



# Fairhaven Board of Selectmen

## April 3, 2013 Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Vice Chairman Charles Murphy, Clerk Robert Espindola, Selectman Geoffrey Haworth, Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch and Administrative Assistant Anne Kakley. Also present: Lindsay Gordon, Arielle Wittenberg (Standard Times), Peggy Aulisio (The Advocate), Theodore Lorentzen, Jim Cochran, Ivey Winkler, Jay Simmons, John Rogers, Marc Jodoin, Karen Isherwood, Brittany Isherwood.

### REORGANIZATION

Mr. Osuch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and congratulated newly elected Selectman Geoffrey Haworth for winning the election.

Mr. Osuch asked the Board for a Chairman nomination. Mr. Espindola nominated Mr. Murphy to be the Chairman. Mr. Haworth seconded. Mr. Osuch asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. Mr. Osuch asked for a motion to close nominations for Chairman. Mr. Espindola so moved, and Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote to close nominations for the Chairman was unanimous. (3-0).

The Board voted on the motion to nominate Mr. Murphy to Chairman. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Chairman Murphy took over the meeting. He asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Mr. Haworth nominated Mr. Espindola to be Vice Chairman. Mr. Murphy seconded. Mr. Murphy asked for a motion to close nominations for Vice Chairman. Mr. Haworth so moved, and Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote to close nominations for Vice Chairman was unanimous. (3-0). The Board then unanimously voted in favor of the appointment of Mr. Espindola to Vice Chairman. (3-0).

Mr. Murphy asked for nominations for Clerk. Mr. Espindola nominated Mr. Haworth to be Clerk. Mr. Murphy seconded. Mr. Murphy asked for a motion to close nominations for Clerk. Mr. Espindola so moved, and Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote to close nominations for Clerk was unanimous. (3-0). The Board then unanimously voted in favor of the appointment of Mr. Haworth to Clerk. (3-0).

### MINUTES

- Mr. Espindola motioned to approve the minutes of the **March 25, 2013** meeting, **open** session. Mr. Murphy seconded. Motion passed with one abstention from Mr. Haworth. (2-0-1).
- Mr. Espindola motioned to approve the minutes of the **March 25, 2013** meeting, **executive** session. Mr. Murphy seconded. Motion passed with one abstention from Mr. Haworth. (2-0-1).

### **CHANGE ORDER #7**

The Board reviewed Change Order #7 for the new Wood School. Mr. Espindola motioned to approve the change order in the amount of \$42,110.36. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

### **REQUISITION #10**

The Board reviewed Requisition #10 for the new Wood School. Mr. Espindola motioned to approve payment of Requisition #10 in the amount of \$1,895,140. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Mr. Osuch took a moment to share updates on the new Wood School's progress. All sheetrock has been put in place in the classroom back section. Bathroom tile has been completed throughout most of the classroom wing. Workers are currently finishing up the sheetrock in the gymnasium. The project is still scheduled to be completed by late July/early August.

Mr. Osuch also noted that the Board would be completing the bond paperwork for approximately \$4.2 million for the new Wood School and water tower, at the next Selectmen's meeting on April 9.

Mr. Espindola asked Mr. Osuch about the cost of technology, related to the new Wood School. Mr. Osuch said that the rough number for technology was \$450,000, and \$450,000 for furnishings. He said that the project is well within budget and within the contingency.

### **UNITED WAY AWARD**

The Board discussed an invitation from United Way to the Town of Fairhaven for an awards ceremony to be held at White's of Westport. The Town of Fairhaven will be in receipt of an award because of the 2012 Holiday Toy Drive and Food Drive. The Board expressed interest in having a representative at the ceremony on April 9, despite the conflict with an already scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting. The Board opted to send Selectmen's Secretary Anne Kakley to represent the Town.

### **POLICE UNION**

Mr. Osuch said that, with the changing of Selectmen, the Board would have to decide which Selectman would represent the Board in each of the Union negotiations, particularly Police negotiations.

