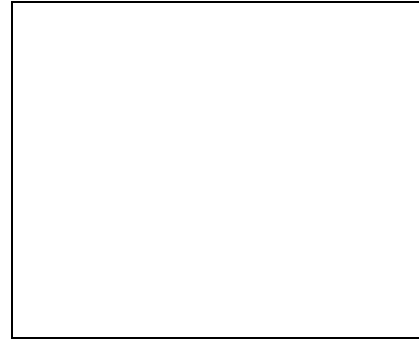


**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
January 12, 2015**

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
Fernando & Diane Lemos, 9 Goulart Memorial Drive



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. January 5, 2015

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2015 meeting. Ms. Sturtevant seconded. Vote unanimous.

IV. Appointments

A. Fernando & Diane Lemos, 9 Goulart - Memorial Drive – Re: Water Bill

Mr. Lemos – We live at 9 Goulart Memorial Drive and the reason that we are here is because we asked for an abatement. The process is twofold. Primarily what initiated this discussion was the usage on my last water bill, 20,000 cubic feet. Secondary to that was a problem that we had since living here from 2006 and that is with dirty water. This year was a big issue. Some of you are aware. To go back to the primary issue which prompted this request the history of the usage. As you can see for the past five years the consumption for the summer period has been 6600 cubic feet in 2010, 4100 in 2011, 13,800 in 2012 and 6400 in 2013. The reason for the 13800 is I put in new beds, shrubs and watered it constantly. I can see where that went up because of the plantings. In 2013 it went back to normal so obviously 20400 for this past year just blew me away. Alerted in advance your usage was high. Had someone come to the house and checked the meter, working properly. I still don't understand it. It's fifty percent higher than last year. I am not aware of any leaks or any problems. The only thing I can see is if there is a problem with the meter. Misread but clearly I use a lot more water in 2012 and I know I did. 2014 where I don't believe anywhere near that level 50% higher than 2012 stumped. My only thought there

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is something wrong with the process. So, this past year since living in the house 2006 always had an issue with dirty water, spring every year. We call up the town and they flush the hydrants. Few times it clears up. This year starting October 7th it just went on. The first picture is the water in our washing machine. Second picture is the water in the sink and the third picture is the residual in the sink where the water drained out. I think we would all agree that this is unacceptable. To try to keep it on the surface and not too much detail we made contacts October 7th with the Town and they started saying the water was very dirty. In the shower noticed how dirty it was and I didn't notice it when I took a shower but she got out of the shower and the white towel was dirty. That was the initial phase of that whole episode. We called and the Water Department and they flushed. This time around this went on for several days. Wash the clothes and then take out the clothes they were dirty. Whole process for about a week. I was going thru chemo treatment on my face and I had opened wounds. My concern was I've got this treatment, dirt water I could get an infection. So we became very concerned with that. I started contacting Mr. Furtado, someone that reported it to him. Ed Fortin and he jumped in. Very understanding. Did a very good job. They were flushing every day. 10:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon. In the meantime in the evening I would wash the clothes. Try to not throw the clothes out. At 4 a.m. washing clothes was the best time. We did that six or seven times. Luckily all of the clothes were saved. In the meantime all this flushing going on in the house all the faucets going. The hot water system sucked all this into it. Flush continuously. That's what we had to do. Boiler is going burning oil to keep the process going. The good thing about it I always felt that Mr. Furtado was very cooperative with the water and did everything in their power to try to fix it. I never felt like I was never being heard, people in the office; and Karl who went to the house. Stan and Jon it's like everyone did the best they could. Underlying problem. I don't know the discussion with the connection of the pipes at a low point. The neighbors don't have a problem. I can't see how anyone lives with this and doesn't complain. Maybe there is a problem where our pipe is connected to the main. Are they integrated with each other and there is a leak somewhere. Everyone is trying to help. We still went thru ten days of hell. What will happen next year? Empty the water tower every time we call up.

Mr. Ristuccia – The placement of the water meter is far beyond. Leaking pipe to the main would be leaking before the meter. The meter to the house it certainly could be. Usage of 20400 cubic feet is huge. I don't have to tell you. Top 3 or 4% of usage for residential use. My first statement. The probability the meter not working properly is very slim. That being said I would have to think that there was a leak somewhere. That pipe is down five feet and nobody knows where it is. Just a little bit of a leak to use that kind of water.

Mr. Furtado – When Mr. Lemos called we sent one of the technician's. If anywhere there is going to be dirty water it's down the Neck. He flushed a couple of days and later they called again. Usually dirty water would be done until next year. When these folks called again Karl went out there to flush and it dropped the pressure of the water tower. Then Eddie came back and he discovered a water main break. Normal time annually when they go and we flow the hydrant and the dirty water is gone in a day or two. It lasted that much longer.

