



Fairhaven Board of Selectmen

February 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman Robert J. Espindola, Vice-Chairman Geoffrey Haworth, Clerk Charles K. Murphy, Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch, and Anne Kakley.

Chairman Robert J. Espindola called the meeting to order in the Town Hall Banquet Room at 6:35 p.m. Mr. Haworth did not join the meeting until 7:00 p.m. due to his obligations as an appointed member of the Conservation Commission, which was meeting concurrently.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

- Tuesday, **February 24**
 - 10:00 a.m. – DEP – Lakeville Water Permits
- Wednesday, **February 25**
 - 3:00 p.m. – Wellness Meeting
 - 4:00 p.m. – Capital Planning Committee
- Thursday, **February 26**
 - 9:00 a.m. – Buzzard's Bay Action Committee – Wareham
 - 7:00 p.m. – Finance Committee
- Friday, **February 27**
 - 8:30 a.m. – Selectmen Budget meeting
 - 10:00 a.m. – Selectmen – Meeting on executive session
- Monday, **March 2**
 - 6:30 p.m. – Selectmen's Meeting
- Tuesday, **March 3**
 - 2:00 p.m. – Economic Summit
- Wednesday, **March 4**
 - 2:00 p.m. Rogers/Oxford Proposals due
- Thursday, **March 5**
 - 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. – Forum group at the Buzzard's Bay Coalition office in New Bedford
 - 7:00 p.m. – Finance Committee meeting

REQUEST TO DEFICIT SPEND – SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

The Board read a memo from the Board of Public Works Superintendent Vincent Furtado asking the Board to approve an additional \$15,000 in deficit spending in Snow and Ice removal. Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the deficit spending for Snow and Ice removal in the amount of \$15,000. Mr. Espindola seconded. Vote carried. (2-0-1).

124 ALDEN ROAD AUCTION

Mr. Osuch updated the Board to the results of the Town's auction of 124 Alden Road. The auction took place on February 18, 2015 and the winning bid came from Christopher and Scott Moniz in the amount of \$372,000 with the 10% bidder premium for a total of \$409,200. With fees to be collected by the auctioneer, and advertising costs of approximately \$5,000, Mr. Osuch estimated that the Town would actualize roughly \$380,000 from the auction of 124 Alden Road.

WOOD SCHOOL MSBA DRAFT AUDIT REPORT

The Board reviewed a Draft Audit Report from the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the Wood School reflecting a total grant amount of \$13,056,980. Mr. Murphy motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign the document. Mr. Espindola seconded. Vote carried. (2-0-1).

GOOD ENERGY CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

The Board reviewed contract documents from Good Energy relative to a Town Meeting approved aggregation of energy purchasing. The Board requested Ms. Kakley to obtain a PDF copy of the extensive contract documents and place them online for resident review.

AMBULANCE BILLING AND PROCUREMENT

Mr. Osuch updated the Board to the issue of ambulance collections. Fire Chief Timothy Francis said that he was having difficulty finding alternate ambulance billing services beyond Comstar in order to fulfill the requirements of procurement law for the selection of a collection agency. Mr. Osuch told the Board that he had worked with Town Accountant Anne Carreiro to find additional agencies in order to obtain quotes and move forward in the selection process. He has not yet heard back from the Fire Chief but will advise the Board at a later date.

OUR LADY'S HAVEN – USE OF ROGERS SCHOOL PARKING LOT

Mr. Osuch said that the issue of Our Lady's Haven possibly using the Rogers School parking lot had been placed on the agenda based on a conversation but that no official letter of request had been received by the administration from Our Lady's Haven. The topic was tabled to a later meeting.

USE OF TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

The Board reviewed a letter from One Theater Company (Ashley Bendikson and Gregory Silver) requesting use of the Town Hall Auditorium for a production of Alice in Wonderland on April 23-26. Ms. Bendikson and Mr. Silver were present. Ms. Bendikson estimated that there had been about 450 attendees at their last production in the Town Hall and anticipated as many as 800 attendees for their upcoming spring production. Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the application for the use of Town Hall auditorium for One Theater Company on April 23-26 with a waiver of the rental fee. Mr. Espindola seconded. Vote carried. (2-0-1).

SCHOOL – FY16 BUDGET

At 7:00 p.m., the Board met with School Department/Committee representatives: School Business Administrator Paul Kitchen, School Committee Chairperson Pamela Kuechler, School Committee member Brian Monroe, School Superintendent Robert Baldwin, and School Committee member Bernard Roderick. Mr. Haworth joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The Board discussed the School Department's \$18,737,194 requested FY16 budget. Salaries are up 2.2% based on contracts. Discussion included out-of-district costs and circuit breaker reimbursements. Mr. Haworth asked if there was any line in the School budget that could sustain a cut, or where a cut would be more favorable. Dr. Baldwin answered that the Schools could not sustain any cuts without affecting its services and revenue.

Mr. Osuch said that he still thought that the School Department should submit an itemized budget, listing the name of each employee with wages and other benefits received, as submitted by all other departments.

Ms. Kuechler encouraged the Board of Selectmen to attend their budget hearing on March 10.

BPW – FY16 BUDGET

At 7:45 p.m., the Board met with representatives of the BPW: Linda Schick (Sewer), Eddie Fortin (Water), Vincent Furtado (Superintendent), Michael Ristuccia (BPW Board member).