### **BUDGET ISSUES**

Mr. Osuch told the Board that the Principal Clerk in the Selectmen's Office wanted to go back to a part-time position in the Veteran's Office. The position of Principal Clerk was advertised internally in the Clerical Union, but no one applied within the Union. One Non-Union Town employee did apply. Jane Bettencourt, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Assessors, expressed interest in the Principal Clerk position and submitted her resume and cover letter.

Mr. Murphy said that he spoke with Ms. Bettencourt to confirm that she was ready for the move and the decrease in pay. She said yes, that she wants the move in order to simplify her life.

Mr. Espindola expressed support for the move, and added that he thought Ms. Bettencourt would be willing to train her replacement in the Assessor's department.

Mr. Haworth said that Ms. Bettencourt appeared to have the experience to understand the position in the Selectmen's Office and that she would be a good choice.

Mr. Espindola motioned to appoint Ms. Bettencourt to the position of Principal Clerk in the Selectmen's Office. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Mr. Osuch broached the topic of Clerical Union pay for Ms. Bettencourt. After consideration, the Board supported Level 7, Step 6 plus .20/hour longevity for Ms. Bettencourt. Mr. Espindola moved this salary for Ms. Bettencourt. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

### **BLIZZARD RESPONSE**

The Board met with Marc Jodoin, EMA Director, and John Rogers at 7:00 p.m. to discuss response to the February 8, 2013 blizzard that hit Fairhaven.

Mr. Jodoin said that he was concerned that the Town did not have an adequate response to shelter needs during the event. He said that the biggest issue was getting the shelter opened, because they did not enact the disaster plan or the EOC (Emergency Operations Center). He ended up calling Dr. Robert Baldwin directly and had to pick Dr. Baldwin up to get to the shelter. Upon arrival at the school, the driveway and parking lot was unplowed.

Mr. Jodoin said that the shelter ended up having about seven people. He said that the school ended up being closed and they took the seven people to the EMA center at 150 Sconticut Neck Road. He said that this location would be preferable in the future for smaller anticipated groups of shelter-seeking residents.

Mr. Rogers added that there was no State of Emergency declared by the Board of Selectmen for the February 8 blizzard.

General discussion ensued regarding the Town's response to the blizzard. Mr. Jodoin said that the location at 150 Sconticut Neck Road could be made into an EOC, and would be a less distracting EOC option than the current location at the Fire Station.

Mr. Murphy said that, in the future, the emergency meetings need to occur earlier, because the Town is often aware of impending storms days in advance of landfall.

Mr. Osuch asked the Board to recall the emergency meeting that they had before the blizzard. He said that the emergency plan is "only as good as the components" and that the departments have to adhere to the plan in order for it to work. He spoke against an EOC at the EMA center on Sconticut Neck as there is no generator there. He also said that the purpose of an EOC is to centralize access to Police and Fire personnel. He said that a shelter should be prepared with a nurse, a janitor, kitchen help, and the expectation for more than 7-10 people.

Chief Francis was also present. The Board asked him to comment. Chief Francis said that he would be supportive of wherever the Town places the shelter in the future. He said that Mr. Osuch had some valid points regarding shelter preparation. Chief Francis said that he would have to complete a walkthrough of 150 Sconticut Neck Road in order to give his full opinion on its viability as a shelter.

Mr. Jodoin said that he did not think it was always necessary to have a facility as large as a school available as a shelter. He claimed that the Town could save money by heating a smaller facility if there is a lower anticipated turn-out for a shelter.

Mr. Haworth said that he works for emergency management for the Town of Acushnet and that Acushnet uses its COA building for some of the reasons outlined by Mr. Jodoin. He added that any shelter has to meet several specifications, including resistance to wind, in preparation for a bad storm. He said that shelters are a little more critical in the wintertime, as that is when residents seek shelter away from their homes if they lose heat.

Mr. Rogers said that the Board could look into have a mobile generator for use when it is needed.

Mr. Murphy said that he has been working with the Housing Authority to look into the matter of emergency response and a generator for housing residents. He supported a preamble meeting in May, prior to the annual emergency preparation meeting in June.

