heads on any matter affecting his/her employment.

Rules and regulations adopted from time to time by Supervisory or Administrative Personnel within the chartered authority will be followed at all times.

## **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

In order to provide equal employment and advancement opportunities to all individuals, employment decisions at the City of Caribou will be based on merit, qualifications, and abilities. Except where required or permitted by law, employment practices will not be influenced or affected by an applicant's or employee's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other characteristic protected by the law.

The City of Caribou will make reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with known disabilities unless doing so would result in an undue hardship. This policy governs all aspects of employment, including selection, job assignment, compensation, discipline, termination, and access to benefits and training.

In addition to a commitment to provide equal employment opportunities to all qualified individuals, the City of Caribou has established an affirmative action program to promote opportunities for individuals in certain employment classifications throughout the organization.

Employees with questions or concerns about any type of discrimination in the workplace are encouraged to bring these issues to the attention of their immediate supervisor or the Human Resources Director. Employees can raise concerns and make reports without fear of reprisal. Anyone found to be engaging in any type of unlawful discrimination will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

~~The City of Caribou is an Equal Opportunity Employer. It has been, and will continue to be, the policy of the City of Caribou to be an Equal Opportunity Employer. In keeping with this policy, the~~ The City of Caribou will continue to recruit, hire, train, and promote into all job levels the most qualified persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or any other protected class under state or federal law. With the same respect, all other personnel matters such as compensation, benefits, transfers, layoffs, City sponsored training, education, and social and recreational programs will continue to be administered in accordance with the equal opportunity policy of the City of Caribou.

## **IMMIGRATION LAW COMPLIANCE**

~~The City of Caribou is committed to employing only United States citizens and aliens who are authorized to work in the United States and does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of citizenship or national origin.~~

The City of Caribou complies with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 and requires all employees to complete the Employment Eligibility Verification Form.

~~In compliance with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, each new employee, as a condition of employment, must complete the Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9 and present documentation establishing identity and employment eligibility. Former employees who are rehired must also complete the form if they have not completed an I-9 with the City of Caribou within the past three years, or if their previous I-9 is no longer retained or valid.~~

~~Employees may raise questions or complaints to their immediate supervisor or the City Manager about immigration law compliance without fear of reprisal.~~

## PROBATIONARY PERIOD

~~It is our belief that you will be a successful employee of the City. However, in~~In order to provide ~~you new employees~~ and the City time in which to evaluate ~~yourself work performance; your continued employment~~ newly hired employees will be subject to a probationary period of six (6) months. ~~After this period, you will become eligible for all applicable benefits, some of which are retroactive to your date of hire.~~ If ~~however,~~ the employee is deemed unable to be a successful employee during the probationary period, employment can be terminated without cause, notice or hearing. If the employee has transferred to a new position from another department, the hire date will default back to the original hire date for benefit purposes.

The probationary period is intended to give Department Heads an opportunity to review the ability of the new employee to perform all aspects of the position. If a concern/s should arise involving performance, attendance or conduct during the probationary period, the Department Head will meet with the new employee in a timely manner to discuss these concerns.

If a probationary employee continues to have problems after receiving feedback, the probationary period may be extended, or the employee may be released, depending upon the concern(s) at the discretion of the City Manager.

Time spent on leave without pay will not count toward completion of the probationary period. A probationary employee must complete the probationary period upon return from the leave without pay. Time spent, as a temporary employee is not counted toward the probationary period.

An employee may be released at any time without cause, hearing or notice during the probationary period. An employee who has successfully completed the probationary period may be terminated in accordance with the City policies.

## RE-EMPLOYMENT

Former employees who left the City with good records may be given preference over new applicants, providing their qualifications are equal to the other applicants. However, when computing seniority and employment benefits they ~~should~~ will be considered as new employees.

## ANTI-NEPOTISM

Relatives are defined as follows: spouses, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, brothers and sisters-in-law, fathers and mothers-in-law, stepparents, stepbrothers, stepsisters, stepchildren, sons and daughters-in-law. ~~This policy also applies to individuals who reside with another employee.~~

Relatives of persons currently employed by the City may not be eligible for employment within the same department of the City. If the relative relationship is established after employment, the individuals concerned will meet with the City Manager. The Manager

~~will~~ may then make any reassignment or adjustments necessary so that the employees will not be working directly for or supervising a relative or will not be working directly above the relative's immediate superior or directly for the relative's immediate subordinate. In cases where a conflict or the potential conflict arises due to personal relationships, the parties may be separated by reassignment and/or be subject to corrective action or in some cases termination.

~~The orientation period is designed for observation and evaluation of the new employees' work after the effective date of hire, rehire, or transfer from within the City. The length of the orientation period is six months from the date of hire or rehire.~~

## **EMPLOYEE CONDUCT**

All employees are expected and required to treat the public and their coworkers with promptness, patience, courtesy, and respect. Employees are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that will bring no discredit to their department or to the City of Caribou.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY**

During the course of their duties, employees of the City of Caribou often are privy to information about individuals which is sensitive and must be kept confidential. Employees are expected to respect the confidential nature of any information not subject to public knowledge.

## **ABSENTEEISM AND TARDINESS**

Employees shall be at their respective places of work in accordance with the general or departmental regulations. In the event of necessary absence because of illness or any other cause, it is the responsibility of the employee to see that his/her department head is advised of the reason for absence prior to the start of the work day and on each subsequent day so he/she may adjust the daily schedule of work as necessary. Similarly, if ~~you an employee are~~ is going to be unavoidably detained for some reason, ~~phone your notification must be given to the respective~~ department head within 2 hours of ~~the employee's your start work timescheduled start time,~~ and let him/her know you will be late and when you expect to arrive at the work place. Excessive tardiness and/or unapproved absences may be cause for disciplinary action and/or termination. ~~Excessive tardiness and/or absences are defined as three or more per calendar month.~~

## **EMPLOYMENT CLASSIFICATIONS**

It is the intent of this section to clarify the definitions of employment classifications so that employees understand their employment status and benefit eligibility.

The following describes employment categories that classify employees according to their employment status and benefit eligibility.

REGULAR FULL-TIME (*Non-exempt*) employees are those who are paid hourly, not in a temporary or probationary period status and who are regularly scheduled to work at least 37.530 hours per week. They are eligible for the complete City benefit package, subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations of each benefit package.

REGULAR FULL-TIME (*Exempt*) employees are those who are paid with a salary based on a regular 40 hour week and are not eligible for overtime benefits as provided by Section 13(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act as defined by Regulations, 29 CFR Part 541. They are eligible for the complete City benefit package, subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations of each benefit package.

REGULAR PART-TIME employees are those who are not assigned to a temporary or probationary status and who are regularly scheduled to work less than the full-time work schedule, but at least 15 hours per week, but less than 37.530 hours per week and over a 52 week period. Regular part-time employees are eligible, on a pro rata basis, for vacation and retirement benefits, subject to the terms, conditions and limitations of each benefit program.

PART-TIME/SEASONAL employees are those who are not assigned to a temporary or orientation status and who are scheduled to work on an irregular basis. ~~While they do receive all legally mandated benefits (such as Social Security and Worker's Compensation insurance), they are ineligible for all other City benefits.~~ Part-time/seasonal employees are not eligible for City benefits.

PROBATIONARY employees are those whose performance is being evaluated to determine whether further employment in a specific position is appropriate. Employees who satisfactorily complete the probationary period will be notified at their six (6) month evaluation of their new employment classification.

