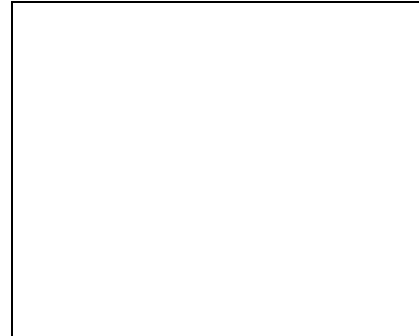


**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
March 23, 2015**

Present

Michael Ristuccia, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Brian Wotton, Commissioner
G. Steven Riley, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Kathy Tripp, Administrative Assistant



Ms. Sturtevant was not in attendance but was listening via phone.

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. March 9, 2015

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2015 meeting. Mr. Riley seconded. Vote unanimous.

IV. Appointments

A. Fairhaven Housing Authority – Re: Water & Sewer Bills

The Housing Authority was not in attendance.

Mr. Furtado – The Housing Authority has limited meters. I had asked our water consultant if this was the norm and he said it is the norm. It's up to the property owner. Before we had the flat rate, now we have the tier structure. They will always be in the third tier.

Mr. Ristuccia – If they have six homes on one meter maybe we read them more often.

Mr. Furtado – We discussed pursuing automatic reader meters because if we had to raise the rates they would be billed more often.

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Mr. Riley motioned to table discussing further the Housing Authority request. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

V. Items for Action

A. Special Town Meeting Articles

Mr. Furtado – In your packet we had to submit articles for Special Town Meeting. The deadline was March 19th to submit these articles for consideration on May 2nd.

Mr. Hobson – Sewer and water overtime from plowing?

Mr. Furtado – No, they had quite a few breaks. Operating from last year is up \$20,000 in the Highway Department. We had that big expense last June. The vehicle maintenance line item is \$64,000 and we wiped out 1/3 of it by July. I had gone to the Finance Committee back in June asking for the transfer and their response was to wait until you run out of money. Utilities; the rates were doubled this past January and there are quite a few instances where we were open around the clock. Sewer and water will come from retained earnings and the highway transfer from the general fund. The only other article is the Washington Street sewer. We had to replace 325 feet of A.C. pipe and will reline 900' of sewer main from Washington to Alden Road. That will come out of the sewer retained earnings. We can only take out \$25,000 a year and we permission to get the rest. Transfer to the overtime account.

Mr. Wotton – The extra 900 feet along Route 6; any chance that can be replaced with the Route 6 project?

Mr. Furtado – No. We were going to do it anyway.

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

A. Capital Planning

Mr. Furtado– I'm on the Capital Planning Committee and will be going in front of the Finance Committee on Thursday. This is a rough draft of what's going to be submitted. The Water Department FY15 current rates. Collections and the expense we will have a balance of \$112,000. We have about \$500,000 in the kitty. For all the subsequent years the Capital Planning Committee and the Capital Plan which was established at Town Meeting we are required to have a five year grid. There are projects we have to get done. FY16 to we are going to need another well. Causeway, engineering and construction and then a truck to replace total is \$300,000. That's to come out of our retained earnings. Random year FY17 we have rates that could be based on the town's history of the last x number of years. We collect about 93 or 94%. We are about 6 or 7% short. FY17, 18, 19, and 20 is all up in the air. We have projects we have to do and they cost money. Generate a way to pay. We could go with something else; shutoffs or push projects back further.

Mr. Ristuccia – I don't think it warrants any more discussion right now.

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Mr. Furtado – I have a Capital Planning Committee tomorrow. Sewer, same deal. FY16 you can see what the revenue is going to be. These are the projects for FY16. We have about \$800,000 in the reserve. Again this is just a grid with some rate projections what we would collect. Expenses would be 3% every year and what our balance would be. These are the different projects. The biggest project is for the nitrogen and the construction. I want you to be aware of what I am presenting to them.

Mr. Riley – FY19 construction is \$8.3 million. How do we come up with that figure? Capital Planning Committee and Finance Committee that # moves x percent because of inflation.

Mr. Furtado – People have to understand based on the pilot study going well.

Mr. Riley – Not the total rehab?

Mr. Furtado – We are hoping.

VII. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Riley set the date for the next meeting for April 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Board Members, Superintendent – Old Business / New Business (Continued)

Mr. Ristuccia – Dogwood Street the guys went there to shore it up and did a wonderful job. Woman was happy we did that for her. Cottonwood between Misty Bay and Rocky Point. Only one house and you can't drive down the road.