Mr. Furtado reviewed the contractual and retirement incentive increases in the Administration and Highway portions of the BPW budget requests. Some increases were due to increases in costs of physicals for employees, increase in costs of uniforms and some equipment replacement.

Ms. Schick reviewed changes in the Sewer budget, including an increase in contracted services associated with the Digester. Mr. Osuch warned that there is a big expense down the road related to the wastewater treatment plant and that the Town would have to prepare for it.

Mr. Fortin reviewed the Water budget, which includes some step increases and the district assessment.

Mr. Ristuccia asked the Board if the Town votes to alter the BPW to an elected advisory board if the BPW would still be responsible for indirect costs. Mr. Osuch answered that all enterprise

departments have to cover their own indirect costs and the referendum vote on the composure of the BPW would not change that.

SNOW REMOVAL

At 8:38 p.m., the Board met with Town Hall Custodian Frank Fostin and Mr. Furtado to discuss snow removal at Town Hall. It was noted that in a recent snow storm that resulted in over 18 inches of snow, it was very difficult for Mr. Fostin to keep all the walkways and sidewalks and steps cleared without help. Mr. Fostin advised that he could do the snow clearing without help if the totals did not exceed 6-8 inches, but with the higher totals the Town has seen this winter, he was having difficulty keeping up. Mr. Furtado said that as long as he receives the request, he would send over employees from the Water or Sewer departments to assist Mr. Fostin with snow removal.

Mr. Osuch said that he thought the Board should also evaluate Mr. Fostin's hours at an upcoming meeting and possibly adjust them to match the Town Hall's hours more closely, possibly from 7:30 to 3:30 p.m. Currently, Mr. Fostin works 5:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

OPERATIONAL BUDGET

The Board reviewed the departmental requests for FY16 and discussed with Mr. Osuch an operational figure to start their budget recommendations. Based on Cherry Sheet estimates, Mr. Osuch recommended setting the budget figure of \$46,750,000. Mr. Haworth motioned to set a FY16 budget of \$46,750,000. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). Mr. Osuch instructed the Board to assemble their recommended cuts in time for the next budget meeting on February 27.

TOWN MEETING ARTICLE VOTES

The Board reviewed the draft warrant for the May 2, 2015 Town Meeting and made the following recommendations.

<u>Article 1: Measurer of Wood and Bark</u>	Mr. Haworth motioned to recommend Adoption. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
<u>Article 2: Town Report</u>	Mr. Haworth motioned to recommend Adoption. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
<u>Article 3: Setting the Salary for Town Officers</u>	Mr. Haworth motioned to recommend: A. \$15,600.00 – Board of Selectmen B. \$52,981.00 – Town Clerk C. \$800.00 – Moderator D. \$6,631.00 – Tree Warden E. \$4,000.00 – Board of Health

	Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
<u>Article 11: FEMA Grant for Ladder 1 – 5% Match</u>	Mr. Haworth motioned to recommend a transfer from the previous year’s article. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
<u>Article 12: Hazardous Materials Revolving Fund</u>	Mr. Haworth motioned to recommend Adoption. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
<u>Article 14: Sustainability Revolving Account</u>	Mr. Haworth motioned to recommend Adoption. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
<u>Article 15: Town Hall Repairs</u>	Mr. Haworth motioned to recommend Adoption and appropriation of \$7,500.00. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
<u>Article 18: Hoppy’s Landing Revolving Account</u>	Mr. Haworth motioned to recommend Adoption. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
<u>Article 19: Social Day Care Center</u>	Mr. Haworth motioned to recommend Adoption. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
<u>Article 20 – Community Preservation Committee Appropriations</u>	Mr. Haworth motioned to recommend from CPC funds: A. \$50,000.00 B. \$100,000.00 C. \$165,000.00 D. \$65,000.00 E. \$105,000.00 F. \$3,000.00 G. \$12,600.00 Mr. Murphy seconded the total appropriation of \$500,600.00. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
<u>Article 22: Wind Turbine Electricity Purchase FY16</u>	Mr. Haworth motioned to recommend Adoption and the sum of \$930,000.00. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
<u>Article 23: FEMA – 5% Match for New Fire Equipment</u>	Mr. Haworth motioned to recommend a transfer from the previous year’s article. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
<u>Article 27: FEMA Port Security 25% Grant Match</u>	Mr. Haworth motioned to recommend Adoption and the sum of \$7,500.00 from Waterways. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
<u>Article 28: Union Wharf LED Lights</u>	Mr. Haworth motioned to recommend Adoption and the sum of \$7,995.00 from Waterways. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
<u>Article 34: Propagation of Shellfish</u>	Mr. Haworth motioned to recommend Adoption and the sum of \$17,500.00. Mr. Murphy

seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Further, the Board agreed to invite the Emergency Management Agency into an upcoming meeting to discuss its request for \$19,999 for a new vehicle. The Board will also invite the Town Government Study Committee into an upcoming meeting to discuss their submitted articles.

OTHER BUSINESS

Under Other Business:

- Mr. Haworth reminded the public to shovel out the fire hydrants in front of their homes.
- Mr. Murphy urged the public to exercise caution on the streets, as the snow piles have restricted visibility.

At 9:40 p.m., Mr. Haworth motioned to enter Executive Session, pursuant to MGL 30A § 21:

1. Clerical Union grievance
2. Police Union grievance

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,

Anne O'Brien-Kakley
Administrative Assistant
Minutes approved 03/16/2015