

Town of Fairhaven

Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting for <March 14, 2013>at the BPW Administration Building, Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance:

Chairman-John Roderiques, Robert A. Furtado, Scott Fernandes, Kim Hyland, Kathi Carter, Therese Szala, Colin Veitch, Dawn Devlin, Sid Martin, Phil Washko, Padraic Elliot

Members absent:

Kevin Costa

Town of Fairhaven:

Jeffery Osuch- Executive secretary

Board of Health: Peter DeTerra- Chairman, Barbara Acksen

Meeting was covered by government access television. Member of the press present.

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Announced that the meeting was being recorded by government access TV. Chairman has to be notified if anyone else present is recording.

Motion made by Kim to accept the minutes from March 7, 2013. Seconded by Sid.

Vote: Unanimous

- Mr. Osuch passed out new updated budget spreadsheets, new updated Article spreadsheet. Chairman passed out letter from the Selectmen setting the deadline for Special Town Meeting Articles. Chairman also passed out a letter from Police Chief Michael Myers notifying the committee of possible shortfalls in the FY13 Police budget.
- Chairman states that all departments should review their FY13 budgets and have a place holder Article on the STM within the annual TM if they are going to run short. They should not automatically expect a transfer from the Reserve Fund.
- Appointment with the Board of Health to review budget:
 - Salary is up because of contractual increase.

- Pest Control is up \$ 1,615. \$ 1,000 of the increase is for mosquito "dunks" that will be given to residents who request them, 1 per household. Dunks would be used in fresh water areas that do not get sprayed. They last for 30 days.

Discussion follows:

- Why are they starting this program now?
- If these won't be available until mid summer, will they be effective?
- Could residents be charged a fee?
- What happens when the 1,000 dunks run out?
- Mr. DeTerra states they are trying to cut down on EEE.

If they charge, people may not respond to the program.

They will put out PSA's about the program.

- Chairman states they cannot count on adding new programs to the budget. Every department feels their need is worthy of additional money.
- Mileage is increased for the food inspector.
- Contracted Services: is up because of the increase from ABC Disposal. This is the last year of the contract. This covers the roll-offs at the recycle center.
- Discussion of dues: Mr. DeTerra explains that the Board uses the memberships to obtain education so they can cover for the food inspector when she is on vacation. It also allows for access to websites to obtain information.

- The committee moves on to discussion and voting on the Unclassified section of the budget.

- #48 Contributory Retirement:

- Scott motions for \$ 2,450,018. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous

- #49 Group Insurance:

Chairman asks Mr. Osuch if the rate has been set yet.

Mr. Osuch states that it will not be set until late April or early May. This is the number that the consultant is recommending.

Mr. Osuch states that the Fin Com figures for the printing of the booklet are needed by April 4, 2013.

Chairman questions why the Selectmen have not voted on this yet.

- #50 Memorial Day:

- Scott motions for \$ 2,500. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous

- #51 MA Employment Security:

Too early to set this amount.

- #52 Non-Contributory Retirement:

- Scott motions for \$ 11,159. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous

- #53 Reserve Fund

- a)General:
 - Chairman states he is tempted to vote \$ 0 to make people live within their budgets.
 - Scott motions \$ 175,000. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
 - b)Water:
 - Scott motions for \$ 25,000. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
 - c) Sewer:
 - Scott motions for \$ 25,000. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #54 Town Insurance:
 - Number is based on the consultant's recommendation.
 - Mr. Osuch states that the town is in the state insurance pool because of a bad past history of workers comp. claims. There are not many companies that write municipal policies now. Last year the town raised the deductibles to save money.
 - Scott motions for \$ 792,000. Seconded by Kim. Vote: Unanimous
- #55 Town Report:
 - Kim motions for \$ 3,500.
 - Discussion of the cost savings if the cover was just a black & white photo:
 - Mr. Osuch states that last year's color cover was \$ 320 + or-.
 - Discussion of posting the report online.
 - Chairman states that it is required to have a copy for each Town Meeting member.
 - Kim withdraws his motion, and Mr. Osuch will investigate the possible cost savings.
- #56 FICA-Medicare:
 - Scott motions for \$ 312,000. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #57 Buzzards Bay Action Com.:
 - Scott motions for \$ 760. Seconded by Kim. Vote: Passes 8 to 3 with Sid, Phil, and Chairman apposed.
- #58 Rape Crisis Project:
 - Discussion about whether this should be covered by the Police Budget.
 - New Bedford based organization that provides support and counseling for rape victims.
 - Police Chief feels the town gets their money's worth from it.
 - Scott motions for \$ 2,000. Seconded by Kim. Vote: Unanimous.
- #59 Fine Arts:
 - Terry questions whether the money can be restricted to restoration only.
 - Scott motions for \$ 1,000. Seconded by Colin.
 - Sid motions for \$ 0. Seconded by Phil.
 - Vote on Scott's motion for \$ 1,000. Motion passes 6 to 5 with Kathi, Sid, Kim, Phil, and Terry apposed.
- #60 Stabilization Fund:
 - Discussion of the need.

