

Town of Fairhaven

Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting for <April 25, 2013>at the BPW Administration Building, Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance:

Chairman-John Roderiques, Robert A. Furtado, Scott Fernandes, Kathi Carter, Therese Szala, Colin Veitch, Dawn Devlin, Sid Martin

Members late:

Phil Washko- in @ 7:32 PM.

Padraic Elliot- in @ 7:52 PM.

Members absent:

Kim Hyland

Town of Fairhaven:

Jeffery Osuch- Executive secretary

Vincent D. Furtado- BPW Superintendent

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 Scott to accept the minutes from April 18, 2013. Seconded by Sid.

Vote: Unanimous

- Mr. Osuch presents the Chairman with a bill totaling \$ 1,540 from Monaghan Printing Co., for the Finance Committee booklets for Town Meeting.
 - Scott motions to pay the bill from Finance Committee/Preprinted Forms Acct. #001-131-00-5422-00-0201. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous

- Chairman reminds committee members of meetings May 2, 2013 @ 6:00PM. and May 4, 2013 @ 8:00 AM.. Both meetings at the Elizabeth Hastings Middle School at 30 School Street.

- Chairman asks members to be prompt.
 - Chairman graciously offers wake-up calls for members who need it.
- Chairman passes out the final draft of the special legislation for the Town Administrator position.
The committee will take it's vote either Thursday or Saturday.
- Committee handles Reserve Fund Transfers:
 - Chairman presents transfer request from the Veterans Agent in the amount of \$20,000 for benefits. Extra funds are needed because of increase in clients and burials.
 - Scott motions to transfer \$20,000 to Benefits Acct. #01-543-00-5770-567. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous 8-0
 - Chairman presents transfer request from the Veterans Agent in the amount of \$15,000 for medical. Extra funds are needed because of an increase in medical costs.
 - Scott motions to transfer \$15,000 to Medical Acct. #01-543-00-5311-567. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous 8-0
 - Chairman presents transfer request from the Town Clerk in the amount of \$7,000 for Election & Registration Salaries. Extra funds are needed because of the extra primary election on 4-30-2013 to fill Senator Kerry's seat.
 - Scott motions to transfer \$7,000 to Elections & Registration Salaries Acct. #01-163-00-5111-00. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous 8-0
 - Chairman presents transfer request from the Town Clerk in the amount of \$7,000 for Election & Registration Salaries. Extra funds are needed because of the special election on 6-25-2013 to fill Senator Kerry's seat. Chairman states that if the funds are not needed because of a grant, they will be returned.
 - Scott motions to transfer \$7,900 to Elections & Registration Salaries Acct. #01-163-00-5111-00. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous 8-0
 - Chairman presents transfer request from the Town Clerk in the amount of \$870 for Elections & Registration-Contracted Services-Ballot Coding. Extra funds are needed because of the special election on 6-25-2013 to fill Senator Kerry's seat.
 - Scott motions to transfer \$870 to Elections & Registration-Contracted Services-Ballot Coding Acct. #01-163-00-5111-00. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous 8-0
 - Chairman presents transfer request from the Town Clerk in the amount of \$1,377.23 for Supplies-Books/Sub.. Extra funds are needed because more Mass General Law Books were received than expected.
 - Scott motions to transfer \$1,377.23 to Town Clerk-Supplies-Books/Sub Acct. #01-161-00-5421-00. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous 8-0

- Chairman presents transfer request from the Building Commissioner/Conservation Agent in the amount of \$200 for Conservation Advertising. Extra funds are needed because of an increase in hearings.
 - Scott motions to transfer \$200 to Conservation Advertising Acct. #001-171-00-5303-00-106. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous 8-0
 - Chairman presents transfer request from the Police Chief in the amount of \$10,000 for Purchase of Services-Repair & Maint. Equipment. Extra funds are needed to cover the cost of unforeseen replacement of the DVR system, phone system repairs, as well as associated costs of hiring one additional officer because of an unforeseen retirement.
 - Scott motions to transfer \$10,000 to Purchase of Services-Repair & Maintenance Equipment. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous 8-0
 - Chairman presents transfer request from the Building Commissioner in the amount of \$14,000 for Salaries. Extra funds are needed because of an increase in plumbing & electrical inspections.
 - Scott motions to transfer \$14,000 to Salaries Acct. #001-241-00-5111-00-0058. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous 8-0

- Chairman advises committee that the Highway, Sewer, and Water Dept. unions have settled. However, they have not met the requirements of section 50-9 Collective Bargaining Agreements, of the Fairhaven Code.
Because of this, each vote at Town Meeting will have to be preceded with a vote to proceed because the guidelines have not been met.

