

Town of Fairhaven

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting for < November 8, 2012 > at the BPW Building, Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance: Chairman- John Roderiques, Kim Hyland, Kathi Carter, Scott Fernandes, Sid Martin, Therese Szala, Dawn Devlin, Colin Veitch, Padraic Elliot, Bob Furtado, Kevin Costa. At-Large position is vacant. Town of Fairhaven: Jeff Osuch Please note that the secretary will refer respectively in this report by the first name of each member for the ease of writing and the subsequent reading of the document. The Chairman will be referred to as Chairman for obvious reasons.

Meeting was covered by local TV with a member of the press present.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

The chairman announced that anyone recording the meeting needed to let him know if anyone is recording the meeting.

Minutes from October 25, 2012 were reviewed. A motion to accept was made by Kim and seconded by Colin. Approved by unanimous vote.

The position of secretary was vacant as Ted Silva is greatly missed. The chairman wished to fill the secretary position. Some discussion occurred to see if anyone else aside from Sid would volunteer for the secretary position. Amazingly, the room was quiet. A motion to appoint Sid Martin to the Secretary position was made by Kim and seconded by Scott. Approved by unanimous vote.

Action: Mr. Osuch was requested by the chairman to order three binders for new committee members and the secretary position for filing purposes.

An explanation of some confusion regarding the ConCom budget and why a representative would not attend the meeting tonight was given by the chairman. Discussion ensued on the history. If needed, the ConCom may appear at our next meeting.

The chairman announced that the intent of this evening's meeting would be to run through the warrant and report for the Special Town Meeting (STM) and to meet with the representatives of Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School (Voke). The chairman noted that representatives from Voke were present and that we would not start the discussion right away in case anyone was expecting that the discussion wouldn't start until 7:15 pm.

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At 7:08 Kevin hung up on his mom after graciously serenading the meeting with his phone's ring tone. The committee will forgive him, his mother may not.

At 7:11 pm it was decided that we would begin discussion with the Voke representatives. This is Article 5. The chairman explained that this will be a simple majority vote as the Town of Fairhaven is not taking out a loan. GNBRVTHS had five people in attendance with the Superintendent, Linda Enos, taking the lead in the presentation. Summary points from this discussion were:

- The project has been in development for 2 years.
- New Classrooms are important for Science primarily
- No increase in enrollment planned
- Some renovations will be done
- Receiving a maximum reimbursement of \$.80/\$1.00 spent
- Air handling units (40 years old) must be replaced (estimated \$2.9M)
- Site Plan Review
- Electrical
- Fire pump – to eventually full sprinkle
- ADA upgrade
- Construction \$13.6M Total \$17.1M
- Schedule – start summer 2013 to be completed Nov. 2014
- 2,060 student enrollments will not grow. 9.9% of enrollment from Fairhaven

Artist renderings were shown and explained at length.

The chairman noted that the significant issue stated in this presentation is that we're going to be responsible for replacing our share of the air units even if we didn't pursue the school addition and renovation.

Various questions were asked by the committee for clarification of the proposed project: Some highlights were:

- What would be the negatives if the project is not pursued:
 - Science classroom shortfalls would not be pursued
 - Classroom to classroom travel time is extremely long
- Enrollment is 218 from FHVN, 250 from Dartmouth
- This project was approved by New Bedford at the end of Sept. and at the Dartmouth STM on October 16.
- The two members sitting on the school board to represent Fairhaven were not in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Osuch asked questions at length on soft costs. Eventually, the chair suggested that the appropriate information be made available at the November 13, 2012 selectmen's meeting when Voke would be meeting with the Board of Selectmen.

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The chairman explained his concern with regional projects that have to have a Town Meeting to vote in disapproval. He explained the process for new members. Later in the meeting he also explained for the benefit of new members that if you're going to abstain from a topic because of a conflict it is best to leave the room. This helps to keep in line with the conflict of interest laws that require that no influence of opinion of the person in conflict be felt by others during any discussion.

Some further discussion with the Voke representatives occurred and it was decided some information could be further clarified at the Selectmen's meeting on Tuesday. The chairman recommended the committee attend, or watch, the meeting.

The chairman asked for a five minute recess. The meeting was suspended at 8:21 pm.

