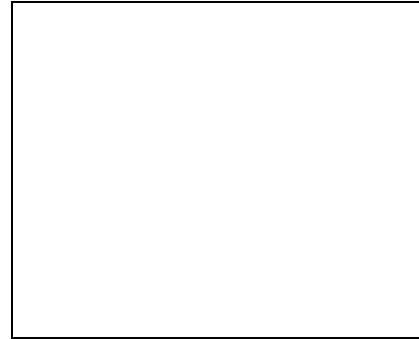


**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
August 10, 2015**

Present

Michael Ristuccia, Commissioner  
Robert Hobson, Commissioner  
Daniel Freitas, Commissioner  
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent  
Kathy Tripp, Administrative Assistant  
Christine Parks, 19 Lafayette Street  
David Park, 156 Adams Street  
Jon Gregory, Tata & Howard



Ms. Sturtevant and Mr. Wotton were not in attendance.

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Routine Matters**

**A. Signing of Departmental Bills**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**A. July 20, 2015**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2015 meeting. Mr. Freitas seconded. Vote unanimous.

**IV. Appointments**

**A. Christine Parks – Re: 19 Lafayette Street Stone Wall**

Ms. Parks – My property abuts the Joshua Slocum Memorial which abuts the stone wall. I want to turn it into a proper stone wall. To do that we have to rebuild from the park side and bring in a bobcat to move the stones. I will replant the grass seed.

Mr. Ristuccia – I drove by there with Vinnie a couple weeks ago. Behind her house is the town property. The stone wall is falling apart. I personally don't see a problem. Happy to see it done.

Mr. Hobson – Real good deed to do. Nice little park to look out at the water.

Mr. Freitas – You could tell the difference between the two? We will need to have a copy of the contractor's insurance policy.

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Ms. Tripp – We need to have a copy on file in case someone gets hurt while working on town property.

Mr. Freitas motioned to allow Christine Parks of 19 Lafayette Street to rebuild the town stone wall which abuts her property. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**B. David Park, 156 Adams Street (on Hedge Street) – Driveway Waiver for additional 6’**

Mr. Park – I was here on July 6<sup>th</sup> asking for a curb cut of twenty feet so I could try to put my trailer in the driveway. My trailer is longer and I need an additional six feet.

Mr. Freitas – I don’t have a problem with it. What were you asking for before, twenty?

Mr. Parks – Yes, but I was told that twenty-six feet is the max.

Mr. Ristuccia – This is your second driveway?

Mr. Parks – Yes, I have one on Adams.

Mr. Freitas – We already discussed this once before.

Mr. Hobson – I’m good.

Mr. Hobson motioned to allow the second driveway width at twenty-six feet. Mr. Freitas seconded. Vote unanimous.

**C. Jon Gregory, Tata & Howard – Water Rates**

Mr. Gregory – Mr. Furtado and I have been back and forth about the rates. He wanted me to meet with the Board tonight as to where we would like to go with the rates and an update on some of the specifics.

Mr. Furtado – The last go around with Tata and Howard they had set up a plan for us and we changed the numbers. Good idea this time to meet every now and then. Just for the history when I first started four years ago the expenditures exceeded the revenues. John Nunes had to go back to two town meetings and transfer money from retained earnings. In 2012 we raised the rates and raised them because of the same reason. We raised them in 2012. They hadn’t been raised in six or seven years. In 2013 we had to raise them again because the Selectboard raised the indirect costs. Last year we implanted the tier system. Forty-five percent pay a smaller bill now than they have in a very long time. In 2015 there are capital projects we need to do. Half are paying less. The collection rate this year was 90%. We anticipated 94%. It affected us a little. We have \$500,000 in retained earnings. Projects we will be doing are the new well at Tinkham Lane, the Causeway Road water main and purchased another truck. We don’t have any more money going in there. I asked Jon to look at a budget for the folks in Town. The last few years we’re just treading water. Water never shuts down and we need to maintain it. I would like to do to the AMR system. They just instituted one in Marion. It’s about \$1,000,000 for new meters. It’s a drive by system. It’s a lot quicker and it would enable us to read the meters and bill

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out quarterly. Bottom line if we could do that to we could be saving on man-hours and the rate payers would not feel the rate as much because of quarterly bill.

Mr. Hobson – One million, I have a problem with that. People are already upset.

Mr. Furtado – The thing is selling water is a business. We went seven years without raising the rates. My point is tapping the till for retained earnings. No less than 5% of our operating in retained earnings. We need to make more money. Borrow money from the SRF.

Mr. Ristuccia – We've been treading water but also without doing very few of the capital improvements that we planned. We've done hardly any of them. We need to spend some money to improve the infrastructure.

Mr. Hobson – How many people don't pay their water bills?

Mr. Furtado – The last time about 10%.

Mr. Ristuccia – I don't know but I think that after two or three years what happens is it goes on the tax bill. Revenue collected is very close to what you billed.