Mr. Osuch said that those involved in the preparation of the emergency plan need to "tweak" it if necessary. The Board agreed to follow up on the discussion with a meeting in May.

### **VETERANS SERVICES STM REQUEST**

At 7:21 p.m., the Board met with Jim Cochran and Ivey Winkler of the Veterans Services department to discuss two requests for Special Town Meeting – one in the amount of \$60,000 for Purchase of Services and \$84,000 for "Other Services".

Mr. Cochran explained that his department costs are continually going up and when he constructs the budget, it is six to eight months in advance and that the costs go up in the meantime. He cited four elderly housing complexes as a source of cost, and mandated co-pays. He said that the VSO works diligently with the New Bedford employment office to get veterans into work.

Mr. Espindola asked why the total was higher than other towns and if all the recipients from the VSO are Fairhaven residents. Mr. Cochran confirmed that services are only available to Fairhaven residents, that 85 percent of recipients were elderly, and that the Town was responsible for providing Ch. 115 benefits to younger veterans. He added that the G.I. Bill added costs to the Town, in the form of financial support for G.I. Bill recipients in the summer months when they cannot find employment in between classes.

Mr. Cochran also added that he is a tireless advocate for the VSO, and that it was reflected in the VSO budget. 75 percent of the costs expended by the Town are reimbursed by the state, said Mr. Cochran.

Mr. Haworth asked Mr. Cochran if 75 percent of the \$114,000 STM request would be reimbursed. Mr. Cochran confirmed that the funds would be reimbursed.

### **BUILDING DEPARTMENT STM REQUEST**

The Board met with Building Commission Wayne Fostin at 7:35 p.m. to discuss his STM request.

Mr. Fostin said that he was requesting \$14,000 additional in the STM for Salaries and Wages due to an increase in inspector needs. He said that various inspections this year, including multi-family inspections, prompted a need to increase the inspections completed by his Assistant Building Inspector, and that there was an increase in plumbing/gas/electrical inspections.

Mr. Osuch said that the department heads need to look at their budgets monthly to make sure that their spending is in line with the budget. He said that some of Mr. Fostin's use of inspectors was unavoidable, but some could have been prevented.

Mr. Espindola asked if Mr. Fostin uses inspection from prior years to predict trends. Mr. Fostin said that he does that, but that the trends are difficult to see year to year.

The Board thanked Mr. Fostin for coming in.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT STM REQUEST**

The Board met with Fire Chief Timothy Francis at 7:42 p.m. to discuss his STM request. Chief Francis said that, back in December, he had sat down with the Finance Committee and had been told to put the STM request in, along with a request for a transfer, to make sure that he would get the needed funds, either in the form of a transfer or STM approval.

The blizzard alone created \$8,000 in overtime expenses, Chief Francis said.

In his Fire Alarm STM request of \$3,400, Chief Francis said that a 1990 bucket truck is in decent shape, but needs to get certified each year and needs work on its hydraulics for that certification.

Mr. Haworth noted that the ambulance runs are up 100 over last year. He asked if this created revenue.

Mr. Osuch said that the receivables are not keeping up with the expenditures and at some point, the ambulance fund will be depleted which means that they will have to dip into the general fund.

Discussion then ensued regarding the February blizzard and whether or not the state will eventually declare it a disaster to facilitate local reimbursement.

At 7:57 p.m., the Selectmen discussed ex officio and representative appointments. The following votes were taken:

- Charles Murphy was voted the Contract Compliance Officer. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- Charles Murphy was voted the Affirmative Action Officer. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- Charles Murphy was voted the Fair Housing Coordinator. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- Robert Espindola was voted onto the Millicent Library Board of Trustees. Mr. Haworth motioned. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- Geoffrey Haworth was voted onto the Bristol County Advisory Board. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- Robert Espindola was voted onto the Sister City Committee. Mr. Haworth motioned. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- Charles Murphy was voted onto the Personnel Board. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- Charles Murphy was voted onto the Personnel Board Fire Apparatus Study Committee. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- Robert Espindola was voted onto the Historical Commission. Mr. Haworth motioned. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- Geoffrey Haworth was voted onto the Boat Ramps/Waterfront Recreational Property Committee. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- Robert Espindola was voted onto the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) as an alternate. Mr. Haworth motioned. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- Robert Espindola was voted onto the Cable Advisory Committee. Mr. Haworth motioned. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- Elementary School Building Committee – Dr. Brian Bowcock (to complete the term)

