

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
March 21, 2016**

Present

Michael Ristuccia, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Daniel Freitas, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Kathy Tripp, Administrative Assistant
Antone Medeiros, Jr. Contractor
Peter Pinto, 5 Deerfield Lane
Linda Schick, Sewer Superintendent
The Advocate
Neighborhood News



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.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. March 7, 2016

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2016 meeting. Mr. Freitas seconded. Vote 3-0 in favor with Mr. Wotton abstaining.

IV. Appointments

A. Antone Medeiros, Jr. – Re: 5 Deerfield Lane, Driveway Waiver

Mr. Medeiros– I am here because Mr. Pinto would like to put a driveway on his west side of the house and maybe put in a one car garage. His wife has issues getting in the house with the steps. Driveway up to the front of house would eliminate ten steps. It's a health issue really.

Mr. Pinto – In 2000 I built the house and just had a heart attack. The garage shouldn't have been put in the way it was. Everybody comes in that way and it's always fourteen steps to get in. Didn't realize with all the bushes the lot was the way it was going to be. Lot was even and then goes down. I've lived in Fairhaven all my life and hate to leave. I'm just here to ask for something we can do and then go further.

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Mr. Freitas – I drove by, not an issue. Something routinely done for other people.

Mr. Wotton – No issues. Meant to go by today. I just had questions which house is it?

Mr. Pinto – It's on the right side.

Mr. Hobson – I'm all set. I went by there. I have no problem. He keeps a nice yard and house. I'm all for it.

Mr. Ristuccia – You are going to keep the original driveway?

Mr. Pinto – Yes.

Mr. Ristuccia – I also went by and I have no problem as well.

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the second driveway for 5 Deerfield Lane. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Linda Schick – Re: Digester

Mr. Furtado – At the last meeting the board brought up what recently happened and what we need to do and the cost.

Ms. Schick – The original plan was to take it down in July and do the maintenance in the fall. We had some fittings let go on some of the pipes. We lost power and the pipes didn't run and it tripped out. All ragged up. Have it cleaned in the first place. Somebody needs to come in to pump it out and clean what's in there. We had to wait three weeks for it to cool. Muffin monster as well. There are a few valves that we need to put in.

Mr. Freitas – When we got the email from Vinnie one month ago now, I asked if I could come in and take a look. Vinnie was showing me around and they started telling me some of the problems with the digester. A lot of concerns. Generator problems since day one. Equipment hasn't worked since day one. Rags and grit. Mixer failed since day one. Sludge down in the line mixer in there removed it. If you removed it fine, go somewhere else. I think we need to come together to get it to work. Is it still down?

Ms. Schick – Yes.

Mr. Freitas – Put some money in it. Equipment should have been repaired from day one. That's the problem I had with this process. Funds for this year don't seem like any money going down. First came forward to us 50% reduction in our sludge cost. The digester is supposed to make power. I had heard there were some problems there. When I went up there nuts and bolts of it I can say honestly I know what's coming up and it's not a cheap fix. The other equipment that was running I never heard it. There are problems and a cost associated with it down and cleaning the tanks. I sort of had the problem

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ragging up from the beginning should have thought about it a long time ago. We had to pay to have a valve put in. Now we have to do the other side. Losing income every day that it's down. Went up there with Vinnie. Mr. Robillard was here. He had some major concerns. End of the meeting I think we were all in agreement get this thing working to start saving money with it.

Mr. Furtado – We have been digesting up until last month. Couple of years there are certainly things could have been designed better. Digesting gas consistently and reduced Synagro by 40%.

Mr. Freitas - Our budget is not showing that. FY13 it was \$202,000. Reduced should be close to \$120,000 for sludge disposal. The numbers repairs to equipment the plant is old. The utilities have gone up and we should be having savings.

Ms. Schick – Look at a few years before that it was \$300-\$325,000 for sludge. That has gone down. Electricity has gone down. I can get those numbers for you.

Mr. Freitas – This isn't a blame game. In my opinion it should have been done a little bit sooner. Now we find out it's not okay. We don't think one muffin monster is going to be enough. Two primaries if one needs work you have to have a second one. Still all the rags and grit still going to it but chopped a little bit finer.

Ms. Schick – There is no equipment that isn't running.

Mr. Freitas – The heights.

Ms. Schick – This is a radar system. While it's down I talked to Mike Leary about the instrumentation. Is what we have new? No. It's state of the art.

Mr. Freitas – Not blaming, his exact words. We are going to discuss this and get money at town meeting to get fixed.

Mr. Furtado – Isolation valves.

Ms. Schick – There was no way to isolate the digester. The static mixer, that was for the polymer. Four chopper pumps there already. They are supposed to take care of the rags. Blower building add one over there.