TEMPORARY employees are those who are hired as interim replacements, to temporarily supplement the work force, or to assist in the completion of a specific project. Employment assignments in this category are of a limited duration. Employment beyond any initially stated period does not in any way imply a change in employment status. Temporary employees retain that status until they are notified of a change. ~~Temporary employees are ineligible for City benefits. While temporary employees receive all legally mandated benefits (such as Social Security and Worker's Compensation insurance), they are ineligible for all other City benefit programs.~~ (Amended 10/07)

## EVALUATIONS

All employees will be given a written performance evaluation annually. This evaluation will be reviewed by the employee with the evaluator. A new employee will be evaluated after six (6) months of employment. ~~All evaluations will be conducted annually in October thereafter.~~ Department Heads shall complete evaluation reports on subordinates and return to the Human Resources Director. All evaluations will be kept in the employee's personnel file.

The City Manager (~~or~~ and appropriate board if applicable) will complete evaluation reports on ~~the~~ Department Heads. The Council Personnel Committee jointly with the Mayor shall ~~do~~ complete the evaluation on the City Manager. This evaluation shall be approved by the

City Council, with the final vote taken in public session. The evaluation report will be signed by the Mayor and/or Chairman of the Personnel Committee and maintained in a confidential file by the Human Resources Director for the Personnel Committee. All other personnel records will be confidential and filed with the Human Resources Director and available for review by the employee, the department head or the City Manager.

## CONFIDENTIAL PERSONNEL RECORDS

Personnel records are maintained for each employee of the City and are kept in a locked file cabinet. Any employee may review his/her files in the presence of the Human Resources Director or the City Manager between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. So as not to cause disruption the employee shall set up an appointment with the Human Resources Director for such a review in advance.

## PROMOTION AND TRANSFERS

~~It is the policy of the City to give preference in filling promotional vacancies to existing personnel. All positions will be posted internally and externally concurrently to fill the position. This should provide added incentive to do well since promotions are in part based on past performance and potential.~~

The City of Caribou may fill a vacancy internally through promotion of existing personnel at the discretion of the appropriate hiring authority with approval from the City Manager.

Transfers are permissible between departments if the move is acceptable to the employee, ~~and both Department Heads concerned, and with the approval of the City Manager.~~ No employee is to be approached directly concerning a transfer, but only after proper consultation and agreement between the Department Heads involved. Employees wishing to transfer departments must consult the Human Resources Director. Department heads wishing to transfer employees must consult the Human Resources Director and receive approval from the City Manager.

Transfers to a vacant position of the same classification or like classification, even if it is a different department, will not affect the employee's standing relative to City benefits accrued. However, the transferred employee will begin establishing seniority based on the transfer date, if the transfer is to a new department.

## WAGES AND SALARIES

The City of Caribou attempts to keep its wages and salaries comparable with other similar communities, agencies and firms. ~~We also maintain~~ The City of Caribou maintains a salary schedule for all positions, if not covered by specific contract, in order to keep positional salaries at a comparable rate.

~~The new~~ New employees are paid at a rate within the City's Wage and Classification ~~of for~~ the position for which they were hired. Individual compensation concerns are to be discussed only with ~~direct Department Heads or immediate supervisor, the respective~~ Department Head, the Human Resources Director, or the City Manager.

The City of Caribou's Wage and Classification Program has been created to develop a clear understanding of each different position in the organization, to insure each position is measured on the same basis to determine its relative value, and to insure that each individual is equitably and competitively compensated for the type of work performed.

This program has been developed and adopted to serve as a guideline for the City of Caribou exclusively. The program utilizes eight factors as the basis of measurements:

- 1) **Knowledge/Education** – This factor measures the requirement for knowledge and skill in administration, professional, technical and human relations areas. This knowledge requirement may be specialized, diverse or broad in scope. Knowledge may be obtained through formal schooling, specialized training or self-education. Minimum knowledge requirement is considered for satisfactory performance of the job.
- 2) **Mental Activity/Complexity of Decisions** - The requirement for original and independent creation, analysis reasoning, evaluating, judgment, and choosing among alternatives.
- 3) **Job Experience** – This factor measures the minimum time necessary to acquire, through experience, the practical knowledge, skill, and technique to perform the work. It is the total of time necessary in related work on-the-job training in which the experiences are directly applicable.
- 4) **Responsibility/Accountability** – The requirement of independent responsibility for what happens. The exercise of judgment is mental activity, but the results of judgment are accountability. Accountability may be observable, or it may be remote, as in making long-range policy.
- 5) **Management Control** – This factor measures the responsibility for training, guiding or directing the effort of others, either personally or through subordinates. It measures to what extent the job requires organizing work, making plans and schedules, and leading others toward organization goals.
- 6) **Relationships** – This factor measures the effect of internal or external contacts upon costs or reputation and prestige of the organization. It is that factor which deals most importantly with human relations skills. The nature and level of such contacts, their frequency, whether information is furnished or obtained, or whether it is necessary to influence others are considered.
- 7) **Analysis and Research** – This factor measures the fact-finding and interpretation, investigation, research, and analysis required for the satisfactory performance of the position. Research may be required with respect to financial, economic and social trends, the effect of technological developments, new industries, and other matters.
- 8) **Working Conditions** – This factor measures the physical surroundings under which the job must be performed and includes the potential for occupational injury.

Each of these factors is scored to determine a classification number. Once a classification number has been determined for each individual, that individual is placed into a range. Once a classification number has been assigned to a position, the position will fall within one of the twelve ranges that are established.

## **HOURS OF WORK**

The City Manager and the Department Heads shall endeavor to establish schedules of working hours for department heads and subordinate employees, not in excess of those stipulated by general law of the business and industry for related positions. The City recognizes however, that there are some governmental jobs that require unique working schedules. It is the responsibility of the City Manager or Department Head to establish the work schedule that provides the necessary staffing to serve the needs of the citizens of Caribou. Over the course of a year, needs of different departments come to a peak resulting in overtime work. All persons on hourly wage rates required to work outside of their regular work schedule or over forty (40) hours, whichever is the greater, shall be paid time and one half. For example: If an employee is hourly non-exempt and the normal work schedule is Monday through Friday – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with one hour allowed daily for lunch; and the employee works beyond 5:00 p.m. or on Saturday or Sunday, then the employee qualifies for the time worked outside of the work schedule at time and one half. In lieu of overtime pay, compensating time may be allowed at a rate of time and one half by mutual agreement between the employee and his/her immediate Department Head. (Amended 10/07)

## **TERMINATION**

RESIGNATION - All hourly employees resigning from the service of the City are required to give a two (2) week notice. Failure to comply with this agreement or a termination not in good standing will result in loss of accumulated vacation or any other accumulated benefit.

Department Heads shall be required to give a minimum 30 days notice.

REFERENCES - The City Manager or Department Head may give letters of recommendation to individuals and furnish references on inquiry by prospective employers.

EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATIONS – All employment verifications should be submitted in writing by facsimile or mail to the Human Resources Director.

EXIT INTERVIEW - Each employee before completing severance of his/her employment will have an exit interview with the ~~Department Head~~, Human Resources Director and/or the City Manager or his/her designated official. (Amended 08/07)

## **DISCIPLINE AND DISCHARGE**

DISCIPLINARY ACTION - Demotion and suspension may be used by a department

head with the approval of the City Manager for inefficiency, insubordination, substance abuse on duty, absenteeism, tardiness, or continued poor performance after evaluation and any behavior which is not conducive for working conditions. Disciplinary action must be taken within one (1) week of the Department Head's notification of the incident. One week constitutes five (5) working days. Documentation of disciplinary action will be retained in the employee's personnel file indefinitely. (Amended 10/07)

Procedure for disciplinary action is as follows:

First Offense – Counseling/Verbal warning (to be documented in the employee file)

Second Offense - Written notice (to be documented in the employee personnel file)

Third Offense – Termination

The Department Head and/or the Human Resources Director in conjunction with the City Manager; has the authority to enter the disciplinary action procedure at any of the four levels outlined in this section.

