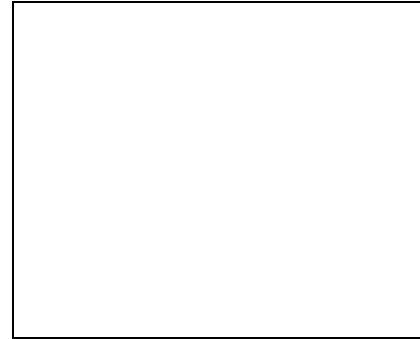


**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
January 25, 2016**

Present

Michael Ristuccia, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Daniel Freitas, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Kathy Tripp, Administrative Assistant
Mark Rees, Town Administrator
Jane Howland, 240 Alden Road



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

I. Call to Order

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

Mr. Ristuccia– I would like to welcome Mark Rees.

Mr. Rees – I sent an email to Vinnie earlier today to ask if I could come by and say hi. I’ve been in Fairhaven three weeks. It will be a learning process, positive opportunity. I’ve been working with Vinnie from the get go. I know you are a separate elected body. As town administrator I am here to help you any way I can. One of the things will be to try to build a more collaborative type of government. I hope BPW will be part of that team. Looking forward to working with you.

Mr. Ristuccia – We are here to do the best for the town and you are here for the same thing. You will be here to help us and in return.

Mr. Rees – I have worked in town government for thirty-five plus years. Most of the issues public works related are when things don’t go well then you hear about it. Work as a team moving forward.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. January 11, 2016

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2016 meeting. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
January 25, 2016**

B. January 11, 2016 – Executive Session

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2016 executive session. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

V. Appointments

A. Jane Howland, 240 Alden Road – Water Leak

Ms. Howland – Thank you for telling me I had a water leak. I own Howland Greenhouse. It's been there since 1950. I bought it thirty years ago from my parents. The greenhouse preceded my parent's residence. Town water was put in after my father built the house. The water line was probably put in the mid 50's. They came to read my water meter on a Tuesday. Stan came back on Wednesday and said there was a problem. I knew the leak was not in the greenhouses. I got a contractor right away. It was fixed within three days. He ran a new line. I got the water bill. I understand we buy our water. It's worth asking to set a policy to just help everybody. There is no way of knowing unless you read the meter. I went back eight years of records. My average water bill during this period of time. Take that and get the difference between the number. Can I pay for that difference what my normal would have been? I don't think this was an issued on the tier. Other years there were leaks in the greenhouse and I paid. I don't know what a homeowner has to do. Now with the tiered water system it hurts.

Mr. Hobson– What you asking?

Ms. Howland – I have no problem paying.

Mr. Hobson – You are in the higher category. Relief, just pay all the water that went down the drain under a different tier?

Ms. Howland – If you make a procedure. The average is still in the lower tier. Set policy you would have to say average tier came out to should be charged at that tier. Summer time I'm in the second bucket so pay for that additional water. General policy you ought to word it.

Mr. Ristuccia - I'm not certain we will set a policy this evening. We are here to talk about your specific situation. To me it makes sense. Getting a bill three or four times and then have to hire someone. Thank god you found it after three months.

Mr. Wotton – Does this go thru sewer?

Ms. Howland – No.

Ms. Howland – The house has an artesian well.

Mr. Wotton – I don't have a problem we have to figure out where to put her at and what rate.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
January 25, 2016**

Mr. Freitas – I don't have a problem. Our hands are tied on the amount of water. I think we have some flexibility on how much you have to pay. In the future the water rates are going up. Right now we do not have enough money. I don't have a problem giving you a hand to lower to a lower tier. Something as a board have something in writing.

Mr. Furtado – Policy for properties who have a leak charge at the normal tier.

Mr. Ristuccia - One of our members isn't here but I'd like to ask her if she has any comment to make.

Ms. Sturtevant – I saw the paperwork. We should be able to do something. I didn't hear what actually everybody said. Underground leak, she was not fully aware of.

Mr. Ristuccia – That mirrors everybody else's opinion of the board.

Ms. Tripp – Prior to the tier system the rate was \$3.90 per hundred cubic feet. The first tier now is \$1.90. It's much lower. The bill would have been \$471.90 under the old rate. The current bill is \$763.58. If you charge the excess water after tier one to tier two the bill would be \$550.78, the difference being \$212.80.

Mr. Wotton motioned to use the second tier for the excess water and adjust the bill to \$550.78. Mr. Freitas seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mr. Ristuccia – We have to take into account being fair to other residents. It's a very good balance and I think what we just did was fair. The rate of \$7.45 for at the third tier a little bit. You bought it for \$4.65.