Mr. Ristuccia – A year ago we talked about the budget for sewer at that time we were talking about knowing that we need to do upgrades in the system. Knowing issues with gas and the generator, we talked about the nitrogen number and said wait a year later and we still don't know what the nitrogen is. We knew a year ago let's wait for the nitrogen number because we didn't want to be doing something that we shouldn't be doing. Not meant anything other than information.

Ms. Schick – We talked about that unit is never going to do what it said in the first place. It's never going to make any money. Break even. We can't receive the fats and oils and grease. They overestimated how much sludge. The last two years it's been running well.

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Mr. Furtado – The generator has been faulty.

Mr. Freitas – Just like I said that day. Work as a team all heading in the right direction. We represent the ratepayers. Why are we being asked to put money in the digester? We have to explain it to town meeting.

Mr. Ristuccia – It was a huge learning curve. The way the digester has been operating isn't even the way it was supposed to be run.

Ms. Schick – We had to modify every system there.

Mr. Hobson – I would just like to say that Linda is doing a good job with what she's dealing with. It's like an Edsel. You (Mr. Freitas) find all these things because you used to work there. Employees call you and they should be telling you and Vinnie.

Mr. Furtado – We've been digesting for a couple of years now. Some of the equipment that was designed on a fast track could have been different. No input of an operator. The digester has been digesting. When money is available we need to have a maintenance schedule. Danny met us up there. It takes money. Dan was there from once upon a time.

Mr. Freitas – I only learned when I was up there from Vinnie. How it went with Vinnie was he emailed us including everybody on the board. I said to Vinnie can you walk me thru the place? Myself and Vinnie and then Rene walked into the building. That's when I said we all have to work together and Rene is the assistant up there.

Mr. Wotton – Generator down. Isn't it under contract?

Ms. Schick – The generator has been working. If it's not running they don't get paid.

Mr. Wotton – They own that.

Ms. Schick – Since September it has been running consistently.

Mr. Furtado – It's been trial by error. Up until a month ago we had been digesting.

Ms. Schick – There is no other equipment that is not running.

Mr. Wotton – What is it going to take?

Ms. Schick – We have been productive until now. We had to wait for a three week cool down. We planned on getting the money in July and do it in the fall. Cleaning is every three to five years. This is the first time. We need to be cautious.

Mr. Wotton – Whatever you need we know to get this thing fixed.

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Ms. Schick – Now the cleaning is \$5000-\$6000 a day. We won't know until we know how much sludge is in there. We have \$25,000 in the reserve fund. Beyond that the budget can't handle.

Mr. Freitas – Can we get a report on this and if you need two get two at this point.

Mr. Ristuccia – This is for more the public. The system here in general is aged. It is very old. We've done a great job of keeping those machines running doing what they are supposed to do. This is just a wakeup call to let everybody know the system needs upgraded. The worst thing happened, something to break then unable to treat sewage. We can't put it off any longer. The digester, I'm happy that it broke. Wakeup call thirty years old. Built for twenty years and it's been thirty. We have done a great job for the residents to not have to spend crazy money. Holding off getting a nitrogen number. Never been a concern in the past. Federal government mandates a level that we have to meet. Studies that we have been doing with a grant Ms. Schick got for us, \$90,000 to reduce the costs of what we have to do utilizing existing equipment. We need to spend some money.

V. Items for Action

A. Sewer Rates

Mr. Furtado – Start with the revenue and expenditure sheet. Our user charges are \$2.832 million. I have assumed for the sake of this exercise we bill out that much. If there is a .50 increase, that is what that number will be. Total revenue will be \$4,143 million. Expenses these are all the different costs at the bottom. What we expect to spend take in is 4.1 and expenditures the budget is \$3.56 million assuming the .50 increase. Article 10 is actually presented in the annual town meeting. This is the rehab that we are going to do at the treatment plant, I & I, and pump stations totaling \$8.6 million. Knowing that and we look at sheet #3 article 10, \$8.6 million and special town meeting and \$30,000 for the digester cleaning and equipment. There is another article DEP requirement that by December 2017 we have to do a town wide I & I assessment. If you add that all up it comes to \$8.9 million. We are going to be borrowing \$8 million. Now if we look at the operating and retained earnings there will be \$400,000 left over. I took out the sewer betterment for West Island. We are just the money holder. Our operating and revenue and retained earnings are \$3.5 million. We don't know the articles for FY18. Roughly speaking \$3.5 has us \$800,000 to the good. Every year the borrowing loan payment will be \$500,000 for twenty years at 2%. Bottom line is without that \$200,000 the increase net that retained earnings of \$150,000 verse \$300,000 we need to have enough money coming in to pay back the loan and build up retained earnings. We are going to do things not tied into the nitrogen. Looking to the board to raise the rate. Recommending .50. People wise average person probably going to pay \$20 to \$30.