**TERMINATION** - If a regular employee is to be terminated from employment, the Human Resources Director will issue a notice to the employee on the day of discharge. In addition, the employee can request arrangements to be made for a hearing with the City Manager, the Department Head, the Human Resources Director and the employee to determine whether discharge is appropriate. If any employee is discharged for such reasons as listed under disciplinary action, he/she is not entitled to remuneration for accrued/banked sick leave but will be eligible for accrued/banked vacation pay upon separation. Should the result of a hearing be discharge, the employee will be provided with a written statement from the City within 24 hours of said hearing. Termination may be effective immediately should the seriousness of the violation warrant such action.

## **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

The City of Caribou for the purposes of this Grievance Procedure will define a grievance as the following: A dispute between any employee and the City concerning the interpretation or application of the terms of these Personnel Rules and Regulations. Excluded are those matters pertaining to management's judgments of qualification and or performance relating to: hiring, promotions of personnel, work conditions, employment supervision, safety, compensation adjustments, etc.

The City Council shall serve as the Grievance Board for hearings. Employees must fulfill all steps of the process in sequence order prior to submitting in writing that the City Manager notify the Council of a potential hearing.

- (a) The grievance shall first be discussed with the immediate supervisor.
- (b) The grievance may then be submitted in writing to the Department Head who shall give a written reply within one (1) week. (One week constitutes five (5) working days).
- (c) The grievance may then be submitted in writing to the Human Resources

Director who shall give a written reply within one (1) week. (One week constitutes five (5) working days).

- (d) The City Manager may be requested in writing to bring the matter before the Personnel Committee of the City Council; only after the completion of steps (a) through (c).

These steps shall be followed in sequence. However, the requirements of a written presentation and reply in steps (b) and (c) is not intended to preclude the use of frank and informal conference as a means of reaching settlement.

## **BENEFITS**

### **HEALTH INSURANCE**

The City is engaged in a group hospital and surgical plan.

Group health insurance is available to all full-time employees and their families or dependents. The City Council annually determines the share of the premium that the City will pay.

This health insurance also includes major medical benefits. (Amended 08/07)

Included in this health insurance at no cost to the employee is a term life insurance valued at one (1) times the employee's annual salary.

Health Insurance Stipend – The City of Caribou offers an incentive/stipend to the employees to opt out of taking the standard offer of the health insurance plan of choice. This is an option for employees NOT TO TAKE the standard offer of insurance in which the employee must provide proof of other insurance plan. The incentive will be comprised of a cash incentive to be paid directly to the employee in each payroll period.

### **DENTAL INSURANCE**

Regular employees working 15 hours or more may purchase Dental Insurance coverage at employee expense from the Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust.

### **LIFE INSURANCE**

Regular employees working 15 hours or more may purchase Basic, Supplemental, and/or Dependent Life Insurance coverage at their expense from the Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust.

### **FLEXIBLE REIMBURSEMENT BENEFITS ACCOUNTS**

The City offers a flexible benefits program to regular full-time employees. Employees who voluntarily choose to participate may elect to make weekly deductions into their accounts to reimburse them for up to \$5,000 in annual Dependent Care expenses and for up to ~~\$3,000~~\$2,500 in annual medical expenses on a tax-free basis.

Employees who are interested should obtain more information and carefully evaluate the details before deciding whether to participate.

## GRATUITIES

A City employee is prohibited from soliciting or accepting any gift, gratuity, favor, entertainment, loans, or any other item of monetary value from any person, within or outside City employment, whose interests may be affected by the employee's performance or nonperformance of his/her official duties.

Acceptance of nominal gifts, such as food and refreshments in the ordinary course of business meetings, or unsolicited advertising or promotional materials such as pens, note pads, calendars, etc., is permitted.

## REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

Employees shall be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred while carrying out approved, official City business. Such reimbursement shall be made in accordance with current, approved rates upon submission of a standard expense sheet, signed by the employee's immediate supervisor. Such reimbursement shall not apply to travel between employee's home and the place of work, unless more than 1 trip is required per day. Requests for reimbursement of meals, parking fees, lodging and registration fees must be accompanied by receipts of same whenever possible. All reimbursements are to be submitted within 14 calendar days of the date the receipt for purchase is issued or the reimbursable cost is incurred, or within 14 calendar days of an employee's return to work after travel approved by the City Manager for City business.————

## USE OF CITY PROPERTY

Employees may not, directly or indirectly, use or allow the use of City property of any kind for other than official activities. ~~City telephones may be used for personal business only for matters of importance. Employees must pay for any personal long distance telephone calls made from City telephones. Exceptions to this rule must be approved by the City Manager.~~

## INTERNET AND ACCEPTABLE USE

The City of Caribou's internal network is connected to the Internet. Everyone with computer access to the internal network has the ability to access the Internet, ~~including use of electronic mail and the World Wide Web.~~ While the Internet is a great resource for our organization, it is the responsibility of each employee to use this resource responsibly and respectfully. It is assumed that the predominant use of these resources will be for work use, and that any personal use of ~~electronic mail or the World Wide Web~~ e-mail and the internet will be limited; never a priority over work matters. If an employee is found spending excessive time on personal use of these resources, ~~this privilege may be revoked for that employee. disciplinary action may be taken.~~

Electronic mail sent from the City should be treated the same as any other communication that is sent. All communications represent the City of Caribou's name as a whole, and as such, should be written in a professional and appropriate manner. This also applies to any material that is published on the City of Caribou's ~~World Wide~~ Website.

## **OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT AND COMPENSATION**

A City employee may engage in outside employment. However, no employees may engage in outside employment which in any manner interferes with the proper and effective performance of the duties of their position, results in a conflict of interest. Employees must inform their Department Head of their outside employment. If the City Manager determines that such outside employment is disadvantageous to the City, he shall notify the employee in writing that the outside employment must be terminated. Any employee who engages in employment outside their regular working hours shall be subject to perform their regular duties first.

The City shall in no respect be liable or grant sick leave or disability leave in cases where an employee is injured or contracts an occupational illness or develops occupational disability while engaged in outside employment.

## **POLITICAL ACTIVITY**

While working for the City, all employees shall refrain from using their influence publicly in any way for or against any candidate for elective office in the City government. City employees shall not circulate petitions or campaign literature for elective City officials, or be in any way concerned with soliciting or receiving subscriptions, contributions, or political service for any person for any political purpose pertaining to the City government. This rule is not to be construed to prevent City employees from beginning, or continuing to be, members of any political organization, from attending political meetings, from expressing their views of political matters, from voting with complete freedom in any local state or national election, or exclude them from forming a union or joining one. City employees who accept any official position within the City's municipal organization are expected to resign from positions where there may be a conflict of interest or an incompatibility of offices.

## RETIREMENT

The City offers a qualified pension plan designed to supplement Social Security benefits that will help attain a measure of security and financial independence after you have left active employment with the City due to retirement.

**ELIGIBILITY** - In order to be eligible you must be a regular full-time or regular part-time employee and make a weekly contribution to the qualified plan. The City will make a weekly contribution after the completion of six (6) months of employment. The maximum amount that the City will contribute is \$1.00 on every \$1.00 up to 3 1/2% of the employee's gross weekly earnings. (Amended 10/07)

Fire and Police are eligible to join the Maine State Retirement System. The City of Caribou will only contribute to one qualified plan per employee. (Amended 2/96)

## HOLIDAYS

Eleven (11) holidays are observed throughout the calendar year. They are:

1. New Years Day
2. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
3. Presidents Day ~~or in some departments, the employee Birthday or a floating holiday~~
4. Patriot's Day
5. Memorial Day
6. Independence Day
7. Labor Day
8. Columbus Day
9. Veteran's Day
10. Thanksgiving
11. Christmas

Since some governmental departments must be open every day due to the necessity of their operation, it is not possible for all employees to be scheduled off duty on the day the holiday occurs. When this happens and the employee is unable to take a day off to make up for it, he/she will receive pay at time and a half (1 ½ ) for the holiday worked.

