



# Fairhaven Board of Selectmen

## October 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Chairman Robert J. Espindola, Vice-Chairman Geoffrey Haworth, Clerk Charles K. Murphy, Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch, and Principal Clerk Ashlee Lentini.

Chairman Robert J. Espindola called the meeting to order in the Town Hall Banquet Room at 6:32p.m. The meeting was telecast and video recorded by Government Access and audio recorded by Ashlee Lentini.

### MINUTES

- Mr. Haworth was concerned about the minutes of the **September 29, 2014** meeting, **open** session, being shared before they were approved by the Board, but motioned to approve these minutes. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- Mr. Haworth motioned to approve the minutes of the **September 26, 2014** meeting, **executive** session. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- Mr. Haworth motioned to approve the minutes of the **September 29, 2014** meeting, **executive** session. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

- **Wednesday, October 8**
  - Advertisement regarding the Police/Fire Station roof repair/replacement will run in the newspapers
- **Thursday, October 9**
  - Pre-bid registration opens at Booth & Associates in New Bedford for bids for the Police/Fire Station roof repairs/replacement
- **Friday, October 10**
  - 8:00-10:00 a.m. – Legislative breakfast at the Fairhaven Council On Aging
- **Monday, October 13**
  - Columbus Day – Town Hall will be closed
- **Tuesday, October 14**
  - 9:30am – Board of Directors meeting at the Fairhaven Council On Aging

- 11:00 a.m.-1:00pm – Flu Clinic at the Fairhaven Recreation Center; \$5 donation is requested
  - 2:00pm – Economic Summit Meeting at the Town Hall
  - 3:30pm – Mattapoisett River Advisory Board meeting at the Board of Public Works
  - 4:30pm – Mattapoisett Water District meeting at the Board of Public Works
- **Wednesday, October 15**
  - 4:00pm – deadline for department submissions to the Capital Planning Committee
- **Thursday, October 16**
  - 11:00am – Pre-bid meeting at the Police/Fire Station regarding roof repair/replacement
  - 4:00pm – Personnel Board meeting in the Town Hall Banquet Room
- **Friday, October 17**
  - 2:30pm – Meeting with the DEP and the Board Of Health regarding the Fairhaven Shipyard
- **Tuesday, October 21**
  - 4:00pm – Capital Planning Committee meeting; Mr. Murphy would like them to discuss the Mill Road site and ways to come up with funding. Mr. Haworth said he would make sure it was discussed.
  - 5:00-7:00pm – Flu Clinic at the Fairhaven Recreation Center; \$5 donation is requested
- **Wednesday, October 22**
  - 6:30-8:30pm – EPA informational meeting in the Town Hall Auditorium
- **Thursday, October 23**
  - 2:00pm - Bid opening for the Police/Fire Station roof repair/replacement
- Mr. Osuch stressed the need to make a decision with Mr. Espindola on an electricity company, as he has had several companies submit their rates before the Town's current electrical contract expires December 31, 2014. Mr. Espindola stated that he would like to lock in the rates for a full year in order to plan accordingly with the budget. Mr. Osuch said that they could go longer than 4 months if needed, but the companies are about to freeze their rates for the winter months and it should be taken care of soon.
- Mr. Osuch reminded the Board about submitting articles for the Special Town Meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup>. He said there are 4 articles on the Rogers and Oxford Schools transferring from the School Department to Board of Selectmen as well as an article for monies to be raised for advertising.

- In a briefing regarding the former Staffon Property and whether to go with JJ Manning Auctioneers, Mr. Osuch reminded the Board that no ultimate decision was made. There was a vote in July (since it took place on the night that Mr. Murphy's granddaughter was born and he was absent, Mr. Haworth and Espindola voted) to contact Mr. Manning and he was to attend August 4th meeting. It was changed by Mr. Espindola because the agenda for that meeting was already full. Mr. Osuch stated that a meeting with Mr. Manning needs to be rescheduled. Mr. Manning offered a contract about auctioning off the former Staffon property as well as the Oxford School property. Mr. Haworth said that it is better to auction these properties in the better weather months than in winter and that they will try to get them in at next meeting.

### **ANIMAL SHELTER DONATIONS**

Mr. Haworth motioned to approve \$1,608 in donations to the Animal Shelter Gift Account. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous (3-0).

### **NSTAR GAS PERMIT**

Mr. Haworth motioned to approve the NSTAR gas permit for 16 Narragansett Ave, which was previously approved by the Board of Public Works. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous (3-0).