Mr. Ristuccia – Capital improvements, I don't think it's the right thing to raise the rate. I think we should do a capital improvement fee. On the bill charge \$20 for a capital improvement fee. Isn't going to be a problem. More than fair that way.

Mr. Furtado – Twenty year loan, the cost of living goes up every year. Eventually we are going to raise the rate at some time we wouldn't be fiscally responsible.

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Mr. Ristuccia – Raise the rate because the employees are making more money.

Mr. Wotton – I am 100% with Mike on this. Exact way I feel the way you should do it. That’s what I said. Ask the Town to borrow 8 million. Pay interest on that 8 million charge a flat fee attached to the bill. It shouldn’t be at all applied raising the sewer rates for improvements on our stations. Go with this it should be that way.

Mr. Freitas – I feel the same way as you but with conflicting thoughts. EPA is coming and gives us the 3 million per liter. Eight million would be a drop in the hat. It could increase four to five times that, \$30-40 million. It’s coming. Not going to dodge it. Wareham right now has a regional plant. I heard it was going to be 150 million. If we do go up .40 or .50, I do agree with that. Catch up it should go away. Still have to go up on the rates. We can do it one way or the other. Still have a lot to do. I would like some time to decide. I think the community should know.

Mr. Ristuccia – We have been proactive enough. Taking steps the last couple of years to dispute the number the federal government gave us.

Mr. Hobson– All bills are going up. We have to raise the water rates. The guys get a 2% raise. A lot of people don’t have the money to pay all these things. How much money we haven’t collected? We got betterment fees we haven’t collected. I’m trying to get those numbers.

Mr. Furtado – This is a business. I think that considering water coming from the same place as ours that serve other communities we are cheaper. These are the rates that we have to pay in order to borrow 8 million.

Mr. Ristuccia – There are 5,700 sewer uses. \$20 fee for a capital upgrade fee.

Mr. Freitas – Can we table this for the next meeting? Again trying not to hammer people with this.

Mr. Hobson motioned to table sewer rates until the next meeting. Mr. Freitas seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Inspection fee for Water/Sewer – Cut & Cap

Mr. Hobson left the room.

Mr. Furtado – About a month ago you approved a new water and sewer application. There is no fee associated with cut and cap of services. What we found is contractors who do the cut and cap don’t necessarily do the reconnections. Somebody else comes in. We would like to charge \$50.

Mr. Wotton – What do other towns charge?

Mr. Furtado - \$50 is less than other towns.

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Mr. Wotton motioned to charge for inspections for cut and cap \$75. Mr. Freitas seconded. Vote unanimous.

C. Sewer System Rehabilitation – Part A

1. D’Alessandro Corp. – Change Order #1 \$3,785.47

Mr. Furtado – D’Alessandro is the group that worked on Main and Maitland. The reason for the change order is we replaced an additional sewer manhole and water main valve. If you remember it should have taken one month but the job really went on and on. It was more than when they dug up the road they found problems. Actually they just finished a little while ago.

Mr. Wotton – They have already done this work?

Mr. Furtado – They brought it to our attention.

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve Change Order #1 to D’Alessandro Corp in the amount of \$3,785.47. Mr. Freitas seconded. Vote unanimous.

2. D’Alessandro Corp. – Payment #1 \$276,912.15

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve Payment #1 to D’Alessandro Corp in the amount of \$276,912.15. Mr. Freitas seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. Sewer System Rehabilitation – Part B

1. Green Mountain Pipeline – Change Order #1 \$2,707.00

Mr. Furtado – This was part of that same contract for I & I last summer. Green Mountain did the pipelining, trenchless technology. It was one contract but we separated it and it came in cheaper. We had them change some of the quantities. Came in under the engineer's estimate. We did additional 8” sewer.

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve Change Order #1 to Green Mountain Pipeline in the amount of \$2,707.00. Mr. Freitas seconded. Vote unanimous.

2. Green Mountain Pipeline – Payment #2 \$27,645.25

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve Payment #2 to Green Mountain Pipeline in the amount of \$27,645.25. Mr. Freitas seconded. Vote unanimous.

E. Unaccepted Street Discontinuance; Section of Livesey Parkway & Deane Street

Mr. Furtado – The Board of Selectmen per protocol has requested approval from Planning and us to discontinue a couple of paper streets up in the north end. It’s for the NFIA building and school.

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Ms. Tripp – This is so they can separate the Oxford School and the NFIA building so they can sell it.

Ms. Sturtevant – As far as I know they would like to keep the building and they did want the lot separated. Not willing to pay for it. Non profit. They do a lot of good things. Easter egg, Halloween. See where it goes. Split the property if it is sold.

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the discontinuance of the unaccepted section of Livesey Parkway and Deane Street adjacent to the Oxford school. Mr. Freitas seconded. Vote unanimous.