Holidays falling on Saturday will be observed on Friday and all holidays falling on Sunday will be observed on Monday. Any employee not working the day prior and the day following a holiday when scheduled to do so, will relinquish eligibility for holiday pay unless there is a legitimate reason for the employees action. Paid holidays will be provided to regular part time employees on a pro-rata basis. (Amended 2/96 and 2/01)

## VACATIONS

For employees hired before January 1, 2014 Vacation Policy is as follows:

An employee is eligible to take annual vacation time with pay after completing six

(6) continuous months of service with the City. For employees completing six months of service, all vacations will be taken by January 1 or within three (3) months of their employment anniversary date.

All subsequent annual vacations are calculated by January 1. Vacations cannot be accumulated from year to year. All vacation time should be taken during the established vacation period for each department.

Vacation will be accumulated as follows:

After six months of service the employee will receive 1 workweek.

After 1 year of service the employee will receive 1 additional workweek.

After 2 years of service the employee will receive 2 work weeks vacation plus one day.

After the completion of each additional year, the employee will receive one additional day per year until the completion of 5 years.

After 5 years of service the employee will receive 3 workweeks.

After the completion of each additional year, the employee will receive an additional one half of a day (4 hours) per year until the completion of 15 years.

After 15 years of service the employee will receive 4 workweeks.

After the completion of each additional year, the employee will receive one additional day per year until the completion of 20 years.

After 20 years of service the employee will receive 5 workweeks.

(Amended 10/07)

Regular part time employees are eligible to accumulate vacation based on the average number of hours worked in the past year. The average number of hours is calculated at the number of years of service. (Amended 8/07)

Vacation pay is determined by the pay rate of the employee at the time they are actually on vacation. Employees may take vacations in any increments of their choosing, at the discretion of the Department Head. If payday falls during the annual vacation of any employees, he/she is entitled to his/her pay in the payroll prior to the start of their vacation. (Amended 10/07)

It is the City policy that each employee shall take at least one (1) week vacation a year. Department Heads are in charge of scheduling vacations. They will do their best to plan their schedules according to requests made by employees and employee's seniority. (Amended 2/96)

An employee is not allowed to work and be paid double his/her wage during his/her vacation period, or carry over any unused vacation time unless approved by the Department Head and City Manager. (Amended 2/96)

The employer encourages employees to use all of their annual accrued vacation however; under some circumstances an employee may not be able to use their full allotted vacation. With the approval of the Department Head and the City Manager, an employee may bank unused vacation time up to a maximum of 400 hours, to be paid only upon separation or retirement. (Amended 2/01)

Upon retirement or resignation from the City's employment, or upon death, the employee or his/her estate can collect unused vacation pay. (Amended 2/96)

For employees hired before January 1, 2014 Sick Leave Policy is as follows:

## **SICK LEAVE**

If you are a full time employee, you will be eligible for paid sick leave after completing six (6) months of continuous service from date of employment, at which time you will have accumulated 48 hours. Sick leave is accumulated at the rate of eight hours per month up to 960 hours or its equivalent.

Should any employee become ill, he/she will make an attempt to contact their supervisor or Department Head prior to their regularly scheduled start time. Failure to do this may jeopardize eligibility for sick leave for the period.

Employees may be required to present a doctor's certificate to justify absence and to qualify for payment for time lost during sick leave. (Amended 2/01)

Any sickness occurring during a regularly scheduled vacation may not be counted as sick leave.

Upon retiring and discontinuance from the City's employment or upon death, the employee or his/her estate shall be paid unused sick leave benefits up to 960 hours. (Amended 2/01)

Upon termination of employment in good standing with the City, the employee will be compensated for unused banked sick leave, up to 960 hours, according to the following schedule:

After	5	years	-	25%
After	10	years	-	50%
After	15	years	-	75%
After	20	years	-	100%

The City wishes to encourage employees to build up their accrued sick leave to provide security for those instances when the employee is unable to perform duties because of sickness. Upon accruing the maximum number of hours, the employer will permit the employee to bank additional unused hours for additional security, to be used only when a long term illness of the employee occurs, which can be documented by the employee's physician. The employer will also permit the employee to cash in any accrued sick leave, beyond nine hundred sixty (960) hours at the rate of \$6.25 per hour. The determination to bank or cash in these sick leave hours will be done during the month of January each year and will be paid out to the employee or credited to the sick leave bank in February of each year.

## **For employees hired on or after January 1, 2014**

### **I. Overview**

The City of Caribou will offer "Paid Time Off" ("PTO") in lieu of traditional vacation and sick time. This policy will halt the growth of the City's substantial unfunded liability in sick and vacation pay out in exchange for greater

flexibility with employee's use of earned time.

## **II. Accruals**

<u>Time with City</u>	<u>Weekly Accrual Rate</u>	<u>Annual Accrual</u>
<u>0-12 months</u>	<u>2.62</u>	<u>136</u>
<u>12-60 months</u>	<u>3.36</u>	<u>176</u>
<u>60-120 months</u>	<u>4.15</u>	<u>216</u>
<u>120-240 months</u>	<u>4.92</u>	<u>256</u>
<u>240 months and up</u>	<u>5.69</u>	<u>296</u>

- a. Employees may accrue up to 750 hours of PTO.
- b. Employees must utilize 80 hours of PTO each year.
- c. Employees will be paid out PTO up to their maximum annual accrual, providing they have that amount of time left unused.
- d. Part time employees will accrue according to the following schedule: Employees routinely working less than 20 hours per week will earn 10% of the accrual rate based on their years of service; employees routinely working more than 20 hours per week will earn 25% of the accrual rate based on their years of service.

## **III. Use of Paid Time Off**

- a. PTO is a benefit to be used by permanent full time and eligible part time employees. However, the scheduling of time off is dependent upon the judgment and discretion of the Department Head or his/her designee. This includes vacations, personal days, scheduled medical appointments, etc.
- b. Employees are required to utilize 80 hours of PTO in a calendar year.
- c. PTO can be requested in hourly increments or daily increments. PTO requests in excess of 5 days must be approved by the City Manager or his/her designee, unless required by a physician.
- d. Employees on unpaid leave shall not accrue PTO.

## **IV. Unscheduled Leave**

- a. Unscheduled leave/absences are defined as unscheduled time off that is unapproved in advance by the Department Head or designee. If less than 2 working days' notice is given for any requested time off, the absence is considered unscheduled.
- b. When unscheduled leave is necessary, employees shall notify their Department Head or designee prior to the beginning of their scheduled reporting time within the time period designated by the Department Head.
- c. A Department Head or designee may grant approval of a request by an employee to use PTO with less than two (2) day notice if the employee's absence does not negatively affect departmental workload, project completion, and sufficient staffing levels exist. Such use of PTO will not be considered unscheduled.