Ms. Tripp – We bill by fiscal year. What happens is if the bills on not paid by the first real estate bill for the next fiscal year in the fall, they are liened to the property and that amount appears on their tax bill.

Mr. Furtado – We have Kris from the Housing Authority here. The Seaport Inn came in and Dana Farms. All we can offer in that predicament was to go to the quarterly billing. Plumbing wise they are sort of stuck.

Mr. Gregory – In 2011 in the Capital Efficiency Plan, there were numerous capital improvements that need to be done. We haven't been able to jump into too many. There are over one hundred miles of water main. Infrastructure for life for a one hundred year main is more or less one mile every year to keep up with the turnover. Things like that need to be moved into the rate. If we can identify in the next five year rate study then we can calculate out with accounting each of the year's payments. We'll look at several different scenarios. We all understand that something needs to be done. We'll be prepared for some different scenarios on changing limits in the tiers, base rate changes on the advice of Vinnie and Ed Fortin. Getting all the numbers in and as they currently stand. What capital improvements in the next five years and update periodically. Open from any thoughts and input from the Board. Keep in mind the water management and restrictions will be enforced in the next several years. Less water usage means less revenue for the Water Department.

Mr. Furtado – As opposed to last year there has been a lot of effort into this and the Board was reluctant to accept the rates. The Selectmen did not allow us to amortize the indirect costs over three years.

Mr. Ristuccia – Jon has a good feel of what we wanted the last time. Not much different as back then. Very concerned about the ultimate user and what they have to pay.

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Mr. Freitas – In the last five or six years we have two new elementary schools that costs us multi millions. Now I heard they are looking at the Jr. High. The water system that we have in this Town, you could wake up and don't have water. You can't see the infrastructure underground. Those people that lived off of Francis Street, the whole street went. Three hundred yards the whole system went. We had to fix it. That's what coming to other streets.

Mr. Gregory – Constructions costs continue to go up.

Mr. Ristuccia - There are a few places in Town that have multiple dwellings with very few meters. Think about something for that.

Mr. Freitas – We've had some condos and elderly housing. The system Vinnie is talking about is the way to go.

Mr. Furtado – The biggest cost is installing the meters in peoples home.

The Board took a short break at 6:30.

**V. Items for Action**

**A. BPW Superintendent – Carry over Vacation Days**

Mr. Furtado – With your permission I would like to carry over vacation days. The contract reads no more than five days per year. I'm asking to do so this.

Mr. Freitas – How many days do you have?

Mr. Furtado – I think fourteen days.

Mr. Freitas motioned have Mr. Furtado carry over fourteen days of vacation time. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**B. Award WWTP Contract – Evoqua**

Mr. Furtado – The contract with Evoqua we went back and forth with Town Counsel on some of the wording for the machine for the pilot study. This will be paid from the grant we got last year and an article from last Town Meeting. Back and forth with Tom Crotty. He wasn't happy with some of the language. Sticky point of the agreement we were responsible to return the unit in working order. Good to go now. This is for the Town to enter into an agreement for a pilot study for the nitrogen removal at the treatment plant.

Mr. Freitas motioned to award to Evoqua a contract in the amount of \$75,000 for the Pilot Unit. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**C. Award Portable Screener Bid – Argus Industries**

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Mr. Furtado – Brian wanted us to invest in a screener. Last Town Meeting it was voted. This is to use the material we get for loam or fill. We only got one bid.

Mr. Freitas motioned to accept the bid from Argus for \$43,428.00.

Mr. Furtado – It's for \$52,928.00.

Ms. Tripp – You can't add the option. It's over the limit.

Mr. Furtado – John has extra money from another item.

Ms. Tripp – You can't do it. I spoke with Kim about this today. Town Accountant said no.

Mr. Ristuccia – What if we didn't vote on this tonight and did some homework.

Mr. Freitas motioned to table awarding the bid for the screener. Mr. Ristuccia seconded. Vote unanimous.

**D. Award Heavy Duty Truck Bid – Liberty Chevrolet**

Mr. Furtado – This is from the cap for water and sewer 1 for water and 1 for sewer. John spec'd them out total bid price is \$88,562.

H motioned to award to Liberty Chevrolet. 88562. D seconded. Vote unanimous.

**E. Gravity Construction – Certificate of Substantial Completion  
Hydrant Replacement Program**

Mr. Furtado – They replaced thirty hydrants. They were a very good contractor. Tata & Howard oversaw them. The Board needs to approve so they can get their retainage. There was money left over in the contract. We originally wanted forty but we backed it down to thirty. We want to hire these folks again to install five or six more.

Mr. Freitas motioned to sign the Certificate of Completion for Gravity Construction. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**F. Tata & Howard – Construction Engineering Services  
Tinkham Lane Well Roof Replacement**

Ms. Tripp – We do not have the contracts back from Town Counsel.