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

Superintendent's Report for March 21, 2016:

From last meeting:

- Requested Mosquito Control to clean ditch on Bayside Street
- Digester update on Agenda

New items:

- As a reminder – BPW presents their budget to Fincom on March 31st
- Work on Water and Sewer Budgets with Town Manager
- Meet with contractor re: phone system upgrade
- Continue to work on storm water grant logistics
- Attended/Chaired Mattapoisett River Valley Advisory Committee
- Attend Insurance Co. Training – Bloodborne Pathogens
- Reviewed Town Manager's budget – made various comments for line items requiring correction
- Reviewed Annual Town meeting Articles – made various comments where corrections needed to be made
- Special Town Meeting Articles due on March 22, 2016
- For STM, so far, we will need placeholders for salary increases for everyone and also an article for the repair/cleaning of the digester – so we can tackle everything that needs to be done while unit is down
- Attended Court in Fall River representing Town in Workers Comp case

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- Conducted 2nd meeting of Highway Department Union Contract Negotiations
- Met with Town Manager re: various BPW procurement items
- Attended Town Manager Meeting where articles and budgets were handed out and discussed
- Hosted evening meeting at Town Hall concerning Green Street road reconstruction project – scheduled for later summer – Chapter 90 - improved road surface, sidewalks, drainage and tree removal – attended by about 20 residents – all questions and concerns were addressed - meeting went well
- West side primary clarifier skimmer arm snapped off yesterday – emphasizing our need to fix these systems utilizing monies from FY 17 tied into the sewer rate increase
- Met with property manager at Our Lady of Angels concerning improvements he would like to make and assistance/direction BPW can provide

Mr. Furtado – I have some articles for special town meeting. We found out that they are due March 22nd. So we have a few here. Some are pertaining to the salaries for people; five of those. Everything separate now, non union labor for we don't know what any of those numbers are going to be. Highway we have had two meetings. I know that George was tied up the first two weeks of March. He hasn't met with the guys yet. We also have a notice from the DEP for a town wide assessment on I & I. Part of the money that we are going to borrow is to continue with what we have done. The DEP is giving us a deadline of December 2017 to do a town wide assessment of I & I so we want to put this placeholder here for \$200,000.

Mr. Hobson– How did you made out with the causeway and the rails?

Mr. Furtado – We had sent a request. They said that this is the kind of work that they were looking for. He's aware of it.

Mr. Hobson – Keep on top of it.

Mr. Ristuccia – Guardrail on West Island on causeway.

Mr. Furtado – Every year at this time he'll ask us for a list of projects.

Mr. Wotton – Also tie in the crosswalk.

Mr. Hobson – Other thing Mr. Cardinal is still in Boston. There is a benefit at the VFW.

Mr. Wotton – First remind the highway department that the snow is officially done and the dirt roads in town are atrocious. Farmfield at the end there is an elderly woman that has front end damage to her car. Little Bay Road to the parking lot every year me and my brother have a bike path cleanup. Beth fully advertises for us. We have about one-hundred volunteers. This year will be a different focus. We

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have teamed up with conservation and beautification committee. Pictures from Dartmouth daffodil farms attract different people. Across the street from the parking lot to the waters left and right able to do some work there and plant some perennials and wildflowers. Not any real attention. What we do have is some overgrown brush and pricker bushes. I've volunteered my business to clear this. A couple of hours two guys could handle. Contact Mr. Espindola and Louise Barriteau. Clear some areas and plant some wildflowers. Really asking for Little Bay Road to be graded prior to April 23 when we are going to try to get some of the families down there and support for the dumpster.

Mr. Freitas – All set.

Ms. Sturtevant – Had a question. I've had quite a few calls in regards to signs and I know people these particular signs next to the Skipper and are on park property. We take care of. It was a big sign. Years ago Fred Raphael from what I understand allowed the lodge people to put up a sign. People who feel that is not town property. It is technically a park on the side of the Skipper. They gave a 100 year agreement. Side is still seemed park. I told them I would bring it forward.

Mr. Furtado – The office got a call earlier this morning. Kathy and I saw that it is deemed a parkway. There is a lease agreement the Seaport Inn has with the Town and we believe that sign is in that boundary. I'm more sure than not it is a deemed parkway but also the Seaport Inn has a lease. We found copies of the lease from the Town to the seaport inn. GPS point wise I can't tell you if that falls within the footprint. I believe yes more than not.

VII. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Wotton motioned to set the next meeting date on March 28, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

VIII. Executive Session – Personnel Matters & Adjourn

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn the open session at 7:52 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and not to reconvene in open session. Mr. Ristuccia seconded.

Roll call taken: Mr. Ristuccia, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Wotton and Mr. Freitas in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. Tripp
Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved on March 28, 2016.