## **V. Transition & Conversion**

- a. Conversion of 2014 time- All management and non-represented employees electing to switch to the PTO system will have remaining sick and vacation time for 2014 credited to their PTO bank at the end of 2014. Weekly accrual of PTO will begin January 1, 2015 for current employees, if they elect to switch to PTO, and upon hire for new hires.
- b. Conversion of banked sick and vacation time- Employee vacation time and sick time for 2014 will be converted to PTO at the end of 2014. Employees may at any time during the transition period and after convert their vacation and/or sick time to PTO at a ratio of 1:1. Conversions will be allowed until all employees who held time in vacation or sick banks have exhausted all sick/vacation time.
- c. Employees who would be subject to a loss of total time accrual due to falling at a lower years of service step on the PTO system will be credited PTO to their PTO bank equal to the amount which they would have lost between their current year of service and the next vacation accrual step under the vacation/sick system.

## VI. Payout of PTO

- a. Employees will be paid out for accrued PTO at their current rate of pay up to their maximum annual accrual rate, providing they have that time accumulated. Employees who have remaining sick/vacation time may choose which system to be paid out under.

## **UNPAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE (FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT OF 1993)**

FMLA requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons. Employees are eligible if they have worked for a covered employer for at least one year, for 1,250 hours over the previous 12 months ~~and if there are at least 50 employees within 75 miles.~~

### **Reasons For Taking Leave**

Unpaid leave must be granted for any of the following reasons:

- To care for the employee's child after birth or placement for adoption or foster care;
- To care for the employee's spouse, son or daughter or parent, who has a serious health condition; or
- For a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform his or her job.

### **Advance Notice and Medical Certification**

The employee may be required to provide advance leave notice and medical certification. Taking of leave may be denied if requirements are not met.

- The employee ordinarily must provide 30 days advance notice when the leave is "foreseeable."

- An employer may require medical certification to support a request for leave because of a serious health condition and may require second or third opinions (at the employer's expense) and a fitness for duty report to return to work.

### **Job Benefits and Protection**

- For the duration of FMLA leave, the employer must maintain the employee's health coverage under any "group health plan."
- Upon return from FMLA leave, most employees must be restored to their original or equivalent positions with equivalent pay, benefits and other employment terms.
- The use of FMLA leave cannot result in the loss of any employment benefit that accrued prior to the start of an employee's leave.

### **Unlawful Acts by Employers**

FMLA makes it unlawful for any employer to:

- Interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of any right provided under FMLA.
- Discharge or discriminate against any person for opposing any practice made unlawful by FMLA or for involvement in any proceeding under or relating to FMLA.

### **Enforcement**

- The U.S. Department of Labor is authorized to investigate and resolve complaints of violations.
- An eligible employee may bring a civil action against an employer for violation.

FMLA does not affect any federal or state law prohibiting discrimination or supersede any state or local law or collective bargaining agreement which provides greater family or medical leave rights.

### **For Additional Information**

~~Contact the nearest office of the Wage and Hour Division, listed in most telephone directories under U.S. Government, Department of Labor.~~

~~U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Standards Administration  
WH Publication 1420~~

~~Wage and Hour Division, Washington, D.C. 20210~~

In accordance with the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and the State of Maine Family and Medical Leave Act, the City provides medical and family leaves of absence without pay to an employee who has been employed by the City of Caribou for 12 consecutive months and who has worked at least 1,250 hours during the year preceding the start of the leave is entitled to a family medical leave of up to twelve (12) weeks in any twelve (12) consecutive months for the birth, adoption of a child 16 years of age or less, or serious illness of the employee, child, spouse, or parent. Serious illness means an accident or disease or condition that: (1) poses imminent danger of death; (2) requires hospitalization involving an organ transplant, limb amputation or other procedure of similar severity; or (3) any mental or physical condition that requires constant in-home care. Please refer to the Human Resource Director's office for further details or clarification.

A. To be eligible for a family medical leave, the employee must give ~~at least 30 days~~ notice of the intended date upon which family medical leave will commence and terminate, unless the employee is prevented from giving notice because of a medical emergency. The employee requesting family medical leave must do so on a preprinted form available in the Human Resource Director's office.

B. The City will require certification from a physician to verify the amount of leave requested by the employee for medical leaves.

C. Family medical leave is without pay. The employee must use accrued sick leave in accordance with the policies concerning such leaves, to cover absences related to family medical leave; however, the total amount of family medical leave may not exceed twelve (12) weeks. Sick leave runs concurrently with (12) weeks of family medical leave ~~and cannot exceed the (12) weeks regardless of how much sick leave is accrued.~~

D. If the employee is enrolled in group medical insurance prior to utilizing unpaid leave, the City of Caribou will pay for the employer's share of the medical insurance premium for the period of the unpaid family medical leave; said period not to exceed twelve (12) weeks. The employee's share of medical insurance, life insurance, income protection, union dues, union insurance and retirement benefits will continue during the period of unpaid leave at the cost of the employee. When all sick leave has been utilized by an employee, salary payments to the employee shall cease immediately. The City will no longer pay any amount toward employees' benefits after twelve (12) weeks. The employee will then have the opportunity to continue the benefits by paying the cost themselves. In the event that the employee fails to return to work after the expiration of the leave, the employee will be expected to reimburse the City for its share of the Health Insurance premiums. The employee will not be required to reimburse the City if he/she is precluded from returning to work by a serious health condition. The employee will be required to provide the City with medical certification of the serious health condition provided by the Medical Doctor that originally certified the serious health condition.

E. Sick and vacation leave do not accrue during an unpaid leave period.

F. Upon the end of the family medical leave, and/or upon submission of a qualified return to work report, an employee will be restored to the position occupied by the employee immediately prior to the commencement of the leave or to an equivalent position with the same employee benefits and pay as existed immediately prior to the commencement of the leave, except in the event of conditions unrelated to the employee's taking of a family medical leave which prevent the restoration to the same or equivalent position.

G. An employee should return to work from the family medical leave no later than the first working day following the expiration of the leave, unless statutes prevail.

H. An employee may take leave on an intermittent basis or by working a reduced schedule with prior written approval by a primary care physician and the City Manager.

## **WORKER'S COMPENSATION**

The City of Caribou provides Worker's Compensation Insurance coverage for all employees. When an on-the-job accident occurs the affected employee is to report it immediately to his or her direct supervisor or Department Head. The Department Head shall notify the Human Resources office within 24 hours of the injury or on the next following work day of the accident.

#### A. Preferred Provider Program

The City of Caribou encourages safety in our work environment. We are concerned about each employee's well being and take an active role to assist the employee with a proper recovery.

Because of our interest in employees, we have coordinated a preferred provider program for work-related medical services. For information on which the City's preferred provider is, please see either your Department Head or the Human Resource Director.

It is required that all employees, unless it is an emergency situation, seek medical treatment through the City's preferred provider. Initial medical treatment is to be obtained from the City's preferred provider and is authorized by law under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992, Title 39-A, M.R.S.A., Section 206.

All initial medical treatment is to be obtained from the City's preferred provider and will be scheduled through the Department Head who in turn will notify the Human Resource Director.

The personal safety and health of each City Employee are of primary importance. The prevention of occupationally induced injuries and illnesses is of such consequence that it will be given precedence whenever necessary.

In the event that an occupational injury does occur, immediately notify your Department Head or direct supervisor. Each Department Head is responsible for completing a 1<sup>st</sup> Report of Injury form and turning it into the Human Resource Department.

#### **IF THE INJURY APPEARS TO BE LIFE-THREATENING...**

(Examples: unconsciousness, inability to move, potential spinal injuries, broken bones, uncontrollable bleeding, heart attack, stroke, inability to breathe, etc)

1. You or a sponsor on your behalf may call 911
2. You may report to a nearby emergency room.
3. Send someone to meet emergency personnel at building entrance and guide them to the emergency location.
4. Get names of witnesses and information necessary for an accident report

We look forward to working together to maintain a safe, healthy work environment, as well as provide opportunities for a proper recovery.

