

**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
September 11, 2017**

**Present**

Michael Ristuccia, Commissioner  
Brian Wotton, Commissioner  
Robert Hobson, Commissioner  
Keith Silvia, Commissioner  
Cameron Durant, Commissioner  
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent  
Kathy Tripp, Administrative Assistant  
Peter Trahan, 6 Alexander Lane  
Mary Douglass, 6 Alexander Lane  
Antone Medeiros, Jr., Contractor  
Bruce Paparella, 22 Causeway Road  
Matthew Manzone, Sewer Department  
John McGilvray, Sewer Department



**I. Call to Order**

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

The Board held a moment of silence in honor of the victims of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**II. Routine Matters**

**A. Signing of Departmental Bills**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**A. August 21, 2017**

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2017 meeting. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**IV. Appointments**

**A. Peter Trahan, 6 Alexander Lane – Re: Water & Sewer Abatement**

Mr. Trahan – My name is Peter Trahan and I am a resident of 6 Alexander Lane. I am here because of the water situation on August 19<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Black water discovered in the piping. There are many different stories out there; water main break, lightning. I had black water and for 6 1/2 hours, flushed to get somewhat gray and more flushing on Monday. Reverse 911 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Some warning to give residents with the 911 call on the 29<sup>th</sup>. My concern is the amount of water that went thru the meter and went thru the piping system. Charged thru the meter not used to get somewhat clear water on Saturday and Sunday. I came here on Monday and met with the BPW superintendent. I had pictures.

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Informed over the weekend to try to determine the cause of it all. He said you had a meeting that night but would try to get some answers. See tonight what to come up with as far as abatements how many thousands of gallons of water that went thru the meter. Tier not fair way. I also as an individual don't think it was an act of god. A lot of people had black water but were not willing to come here. I was on that side of the bench.

Mr. Ristuccia – With the tier system the first 2250 cubic feet of water is a certain rate. Tier 2 it stays that first tier and then there is a second and third. That really doesn't affect what you are talking about.

Mr. Trahan – We have three teenage daughters. We use our fair share of water. Don't want to pay for sewerage for water that I couldn't use. Brought him a sample of water. That's not telling me my water is truly safe. I guess bottom line is an abatement process. Trying to prepare myself for what is next. How many people affected? Was a sample brought to the state?

Mr. Ristuccia – We randomly sample the water here.

Mr. Furtado – Water regulations; they sample daily, weekly, and bi-monthly tests. Last I knew they were in total compliance. The water comes from Mattapoisett Water Plant. I wouldn't drink it until it's clear. The water is safe to drink. Obviously it was dirty on those days. Plant hit by lightening and we have the Mattapoisett Superintendents thoughts on the matter. We don't want anyone to have dirty water. BPW provides safe drinking water. I'm sorry this happened. We did not tell anyone to flush. We flushed.

Ms. Douglass – We had to flush.

Mr. Wotton – I had brown water as well. Right on the end of the line. Turned on the faucet and there was brown black water. I had dirty water at my house. One thing that I do know nobody told me to open up my faucet. Once rectified we opened up the faucet.

Ms. Douglas – We were gone the entire day. We moved her into college that day. Water was black.

Mr. Wotton – The hydrants ran for a couple of days in Mattapoisett, Shaw Road, Route 6 dog day care. What happened was the pump station got hit by lightening.

Mr. Trahan – On the bike path there was a water break.

Ms. Tripp – I don't think so. We were flushing a hydrant there.

Mr. Ristuccia – I don't take lightly the fact that you had the dark water. The Town of Fairhaven provides people to drink water 365 days a year. Morning, night it doesn't matter. We are not perfect. The system is very old. Something that interrupts the flow it brings the sediment in the old pipes. Enterprise system. There are guidelines we have to use to come to money for abatements. I'm speaking for myself. Any money that goes back to any individual for any reason gets paid by everybody else. Certainly in my mind clean water went down there. No waste. There might be some abatement for the sewer that you use. The water I don't know.

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Mr. Hobson – I kind of agree with what he’s saying. I live on Scoticut Neck and I get the same situation when there was a break in the water. Are you looking for abatement? Dirty water this is a non-profit thing. It happened to me. What if other people come in and want an abatement?

Mr. Trahan – I do know the abatement process.

Mr. Hobson – Happen to us on Scoticut Neck. If we start giving abatements we’d have to raise the rates. You are talking to the wrong guy.

