

Town of Fairhaven

Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting for <January 31, 2013>at the BPW Administration Building, Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance:

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

Members absent:

Kathi Carter

Town of Fairhaven:

Jeffery Osuch- Executive secretary

Anne Carreiro- Town accountant, 7:00 PM appointment-remained for entire meeting

Michael Myers- Chief of Police, 7:30 PM appointment

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 January 24, 2013 after making the correction that Padriac Elliot arrived on time. Seconded by Scott. Vote: Unanimous

- Appointment with Town Accountant Anne Carreiro to discuss her budget. Salary category is up because of 1% raise on June 30,2013 and \$50.00 longevity. Discussion about seminars and professional gatherings: Ms. Carreiro stated the gas category was for her seminars in Yarmouth and Amherst. There is no lodging expense. She also goes to approximately 4 monthly meetings a year. Chairman stated that the committee generally doesn't question reasonable expenses in this category less than \$1,000. Also stated that if someone has a seminar they feel is important, they should put it in the budget for the committee to consider.
- Mr. Osuch passed out updated budget spreadsheets, State Cherry Sheet, new sheet with Articles. New Article has been added for \$200,000 for the fire escapes at Fairhaven High School.

Chairman and Mr. Osuch have discussion about the number for GNBRVTHS. Will get verification.

Discussion of Revenue Projections. Not expecting more than \$100,000 new growth on tax levy. Governor's budget includes money not yet raised. Local receipts are down. Veterans department is expecting a \$100,000 deficit.

- 7:30PM appointment with Chief Myers to discuss police department budget.
Salary and wages are up because of the 1% raise on June 30, 2013.
Increase in vehicle maintenance.
Some categories were reorganized or reclassified on advise of the DOR. Overall amount doesn't necessarily change.
Chairman questioned lower expenditure in the heat category. Ms. Carreiro stated it may be because the December bill wasn't included.
Dues & professional gatherings are up because of the Chief's effort to get the department accredited . Requires a yearly \$1,200 association fee.
Discussion about new police cars: New car base price has increased approximately \$4,000 ea. Because of new car model, the existing accessories cannot be reused in the new cars. Chief advises that in 2 years we should have all new format cars and can start reusing the same accessories over again. Presently 2 cars are replaced each year.
Discussion of expenses for replacing computers. Chief stated they run 24/7 and need to be replaced on a regular basis. Present IT contract deals mainly with maintaining software.
Discussion of the Article for \$22,710 for phone system replacement: Present system was installed in the late 1970's. Can no longer get parts. Continuing voice mail issues. Spent over \$2,000 this year for repairs. One company he is speaking with offers a 5 year service agreement.
- Chairman calls recess at 8:05PM. Back in session at 8:09 PM.
- Mr. Osuch continues his discussion on revenue numbers. Discussion of cuts in Articles.
Discussion of Bond Rating. Bond rating is now looked at every 3 years whether you borrow or not. The Town has several large borrowing issues coming up.
- 8:25PM Reserve fund transfer for the Fire Depart. requesting \$5,000.
Chairman wants to hold off until next week and get an exact balance in the Supplies category line item. Present procedure is to hold off until it is spent down as much as possible.
- Next week Fire Chief will be in.

2/14/2013 Town Clerk, 2/28/2013 Historical Com. & Tourism

Members will receive updates.

Chairman will schedule CPC committee for mid March because of Special Town Meeting Article.

Fin Com will receive ratings on roads up for discussion. Dirt roads are not rated. Chairman advised committee to view the listed roads. North St. & Cooke St. are rated 0 out of 100. Chairman and Mr. Osuch discuss getting the Selectmen in during March to discuss their Articles and departments.

- Chairman discussed priorities. There are not funds for everything. Reducing everyone's budget by a percentage does not work. Town meeting has shown there are some things it wants.
Discussion of Rec Center. It will never be self- sustaining.
- 9:04 PM Kim's initial motion to adjourn is held off by a discussion between the Chairman and Mr. Osuch about the gallon figure for gasoline. Mr. Osuch argues for \$3.60/gal. Chairman states that is OK but he should be prepared to recalculate if matters demand as we get closer to TM.
- 9:09 PM Kim successfully motions to adjourn. Multiple seconds. Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado
Finance Committee Secretary

(approved 2/07/2013)