#### B. Medical Bills

Medical bills, when received either by the department or the employee, are to be forwarded immediately to the Human Resource Director's office. Medical bills are paid without any waiting period. For employee compensation there is a seven day waiting period. The City

remains responsible for employee compensation for the first seven days of the absence, this will be charged to employee sick leave, between eight and thirteen days the insurance carrier provides compensation; fourteen days and over all compensation is retroactive to day one by the insurance carrier and the employee's sick leave shall be credited back to the City upon payment by the employee to the City for the seven days.

In some instances worker's compensation payments may be held up. If this occurs, the City will continue to pay the employee by charging his/her time to sick leave, of which the employee must buy back from the compensation paid by the insurance carrier.

If a worker is receiving worker's compensation he/she must continue to pay his/her share of life and medical insurances.

## **NON FMLA LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

An employee of regular standing may be granted a leave of absence without pay by the City Manager on recommendation of the department head, with such leave not to exceed 90 days in length. The granting of the leave shall protect the employee's existing continuous service for the leave period but shall not count as service time for Maine State Retirement, nor shall vacation or sick leave accrue during the absence, nor will the City continue to pay their portion of the Health insurance, nor will the employee receive pay for municipal holidays. (Amended 08/07)

## **CATASTROPHIC LEAVE PROGRAM**

### **A. Introduction**

The Catastrophic Leave Donation Program permits salary and benefits continuation for regular full-time employee's that work for the City of Caribou who have exhausted all paid leave due to their own serious illness or injury, or due to the need to care for a seriously ill member of the employee's family or household. Subject to the stated eligibility requirements, salary and benefits continuation is achieved through donation of vacation/sick hours from other City of Caribou employees.

### **B. Authority and Responsibility**

1. Administration of the program will be handled by the Human Resources Director
2. Human Resources will determine on a case-by-case basis whether a request to draw from the pool qualifies for Catastrophic Leave usage. An employee may appeal a Human Resources determination to the City Manager for a final decision.

### **C. Definition**

A catastrophic illness or injury is a serious, debilitating illness or injury that incapacitates the employee or a member of the employee's family or household, and creates a financial hardship because the employee has exhausted all eligible vacation/sick hours.

## D. Eligibility

Recipients must meet each of the following conditions to be eligible to receive donated leave hours:

1. A leave of absence is approved by the Department Head and then Human Resources in relation to a catastrophic illness or injury.
2. Recipient has exhausted all paid leave accruals and is not receiving short term disability or Workers' Compensation payments.

## E. Procedures

1. Donor and recipient requests are submitted in confidence to Human Resources using the **Request/Donation for Catastrophic Banked Leave** form.
2. Donors donate vacation/sick hours to a general pool without specifying a recipient.
3. A request to receive donated vacation/sick leave must be accompanied by a physician's written verification of the illness or injury.
4. All donations are processed anonymously.
5. Donations are not tax deductible.
6. Participation in the program, for donors and recipients, is entirely voluntary.

## F. Limitations

1. Prior to receiving donated leave through this program an employee must first exhaust all paid accruals, including sick leave and vacation leave.
2. A recipient is required to use any leave accrued during the previous pay period(s) prior to use of donated leave hours.
3. In any pay period, recipients may use donated hours only up to their regular weekly hours.
4. Donations must be a minimum of eight hours with any additional hours in whole-hour increments. ~~The annual maximum donation is 50 percent of the donor's annual leave accrual entitlement~~

## F. Frequently asked questions

### **1. What is the effect of short-term disability benefits in relation to the program?**

Once time is donated to an eligible employee, that employee is placed on active pay status. When an employee is on pay status, they are not eligible for short-term disability. Donated time may be used during the employee's disability waiting period, but disability benefits will not be payable until the waiting period is over and the employee is no longer on active pay status.

### **2. May donations be made at any time?**

Yes.

### **3. Where do the donated hours go?**

When an employee donates vacation/sick hours, the hours go into a general leave bank for future use by eligible employees.

### **4. Must donations be made anonymously?**

Generally, it will be assumed that donations are being made anonymously. Anonymity prevents pressure from being placed on, or perceived by, employees who do not choose

to donate hours, regardless of the reason for their decision. However, as a matter of personal discretion, donors may choose to inform recipients of their action.

**5. What happens to left-over donated hours that are not needed by the recipient?**

Since donations are irrevocable, hours not needed by the recipient are transferred back to the bank.

## **JURY DUTY**

As a City employee, you are expected to carry out your citizen responsibilities. An employee will be granted special leave, as required, for jury duty or performance of other civic duty requiring appearance in court or before another public body. The employee shall be paid the difference (if any) in compensation between the amount received from the rendering of such service and his or her regular rate of pay, if the service occurs during a work day. Time paid for jury service shall not be counted as time worked for purposes of overtime computation.

## **MILITARY LEAVE**

Any permanent employee in a regular full time position who is a member of the National Guard or any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, and is required to undergo field training or Active Duty, shall be allowed a leave of absence. Any City employee that is required to undergo this duty will be granted reserve service leave, in addition to normal vacation leave, per fiscal year. For any such period of reserve service leave, the City will pay the difference (if any) between service pay, and the employee's regular pay.

Any permanent employee in a regular full time position that returns to their position from active duty service and suffers post traumatic syndrome will have counseling provided to them per the Military Leave Act of 1994.

The main law governing the employment rights of employees on military duty is the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA), found in Title 38 of the United States Code starting at Section 4301. The law does several things:

- Employers must hold open the jobs of employees on military duty and may not otherwise discriminate against them because of their military service.
- The law gives that protection to every type and variety of employee.
- Upon return from military duty, a veteran or employee who is still in the military is entitled to whatever position he or she would have attained with reasonable certainty if the military service had not occurred. In narrowly-defined situations, a veteran may be given a comparable position as long as the seniority, pay, and status remain the same.
- A veteran may not be discharged or subjected to adverse employment action for one year after the date of reinstatement, except for cause; the same rule applies to service in the Reserves or National Guard.
- Employers must provide up to eighteen months of health plan coverage to employees when they are absent on military leave. When the veteran returns, the

employer must immediately cover the veteran under the employer's health plan, assuming the veteran was covered prior to the leave.

- Seniority under an employer's pension plan must continue to accrue while the employee is on military duty. To the extent that the employer funds the plan, the employer must continue to fund the employee's participation in the plan.
- In general, if a benefit having to do with length of service would have accrued with reasonable certainty, had the veteran been continuously employed by the employer, the employer must award the benefit as if the veteran had been continuously employed.

## **BEREAVEMENT LEAVE**

In the event of a death in the immediate family, absence from work with pay may be granted for a period not to exceed three (3) days. Other circumstances may be granted with special permission of the Department Head and or the City Manager.

For the purpose of this policy, immediate relatives are defined to include spouses, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, brothers and sisters in-law, fathers and mothers in-law, stepparents, stepbrothers, stepsisters, stepchildren, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, and individuals residing with an employee. (Amended 2/96)

## **PERSONAL BUSINESS**

The City realizes that medical appointments and other necessary engagements may occur during regular scheduled working hours. When this happens, you must receive permission from your supervisor or Department Head for leave. Time lost will be deducted from sick time or vacation time for non salaried personnel. (Amended 10/07)

## **ACCIDENTS TO EMPLOYEES**

All injuries to personnel, no matter how minor, during the work schedule, must be reported immediately to the Department Head and a written report shall be made.

Employees suffering from an on the job injury may be sent to a doctor for examination. Time lost because of an injury incurred while on duty will not be deducted for any reason when computing length of service.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The personal safety and health of each City employee are of primary importance. The prevention of occupationally induced injuries and illnesses is of such consequence that it will be given precedence whenever necessary. To the greatest degree possible, the City will provide all facilities and equipment required for personal safety and health in keeping with highest standards.