Mrs. Lemos – Usually we call Stan and he will come and flush the hydrant. It's dirty and then clear and dirty again.

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Mr. Hobson – I happen to live in the same area and my daughter on West Island and I have all kinds of friends and we all went thru the same thing you went thru. Do you have irrigation?

Mr. Lemos - Yes.

Mr. Hobson – Everybody went thru the same thing. If we give you a rebate everybody else will want a rebate. I had dirty water in my tub. If it went thru the meter you have to pay.

Ms. Lemos – How long did you have that problem for? We had it awhile. Karl said that it was the last day and they went and did this big flush. He went to the Island. From then I never heard anyone else had a problem. We went well past into the week. We didn't start communicating until after the 14th. The 15th was our first conversation.

Mr. Hobson – Look at 2011 in the winter months. We send two water bills.

Mr. Lemos – I gave you the summer readings.

Mr. Ristuccia – I understand what you are saying.

Ms. Sturtevant – In 2012 we didn't have this tier plan in effect but we do now. So, it's all different levels that's where you got such a high bill.

Mr. Lemos – I'm talking about the cubic feet.

Mr. Ristuccia – Perhaps there is a leak. Irrigation in my own home I had that situation. A valve had broken so it was leaking in the ground and I didn't know it. That also could be contributing.

Mr. Wotton – On the irrigation, that's my field. How often do you water?

Mr. Lemos – I turn it on for about a couple of weeks when we are without rain. It's not automatic. The zones run about 30 minutes.

Mr. Wotton – How many zones?

Mr. Lemos – Six. I put it based on the area. The main area where it gets a lot of sun maximum side of driveway I have the small heads five minutes. Small areas in the shade they don't need it.

Mr. Wotton – Do you run high flow heads drip, twenty-five feet, five feet?

Mr. Lemos – Mist is on the side of the driveway and the rest they shoot out.

Mr. Wotton – Six zones, seven or eight heads?

Mr. Lemos – I think they are four or five.

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Mr. Wotton – I didn't go by your house but I know it has a really long driveway and hill. A lot of lines that run under the ground. They will constantly hold water. High flow heads because you have a lot of grass. If you have 7 zones...

Mr. Lemos– I know for a fact I have four or five. Even at that the water couldn't support it. Not enough water pressure. That's why I go thirty minutes.

Mr. Wotton – This is what I do. Expertise. You probably have a leak in your irrigation system. Heads near the edge of your driveway. Probably somewhere where they take the turn. The last head is the one at the edge of the driveway. Leak there. Pay the \$65 and have someone inspect the system.

Mr. Lemos – I will take that under your advice. If the valve is not open to go thru that zone then the zone is empty. Two weeks without the valve open there is no water going to it.

Mr. Wotton – We didn't have a lot of rain this year. Do you have a second meter for irrigation?

Ms. Tripp – They are not connected to sewer.

Mr. Wotton – I think you may have a problem with the irrigation. Check the valves and check the connections at the heads.

Mr. Riley – Six of my neighbors had water system heat attacks when they got their bills. You water your lawn. Cut back on how much you water. Did you put it in?

Mr. Lemos – It was there.

Mr. Riley – In 2005 they had high water usage. There could have been a problem there.

Mr. Lemos – It's very possible.

Mr. Riley – The other part was the meter taken out and calibrated? I know Stan checked the meter. Has the meter been taken out and collaborated?

Mr. Furtado – No.

Mr. Riley – Mr. Fortin took care of the problem with the marsh. Did you pay the bill?

Mr. Lemos – Yes.

Mr. Riley – We can calibrate and retest the meters and only one has ever malfunctioned since I've been here. That would be the first step. Check the meter. Other than that Brian said this is his line of business. Leaking toilet, outside faucet.

Mr. Wotton – Some things we just don't know.

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Mr. Ristuccia - When was the reading on the meters? Have we read his meter again?

Mr. Furtado – Just a couple of weeks later. Stan checked meter and it wasn't spinning with the water off.

Mr. Ristuccia – We should get the meter. Let's change his meter. I still think you have a leak somewhere. It doesn't take much for twenty-four hours a day to use a huge amount of water. When did you shut the sprinkler off?

Mr. Lemos – I think it was after probably November in the beginning.

Mr. Ristuccia - I think where you had for a week or a week and a half to flush to get rid of your dirty water. How much water, I defer to Mr. Furtado. I think that your dirty water was more than most. Suggestion I think that my feeling some sort of a restitution on his bill just because as we say he had to flush for a week and a half that was because of the dirty water.

Mr. Hobson – Let's take the meter out and check it.

