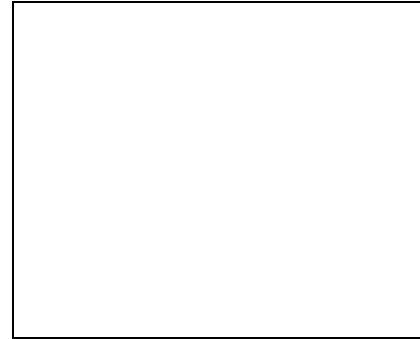


**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
February 6, 2012**

Present

Geoffrey Haworth, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
G. Steven Riley, Commissioner
Daniel Freitas, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Kathy Tripp, Administrative Assistant
Edward Fortin, Water Superintendent
Linda Schick, Sewer Superintendent
Donna McKenna
Louise Barteau
Kurt Tramosch



Ms. Sturtevant was not in attendance.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Haworth called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. January 23, 2012

Mr. Freitas motioned to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2012 meeting. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

IV. Appointments

A. Donna McKenna, Louise Barteau, Kurt Tramosch – Re: Wind Turbines

Ms. Barteau – Last September I wanted to rent a space at the business condos across the street for an art studio. I read an article on children and adults in January and the proximity and liability issue about having children into that space. I could be held liable.

Ms. McKenna – It's too close to the residents and the new school. We want to protect the citizens and the children. We have concerns about health and the employees on Arsene Street.

Mr. Tramosch – I got involved with the wind turbine issues because there hasn't been a lot of experience with wind turbines sightings near water treatment and wastewater treatment facilities. I've been following the debates around the state.

Mr. Tramosch gave the Board information on wind turbines.

Mr. Hobson – Thank you for making us aware of these issues. This project was approved by the Selectmen and voted on by Town Meeting. We have agreed to use the electricity. There is nothing we can do for you.

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Mr. Riley – I appreciate your information. You have done your research in Massachusetts. How many at BPW facilities?

Mr. Tramposch – There aren't as many. Maybe one-half dozen and one-half dozen proposed that were put on the shelf.

Mr. Riley – Have you visited the Hyannis BPW facility?

Mr. Tramposch – No, I have not.

Mr. Freitas – There is an agenda out there that is putting fear into people. I think you should quiet that down. The children are going to think that is really bad. I've been to six different places and spoke with residents. I went to Hull, Deer Island; they had no problem working there, Gardner. I've been to a lot of places and asked questions.

Discussion continued.

B. Ken Motta, Field Engineering – Re: Southcoast Ambulatory Care

Mr. Motta – You are aware of the Ambulatory Care Facility. We received a Special Permit from ZBA in November. We have some updates for the utility connections. The biggest changed is the separation of the water taps. Southcoast Hospital has made an agreement to extend the water service. I also will be working with John Charbonneau to clean up the intersection as far as the drainage.

Mr. Fortin – It's an addition to the existing building.

Mr. Haworth – Is the sewer a separate connection?

Mr. Motta – Yes, it's a separate tap.

Mr. Freitas motioned to approve the water main extension to Shady Drive. Mr. Riley seconded. Vote unanimous.

V. Items for Action

B. Biszko Contracting – Change Order #1

Mr. Fortin – This is to clean up that project and to Tata & Howard's contract there will be an amendment. I haven't done that yet. Near the stadium they went 18' beyond in the intersection and hit a buried loop detector. They caught the edge of it and it broke. The cost is an \$800 reduction and that amount will reflect in their final payment.

Mr. Riley motioned to approve Change Order #1 with Biszko Contracting for a reduction of \$800. Mr. Freitas seconded. Vote unanimous.

A. 29 Holiday Drive – Sewer Betterment Deferral

Mr. Furtado – This is from the Board of Assessors for a tax deferral for the sewer betterment.

Ms. Tripp – We have done these before. They have to qualify for the real estate deferral in order for them to get a betterment deferral. This deferral will be paid either when the house is sold or the person passes away and changes ownership. It's for senior citizens.

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Mr. Hobson – Do we collect the interest?

Ms. Tripp – Yes.

C. BPW Articles for FY13

Mr. Furtado – You were all set on the highway articles. This is for sewer and water. We have rough numbers for water. We will have to increase the rates about 4%. Last year we were short \$30,000. The Boston Hill Tower; AMR project if we had to increase the rates it would make billing easier. We've asked Patrick from Tata & Howard what it would cost. We have not raised rates in six years. To do the Boston Hill Tank we would probably need to raise the rates by 15%. We need to go up 4% no matter what.