7:29 PM. Sid Martin removes himself from discussion and leaves the room because the Teamsters Union is picketing his place of employment, and the Union views him as management.

- Chairman passes out copies of the Water Dept. Memorandum of Agreement and the applicable sections of the existing contract.

7:32 PM. Phil Washko joins the meeting

- Vincent Furtado- BPW Superintendent joins the meeting to answer anyone's questions.
 - Chairman discusses new overtime addition related to snow removal.
Mr. Furtado states that this would rarely come in to play because they would stagger the workers.
 - Chairman states that the committee will not renegotiate the contract line by line. We simply recommend or not.

- Discussion of double time pay on 4th of July.
- Discussion of new Christmas and New Years clause.
Mr. Furtado states it simply mirrors the Clerical Union.
Chairman says that each union is independent, and one shouldn't plan on getting what the other gets.
Chairman warns of the Town giving away too much with little bits & pieces added to each contract.

7:52 PM. Padraic Elliot joins the meeting

- Chairman warns of Water & Sewer rates rising faster than other branches of town services.
- Chairman recommends that the Board of Public Works and Selectmen get out of the business of negotiating contracts. This should be done by a labor attorney.
- Mr. Furtado states that the Water Contract will save the Town money because of the reduction of overtime on the weekends.
- New contract wages increase 1/1/14-.5%, 7/1/14-1%, 7/1/15-1%.
- Chairman states that these contracts "will set the bar" for other unions in town.
Committee should consider the whole contract seriously.
- Chairman passes out copies of the Sewer Dept. Memorandum of Agreement and the applicable sections of the existing contract.
 - Increase in wages are the same as the Water Contract.
 - Chairman asks Mr. Furtado what the Town is getting for the increase.
 - Mr. Furtado states the employees will not get the Hydraulic Lic. stipend they wanted. Also weekend employees must take the test to upgrade their license to Level 5.
 - Chairman states that by upgrading their license, they will be eligible for overtime and able to make more money.
 - Discussion between Mr. Furtado and the Chairman about previous negotiations.

8:22 PM. Chairman calls a recess. Back in session @ 8:27 PM. Sid rejoins the committee because the Highway Depart. belongs to a different union.

- Chairman passes out copies of the Highway Dept. Memorandum of Agreement and the applicable sections of the existing contract.
 - Increase in wages are the same as the Water & Sewer Contracts.
 - Same discussion of what the Town is getting for the increase.
 - Discussion of the cost of Section 5 which states that each employee will receive a printed copy of the contract. Chairman questions why the union shouldn't pay for this.
 - Discussion of training and stipend for Pesticide Lic.

- Chairman advises members to consider contracts for the next meeting. Again, for good or bad, these contracts will set the bar for the rest of the Town's contracts.
While the committee may not be happy with the increase for the second half of FY14, it may be worth it to have contracts settled for 3 years.
- Mr. Osuch states that he has researched surrounding towns and these contracts are less costly.
- Police & Fire Unions have binding arbitration and the arbitrator will look at what other unions in town are getting.
- Chairman & Mr. Osuch advise that the amount for Salary & Wages for Highway, in Article 4, is incorrect. This is because the Longevity was incorrectly figured.
- Chairman relates his dissatisfaction with the difficulty of people providing the correct budget the 1st time.
- The correct amount for Highway-Salary & Wages is \$890,967.
- Shellfish-Capital Outlay: has also changed.
Because the dept. received a grant, they no longer need the \$3,500 for the boat motor.
 - Scott motions to reconsider the previous vote and move the amount of \$.00 for Capital Outlay. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous
- Chairman advises we will only have a 1/2 hour to meet on Thursday night before the Precincts meeting. Asks for members to be prompt.
Also asks members to be in attendance promptly at 8:00 AM. on Saturday, before Town Meeting.
- Multiple motions to adjourn @ 9:25 PM. Multiple seconds. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado
Finance Committee Secretary

(accepted 5-2-2013)