- Charles Murphy was voted onto the Harbor Advisory Committee. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- Geoffrey Haworth was voted onto the Local Emergency Planning Committee. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- Geoffrey Haworth was voted onto the Shellfish Advisory Committee. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Former Selectman Brian Bowcock was kept as the representative on the Elementary School Building Committee. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). Additionally, Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent, was appointed the JTPG alternate. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

### **BARGAINING UNIT REPRESENTATIVES**

The Board voted to reorganize itself in regards to bargaining unit representation. Mr. Haworth motioned to make Mr. Espindola the Police Union representative. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Mr. Espindola motioned to make Mr. Murphy the Fire Union representative. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Mr. Murphy motioned to make Mr. Haworth the Clerical Union representative. Mr. Espindola seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Mr. Osuch took a moment with Mr. Espindola to review potential dates for upcoming police negotiations.

### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

In his report, Mr. Osuch updated the Selectmen on the following meetings:

- Thursday, **April 4** –
  - 9:00 a.m. – Meeting re: New Bedford Voke project – Debt and borrowing
  - 7:00 p.m. – FinCom meeting at BPW building
- Tuesday, **April 9** –
  - 10:00 a.m. – Wood School Job Meeting
  - 3:30 p.m. – Mattapoisett River Valley Advisory Meeting
  - 4:30 p.m. – Mattapoisett River Valley District Meeting
  - 6:30 p.m. – Selectmen's Regularly Scheduled meeting
- Wednesday, **April 10** –
  - 11:00 a.m. – Clerical Union negotiations
  - 6:00 p.m. – DOR Report meeting
- Thursday, **April 4** –
  - 10:00 a.m. – Taunton record review re:Tibbett's Engineering

- 5:00 p.m. – New School meeting
- 7:00 p.m. – FinCom meeting at BPW building

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

The Board decided that it would post a meeting for the night of the precinct meeting, May 2, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. It will also post a meeting for the morning of Town Meeting, May 4, at 8:00 a.m.

### **TREASURER CONTRACT**

The Board voted to execute an agreement with Wendy Graves, the newly appointed Town Treasurer/Finance Director. See Attachment A. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). Ms. Graves will begin on April 8. The Board signed the contract.

### **ASSESSORS POSITION**

Mr. Osuch suggested on delaying Ms. Bettencourt's transfer to the Selectmen's Office until they could find a replacement for her in the Assessors office. He said that the Selectmen would have to put an advertisement in the paper for an Administrative Assistant to the Board of Assessors. In addition to placing an ad, Mr. Osuch said that he would get a job description from Ms. Bettencourt. He said that he thought the position was a non-union level 15.

Mr. Espindola said that he had a suggestion. He said that he had made a call to Zack Blake of the Department of Revenue when he heard about the opening in the Assessors Office. Mr. Espindola asked Mr. Blake about how other communities handle their assessing positions. Some towns, he said, have joint assessors with other municipalities. Mr. Espindola said that he wanted to see Fairhaven put together a study committee to see if there was a chance to regionalize a position.

Mr. Osuch said that the Town used to have an Assessor and an Assistant Assessor. The work of the Assistant Assessor was absorbed by the three-member board. Thus, the Administrative Assessor position was created. He said that there are functions in the office that need to be done on a day to day basis. The Assessors meet on a monthly basis. He asked the Board to keep this in perspective.

Mr. Murphy said that Mr. Espindola was forward-thinking and would make a good representative for said study committee.

