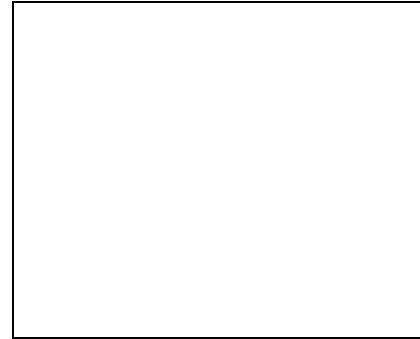


**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
July 21, 2014**

Present

Michael Ristuccia, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Kathleen Sturtevant, Commissioner
Brian Wotton, Commissioner
G. Steven Riley, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Kathy Tripp, Administrative Assistant
Edward Fortin, Water Superintendent
Jon Gregory, Tata & Howard



I. Call to Order

Mr. Ristuccia called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. July 7, 2014

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of July 7, 2014. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. July 7, 2014 – Executive Session

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of July 7, 2014 Executive Session. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

IV. Appointments

A. Jon Gregory, Tata & Howard – Re: Water Rates

Mr. Furtado – Based on Jon’s attendance for three consecutive meeting on what he heard from the Board is what presented today is the tier rate structure; relatively speaking keeps the target group the same.

Mr. Ristuccia – You were in front of us before and we had real concerns about raising the water rates. Really studied on the minimum bill. A lot of folks using less water. They were paying for water they didn’t use.

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Mr. Gregory – A little bit of background; we looked back and the up to date water usage in Town. We were looking at 2011. That was a pretty low year. Water usage that is metered and billed generates the revenue. We looked at more current numbers. Taking that and into account these rates will promote water conservation and also water management and more stringent restrictions roll that into the numbers. We came up with a new tiered rate structure. Just to reiterate what we talked about at the last meeting, the customer currently paying the flat rate of 2250 cubic feet, you did not want their bill to go up. We came up with a rate structure to promote that. Base charge; adjusted that to \$45.00. Meter rental for \$9.00 and that is the cost for your customer using 2250 cubic feet that will be the same.

Mr. Furtado – We have about 2700 residents that will stay the same or less.

Mr. Ristuccia – If you use between 800 and 1200 cubic feet of water your bill with the flat rate is \$92.25. Now your bill we be \$72.30. 40% of the people will be going down or stay the same.

Mr. Gregory – Above that 2250 cubic feet then the tier rate structure goes up substantially to 4500 cubic feet. The higher uses will likely end up with a bigger bill.

Mr. Hobson – Instead of charging twice a year, charge three times. If someone has a water leaks for six months he could get a hell of a bill.

Mr. Fortin – We talked about that in the past and what needs to be done.

Mr. Furtado – Now factor in autonomy then our indirect costs will be going up.

Ms. Sturtevant – Sounds okay to me. I hate to go up on any rates. Sounds fair.

Mr. Wotton – I'm very happy with the structure. This will reward the people who conserve.

Mr. Riley – You've come a long way from previous meetings. New service installation constant for 5 years?

Mr. Gregory – We project five new services per year.

Mr. Riley – Five years the water rates increase.

Mr. Gregory – A couple of other things; these rates do not include for capital improvements. We also talked about water conservation and the water management coming up again. This is the town's first stab at a tier rate structure. More water, higher rate. This may have to be a test to move forward.

Mr. Hobson – Thank you and Mr. Fortin and Vinnie. You put a lot of work into this. Excellent job. People are going to be happy.

Mr. Ristuccia – Tell me about the water conservation regulations and how it will affect the Town of Fairhaven.

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Mr. Furtado – The DEP wants to put a water withdrawal from the Mattapoisett River Valley based on year 2005 numbers for the three towns that use water. Moving forward but as it stands right now, we are below the threshold value with our permit. Regulations were to come out this year but have been delayed a couple years for us.

Mr. Gregory – 2016.

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the new tiered rate structure for water bills as presented. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

Ms. Tripp – Summer residents will be billed twice a year?

Mr. Ristuccia – Yes.

Mr. Fortin – Second meters once a year.

B. Edward Fortin, Water Superintendent – Re: Water Usage

Mr. Fortin – I was approached by Fairhaven / Acushnet Little League about the Shaw Road ballfields. They have water lines all over the place. For the last ten to fifteen years none of those were used. The only water on is the concession stand. They use 10,000 – 14,000 cubic feet in that facility. They came to the Board when they built it and voted not to bill them. They approached me because they installed a new infield with sod and they want to activate the line that goes toward the field to water the grass. I have to spend some time there to see if it can be done and I'll have to spend some money. I just want to know if the Board wants me to go ahead and do that. Right now one of the people involved has been watering. It's not just Fairhaven now.

Mr. Wotton – Now it's Fairhaven/Acushnet. It's still the youth.

Mr. Fortin – They want to know if they can activate that line and I'm asking if the Board wants to do that. I know I could figure it out. A new meter and check valve will cost \$500.

Mr. Riley – I think they should pay. If I'm a business in Town and I use 8000 cubic feet of water thru my restaurant I would be paying more. The concession stand does generate revenue and a portion goes to the little league; no different than a restaurant. There are adding more fields.