Mr. Hobson – Houses with sewer have to pay.

Mr. Wotton – We credit you with 212.80 to try to help you out. We have to pay the amount of water. We have to pay DEP a higher rate for that water. 100 and 150; that's 50 more that we have to pay a different rate at. That's why the tier system is in place. Commercial using all that water we have to pay that rate. That's why we couldn't go to the \$1.90 rate. We have to pay the 600 and pay it for you. Normally we don't abate the water at all. Abate the sewer.

Ms. Tripp – I did some research to see what other towns do in a case like this. Some will allow abatements for properties once every five years for leaks such as this.

Mr. Ristuccia – When we do in fact the legislation internally we are going to call it the Jane Howland Act. This is a very good idea. People don't have to go thru what you went thru tonight. That has to be spread out. The bill still has to get paid.

VI. Items for Action

A. Tata & Howard Engineering Agreement – Causeway Bridge Evaluation \$26,000

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
January 25, 2016**

Mr. Furtado – We have two Tata & Howard agreements. The first one is actually to evaluate the structural integrity of the bridge. Engineering doesn't fall under 30B. I did get a price from another engineer. This one includes diving. The bridge evaluation is done every year and this is to have an engineer make the corrections. Same engineer doing the water main.

Mr. Wotton – Make sure that everything is in this that we possibly need. When they do that evaluation everything that could potentially go wrong. We open up every cabinet door to make sure it's done.

Mr. Ristuccia – This isn't clear as that may have been. When they get into the bridge ocean floor they should be looking at those things.

Mr. Wotton - Make sure everything is evaluated.

Mr. Freitas – It does say curbing and sidewalk pavement railings. Is that just at the bridge?

Mr. Furtado – X number of feet on both sides.

Mr. Freitas – More about curbing higher for safety reasons. Hoppy's landing down. Can we also send this off and let the people down at the association know something's coming up and we'd like to hear from them if they have any comments. They have to live with it.

Mr. Wotton– Ask them if they want to come to a meeting to be put on the agenda here.

Mr. Freitas – Hold a meeting down there.

Mr. Furtado – You need to sign the contract and I will get a scope of services.

Mr. Ristuccia – When will they do the evaluation?

Mr. Furtado – I could inquire.

Mr. Ristuccia – We don't want to do work in June, July or August. Talk about this in the summer to the residents.

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the agreement with Tata & Howard in the amount of \$26,000 for the Causeway Bridge Evaluation. Mr. Freitas seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Tata & Howard Engineering Agreement – Causeway Water Main \$45,000

Mr. Furtado – This is for the water main that is on the north side of the bridge. It's seen better days. Fix that before it becomes compromised. This is something that this money was earmarked from last town meeting. Money in place already.

Mr. Wotton – This is just to evaluate the water main?

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
January 25, 2016**

Mr. Furtado – It's for the design. \$200,000 was appropriated last year.

Mr. Wotton – What was the other bid you received?

Mr. Furtado – I think it was \$42,000. This is more complete. This engineer we use with a few more services.

Mr. Freitas motioned to approve the agreement with Tata & Howard for the Causeway Water Main in the amount of \$45,000. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

C. AFSCME Representatives for Negotiations

Mr. Furtado– Highway and Park as you are aware and all of our union contracts will be expiring this June 30. We are going to be negotiating those contracts. Invite the town administrator. On the agenda next time for water and sewer. We received correspondence from AFSCME.

Mr. Ristuccia – I would like to be on highway.

Mr. Freitas – I'd rather not do the sewer. I'll do the water.

Mr. Wotton motioned for himself and Mr. Hobson as representatives for highway negotiations. Mr. Freitas seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. FY17 Articles

Mr. Furtado – Two articles; one is continued from last time. The \$5,000; there has been a hold as far as the water withdrawal but we were asked to put aside \$5,000 until DEP decides to enact on the water withdrawal permit. The current governor has required the DEP to do a cost analysis. If there was no hold, one of the requirements we would have to put a mitigation and minimization plan in place. Eventually ye shall not exceed the limit. If the town ever exceeded that limit then there would be a Plan B which would be doing water quality projects and an x number of things.

The second article is what I forget the last time, the by-law for the water withdrawal in the Mattapoissett spillway. I sit on the Mattapoissett River Valley authority. Every one of the member communities, Marion, Mattapoissett and Rochester will be bringing this to their town meetings. All the towns own various property where water can be withdrawn whether to allow or disallow. Over 100,000 gallons fall under the DEP.

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the first article for \$5,000 for the Water Management Act. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mr. Freitas – We are not going to be involved with what has happened in Mattapoissett? Can pull it if we need to?