### **FAIRHAVEN LIONS CLUB 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Mr. Espindola read a proclamation from the Board and the Town honoring the Fairhaven Lions Club on their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary as well as a notice about their upcoming dinner and member induction ceremony on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Mr. Haworth commended the Lions Club for being a very dedicated organization and said that they do great things for the Town. Mr. Murphy also praised the Lions Club for their assistance with the needy and for being an outstanding service organization.

### **DOG PARK COMMITTEE**

The Board discussed the designation of a bill-signing authority for the Dog Park Committee's Gift Account. Mr. Haworth motioned that the Board would act as the bill-signing authority for this account. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous (3-0).

### **POLLING STATIONS**

The Board stated that the appointment with Town Clerk Eileen Lowney regarding polling station changes was postponed until further notice.

### **NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> ELECTION BALLOT**

The Board discussed what was on the November 4<sup>th</sup> election ballot, which are the following: Senator - Congress, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General for the Commonwealth,

Secretary of State for the Commonwealth, Auditor for the Commonwealth, Treasurer for the Commonwealth, Representative in Congress - 9th district, Councilor - 1st district, Senator in General Court - 2nd Bristol/Plymouth, District Attorney Bristol, Representative in General Court -10th Bristol district, Registrar of Probate - Bristol, Treasurer - Bristol, Commissioner - Bristol Question 1 - gas tax, Question 2 - bottle bill, Question 3 - gaming commission. Mr. Osuch said more information will be in the papers and sent to voters in the mail. He also stated that the polls will be open from 7am - 8pm on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Haworth motioned to approve the ballot. Mr. Murphy seconded and clarified that polling locations were remaining unchanged. Vote was unanimous (3-0).

### **TOWN WELLNESS PROGRAM**

Mr. Haworth motioned to speak about the Town Wellness program out of the order it was listed in the agenda. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous (3-0).

Mr. Espindola spoke about implementing a wellness program for all Town employees as a way to help cost of insurance stay down. He said many private companies have tried it (Acushnet Company and South Coast Hospitals Group being among them) and he believes it's good for the employees and will provide a return on investment for the Town. Mr. Espindola did research and is asking for board support on finding out how it will work for the Town. He spoke with a representative named Christie Amone about it. Ms. Amone handled the South Coast Hospitals Group's wellness program and said there was high participation rate and that she will help share her experiences with it. Mr. Espindola would like to form a steering committee and work through getting this out to the different departments with Gabrielle Pitcher and Sheila Reardon from Blue Cross Blue Shield will assist with it. Mr. Osuch said that the unions will have to approve the wellness plans. Mr. Espindola already spoke to the unions during PEC meetings as well as Dr. Robert Baldwin, Chief Timothy Francis, and Vincent Furtado and was met positively about it. He will speak with Chief Michael Myers about it as well.

Mr. Espindola nominated himself to be the Board Representative for the steering committee. He mentioned that there were incentives provided to employees so they will want to participate. Mr. Haworth thought it was a good idea; he was at South Coast Hospitals Group and noticed that they were doing wellness program to receive discounts on health insurance. Mr. Murphy was also in support of a wellness program and would like Ashlee Lentini be involved with the committee as well beyond just doing paperwork since she will have to administer the program. Mr. Osuch stated that the critical part is to get employees and the different departments involved so that insurance costs go down for everyone. He also stressed the importance of getting the unions involved in order for the program to be successful.

Mr. Haworth motioned to establish steering committee and move forward with the wellness program. Mr. Murphy seconded. The vote was unanimous (3-0).

### **PORT SECURITY GRANT FUNDS**

Mr. Haworth motioned to move up discussion of matching grant funds for Port Security in New Bedford and Fairhaven. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous (3-0).

Mr. Espindola read a joint letter from the City of New Bedford and the Town of Fairhaven dated September 26, 2014, praising Rep. William Strauss for the assistance he has provided to public safety agencies for FY 2012 & FY 2013. The Fairhaven Harbormaster and Police Department as well as the New Bedford Harbormaster, Police & Fire Departments have benefitted from these grants. In total, \$219,902.75 has been received and will be used to upgrade marine vessels in those departments, upgrade security measures in the Port of New Bedford, cover equipment and training to increase readiness and response in the Port. Mr. Haworth said a lot of what the Harbormaster does would not be done without grants from the state and federal agencies and was very appreciative of Rep. Strauss' work. Mr. Murphy was grateful to Rep Strauss who has been true to the region and has gotten the grants needed to make the Port run safely.