Ms. Sturtevant – They should be charged. It was just Fairhaven years ago and now they are bringing in other towns.

Mr. Wotton – Would this be considered a secondary unit like a resident?

Mr. Fortin - This would have its own separate service all the way to the north of that property. The guy in the corner house is giving them water right now. I don't want to spend time and money if you don't want me to do it.

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Mr. Hobson – It's for little kids, minimal bill.

Mr. Furtado – It's not a minimal bill.

Mr. Ristuccia – I have a couple of questions. This is not a town run program. Not for profit.

Mr. Riley – No, they make money.

Mr. Wotton – They cover expenses. The land is owned by the Town. The labor was donated for the fields and building, no contracts. There were no profits off of it. The money that they charge they don't pay anybody, no staff. Concession is 100% volunteers by parents. I personally would not charge for the concession. Charge for the secondary meter. Not charge for the concession. It's not even opened a lot.

Mr. Riley – 10,000 to 14,000 cubic feet is an awful lot of water to use over seven month period.

Mr. Fortin – We read that quarterly.

Mr. Ristuccia – Remember I wanted a list of everybody that we provide water to that didn't pay. I don't believe anybody should get water without paying. How fair is this you have to pay but these guys don't pay. The consensus right now is whatever the cost they should pay.

Mr. Fortin – I bring this up because I know the Board has been dealing with issues with softball leagues and lights, and donating our time for homecoming perpetrates something the board is trying to fix.

Mr. Wotton motioned to install the secondary meter which they would have to pay the water for that field and any additional work they would have to hire someone to do that. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mr. Ristuccia – I'm an advocate for charging for water for anybody that uses water. I'm certain between the folks somebody would help raise money for the water bill in case we charge for the 10,000 cubic feet they use.

V. Items for Action

A. Award Bid for the DPW Door Replacement

Mr. Furtado – Based on Town Meeting approval \$45,644 was appropriated for this building. We put it out to bid three folks responded. In your packet you see the results. One bid was really high. Other two were pretty close. New England School \$47,366 and Krystal Glass was \$48,289. We eliminated door #2 entrance to the lunch room. We can only do five doors for \$41,752.

Mr. Wotton motioned to award the bid for exterior door replacement for the DPW Building to New England School in the amount of \$41,752.00. Ms. Sturtevant seconded. Vote unanimous.

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

Mr. Furtado – I was on vacation last week. Note that we changed the beach scheduling and then last week we had the sampling issue at the Tinkham Lane Well.

Mr. Hobson - Concerned about the State and the weeds sticking out.

Mr. Furtado – I sent an email to Representative Straus and he helped us quite a bit last time.

Mr. Wotton – Strong recommendation that they put grout in between them. Fill in the cobblestones. Green Street the last five feet they put in concrete and there are no weeds.

Mr. Hobson – Did you post that job for spraying?

Mr. Furtado – I didn't post anything.

Mr. Hobson – Help out with poles between Hoppy and Taylor's Seafood.

Ms. Sturtevant – The tax bills went out. Did you know they went out without the betterment? The berm at the end of Briercliffe worked wonderful and didn't get washed away. It's passable on Weybridge thank the Board.

Mr. Wotton – Tree on Bridge Street overlooked. Coming down Mill Road when you take a right onto Bridge Street when you look left you can't see past 100' down the corner.

Mr. Riley – I'm good.

Mr. Hobson - Stop signs on West Island.

Mr. Furtado – The manual was provided to the safety officer.

Ms. Tripp – I will get you a copy of the regulations.

Mr. Ristuccia – At one point we talked about people getting training and we would pay for their training. Water gets upgrade for water department. Pay to help them do that. Highway took some water course.

Mr. Furtado – Two schools of thought. As many folks as we can to cross train. Treat it separate water and sewer. It's different because they are Teamsters. That being said water guy had a water license. In order to keep the license they need to get training contact hours.

Superintendent's Report for July 4 – July 11, 2014:

- Reported to work on July 4 storm – we had Highway crews blocking off streets that were flooded and manning the Pease Park Pump Station – Sewer crews were bypass pumping from

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the sewer on Middle Street and the Water Department was adjusting the river height at the Mattapoisett spillway

- Office received a report that resident at Taber Street (water we shut off due to excessive leak), was turning water on for use, then shutting it off. As a result, office called for dig safe at property due to leak. I believe that the markings caused resident to call office. I spoke with resident and told him that when he has an approved contractor obtain a permit for the work, we would turn on the water for two weeks. If the leak wasn't repaired in that time, the water would go back off.
- Speak with the beach staff about scheduling changes
- Weybridge Road thruway began on the 10th
- Fog lines painted on Sconticut Neck Road scheduled for week of the 20th
- Attended MRV meeting
- Will be awarding door contract and sending to Town Counsel for review
- Met with BETA engineering re; scheduling work for MUTCD compliance contract

VII. Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Wotton motioned to hold the next meeting on August 11, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Sturtevant seconded. Vote unanimous.

VIII. Adjourn

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. Ms. Sturtevant seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. Tripp
Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved on August 11, 2014.