Mr. Ristuccia – So, again this Board is here to act in a lot of ways as a mediate for the consumer and us doing the work and the purpose is to treat the residents in the Town as the boss. Do things right for him or her. Let's get the meter changed right away.

Mr. Furtado – There have been numerous people who have called for dirty water. It's a matter of policy that we don't abate water. If you ever want to say they went thru two weeks of dirty water. Quite honestly we were making the problem worse by flushing it and dragging in water from the marsh and the leak. We weren't making it better. This is not a typical situation.

Mr. Riley – How many days were you adversely inconvenienced?

Mr. Lemos – October 7th to the 17th.

Mr. Riley – Ten days.

Ms. Lemos– I was being told by Karl and Stan to run the water and in the house and run the water. I turned all the faucets on. One day Karl or Jon or Stan, but they told me we have to run the water in front of the house from my hose as they were flushing it. Then they told me run the water in the house.

Mr. Riley – Follow up from the residents ten days at 1000 gallons you are talking about a \$100 credit. What you were doing on the high side, \$9.90 a day. Ten days that's \$100 credit before or after you.

Mr. Hobson - I know people on West Island that went five, six and seven days with the same situation. People will be coming and wanting the same thing.

Mr. Ristuccia – I live on West Island. I know what it is. I never had to go ten days with the water being dirty and I think that is over the top. You endured a lot more. Tell you to flush is the right thing to do.

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As Mr. Riley said \$100 on the high side, \$99.90. So I'm going to recap that we take the meter out. The water got used. If you don't think you used that much the meter to your house or under the ground in your sprinkler system and used twice the water you have an issue there. We will give you the accurate results. I'd ask the Board to give you a \$100 credit towards your water. The Board would have to decide.

Mr. Wotton – Is he the first one on the line after the water break?

Mr. Riley – The break was on Nelson Avenue.

Ms. Lemos – What causes the problem every year?

Mr. Furtado– The water flows with the number of summer residents you have a lot of stagnant water and it settles in the pipe.

Mr. Lemos – Possibility between the meter and the house? How we would go about checking. Stop where the water and see if there is any water coming thru.

Mr. Riley – We would be eight feet in.

Mr. Lemos – Thank everyone for your time. I enjoyed the information.

Mr. Ristuccia – Vinnie will be in touch.

V. Items for Action

A. Articles

Mr. Furtado – So I sit on the Capital Planning Committee. Just going by what the Capital Planning Committee has selected has voted on for FY16 I'll start with the highway equipment \$144,000; two trucks and a screener. Road work is \$300,000. Capital Planning Committee has a five year plan. In your packet that Kathy put together as far as the roadwork John and I picked three streets and basically the three streets were twofold; current condition and the amount of money for repairs. Capital Planning Committee recommended \$300,000, the Selectmen \$300,000 and the Finance Committee \$300,000 and so the three streets that we picked were all based on the need. It fits the amount of money and the location with the fact of the amount of travel.

Mr. Hobson – Akin, Elm and Union?

Mr. Furtado – Road condition and drainage.

Mr. Hobson – What about Bluepoint?

Mr. Furtado – Union, Elm and Akin were John and my picks.

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Mr. Hobson – It doesn't make any sense to me. There has been a lot of construction in both those areas. Did you ever hear of Scoticut Neck?

Mr. Furtado – We just did Dogwood.

Mr. Hobson – There is a problem with Bluepoint. We can't get to quahog.

Mr. Wotton – What about chip seal?

Mr. Furtado – We want to get rid of chip seal. When we did Potter Street with the chip seal we had to go back. Wayne Street go back a couple of times.

Mr. Wotton—Last year we said to a couple of people we would do their streets. Have we addressed those streets?

Mr. Furtado – Billy's way and Winsegansett.

Mr. Wotton – If we told somebody last year then we should follow thru with our word. Small or large, we told them we would take care of them.

Mr. Furtado – I agree with you.

Mr. Riley – The articles will still be on the warrant.

Mr. Furtado – They approve the number and then it's up to you to pick the streets.

Mr. Riley – How can they be picking the number when we haven't picked the streets?

Mr. Ristuccia – I feel as though we are on top of our game here. Not on our agenda and they weren't ready yet.

Mr. Wotton – Why do we do three streets?

Mr. Furtado – Take into account the number of houses that it affects. Common sense and how well traveled. Look at Union Street. It's a decently travelled road.

Article for the BPW doors; two doors, we did five last time. John got a good quote. We are just waiting for two more quotes. Assuming somewhere \$17,000 but we got a quote a lot less than that. Complete the package that we started last year.

Mr. Riley motioned to sign the BPW Door Article not to exceed \$11,000 for two doors. Ms. Sturtevant seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mr. Furtado – State Aid to Highways is a vote to use Chapter 90 money.

