

Town of Fairhaven

Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting for <April 4, 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, Sid Martin, Phil Washko, Padraic Elliot

Members absent:

Dawn Devlin

Town of Fairhaven:

Jeffery Osuch- Executive secretary

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 Sid to accept the minutes from March 28, 2013. Seconded by Colin.

Vote: Unanimous

- Mr. Osuch passes out new updated budget spreadsheet, Special Town Meeting spreadsheet, updated ATM Article spreadsheet, and draft warrant for the Special Town Meeting.
- Discussion and voting continues on items in the Annual Town Meeting not completed at the last meeting:
- #39 Sewer Division
 - Terry recommends removing \$ 500 from the Purchase of Services category. This money was earmarked for the Employee Assistance Program.
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:
 - a. Salary & Wages \$ 885,324
 - b. Purchase of Services \$ 206,800

- 1. Utilities \$ 375,000
 - c. Supplies \$ 147,050
 - 1. Gasoline \$ 26,500
 - d. Other Charges/Expenses \$.00
 - e. Capital Outlay \$ 91,000
 - f. Sludge Disposal \$ 250,000
 - All amounts seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #41 Veterans Services
 - Terry questions the figure for the clerk.
 - Clerk used to share time with Selectmen's office. Was paid at a higher rate. Now back as a senior clerk.
 - Chairman passes out sheet from the Veteran's Agent explaining the figures.
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:
 - a. Salary & Wages \$ 40,870
 - b. Purchase of Services \$ 345,650
 - c. Supplies \$ 1,800
 - d. Other Charges/Expenses \$ 480,900
 - e. Capital Outlay \$.00
 - All amounts seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #46 Recreation Center
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:
 - a. Salary & Wages \$ 146,719
 - b. Purchase of Services \$ 9,925
 - 1. Utilities \$ 24,000
 - c. Supplies \$ 3,100
 - d. Other Charges/Expenses \$ 700
 - f. Recreation Center Program Account \$ 90,000
 - All amounts seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
 - Terry questions Capital Outlay. Would prefer to only replace 1 piece of equipment.
 - Chairman states that cuts here may be needed in the future, but he feels if the equipment is not kept up the membership will drop.
 - Town Meeting has shown they want the Rec Center. Dropping this won't save anything on the tax levy this year.
 - Discussion of effort to make the Rec Center self sufficient.
 - The Director is very responsible about doing the most with what he is given.
 - e. Capital Outlay
 - Kim motions for \$ 9,500. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous

- #47 Park Division
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:
 - a. Salary & Wages \$ 87,363
 - b. Purchase of Services \$ 10,660
 - 1. Utilities \$ 2,200
 - c. Supplies \$ 3,100
 - 1. Gasoline \$ 6,400
 - d. Other Charges/Expenses \$.00
 - e. Capital Outlay \$.00
 - Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #49 Group Insurance
 - Figure is a 6% increase over last year's actual cost. Actually lower than originally expected.
 - Scott motions for \$ 4,475,000. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #51 MA Employment Security
 - Scott motions for \$ 125,000. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #55 Town Report
 - Scott motions for \$ 3,500. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #60 Stabilization Fund
 - Scott motions for \$ 50,000. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #62 Water Fund
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:
 - a. Debt \$.00
 - b. Interest on Debt \$ 4,280
 - c. Interest on Temp Loans \$.00
 - All amounts seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- # 2 Selectmen
 - b. Salary-Other \$ 244,220
 - Salary figure has been changed because of a change with 1 of the clerk positions in the office. The new person is coming in at a higher pay level.
 - Sid motions for \$ 244,220. Seconded by Colin. Vote: Motion carries 9 to 1 with Scott opposed.
- #5 Data Processing
 - Discussion of spending in this category if the new computer Article passes.
 - Mr. Osuch advises that this is for software adjustments and fixes throughout the year, for instance if tax code changes.
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:
 - a. Purchase of Services \$ 101,613

- b. Supplies \$ 8,000
 - c. Capital Outlay \$ 5,000
 - All amounts seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #6 Treasurer
 - Treasurer's salary has been set.
 - Scott motions for a. Salary & Wages \$ 170,879. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #11 Assessors
 - The assistant assessor is taking another position and her replacement will have a lower pay package.
 - Chairman discusses the importance of refilling this position quickly because this is a revaluation year for property.
 - Scott motions to reconsider the previous vote for a. Salary & Wages and lower it to \$ 145,503. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- # 28 Building Department
 - Scott motions for a. Salary & Wages \$ 128,024. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #30 Shellfish Inspection
 - Scott motions for a. Salary & Wages \$ 85,928. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
 - Chairman asks Mr. Osuch if the Shellfish Warden has found out if he received the grant for the boat motor. Mr. Osuch states that at last contact he still did not know. If the grant does come in, this money will be returned at the end of the year.
 - Sid motions for e. Capital Outlay \$ 3,500. Seconded by Scott. Vote: Motion carries 9 to 1 with Terry opposed.

7:52 PM. Chairman calls a recess. Back in session @ 7:58.