Mr. Silvia – No, I have nothing.

Mr. Durant – If someone has dirty pipes, until the pipes are all flushed, that water will never get cleaned.

Mr. Furtado – Have to balance the pressure for the safety of the town in case of a fire. So quite honestly we flushed on both days. We had to cool off the flushing just because if something happens such as putting out a fire.

Mr. Wotton – I don’t mean to give you attitude. Don’t take anything I say mad. I live on Shaw Road. I got that close to the end of the line. First call did a technician go to your house?

Mr. Trahan – Yes at 7:30.

Mr. Wotton – Did he tell you to open your line?

Mr. Trahan – No.

Mr. Wotton – You sitting on this side of the table, you knew that flushing you were on your own.

Mr. Trahan – I’m not the end of the line. I said there was a break on Shaw road. Obviously in the sidewalk area.

Mr. Wotton – I’m not going to ask for abatement on my own personnel property.

Mr. Trahan - On Tuesday on the 29<sup>th</sup> I took a picture of my meter.

Ms. Tripp – I had them go by and read your meter.

Mr. Ristuccia – To me I don’t understand what the problem is, review the logs and come back afterwards.

Mr. Durant – It makes sense to end conversation. Logs, it does not seem reasonable for me to flush for 6 ½ hours. Look at them before we have a vote.

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Mr. Trahan – Be proactive in advance of the abatement process is in place. The thing is the log will tell you one thing. Really need to look at what the superintendent mentioned. Isn't there some ownership on the Town and State to check the affected people? Nobody can tell me if my piping system is affected. Washing hoses and flush those hoses. A lot of ups and downs.

Mr. Ristuccia – I say to you is that I don't have enough information to make an intelligent decision.

Mr. Hobson motioned to table this any further until such time we get the logs. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

**B. Antone Medeiros, Jr. – Re: 4 Manuel Street, Driveway Waiver**

Mr. Medeiros – It's actually 4 Sharon Street. I had the wrong address. On behalf of the resident they are requesting a 26' wide opening. They have 18' now. They have three cars. I'm going to replace the whole driveway.

Mr. Wotton – How many feet from the neighbor?

Mr. Medeiros – About two feet.

Mr. Wotton – What is the setback? I don't have a problem.

Mr. Hobson – Check with the neighbors to make sure it's okay.

Mr. Medeiros – He only has eight feet now from the driveway.

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the driveway waiver for 4 Sharon Street with a maximum width of 26'. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote unanimous.

**C. Bruce Paparella, 22 Causeway Road – Re: Front Lawn**

Mr. Paparella – It started about 2 ½ months ago right by the hydrant. Cleaning for the last twenty years. That sort of ends it. Vandalism is out. I hate working outside. The only thing is True Green sprayed. You can tell by the hydrant it's too even across. True Green came up and talked to my wife the other day. They are going to put holes in the grass. I think they are really responsible.

Mr. Wotton – You would be throwing money in the wind. You have fertilizer burn on the lawn. The way the contour you over fertilized the lawn.

Mr. Paparella – I'll have to find out. He was very nice to me. Everybody's been nice to me. Only thing that worries me I'm not responsible for children walking up on the beach and walking on that. Safe without shoes?

Mr. Wotton – Yes. Somebody did fertilize. It needs to be removed and reseeded from scratch. Don't aerate you lawn. They messed up your lawn.

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Mr. Paparella – Thank you.

**D. Costa Brothers Masonry, 2 Lambeth Park Drive – Re: Driveway Violation**

Appointment to be rescheduled.

**E. Interviews for Working Foreperson Sewer System Maintenance Craftsman**

**1. Matthew Manzone**

Mr. Manzone – I'm looking to become the next foreman. I've been in the sewer for six years. I've worked for the town for thirteen years.

Mr. Hobson – I happened to know he was an outstanding employee for the highway. The last time here we gave him a job and then we took it away because of seniority. Two employees; both are good employees. Just want to say it's a tough decision to make.

Mr. Wotton – Do you have your hydraulic license?

Mr. Manzone – I just recently let it go. I'm going to renew it.

Mr. Wotton – Any other license?

Mr. Furtado – Wastewater they both have. We would like them to have the hydraulic license.

Mr. Wotton – In my opinion the outside foreman should have that.

Mr. Silvia – I don't know Matt, but I know the family. I know what kind of person he is.