Mr. Hobson – This is the problem with dirt roads. We are spending more money on fill to fix these.

Mr. Riley – I agree. This is probably the worst I've seen it in a while.

Mr. Hobson – People are asking me if the recycle is going to open April 1st.

Mr. Furtado – Weather permitting, yes.

Mr. Hobson – We really have to address from the snow plowing fixing the sides of the roads. They have been dug up by us and different people. A lot of issues on the side roads.

Mr. Wotton – Dogwood Street, we are paving that this year right?

Mr. Ristuccia – Causeway to Fisherman.

Mr Riley – Couple meetings ago we talked about the demand for late water bills.

Mr. Furtado – Wendy sent out 1,500 from the 6,500 customers. There are quite a few people that haven't paid the bills.

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Mr. Riley – Where are we with sewer tie-ins?

Mr. Furtado –We have conflicting lists. The Board of Health gave out quite a few waivers. They have to undo the waivers. We had requested to use Town Counsel. There are two lists. We didn't realize how many waivers were granted.

Mr. Riley – In parting words I would like to thank the voters and residents of the town and the workers during my service the past nine years. Definitely got more out of it. Highlight of my life and I look back on it fondly. Private and public are two things. During the past nine years there were a lot of challenges. One of them was not renewing the former superintendent's contract. We have a leader in Mr. Furtado. In the end it worked out great. Howland Road project there was a lot of unrest. Two years we worked on the tiered water system. Long hard process to go thru with the consultants but it is fair and equitable. Commend you all for that. Overall contract negotiations, the budget process, it was a little tricky with other boards. Protected few by the Finance Committee. One of the items I probably failed on not pushing hard enough was to use straight rock salt. The Board should push for that. It's a necessary thing to do. Sand is a complete waste of money. Selectmen say yes but they can't find enough money. Lastly for the voters, the BPW, vote no on the ballot. We have a role in our community and not all agree on the concerns is what is best for the benefit of the Town.

Mr. Ristuccia – Getting to be spring, I believe that the bike path crossing along engineering, weren't we working on the crossing at Sconticut Neck?

Mr. Furtado – We have SRPEDD working on this. They gave us the information and I sent all that info to the traffic people to see where the construction costs would be.

Ms. Sturtevant– I wanted to say it's been a pleasure working with Steve. Couldn't be swayed by others. Thank you for all your service.

Mr. Hobson – I would like to thank Steve too. He's always done right by the Town. Honest person. Pleasure. Not always agreed on things.

Superintendent Report for March 9, 2015:

From last meeting

- Neighborhood news article
- Contacted various persons/committees requesting BPW support
- Obtained current "lien list" of those not current with water/sewer bill
- Requested to use Selectmen's engineering \$\$ for drainage assessment on Jeannette Street

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New Items

- Worked on/submitted capital planning grid which will be presented at meeting
- Met at Pasta House re: grease trap remediation
- Continue coordination with ABC and BOH concerning logistics of cart program
- Ed Fortin and I met with Jeff Osuch and Wendy Graves re: water and sewer projections for FY 16
- Met with engineer re: Causeway bridge roadway repair (not water)
- Met with Ed Fortin and Tata and Howard re: capital projects and rates moving forward
- Attended Finance Committee for BPW to present budgets
- Emergency sewer repair on Washington St – 325 feet of AC main – Fairhaven Honeywagon was hired to pump manhole until Fairhaven Excavation began work
- Update water/sewer grids based on projections – presented/met with capital planning committee
- Attended MWWA presentation about water withdrawal permits amongst other topics
- Had a few employee “Pep Talks” on various issues – noted in respective files
- Attended Department Head Economic meeting
- Submitted articles for Special Town Meeting – Highway overtime (because of snow) – Highway vehicle maintenance (because of \$20k repair in July) – Highway gas and electric (rates doubled plus many days round the clock building was open) – Sewer Repair at Washington St – to allow the transfer from reserve fund – also put placeholders for water and sewer overtime accounts as they will be short due to water main breaks and weather

VIII. Adjourn and Executive Session

Mr. Riley motioned to close the open session at 6:36 p.m. and enter into executive session and not to reconvene open session. In favor: Mr. Ristuccia, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Wotton and Mr. Riley.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. Tripp
Administrative Assistant
Minutes approved on April 13, 2015.