- #35 Board of Health
 - Discussion of Purchase of Services and the "mosquito dunks".
 - Terry suggests a voucher system with local stores, like the one used each year for trees.
 - Discussion of how their distribution will be controlled and how the BOH will receive feedback.
 - Not all tax payers will receive the benefit.
 - Chairman states that if this passes and the BOH returns later in the year for a Reserve Fund Transfer because they run out of dunks, that is not an emergency or unforeseen expense.
 - Sid motions for c. Purchase of Services \$ 10,465. Seconded by Colin.
 - Scott motions for \$ 9,465. Seconded by Terry.
 - Vote on Sid's motion for \$ 10,465: Motion carries 6 to 4 with Terry, Kathi, Scott, & Bob opposed.

- Moving on to the ATM Articles:
- #5a. Town Dept Computer Upgrades
 - Discussion of IT in the town. The town departments still use the Treasurer for IT.
 - Schools, Police, & Fire have their own private IT people.
 - Chairman states that computer upgrade is needed, but would rather see a consultant used than someone trying to sell the equipment.
 - Discussion of all town departments including Schools, Fire, & Police consolidating IT to save money in the long run.
 - Phil states that upgrade is needed, but town needs one person in charge of only IT.
 - Kathi questions this expense at this time, without IT person.
 - Jeff states that this Article would replace 12 computers and all the Antivirus throughout the town dept.
 - Terry questions the price of the MS Office software.
 - Sid motions for \$ 20,000. Seconded by Scott. Vote: Unanimous
- #32 Matt. River Valley Water Protection
 - Discussion on whether this is in the best interest of the town.
 - All of the land is in Mattapoisett & Rochester, but Rochester does not contribute to the fund.
 - Chairman wants Fairhaven Town Meeting to have the authority to purchase the land.
 - The Regional Authority requires Town Meeting to be called to turn down a purchase. If it doesn't meet, the purchase is approved.
 - Chairman states that the other communities can raise the fees without Fairhaven participating.
 - Scott motions for Indefinite Postponement. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #37 Macomber Pimental Field
 - Chairman states that after viewing the Selectmen's meeting, he visited the field. Apparently less work was done by the previous Article than the committee original understood.
 - Originally it was thought that the side line fences would be included in the original Article. They were not.
 - Chairman states it could be a safety issue.
 - Chairman advises members to view the field before the next meeting, and our previous vote on the Article could be reconsidered.
- #28 Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan
 - Mr. Osuch states that he spoke with the Sewer Superintendent Linda Schick. She states that to complete the CWMP would cost approximately \$ 175,000.
 - Chairman asks why they are not asking for that amount, and does it fit into the rate structure of the dept.?

- Mr. Osuch will check with the BPW and get back to the committee.

8:58 PM. Chairman calls recess. Back in session @ 9:02 PM.

- Decisions for the STM Articles will be needed at the next meeting.
- School Dept. will be back in next week to discuss the fire escapes and the Rogers School Article.
- There are \$ 241,000 worth of articles on the STM.
- Discussion of Reserve Fund Transfers.
 - Chairman recommends leaving \$ 30,000 in Fund for after TM.
 - Chairman recommends using \$ 117,500 from Fund for the Veterans Services.
 - Mr. Osuch recommends using it for Fire Dept., Highway Dept. and Election.
 - Committee will discuss further next week.
- Discussion and voting on STM Articles:
- #2 Funding Labor Contracts- 2014
 - Scott motions Recommend At Town Meeting for the following categories:
 - 1. Clerical
 - 2. Highways and Parks
 - 3. Sewer
 - 4. Water
 - 5. Police
 - 6. Dispatchers
 - 7. Fire
 - 8. School
 - Sid seconds RATM on all categories. Vote: Unanimous
- #3 Funding Non-Union Labor
 - Scott motions Recommend At Town Meeting. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #7 E-Government (Geo TMS) Online Permitting Revolving Account
 - Scott motions for Recommend Adoption. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #8 Solar Bylaw Amendment
 - Scott motions for Yield to Petitioner. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #12 Restaurant Beer and Wine License
 - Scott motions for Yield to Petitioner. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- #6 Finance Committee Membership and Appointment
 - Discussion of Article and committee:
 - Scott favors 9 members on the committee.

- Sid favors 7 members- meetings would be more efficient.
- Bob favors leaving the committee as it is now, but find a more expedient way to fill vacancies and unexpired terms.
- Kim favors leaving it as is- 13 is better than 7 and doesn't cost the taxpayers any more money.
- Kathi is fine with the way it is. Asks if the DOR report made any reference to the secretary's salary.
- Terry is on the fence either way, but agrees with Kim.
- Colin is comfortable with 13 members.
- Phil has no problem with 13. Asks if the petitioners have given a reason for the change.
- Pat believes 5 to 7 is more efficient & effective, but given the choice would stay as is to allow more community involvement.
- Chairman says that 13 works and makes for good discussion.
- Discussion of method of appointment.
 - Scott motions to Recommend Indefinite Postponement. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- Chairman reminds members of DOR hearings on April 10 & 24, 2013 @ 6:00 PM.
- Kim motions to adjourn @ 9:44 PM. (Welcome back!) Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado
Finance Committee Secretary

(accepted 4-11-2013)