Mr. Durant – I have nothing.

Mr. Ristuccia – There are a lot of duties. Read thru this a lot of things you never had to do, sewer things, proper installation of a sewer pipe. I'm sure you've done many times. Prepare equipment, recommending spare parts for machinery. Have you ever had to do that?

Mr. Manzone – No.

Mr. Wotton – We have a mechanic right?

Mr. Ristuccia – Yes.

Mr. Furtado – We are looking for someone to supervise personnel there, maintain the pumping stations. Flow from point "A" to the treatment plant. Contractors inspect and installation of sewer and be able to read plans and represent us well. Fine with either candidate.

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Mr. Hobson – They will be on a probationary period.

Mr. Ristuccia – I think that he read my notes. There are a lot of parts of this job that you haven't experienced in the past. Sometimes contractors not the easiest guys to work with. I know you have been working with Linda. Put yourself in his position to be a step ahead of those contractors. You are a great worker for the town and well respected.

**2. John McGilvray**

Mr. McGilvray – I am here to apply for the outside foreman at the sewer department. I have some foreman experience from running an irrigation company. I've ordered inventory, parts. I just passed by the grade 4 and studying for my 6.

Mr. Ristuccia – This man is also a fabulous worker for the town.

Mr. Wotton – Same question, do you have your hydraulic license?

Mr. McGilvray – I do not have it but I will put in the time to get it.

Mr. Wotton – His position is highly in front of customers and contractors. You have to be very well at being a representative of the town and not have a short fuse. Dealing with the public is not an easy thing to do. Class D, no CDL?

Mr. McGilvray – It wasn't required.

Mr. Wotton – If say you were not selected a couple of things for the future, like you to have that Class B and also the hydraulic license.

Mr. Hobson – Tough decision, both highly qualified. This man started with no license. I think that Matt kind of got porked out of a deal. Get your class 2 and you are going to go places.

Mr. Silvia – Nothing.

Mr. Durant – Best of luck.

Mr. McGilvray– Matt has pretty much been the one who has been training me. He has been training me and we work well together.

Mr. Ristuccia – During the time I've been on this Board we have hired ten to twelve people. There are a few that stand out and you are in my opinion one of those. Generally we don't vote right now. You can stay if you want.

Mr. Hobson motioned to promote the most senior man, Matthew Manzone with the class 2 with permits. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

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**V. Items for Action**

**A. Stantec Consulting Services – Amendment #1 to Sewer Agreement \$15,000**

Mr. Furtado – We have to pass over this. We do not have the paperwork.

**B. Tata & Howard – Agreement for Tinkham Lane Replacement Well Construction and Pumping Station Modifications \$80,000**

Mr. Furtado – This is part of the capital plan. The Tinkham well is the biggest water supplier into the treatment plant for drinking water. It keeps getting infiltrated with sand. This contract is for design and oversight.

Mr. Wotton – I know we can't do anything about it. Oversee and design for an engineer. I feel that this department should have its own in-house engineer. Full time to do this stuff.

Mr. Furtado – I don't disagree. Hire an engineer but there is a lot involved in this, bid package, construction.

Mr. Ristuccia – I'll sit down with someone from Dartmouth and put together what he thinks it's going to cost. An engineer and a couple of assistants. Huge savings.

Mr. Wotton motioned to enter into an agreement with Tata & Howard in the amount of \$80,000 for the Tinkham Lane Well Construction and Pumping Station Modifications. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous.

**C. Tata & Howard – Agreement for Wolf Island Well Pumping Stations No.1, No.2 No.3 and River Road Wellfield Pumping Station Roof Replacement \$27,000**

Mr. Furtado – This was also approved by town meeting, capital planning, you guys voted for this. Replace the roofs on the pumping stations.

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the agreement with Tata & Howard in the amount of \$27,000 for the Wolf Island Well Pumping Stations No.1, No.2, No.3 and River Road Wellfield Pumping Station Roof Replacement. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**D. P.A. Landers – Payment #4 Green Street \$31,560.27**

Mr. Hobson motioned to pay P.A. Landers Payment #4 in the amount of \$31,560.27. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

**E. HDR Engineering Agreement \$8,000**

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Mr. Furtado – HDR is the company the town contracted with in 2010 the last time the sewer plants nitrogen was on the table. What I want to do is hire these people. Small amount of money to do UMass who did the study with our receiving water what EPA used as the base of our nitrogen limit.