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
January 25, 2016**

Mr. Furtado – At the last meeting of the Mattapoisett River Valley one of the members was a little shaky if his town was going to support this. Fairhaven, Rochester and Marion we are all going to support it.

Mr. Freitas motioned to approve the article for the Protection of Water Sources and Supply. Mr. Ristuccia seconded. Vote 3-1 in favor with Mr. Wotton abstaining.

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

Superintendent's Report for January 25, 2016:

From last meeting

- Spoke with Police Chief re: traffic concerns around Livesey Park – assigned to the Safety officer – called Jarrod Lussier
- Spoke with Randy Perry of Capeview Street – informed him of Board's vote
- Wrote "Thank You" letter to 20 year employee who resigned
- Continued to work on Articles

New Items

- Received BBNEP grant for stormwater remediation. Plan is to couple this with CZM grant that we received earlier this year and be able to complete the design and/or do construction as well
- Attended initial meeting with Town Manager – mostly a meet and greet – but he also laid out some logistics for those who fall under him
- Forwarded info to Tata and Howard concerning "condominium/multiple dwelling" housing water rates that are used in other communities for potential incorporation into our rates
- Turned in our budgets to Select Board
- Worked with our Stormwater Consultant re: preliminary requirements of the grant awards
- Meet with Jean Perry from the Mattapoisett Wanderer – give her wastewater lesson and plant tour
- Selectboard appointed me knew BBAC rep as there was a vacancy due to Jeff's retirement. The BBAC is an organization, composed of municipal officials, which is involved with state, local, and federal legislative and regulatory issues. In addition, there are numerous opportunities to apply for multi-municipality grants
- Conference call with Linda and FST concerning future grant for additional nitrogen removal pilot studies

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
January 25, 2016**

- Coordinate weekend sanding events
- Attend Selectmen's meeting concerning Housing Authority water rates

Mr. Hobson – The guys did a good job plowing. The other thing I go down to the town beach every other day. Parking lot drops six or eight inches. When you first go in you hit bottom. People are complaining.

Mr. Freitas – I just have to ask what the sand and salt mixture is?

Mr. Furtado – Two to one.

Mr. Freitas – Guys did a good job but I did get some complaints that the streets were icy and main thruways.

Mr. Furtado – We sanded Saturday afternoon and then at the end. The sanders were out today.

Mr. Freitas – I know this has nothing to do with us but the car that ran over gas pumps. Can you find out about that?

Mr. Furtado – Every year we put a notice in the Neighborhood News when the parking ban is in effect and cable. I asked Kim this afternoon to add to that notice in weekly submittal to remind property owners that they have to shovel in front of their property.

Mr. Wotton – Double edge sword. Some people didn't put those sidewalks in front of their house. When we plow the snow it goes onto those sidewalks. Elderly pay for that. Normal person can't shovel that snow. I'm all for enforcing it.

Mr. Hobson – Wood School to Jacksons. These kids walking back and forth. There should be some way from the center when they ride their bikes they shouldn't have to go into the street. Some kind of grant to put a sidewalk there.

Mr. Freitas – Let the people know when the plowing is going on don't go after the drivers. Call up one of the superintendents and go out there for you. I plowed for years. It gets crazy. People could get hurt.

Mr. Ristuccia - Stop sign crusade another shout out in written form. Chairman from the BPW almost got hit by a car that came flying across Dogwood Street.

Mr. Furtado – The request that went to the NFIA, sent an email to the safety officer in town. A study was conducted for additional signage. She told me 25 mph and 30 mph on the other. They will make it 25 mph all the way around. I drafted correspondence because the selectmen have to vote on it.

Hiring an HMEO; we got the resumes and are reviewing them right now. I will need two volunteers for AFSCME negotiations. Anyone interested to do that? The top three we will present to the board as a whole.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
January 25, 2016**

Mr. Ristuccia and Mr. Wotton volunteered.

Mr. Furtado – The last thing, I went to a department head meeting that Mark had and he had asked from all the department heads some type of report. I want to make sure that I should be sending it to him as well. I didn't want to do it without asking.

Mr. Wotton – I'm going to say no. If he has any questions he can ask you. That doesn't fall under their jurisdiction.

Mr. Freitas – I think I agree with Brian. Not turn into something being overlooked by other people. Until everything is truly settled keep in house.

Mr. Hobson – I agree.

Mr. Ristuccia – I agree.

VIII. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Wotton motioned to hold the next meeting on February 8, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Freitas seconded. Vote unanimous.

IX. Adjourn

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn at 7:05. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. Tripp
Administrative Assisstant

Minutes approved on February 11, 2016.