To assist in providing a safe and healthful work environment for employees, customers, and visitors, the City of Caribou has established a workplace safety program. This program is a top priority for the City. The Safety Officer has responsibility for implementing, administering, monitoring, and evaluating the safety program. Its success

depends on the alertness and personal commitment of all.

The City provides information to employees about workplace safety and health issues through regular internal communication channels such as supervisor-employee meetings, bulletin board postings, memos, or other written communications.

Employees and supervisors receive periodic workplace safety training. The training covers potential safety and health hazards and safe work practices and procedures to eliminate or minimize hazards. A safety advisory group has been established to assist in these activities and to facilitate effective communication between employees and management about workplace safety and health issues.

Some of the best safety improvement ideas come from employees. Those with ideas, concerns, or suggestions for improved safety in the workplace are encouraged to raise them with their supervisor, or bring them to the attention of the Safety Officer.

Each employee is expected to obey safety rules and to exercise caution in all work activities. Employees must immediately report any unsafe condition to the appropriate supervisor. Employees who violate safety standards, who cause hazardous or dangerous situations, or who fail to report or, where appropriate, remedy such situations, may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

In the case of accidents that result in injury, regardless of how insignificant the injury may appear, employees should immediately notify their immediate supervisor. Such reports are necessary to comply with laws and initiate insurance and workers' compensation benefits procedures. Please see the City of Caribou Safety Handbook for complete details.

## **HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM**

In addition to the workplace safety program, the City has established a Health and Wellness program. This program has been established to evaluate the City's workforce. Group health needs and risks are presented through a Personal Wellness Profile that is administered confidentially and annually through the Human Resources office. Through this confidential profile, the City can evaluate the health needs and risks of employees. Recommendations for initiating risk reduction and health enhancement are a vital key to maintaining a healthy workforce. Not only does this program maintain a healthy workforce, but the program also helps with keeping healthcare costs at a minimum. For more information, contact the Human Resources Director.

## **CHANGE OF PERSONAL STATUS**

It is imperative that every employee report any change of information contained in their original application to the head of their department. Changes to be reported include change of address, telephone number, marital status change in number of dependents, etc. At that time, the Department Head will turn in all paperwork to Human Resources in order to make the change effective.

## **SOLICITATION**

As public employees, we are restricted from some activities which private organizations sometimes allow. We are not allowed to solicit for any political purpose on City property during working hours.

## **DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY**

It is the desire of the City of Caribou to provide its employees with a drug-free, healthful and safe workplace. To promote this goal, employees are required to report to work in appropriate mental and physical condition to perform their jobs in a satisfactory manner.

While on City owned property and while conducting business related activities off City owned property, no employee may use, possess, distribute, sell, or be under the influence of alcohol or engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of illegal drugs. Violations of this policy may lead to disciplinary action, up to and including immediate termination of employment, and/or required participation in a substance abuse rehabilitation or treatment program. Such violations may also have legal consequences.

The legal use of prescribed drugs is permitted on the job only if it does not impair an employee's ability to perform the essential functions of the job effectively and in a safe manner that does not endanger other individuals in the workplace.

To inform employees about important provisions of this policy, the City has established a drug-free awareness program. The program provides information on the dangers and effects of substance abuse in the workplace, resources available to employees, and consequences for violations of this policy.

Employees with questions or concerns about substance dependency or abuse are encouraged to discuss these matters with their supervisor, the Human Resource Director or the City Manager to receive assistance or referrals to appropriate resources in the community.

Employees with drug or alcohol problems that have not resulted in, and are not the immediate subject of, disciplinary action, may request approval to take time off to participate in a rehabilitation or treatment program. Leave may be granted if the employee agrees to abstain from use of the problem substance; abides by all City employment policies, rules and prohibitions relating to conduct in the workplace; and if granting the leave will not cause the City department any undue hardship.

Employees with questions on the policy or issues related to drug or alcohol use in the workplace should raise their concerns with their supervisor, the Human Resource Director or the City Manager without fear of reprisal.

## **WORKPLACE SMOKING POLICY**

In accordance with the provisions of the Workplace Smoking Act of 1985, the City has adopted a smoking policy. Pursuant to this Act, smoking shall be prohibited within any municipal building. We ask employees who smoke to please cooperate with this policy

and to only smoke at designated smoking areas.

## **EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

A. The City of Caribou recognizes that alcohol and drug problems are problems for which there is effective treatment and rehabilitation in the majority of cases. Employee assistance is designed as a means of helping employees seek the necessary treatment to alleviate problems affecting job performance. Therefore, the City of Caribou has established an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to service employees in dealing with drug or alcohol problems.

B. Employees may receive assistance from the EAP through self-referral or supervisory referral.

1. Self-referral is a referral in which an employee initiates contact with the EAP directly.

2. Supervisory referral is a referral in which the supervisor strongly suggests to the employee that he/she seek consultation with the EAP. Supervisors may refer employees to the EAP when deteriorating skills or job performances do not respond to normal supervisory action.

C. Employees who seek help through the EAP or who are referred to the EAP by a supervisor will be referred for diagnosis and/or evaluation by an Employee Assistance Counselor. The Employee Assistance Counselor is a person who has a Master's Degree (or similar certification) in counseling, human services or social work that will provide counseling or refer the employee to appropriate diagnosis, evaluation and/or treatment. The Employee Assistance Counselor will be designated by the Human Resource Director.

D. An employee who refuses help or demonstrates little or no effort to perform satisfactorily is subject to normal disciplinary actions. Employees participating in the EAP are expected to meet existing job performance standards and established work rules.

E. All EAP records are confidential and maintained separately from other personnel records. These records will be protected from disclosure to the fullest extent possible and in accordance with existing State and Federal regulations.

F. In the case of a supervisory referral, the Employee Assistance Counselor will ask the employee to sign appropriate release forms so that the Counselor can have contact with the supervisor and the referral agent, if applicable.

G. The Counselor will be responsible for keeping a record of the diagnostic evaluation and the treatment recommendation which will be kept confidential.

H. The Counselor will inform the supervisor as to whether the employee kept the appointment with the Counselor and whether the employee was willing to follow through with the treatment plan. The Counselor will follow-up with the employee as treatment progresses.

I. If the employee's performance or attendance shows no improvement within a reasonable time frame (mutually agreed upon if possible), the employee will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

## **RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES UTILIZING THE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

A. Employees using the EAP have the right to confidential services. EAP records do not become part of any personnel records and release of EAP records can only be made with the written permission of the employee.

B. EAP information cannot be shared with supervisors without the employee's written consent.

C. If the employee is using the EAP as a result of a supervisory referral, the Counselor will only provide the following information to a supervisor, unless the employee signs a written consent agreeing to the release of additional information:

1. Whether the employee made and kept the appointment;
2. Whether the Counselor assesses there is a problem (specifics will not be discussed); and
3. Whether the employee is open to recommendations made by the Counselor.

D. Employees have the right to have access to their records, the right to review relevant information regarding their treatment and referrals, and the right to any and all information regarding benefits.

## **HARRASSMENT POLICY**

It is the intent of the City of Caribou to provide a work environment that is free from discrimination or harassment. Therefore, it is the policy of the City that sexual and verbal harassment is unacceptable conduct in the workplace and will not be tolerated from any source, including supervisors, co-workers and non-employees. Employees are encouraged to assist the City with its goal of maintaining a workplace free of sexual and verbal harassment and with its commitment to deal seriously with allegations of sexual and verbal harassment when they arise.