### **COUNCIL ON AGING PICKLEBALL COURTS**

At 7:15 pm, the Board met with Bob Foster and Ken Pottel, the COA representatives regarding installing two pickleball courts, Mr. Foster explained that pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the US among senior citizens and many people who have been forced to give up tennis due to injury or age have picked up pickleball. It can be played in doubles and with large paddles with a wiffleball. The sport takes a lot of hand/eye coordination, but players don't need to move their feet as much as they would in tennis. They explained that behind the senior center in the area behind the bocce court is the ideal sport for the courts. They also spoke with Anne Silvia at the Council On Aging and she is supportive of it, but it needs the support of the Selectmen. CPC East Coast Sealcoat estimates 2 pickleball courts is the same as the cost of 1 tennis court (\$50,000). Mr. Foster and Mr. Pottel agree that installing pickleball courts would attract active seniors to the Senior Center and would be the first pickleball courts in Bristol County (currently playing in Lakeville). They said that in Florida, senior citizens are lined up early in the morning to play and they even have high school teams there. The Villages, a senior living community in Florida, has 160 pickleball courts.

Mr. Espindola thought it was a nice follow-up to the discussion on the wellness program. Mr. Haworth was in support of putting it there to boost attendance and membership at the Senior and Recreation Centers. He was in favor of making it open to all so the kids get outside playing and the seniors stay active. Mr. Murphy said he can see why Ms. Silvia said it would bring in more seniors and it has his support. Mr. Osuch said it was important that the courts have the approval of Warren Rensehausen (director of the Recreation Center) as long as it doesn't interfere with play area for after-school/summer program. He also said he would like to see final plans and addressed the question of conforming the courts to the site and making sure they will fit in the area designated.

Mr. Haworth motioned to approve the installation of 2 pickleball courts. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous (3-0).

### **MEETING DATE CHANGE**

Mr. Haworth requested that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen be moved to Tuesday, October 21st at 6:30pm. He will be unable to make the 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Murphy has no problem with

this and will rearrange his prior engagement. Mr. Haworth motioned to approve the date change. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous (3-0).

### **PEDALS FOR PROGRESS**

Mr. Murphy addressed the Pedals For Progress Used Bike Drive, being held on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Used bicycles in good condition can be dropped off at R.A. Mitchell & Co. on the Fairhaven/New Bedford Bridge or The Residence At Cedar Dell at 628 Old Westport Road in Dartmouth. This drive is sponsored by the Rotary Club. They are collecting adult and children's bicycles to send to the developing countries. They are also collecting portable sewing machines in good condition. There is a \$10 minimum cash donation being taken along with each bicycle to cover overseas shipping costs and bicycles and donations are tax-deductible. Contact Ivan Brito at 774-263-8897 for more info.

### **GNBRVTHS GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM**

Mr. Murphy also said that he will be attending the Division III State Championship Ring Ceremony for the Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School Girls' Softball team on October 10 at 7pm. The team will be receiving their rings for the 2014 Division III state championship at the Z. Walter Janiak Field House and Mr. Murphy will be representing the Board there.

### **EDITH SYLVIA DEDICATION**

Mr. Espindola and Mr. Haworth attended a dedication ceremony for Edith Sylvia at the East Fairhaven Fire Station #2. They planted a dogwood tree and dedicated a plaque in Ms. Sylvia's honor. They spoke about her dedication to the East Fairhaven Improvement Association and her volunteer service to the community.

### **NEW BEDFORD/FAIRHAVEN BRIDGE STUDY GROUP**

Mr. Espindola and William Roth went to a meeting of the New Bedford/Fairhaven Bridge Study Group. They learned that the bridge project will benefit entire state in terms of economic development as well as improve pedestrian and bicycle traffic on the bridge. Mr. Roth said it will take hundreds of millions of dollars and several years to replace the bridge, so it would be a good approach to find short-term things that can be done with the current bridge. One of those things is to install an Intelligent Transportation System. This would allow for better notifications and signage of bridge closures in different places so Adams and Main Streets and Route 195 aren't as backed up during closures. They also learned it could take 10 to 20 years to replace the bridge.

### **MILL ROAD**

Mr. Espindola said that he had met with many people during his office hours about the site on Mill Road. Many thought the Town should be considering Rogers and Oxford Schools as fire/police stations instead of building new locations on Mill Road. The Board will discuss this further at a later date.