The goal is to have at least 5% of the budget in the Fund.

Tax levy will be maxed out either way.

- Scott motions for \$ 50,000. Seconded by Kim

Colin states he would like to hold off on this vote until we see where we are after everything else is funded.

Discussion of taxes. Chairman warns of not raising taxes 2 1/2%. That money would be lost in future years.

- Scott withdraws his motion. Kim withdraws his second. Committee will hold off on this vote.

- #61 General Fund:

a)Debt	\$ 1,833,715
b)Interest on Debt	\$ 654,000
c)Interest on Temp Loans	\$ 60,000

- Scott motions for the above amounts. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous

- #62 Water Fund:

Wait a week.

- #63 Sewer Fund:

a) Debt	\$ 500,000
b) Interest on Debt	\$ 231,604
c) Interest on Temp Loans	\$ 00

- Scott motions for the above amounts. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous

Chairman calls recess @8:30 PM. Back in session @ 8:37 PM.

Mr. Osuch states that the discrepancy with the salary figures in the various BPW budgets last week was because the increases voted at the STM within the Annual TM were not included.

- Committee moves on to Articles
- #5A Town Dept. Computer Upgrades:
Mr. Osuch will provide more information next week.
- #5B Town Dept. Telephone Upgrades:
Further discussion about the project
What are the negatives if it doesn't get done?
Does it include a maintenance agreement?
Mr. Osuch will provide more information next week.
- #6 Water Pollution Control Facility:
Wait a week.
- # 8 Road Work:
BPW wants Dogwood Street and North Street as their top picks.

Chairman goes around the table to solicit the streets members are supporting:

- Chairman, Bob, Scott, Terry, Colin, Dawn, Phil, & Padraic support North & Cooke
- Kim, Kathi, & Sid support North & Dogwood

Discussion about using Chapter 90 money for Dogwood Street. Mr. Osuch will investigate.

- #8d North Street:
 - Scott motions for \$ 230,471. Seconded by Colin. Vote: Unanimous
- #8a Summit Drive:
 - Scott motions for Indefinite Postponement. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #8b Billy's Way:
 - Scott motions for Indefinite Postponement. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #8f Beachwood Street:
 - Scott motions for Indefinite Postponement. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #8g Cove Street:
 - Scott motions for Indefinite Postponement. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #8e Cooke Street:
 - Scott motions for \$ 77,604. Seconded by Colin. Vote: Motion passes 8 to 3 with Sid, Kathi, & Kim apposed.
- #8c Dogwood Street:
 - Kim motions for \$ 68,730. Seconded by Sid.
 - Scott motions for Indefinite Postponement. Seconded by Colin. Vote: Motion passes 7 to 4 with Dawn, Kathy, Sid, & Kim apposed.
- #10 High School Fire Escapes:

Committee will hold off until it finds out the School Dept. preferred option.
- #13 FEMA Grant for Ladder 1:

Fire Dept. did not get the matching grant.

 - Committee unanimously motions to rescind previous motion. Committee unanimously seconds. Vote: Unanimous
- #18 Sustainability Revolving Account:

Mr. Osuch states that this article replaces the Houseboat article. It would create a revolving account for money raised at the Farmer's Market.
Chairman questions why the article is 2 months late.

- Next week CPC & Natural Resources

- 9:25 PM Kim motions to adjourn. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado
Finance Committee Secretary

(accepted 3-21-2013)