Mr. Fortin – I need to talk to John Nunes to get some scenarios together. The Capital Plan; look at that again. We need to plan a few projects and phase them in.

Mr. Furtado – The AMR costs about \$900,000 to \$1,000,000. This would replace all the meters so we won't have to go out and read the meters.

Mr. Riley – We had a surplus a few years ago. I can't support it if we can't pay for it.

Mr. Fortin – At some point you have to borrow money.

Mr. Freitas – I'd like to see these things get done. I don't know if this is the year or next year. We have to keep at it. We are falling behind. I'd like to see something get done.

Mr. Hobson – I agree with Mr. Freitas and Vinnie. People have to have drinking water.

Mr. Haworth – My concern is that we need to move forward but we need to have our finances in order. This tank has to get done one way or another. We need to find a rate structure.

Ms. Schick – I brought down the articles to \$1.6 million and they are in order of priority.

Mr. Freitas – She did everything we asked her to do.

Mr. Hobson – She brought the number down.

Mr. Riley – What is the balance in the enterprise account?

Ms. Schick - \$1.8 million.

Mr. Riley – We haven't finished the Digester. My concern is if we go ahead and then leave the kitty bare. South and Taber Street are most important. It's cutting it way too close.

Mr. Haworth – I have the same concerns as with Mr. Fortin. Do we need a sewer rate increase? We need to take a look at the rates. We will have some savings with electricity and the sludge.

Ms. Schick – This is already cutting things in half. We need to start looking at borrowing.

Mr. Haworth – 4-15% increase in water. The sewer is a little better than that, 1% or 1% a year later.

Ms. Schick – Can we leave the articles in for now?

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E. Wes Construction – Change Order #5

Ms. Schick – It's for \$138,941.52. There were eight items on hold. The money is in place.

Mr. Hobson – I'm okay with it.

Mr. Riley – All set.

Mr. Freitas – I went by there. It's starting to come along.

Mr. Furtado – We're nearly complete with everything else.

Mr. Freitas motioned to approve Wes Construction Change Order #5 in the amount of \$138,941.52. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

F. Brown and Caldwell – Pay Requisition

Mr. Haworth – It's for everything up to November 24, 2011. The amount is \$57,451.52.

Mr. Riley – This is the old money?

Ms. Schick – Yes.

Mr. Freitas motioned to pay Brown and Caldwell \$57,451.52. Mr. Riley seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. Highway Employees Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mr. Freitas motioned to accept the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Highway Department for Fiscal Year 2012. Mr. Riley seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Board Members, Superintendent – Old Business / New Business

Mr. Riley – All set.

Mr. Freitas – Are the superintendents going to this driver training?

Mr. Furtado – Yes.

Mr. Hobson – I received some stuff in the mail about home service for a fee. This has nothing to do with the Town. You don't need this.

Mr. Haworth – I read Mr. Hayward's email.

Mr. Furtado – I spoke with Mr. Charbonneau about this.

Mr. Haworth – This is under Mass Highway.

Mr. Furtado – Kathy Sturtevant contacted Representative Straus on our behalf.

Mr. Haworth – Howland Road; the snow plow where the new pavement markings are is chunked up.

Mr. Furtado – I sent a letter to Conservation about Washburn Avenue.

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I met with Tata & Howard about the water rates and an ascending rate structure. We want to promote conservation.

Tonight the Selectmen are meeting. We're supposed to meet with them next Monday about the budgets.

I met with Bill Madden about the Ristuccia property and the drainage easement into the water.

Spoke today with Mass DOT legal counsel. Town Counsel sent a letter to Tibbetts on the Town's behalf putting them on notice.

I am still looking for a car. I am going to see if there are any at a local dealership.

Mass DOT is going to work on the bridge over Main Street at Route 195 for four consecutive weekends in 2013. They will be rerouting traffic onto Howland Road and close the ramp at Washburn Avenue. They are still working out the details.

VII. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Riley motioned to hold the next two meetings on February 13, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. with the Board of Selectmen and February 27, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Freitas seconded. Vote unanimous.

VIII. Adjourn and Executive Session

Mr. Haworth motioned to adjourn the open session at 8:11 p.m. and enter into executive session to discuss the Digester Project and not to reconvene the open session.

In favor: Mr. Haworth, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Riley and Mr. Freitas.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. Tripp
Administrative Assistant