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the agreement for HDR in the amount of \$8,000. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous.

**VI. Tabled Matters**

n/a

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

**Superintendent’s Report for September 11, 2017**

**From Last Meeting**

- Tree issue at 396 Scoticut Neck Road resolved
- Lovegrove family removed memorial items at bench
- Cut vegetation throughout Town curb line
- Cut weeds at Cooke Park

**New Items**

- Lightning issue at Water Treatment facility causing dirty water throughout Town
- Speak/meet with various residents about the dirty water issue
- Met with resident on Stetson Avenue re: beach erosion and remedy
- Met with Town insurance agent re: workers comp claims
- Continue follow-up for additional archeological quotes
- Met with resident at 22 Causeway Road re: yellow grass issue on lawn
- Attend monthly BBAC meeting
- Attend the draft permit “meeting before the meeting” with our engineers and environmental counsel
- Sewer lining continues in East Fairhaven
- Work with Hydroqual to finalize contract for this firm to analyze model that was used to calculate our nitrogen limit



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- Attend MRV subcommittee meeting – prepare presentation for various Town Selectboards
- Water main break on Harborview Avenue – Board notified
- Attend Department Head meeting
- Wrote letter of support to DEP for BBAC to receive additional grant money
- Work with insurance company re: claim from 29 Union Street seeking money for sewer back-up

**A. Marine Resources Committee**

Mr. Hobson – No meeting. Race at Earl's Marina and Vinnie was nice enough that the parking lot was set up. Thirty-eight race boats there. They collected a lot of money for the handicapped.

**B. NPDES Permit Update**

Mr. Furtado – This coming Thursday we are meeting with the EPA in Boston. At that time the town is going to be given the nitrogen limit. At that meeting I've invited Mike to come. Mark will be there. Have our design engineer and legal staff. Engineer represents us in the negotiations. EPA will have their technical people there. DEP as well. Discuss the permit and the permit will follow to plan issued on Friday. The permit is supposed to be 125 pounds. We will submit them a compliance schedule.

Mr. Durant – Cushman Park and Livesey Park there are two structures on the playground equipment. One is older. There is quite a lot of graffiti. Maybe some new equipment or clean those two pieces up.

Mr. Furtado – I had written down the slide.

Mr. Durant – Bubble plastic dome has burn holes in it. Maybe power wash.

Mr. Silvia – Mill and Bridge the northeast corner there is vegetation growing at the red light to go right into traffic.

Mr. Hobson – I'm curious how we do these Chapter 90 streets. Went down North Fairhaven to the feast and took Adams Street back on Long road. That would have been the last street I would have done. People roller blade on it. Farmfield street, Chestnut people called me up why Long road? I find it mind boggling Long Road. The street is almost perfect and they retarred the whole street. We don't say nothing about those streets?

Mr. Furtado – It was the perfect candidate for resurfacing. We spend \$50,000 for this report. Long Road first of all wasn't Chapter 90. Resurfaced because the drainage, sewer and water did not have to be fixed. You guys vote on total reconstruction. Pavement management book for Long Road, \$130,000 to fix it we spent \$90,000.

Mr. Wotton – The State did the center islands.

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Mr. Furtado – Called them and tomorrow is the final walkthrough.

Mr. Wotton – Thank you letter from the School Street resident. He sent a raving review letter. Some sidewalks issues. Kids walk to the middle school. We appreciate the work you do.

Mr. Furtado – John deserves a lot of the credit too. I went by there and brought it to John’s attention. Take care of it before school started.

Today I went to court about the six homes that still haven’t’ tied in beyond yonder. Three came to an agreement today. Two didn’t show up and one of the persons gave them a sixty day extension. The people that didn’t show up the judge is going to send a constable. Tomorrow afternoon I will be going to DEP in Boston and speak on behalf of the public water supplier.

There will be harassment classes. I’ve given you a list all those dates. Pick a time you can go. Be happy we were invited.

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

Mr. Wotton motioned to hold the next meeting on September 25, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Ristuccia seconded. Vote unanimous.

**IX. Adjourn and Executive Session**

Mr. Wotton motioned to enter into executive session at 7:50 p.m. and not to reconvene in open session to discuss a personnel matter.

In favor: Mr. Ristuccia, Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Durant.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. Tripp  
Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved September 25, 2017.