During recess it was proposed by members that anyone caught with their phone ringing during the meeting had to buy the chairman's big gulp the following week. For some reason there didn't seem to be a consensus on how to proceed.

The meeting resumed at 8:27 pm.

The chairman suggested that we quickly go through the STM and approve those articles that we were in agreement with the figures provided. Though a noble cause, this turned out not be possible because the committee stalled on Article 1.

Article 1:

1a. Committee needs more info

2a. Wait for next meeting

3a Recommend at town Meeting. Motioned by Scott, Second by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

Article 2 and 3:

Discussion for next meeting

Article 4:

Motion to pay \$57.25 bill by Kim, second by Colin. Vote: Unanimous

Article 5:

Discussion for next meeting

Article 6:

BPW will be present at next meeting

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Article 7:

A motion by Kim to support that the town will vote to transfer from Sewer Retained Earnings the following sums of money

- A) \$2,140.93
- B) \$90,916.17
- C) \$31,568.88

Be moved and placed in the Sewer Betterment Stabilization fund. Seconded by Colin;
Voted: Unanimous

Article 8:

No financial implications of the article were noted by the committee. Terry motioned to Yield to Petitioner, multiple seconds heard. Vote: unanimous

Article 9:

Mr. Osuch reported three quotes of value \$3,275 and \$4,350 were obtained to repair damage done from the named storm "Sandy". Subsequent damage has been done by the Nor'easter. Repairs will be more money. Discussions on repairing the building ensued with strong opinions made that committee members are tired of maintaining this property for no apparent gain financially for the town. Photos were provided by Mr. Osuch showing significant damage.

Mr. Osuch mentioned the possibility of receiving assistance from FEMA, which had not yet been determined. Hopefully by next meeting we may have a status update on any assistance which we may be eligible to receive/apply for.

Discussion ensued between the chairman and Mr. Osuch ending with the chairman stating that Mr. Roth or someone better take action in the next year and provide some direction for this property as it is apparent that members of the committee are not willing to spend money without a plan. It should also be reported that some members see high value to the town to keep this property available for future development.

After discussion no motion was considered, this will have to be discussed next week. Mr. Osuch may submit updated figures for the Article due to recent damages.

(At 9:08 the meeting continued to go on with no chance of stopping at 9 pm. Kim was tired due to the requirements placed on him for making motions but he reached deep to his inner core to continue. Thoughts of adjournment were on his mind but he struggled forward wondering how retirement could be so much work. Kevin still hadn't called his mom as it got later into the evening she was probably more concerned about him.)

Article 10:

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Mr. Osuch noted this money comes from the Overlay surplus account which anticipated this action. After discussion Kim motioned to recommend the \$85,000 be transferred. Seconded by Colin. Vote: Unanimous

Article 11:

Some discussion, but the chairman wanted to move on and return. At the end of the meeting it was decided that this Article could be addressed at the next meeting.

Article 12:

Terry went to the site twice. Once in daylight and once in evening. Her efforts are appreciated by the committee. Discussion ensued in support and non support of the article by many members. The chairman was interrupted many times in this discussion which in the end slowed the discussion significantly. A motion to approve to accept the maintenance of the street light and pole on Elliot Lane was made by Kim, seconded by Colin. A motion to NOT approve to accept the maintenance of the street light and pole on Elliot Lane was made by Terry. The motion did not receive a second. The motion proposed by Kim was voted on. Vote: 10 in Approval 1 Against: (Terry) 1 Abstention: Kevin

Article 13:

A motion to move \$258,394.76 for use for the New Wood School from a) Fairhaven High School Construction remaining balance of \$81,794.86 and b) East Fairhaven School Construction balance of \$176,599.90 was made by Kim and seconded by Colin. Vote: Unanimous

Some discussion was held regarding a possible EMA article. The chairman offered his comments. The addition of this late article did cause adrenalin to run in the veins of some committee members. The late addition of this topic may have kept Kim and Sid more than wide awake on their drives home.

Next meeting: November 15, 2012 (this is our last chance to get the committee's position into publication for town meeting, please make every effort to be in attendance)

A plea for adjournment was heard from Kim with a quick second by Colin and the rest of the committee members.

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