Mr. Haworth said that he wanted to hear input from the Board of Assessors. It was so decided that Mr. Espindola would set up a meeting with Mr. Osuch, Ms. Bettencourt, the Board of Assessors and would report findings to the Selectmen at the next meeting. Mr. Osuch said that there was a push to find a replacement for Ms. Bettencourt, as this is a revaluation year. Ms. Espindola said that the next Board of Assessors meeting is April 9. Mr. Murphy motioned to

have Mr. Osuch, Mr. Espindola, Ms. Bettencourt and the Board of Assessors and Ms. Graves meet to discuss the position. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

### **GAS PERMITS**

- The Board voted to approve an NSTAR gas permit application for 81 Fort Street (previously approved by BPW). Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- The Board voted to approve an NSTAR gas permit application for 156 Alden Road (previously approved by the BPW). Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

### **SRPEDD/JTPG APPOINTMENTS**

The Board voted to re-appoint Town Planner Bill Roth as the Town delegate to the SRPEDD Commission. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

The Board voted to re-appoint Mr. Roth to the JTPG. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

### **VETERAN'S AGENT RE-APPOINTMENT**

Per requirement of M.G.L Chapter 115, the Board voted to re-appoint Jim Cochran to Veteran's Agent and Burial Agent. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

### **SPECIAL STATE ELECTION**

The Board voted to approve and sign the warrant for the April 30, 2013 Special State Election. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

### **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING PETITION ARTICLE**

The Board received a petitioned article from Mac's Soda Bar for a Restaurant Beer/Wine License over the Town's quota. The article was submitted after the STM article deadline and it has over 100 certified signatures, but under the 200 that would be needed to prompt a STM. Mr. Murphy was in favor of the article because it has been passed at Town Meeting on three different occasions but has failed at the House/Senate level because of various technicalities. Mr. Haworth, noting that it had been the will of Town Meeting to approve this item three times, was supportive of placing it on the STM warrant again. Mr. Espindola motioned to place the petition article on the May 4, 2013 STM warrant. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

With permission from the Board, Mr. Murphy took Correspondence out of order.

### **REQUEST FOR MAIN ST CROSSWALK**

In a letter from Edward Cabral, President of the Our Ladies of Angels Catholic Association, a pedestrian crosswalk across Main Street at Jesse Street to the Saint Mary's parking lot was requested from the Board.

Mr. Murphy disclosed that he was a member of the Our Ladies of Angels club but not a board member. He agreed that the intersection is dangerous.

Mr. Osuch said that he believed that section of Main Street is State road, so permission would need to be sought from Mass DOT District 5.

Mr. Haworth said that it would require Police Department approval as well, and that there would be a slight cost to the crosswalk as well with paint and signage. Mr. Espindola wondered if the Board could seek private funding for the crosswalk, if approved.

The Board voted to send a letter to the Police Department regarding the crosswalk and then the Police Department will determine whether the matter should be forwarded along to the MassDOT District 5 office. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

### **HOMECOMING 2013**

The Board read an annual request from Eric and Angela Dawicki to hold the Homecoming Day on Saturday, June 29, 2013. The Board was supportive of the request and approved the date for Homecoming, as requested by the Dawickis. Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

### **FY2014 BUDGET VOTES**

The Board made votes related to the FY14 budget (Article 4) and their recommendations for spending.

**Line 2b – Selectmen Salary – Other** – Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$244,220.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 6a – Treasurer Salaries and Wages** – Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$170,879.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 11 – Assessors Salaries and Wages** – Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$145,503.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 25d – Police Department Other Charges/Expenses** – The Board voted to reconsider its previous recommendation – Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was