Sexual Harassment Is Illegal under State and Federal Law *per State Law MRSA; Title 26.*

It is illegal for any employee to sexually harass another employee, and for any supervisory employee to permit any act of sexual harassment in the workplace by anyone, whether or not an employee.

Definition of Sexual Harassment under State and Federal Law *per State Law MRSA; Title 26.*

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when:

1. submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment;

2. submission to, or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
3. such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Description of Sexual Harassment.

- A. Physical assaults of a sexual nature such as:
  1. Rape, sexual battery, molestation or attempts to commit these assaults; and
  2. intentional physical conduct which is sexual in nature, such as touching, pinching, patting, grabbing, brushing against another's body, or poking another employee's body.
- B. Unwanted sexual advances, propositions or other sexual comments, such as:
  1. sexually-oriented gestures, noises, remarks, jokes or comments about a person's sexuality or sexual experience directed at or made in the presence of any employee who indicates or has indicated in any way that such conduct in his/her presence is unwelcome;
  2. Preferential treatment or promise of preferential treatment to an employee for submitting or attempting to solicit any employee to engage in sexual activity for compensation or reward; and
  3. subjecting or threatening to subject, an employee to unwelcome sexual attention or conduct or making performance of an employee's job more difficult because of that employee's sex.
- C. Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere in the organization by employees such as:
  1. displaying pictures, posters, calendars, graffiti, objects, promotional materials, reading materials, or other materials that are sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning, or pornographic, or bringing into the work environment or possessing any such material to read, display or view at work.
  2. Reading or otherwise publicizing in the work environment material that are in any way sexually demeaning or pornographic; and
  3. Displaying signs or other material purporting to segregate an employee by sex in any area of the workplace (other than restrooms and similar semi-private lockers/ changing rooms.)

Verbal Harassment.

Any employee who believes he or she has been harassed should take the following steps to resolve the problem:

1. If an employee finds someone's behavior offensive, they may attempt to resolve the behavior by calmly but firmly informing the individual that they find the behavior

offensive and requesting that the behavior cease.

2. If the harassment continues and the employee does not feel comfortable discussing the behavior with the individual(s) involved, or if they believe some employment consequence may result from his/her confrontation with the individual whose behavior offends them, they should register a complaint, preferably in writing, with their supervisor or with the City Manager. All complaints will be investigated promptly, and to the extent possible, on a confidential basis. Confirmed instances of verbal or sexual harassment will be dealt with by utilizing whatever disciplinary action the City deems appropriate, up to and including termination.

3. If what the employee considers to be a reasonable length of time has gone by and they believe inadequate corrective action has been taken by their supervisor, they should register their complaint in writing with the City Manager.

#### Legal Recourse through the Maine Human Rights Commission.

With regard to a sexual harassment complaint, if the employee does not want to make the report internally, the employee may make the complaint to the Maine Human Rights Commission which is located at the State House Station 51, Augusta, Maine, 04333, telephone number 289-2326. Any complaint must be filed with the Commission within 180 days of the act of harassment. Once a signed charge form has been received by the Commission, an investigation will be conducted and a determination will be made by the Commission of whether or not there are reasonable grounds to believe sexual harassment occurred.

If the Commission determined that sexual harassment did occur, it will attempt to resolve the situation between you and your employer through informal means. If informal means of resolution are unsuccessful, the Commission counsel may file a civil action on your behalf in Superior Court seeking appropriate relief.

#### Maine Human Rights Act Protection against Retaliation for Complaining about Sexual Harassment.

Under the law, no employee may be punished or penalized in any way for reporting, complaining about or filing a claim concerning sexual harassment, or for testifying in any procedure brought by anyone else.

This notice is provided to all employees in compliance with 26 M.R.S.A. 807(2). If anyone has any questions regarding this notification, please ask your supervisor or contact the City Manager.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY**

### **I. Purpose**

This is to establish the policy of the City of Caribou for managing infectious disease issues as they relate to employees and/or prospective employees including but not limited to the following diseases: AIDS, Chickenpox, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Impetigo, Measles,

Mumps, Pertussis, and Parasitic Infestations.

## II. Policy

1. It is the policy of the City to assure to the extent possible a safe and healthful work environment.
2. It is also the policy of the City to ensure full compliance with state, federal, and local requirements dealing with infectious diseases.
3. It is the obligation of all City employees to take all reasonable precautions to protect themselves, co-workers, clients and the public from infectious diseases.
4. The City of Caribou shall make available to all employees and volunteers who have occupational exposure the Hepatitis B vaccination series and post exposure evaluation and follow-up.

## III. Procedures

1. The City will not discriminate against employees and/or prospective employees with infectious diseases who are otherwise qualified to perform their job functions with reasonable accommodation. Employees with infectious diseases will be treated under existing policies, state, federal, and local requirements, and collective bargaining agreements.
2. Where allowed by law, the City retains the right to test employees for infectious diseases.
3. The City must maintain confidentiality regarding an employee's health status, and does not have a duty to inform other individual or organizations unless required by law.
4. Upon medical confirmation of an infectious disease that may be a threat to the public health, the affected employee has the responsibility to notify the City's Human Resources Director, and to carry out his or her assigned duties if reasonable accommodations can be made.
5. Upon notification by an employee that an infectious disease diagnosis has been confirmed and is a threat to the public health, the Human Resources Director will:
  - a. Secure, if possible, all appropriate releases for information from the employee and notify those individuals for whom those releases have been acquired.
  - b. Assist in the identification of reasonable accommodations to be made, if any.
  - c. Assist individual departments, if necessary, in complying with this policy.
6. The City will treat all occupational infectious disease injuries or illnesses according to state law.

7. The City will provide appropriate educational opportunities and current informational material on infectious disease issues, including prevention, protection, control measures, and treatment practices.
8. Individual departments have the right to develop protocols regarding infectious disease control provided that those protocols conform to this policy.
9. An employee cannot refuse to carry out his or her assigned duties when dealing with a co-worker or the public with an infectious disease unless that individual makes a threat of harm to the employee. Failure to adhere to this procedure will result in disciplinary action.

#### IV. Accidental Needle Stick Procedure

Police, fire, and rescue personnel have the highest risk of exposure to needles and syringes. Exposure to a used, contaminated needle places an employee at risk for contracting an infectious disease. In the event of an accidental puncture with a contaminated needle, the procedure is as follows:

1. Wash the puncture site thoroughly with soap/disinfectant and water.
2. Report the incident to your supervisor.
3. Police, fire or rescue personnel must notify the medical facility receiving the patient of the incident.
4. Complete Incident and/or Workers Compensation forms.
5. Establish your potential exposure risk to infectious diseases.
6. Notify your Department Head to establish your: (1) tetanus status, (2) Hepatitis B status, and (3) HIV exposure.
7. Seek further medical attention if necessary.

#### V. Procedure for Exposure to AIDS Infection

If a City employee is exposed to the blood or body-fluid of a known or highly suspected AIDS infected person:

1. Wash the exposed areas thoroughly with soap and water. Clean any spills with a one (1) part bleach to ten (10) parts water solution.
2. Report the incident to your supervisor.
3. Complete the Incident and Workers Compensation forms.
4. Notify your department head as soon as possible to schedule an appointment for a voluntary blood test.
5. The blood test will be drawn within two weeks of the incident, six months later, and nine months later. The blood test is sent to the Maine Public Health Division in

Augusta. Results are received approximately one week later. You will be notified of the test results.

6. If all three specimens are negative, you are considered not to be infected.
7. Counseling occurs with each visit or when requested, and is also available to family members and co-workers.
8. Emotional counseling is available through a counselor of the employee's choice and to be provided by the City of Caribou.
9. Strict confidence will be maintained in all incidences unless appropriate medical and/or information releases have been obtained.