## **CDBG GRANTS**

The Board had previously voted and had signed off to extend the CDBG 2012 Park Grant and 2013 Elliot Grant. The reason why they were extended was because CDBG was doing housing projects. The grants were approved, so the amendments needed to be signed. Mr. Osuch said they were executing a contract that was previously voted on, so they could be signed.

Mr. Haworth motioned to approve and sign the Elliot Contract Amendment #2. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous (3-0). Mr. Haworth motioned to approve and sign Contract Amendment #5 of FY2012 Park Grant (extended to Jan 31, 2015). Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous (3-0).

## **46 CHERRY STREET**

At 7:45pm, the Board met with Frederick Lorraine regarding a tax title property issue at 46 Cherry Street. Mr. Lorraine passed out a letter he had written and spoke with Wendy Graves about a \$7,000 down payment followed by a payment plan of \$1,000 by the first of each month, totaling up to \$19,629.99. Ms. Graves (who was not present at the meeting) said additional attorney and insurance fees will bring total up to \$22,622.86. Mr. Osuch said that interest could change that and that Mr. Lorraine's employer could make payments on his behalf with Mr. Lorraine could pay extra if he wanted to. Mr. Haworth said that he doesn't want to see anyone's home be taken, but is concerned that a \$1500 a month payment could hurt Mr. Lorraine and doesn't want to burden him with a high payment and ruin his quality of life. Mr. Lorraine said \$1000 a month is guaranteed, any additional payments on the tax title could be made when the money was available to him. He planned on bringing in the \$7,000 payment between 9-12pm on October 8<sup>th</sup> and then \$1000 is guaranteed by the first of every month. Mr. Murphy requested that Mr. Lorraine make sure that payments are being put towards the account by writing what payments are for on the memo line of the bank checks. Mr. Haworth motioned to accept these terms. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous (3-0).

Mr. Osuch stated the need to be specific that The Town is still the owner of the property and may have to put additional insurance on it due to liability and need to protect the Town's interest and Mr. Lorraine would be responsible for any additional costs. Mr. Haworth made an additional motion to ask Town Counsel about whether or not the Town owns the home while Mr. Lorraine makes payments. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous (3-0).

## **ROGERS/OXFORD RFP**

At 8:00pm, the Board began discussion on Rogers/Oxford RFP, including the lease with the North Fairhaven Improvement Association. Alfred Raphael and other members of the NFIA as well as Nils Isaksen and members of the Rogers/Oxford Study Committee were in attendance. Discussion ensued. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Haworth said that they would like the Town to retain the playground and ball fields at Rogers School. Mr. Osuch explained that the Oxford School developer would grant easement to NFIA on the Oxford School lot and if they don't they will be compensated. The language could be part of a lease agreement, but the Town needs to be clear about what they're selling to developers. Mr. Espindola said that the Town should do everything

they can to retain the NFIA building because it's in the best interest of the Town. Discussion over the Oxford School property continued. Mr. Raphael said that the NFIA building was in total disarray before the group renovated it and stressed that the Fire and Police Departments occupy it in times of emergency and that the Town would lose that should it be sold with the Oxford property. They allow Boy and Girl Scouts to hold meetings there and the NFIA carry their own insurance on the building and thus, it has not been an expense to the Town. Mr. Espindola said that Town Counsel said that the Town could add protection of the NFIA into its proposal. John Medeiros of the NFIA read a letter on importance of keeping Fire Station #3 (the NFIA building) and the value of the Town as a no-cost meeting place for the Town and for emergency management. Mr. Medeiros believes it needs to be kept to prevent difficulty in organizing and serving the Town.

Further discussion ensued regarding deposits and selling costs of the Rogers and Oxford School properties as well. The Board agreed that more discussion is needed at a later date in order to decide on what they should be offered for.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen was scheduled for October 21, 2014 at 6:30pm in the Town Hall Banquet Room.

At 9:50p.m., Mr. Haworth motioned to enter Executive Session, pursuant to MGL 30A § 21:

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion to enter Executive Session for the aforementioned reasons, not to reconvene into open session afterward. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). Roll call vote: Mr. Haworth in favor. Mr. Murphy in favor. Mr. Espindola in favor.

Respectfully,

Ashlee Lentini

Principal Clerk

Minutes approved 10/21/2014