unanimous. (3-0). Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$2,766.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 28a – Building Department Salaries and Wages** – Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$128,024.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 30a – Shellfish Inspection Salaries and Wages** – Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$85,928.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 35c – Board of Health Purchase of Services** – After discussion on the use of “dunks” in the projected budget for mosquito control, Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$10,465.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 37b – Board of Public Works, Administration Purchase of Services** – The Board voted to reconsider its previous recommendation – Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$1,626.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 37d – Board of Public Works, Administration Other Charges/Expenses** – The Board voted to reconsider its previous recommendation – Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$240.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 38f – Board of Public Works, Highway Street Resurfacing** – The Board voted to reconsider its previous recommendation – Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$150,000.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 38h – Board of Public Works, Highway Sidewalk Repair** – The Board voted to reconsider its previous recommendation – Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$46,000.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 38i – Board of Public Works, Highway Curb/Hard Surface** – The Board voted to reconsider its previous recommendation – Mr. Espindola motioned. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$80,000.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 41a – Veterans Services Salaries and Wages** – Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$40,870.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 41b – Veterans Services Purchase of Services** – Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$345,650.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 41c – Veterans Services Supplies** – Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of 1,800.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 41d – Veterans Services Other Charges/Expenses** – Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$480,900.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 41e – Veterans Services Capital Outlay** – Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$0. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 42 – Schools – Elementary/High School** – Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$17,978,499.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 49 – Group Insurance** – Mr. Espindola motioned to reconsider the Board’s previously voted recommendation. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). Mr. Espindola motioned the recommended sum of \$4,475,000.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 51 – MA Employment Security** – Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$125,000.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Line 62b – Water Fund Interest on Debt** – Mr. Espindola motioned the sum of \$4,280.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

In discussion of Article 4 figures, the Board also determined it was comfortable remaining with their current recommendation of \$140,000.00. In general budget discussion, Mr. Haworth suggested that the budget process should start earlier next year. Mr. Murphy thanked former Selectman Brian Bowcock for his work on the budget prior to Town Election. Mr. Murphy also noted that he has some ideas regarding how the Town can reduce health insurance costs, which he will share at a future meeting.

## **ARTICLE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Article 5B – Town Hall Telephone Upgrades** – Mr. Murphy said that he had looked into the matter, but could not find a less expensive option for the Town. Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend the sum of \$10,000.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Article 10 – High School Fire Escapes** – The Board tabled this for the next meeting.

**Article 14 – Fire Department Fee Schedule** – The Board tabled this for the next meeting.

**Article 31A – CPC – Buzzard’s Bay Coalition** – Nasketucket Bay Conservation – Mr. Espindola motioned Yield to Petitioner. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Article 31F – CPC – Livesey Park** – Tennis/Basketball Court Renovation – Mr. Espindola motioned \$32,000.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

**Article 37 – Macomber-Pimental Field Fence** – After some discussion, Mr. Espindola motioned the requested sum of \$6,003.00. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

## **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

The Board determined that it would like to see the petitioner(s) of the Government Study Committee come in to discuss a petitioned article for Town Meeting.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Mr. Espindola thanked the community for their attendance at the U Mass Dartmouth Bike Summit. He said that approximately 90 people were in attendance, including Representative Bill Straus. On April 11, the Fairhaven Bikeway Committee will have a special guest, said Mr. Espindola. Steve Miller will be at the meeting to discuss “Livable Streets Alliance”. National Bike Week is in May, added Mr. Espindola.
- Mr. Haworth thanked the Board and the Selectmen’s Office for welcoming him aboard. He also recognized Dr. Brian Bowcock’s efforts and thanked him for his years of service to the Town.
- Mr. Haworth asked about the recent troubles surrounding the April 1, 2013 Town Election, in which the Board of Health race was very close. At first count, it appeared John Wethington won the election by three votes. He was sworn in by the Town Clerk. After reviewing “hand counts”, it was determined that incumbent Peter DeTerra may have won by a vote. As such, Mr. Osuch said that Mr. Wethington has 10 days to request a recount. The Town Clerk has admitted to an error in swearing Mr. Wethington in.
- Mr. Murphy informed the public that, as Chairman, he wants to hear all concerns from residents. He asked that all requests to meet with the Board be placed in writing and be given to the Selectmen’s Secretary.
- Mr. Murphy offered condolences from the Board to the Cox family, upon the passing of Bert Poulin, Tina Cox’s father.

At 10:20 p.m. Mr. Espindola motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss an Open Meeting Law complaint, Police, Dispatchers, Fire, and Clerical Union Negotiations, and the Seaport Inn, not to reconvene. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). Roll call vote: Mr. Espindola in favor. Mr. Murphy in favor. Mr. Haworth in favor.

Respectfully,

Anne Kakley

Selectmen’s Secretary  
Minutes approved 4/09/2013