**G. Cross Training**

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Mr. Furtado – There is a strong overlap discipline wise between the water and sewer department. Lab the same. Math roughly the same. We have some sewer people who have the water license and some water people who have a sewer license. Pretty much have not done cross training. Cross training to a training seminar mostly because of money. The sewer is not going to want to pay for someone in the water department. What I want is to get a feel. I think cross training is a good thing. Best operator work in the sewer. Water had a big break. I can understand money wise that their training budget does not have an abundance of money. As long as the money was available would the board have a problem to a class or something that will benefit us as a hole? If time allows or situation occurs flip flop around. The union is the same. I wanted to bring it up.

Mr. Freitas – I’ve said this publicly before when I was on the Board. Cross training is a must. We have small departments. Water Department on breaks could be for twenty-four or thirty-six hours. Somebody is willing to get license. Become one collectively. Start working with each other along the way. If we don’t train them some other town will. Technology is constantly moving. Keep our people on top. I’m all for cross training. More money for training.

Mr. Ristuccia – I absolutely agree with what you said. We’ve talked about this for the last two and one-half years. Move laterally.

Mr. Furtado - Internally some guys can do each other job.

Mr. Freitas – Somebody gets their license on their own. On their own it’s their license. Town pays for it it’s our license. Some sort of language in the contract. Option to send people out.

Mr. Freitas motioned to send people out for cross training as Mr. Furtado sees fit. Mr. Ristuccia seconded. Vote unanimous.

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

Mr. Furtado – I requested some prices for the crosswalks and stop signs and what not. West Island but there are some side streets off the Neck. West Island is the main concern. I’m getting a price for that. One of the employees was suspended. Did you see the article in the paper about the dog park? John and I met with them to meet on the east side. Conservation shot that down. We met with them again. Where we store the brush a spot on the left side it is uplands about 100 x 100. The Board voted yes you can use Long Road. They had hoped that it would be that area. We told them it can’t be here because of the DEP.

Mr. Freitas – We need to do a site visit. See what they can use. Maybe expand a little bit.

Mr. Ristuccia – Good idea for them to get in touch with conservation. 100 x 100 another 20 to 30 feet. The other way 60 feet of trees very upland. Conservation yes this is upland. Then it becomes 130 x 200.

Mr. Furtado – Last Monday the Town Hall had a round table discussion with the dept heads and it was interesting. Then they went around asking questions about what quality would you want in a Town Administrator. They referenced the article about the Town Managers job description and asked how

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many read it. I read it because I had an invested interest because of the BPW. I asked Eileen to give me a copy of the latest version. I received it the next day and the latest version still has in charge of the BPW.

Mr. Hobson – Controversy on the fish pier on the Causeway. Sidewalks wider. Nobody confronted the BPW. So if you could inform the selectmen about the fish pier and sidewalks and street then we would like to be in on it. A lot of these places in Town the weeds are sticking out; Boat Ramp Park Motors and Scoticut Neck Road on the left. Spray eliminates a lot of these problems.

Mr. Furtado – You asked me about the license. The employee doesn't have the pesticide he has the lava license.

Mr. Hobson – Post that again.

Mr. Freitas – Discuss with the Selectmen from our Board for you to sit in on those meetings having to select the new Town Administrator. I know they are looking for seven people.

Mr. Ristuccia – Last meeting until something happens about the safety at Hoppy's Landing and Almond Street on West Island. That stretch of road is the most dangerous.

Superintendent's Report for August 10, 2015:

From last meeting

- Requested Traffic sign/crosswalk engineering study prices for West Island
- Advised gate attendants at Town Beach to call Police if cars are parked outside entrance on wrong side
- Obtained prices for spray rig
- Chase/Gilbert intersection ruts addressed
- Bringing horses on weekends in beach trailer to be placed outside gate to prevent parking on wrong side
- Put stick-ups or similar in beach trailer to eliminate odors

New Items

- Redo of letter to DEP Commissioner re: obtaining Nitrogen Model
- Month suspension for employee
- Request Tata and Howard to appear before Board re: water rate study
- Fairhaven Housing Authority re: water rate study – they are looking for a condo fee or similar
- Washington Street patch

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- Dog park site issue
- Town Crier submitted damage claim from sewer back-up
- Work with Town's insurance agent re: above
- I and I work in Town's north end commenced
- Meet with other Town Department Heads re: selection of new Town Manager
- Finalizing Tibbetts settlement to Town and Mass DOT
- Retirement letter request for employee written
- Work with City of New Bedford re: switch over from Fairhaven's to New Bedford's feed
- Attend meeting at Union Wharf re: filling sewer pipe with grout
- Attend site meeting at Main and Maitland re: water work that needs to be done in conjunction with I and I project

**VII. Set Date for the Next Meeting**

Mr. Hobson motioned to hold the next meeting on August 24, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Freitas seconded. Vote unanimous.

**VIII. Adjourn and Executive Session**

Mr. Freitas motioned to adjourn the open session and not to reconvene in open session and enter into executive session to discuss the Howland Road project at 7:15 p.m.

In favor: Mr. Ristuccia, Mr. Hobson and Mr. Freitas in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. Tripp  
Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved on August 24, 2015.