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Mr. Riley motioned to sign the State Aid to Highways article for Chapter 90 for FY16. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mr. Furtado – Water articles; the first two are for the water main that's on West Island Causeway work over the bridge; \$40,000 for engineering and the construction for the water pipe is \$150,000. The Tinkham Lane Well is a rehab for the well itself and the engineering. We can only afford the engineering for Tata & Howard for the installation of the replacement well design construction about 500k. Lastly there is a truck with a plow assembly.

Sewer; article for the pilot study is for the nitrogen grant, \$90,000. We asked for more money with the methanol cost supplement that money for the nitrogen study. The next thing pump station is the evaluation of Railroad Avenue, Marguerite and Abbey; \$140,000. The next thing is Phase two and three; \$145,000. Total of \$80,000 & \$65,000 for the sewer evaluation survey checking where leaks are, North Fairhaven. Francis Street sewer put forth because Chapter 90 doesn't cover the sewer and lastly truck #48 for replacement. Trucks come with a plow assembly. We really could be doing more but we need to save money because of the permit from the Feds.

B. Sewer Department Grade Licenses – Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Furtado – In your packet is the current contract from July 1, 2013 and ends June 30, 2016. It's a three year contract. The memo says however employees who hold a Grade 4 that do not have a Grade 5 license. Treatment Plant received the digester it went from a Grade 4 to 5 to run it. So the list that Kathy provided you is the operators and what they have. Now the M.O.U. reads in the contract they have to test three times per year. It's not an or else. This applies to the people who work on the weekends. During the day the four people don't have the grade license. Those people won't be responsible for the plant but on the weekends they come in. We pair people up, not a 4 with a 4.

Mr. Ristuccia – We talked about this a year and a half ago. We felt as though these four people should have Grade 5 license. They have to take three tests a year to get their Grade 5. Meanwhile all four of them haven't passed one of them. I don't feel as though they should be working overtime. I don't think its right. We should give them a time to have it. Clause to revisit it if we wish at any point before July. We should talk about a time limit to pass that test. They need to pass.

Mr. Furtado – This is a union matter. We need to invite them in. We can vote to have them in.

Mr. Riley – We should invite them in. Decide one way or the other by June 30, 2015. The sooner we get them in here the better after two years.

Mr. Ristuccia – Do we know the grades on this test? We should invite them in.

Mr. Riley motioned to invite the Sewer Union to the next BPW meeting to discuss the M.O.U. for the grade license. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

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C. SRPEDD Report – Bike Path Crossing @ Scoticut Neck Road & David Drown Boulevard

Mr. Furtado – The Board had asked me to ask SRPEDD for this report. It was in your packet the last time. They gave three alternatives how to make that area a little safer. Chapter 90 for the engineering with any one of the alternatives. Biggest bang with alternative #1. Already had some engineering done by Greenman-Pederson. We can ask them for a price? Engineering is for sure but the contract is up in the air.

Mr. Riley – I doubt construction would not be eligible considering the circumstance liability that they wouldn't allow a little wiggle room to fix that intersection before somebody gets hurt.

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

Mr. Furtado – Annual report so please read it and in the next day or two if there is anything you want me to change. We did a lot last year. Submit this and it will be public.

Mr. Hobson – All set.

Ms. Sturtevant– All set.

Mr. Wotton – Good.

Mr. Riley – Congratulations to Linda and her team for her to be Operator of the Year for the State of Massachusetts and the people in the department. The two items I asked for last time; May and in June they have double or triple the purchases in June. Not being conservative.

Superintendent Report for January 12, 2015:

From last meeting:

- Drop off at Causeway/Fir Street– On List to get done
- Karen Avenue – Done
- Shaw Road/Route 6 – Mass D.O.T. was notified
- Summit Drive – Done
- Requested opinion from Town Counsel re: Skype for meeting attendance

New:

- Appeared in front of Personnel Board for consideration of reclass of water and sewer superintendent positions – Personnel Board agreed to my request – passed it to the Selectmen, per their Board's protocol

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- Appeared in front of Personnel Board for consideration of equalizing water and sewer annual stipend disbursement to be equal to that of the Teamsters – Personnel Board agreed to my request – passed it to the Selectmen, per their Board’s protocol
- Assisted Building Department with furniture moving
- Continued with budgets
- Wrote sewer/water positions upgrade request from the Board for submittal to Select Board
- Attended Capital Planning Committee meeting
- Attended Economic Study Committee meeting
- Worked on BPW annual report
- Submitted draft correspondence to Brown and Caldwell to close out engineering portion of Digester Contract

VII. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Riley motioned to hold the next two meetings on January, 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. and January 26, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

VIII. Adjourn

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Ms. Sturtevant seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. Tripp
Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved on January 26, 2015.