

# Town of Fairhaven

## Finance Committee

---

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

Members in attendance:

Chairman-John Roderiques, Robert A. Furtado, Scott Fernandes, Padraic Elliot, Kathi Carter,  
Therese Szala, Lisa Plante

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 the meeting by video or audio.

Motion made by Scott to accept the minutes from June 27, 2013. Seconded by Pat.

Vote: Unanimous

- Reserve Fund Transfer request for \$ 20,000 - \$ 22,000, from the Selectmen's office. Money would be transferred to a new category: Town Hall-Purchase of Services-School Property Maintenance. This category would be used for expenses at the former Rogers and Oxford school buildings.
  - Mr. Osuch explains that the buildings were turned over to the Board of Selectmen on October 3, 2013, and there is no money set aside for their heat, electric, etc.
  - Mr. Osuch presents the committee with estimates to dewater the buildings, and estimates for electricity, and alarm costs until the Annual Town Meeting.
  - Chairman recommends transferring enough to cover the cost of dewatering the buildings, approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000 for each building, plus 1/3 of the remaining amount requested. This would cover the additional expenses for 3 months. If a Special Town Meeting hasn't been called by then, the Finance Committee will be meeting regularly and the Selectmen can submit another transfer request.
  - Ultimately Town Meeting should decide how much money is put into the buildings.

- Scott motions to transfer \$ 12,600 to Town Hall-Purchase of Services-School Property Maintenance. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
- Chairman reviews a notice dated November 8, 2013 from the Board of Selectmen relative to Committee appointments.
  - Chairman reviews Committee members terms and their dates of expiration.
- Chairman received a notice from the Selectmen concerning the Procurement Policy.
- Chairman discusses the letter from the Finance Committee for Procedures for Preparation of Budget and Article Requests for FY2015.
  - The committee approves the letter with one spelling change.
- Mr. Osuch and the Chairman discuss the outlook for the upcoming budget.
  - With contractual obligations Mr. Osuch expects a \$ 400,000 shortfall.
  - State Aid number is always in question.
  - Chairman asks departments for 3 budgets. Level funded, and 1%, and 2% increases on the salary side.
  - With the economy the way it is, we can no longer expect that more money is coming in, in the future.
  - Operating budgets have been cut in past years. All that is left is the salary side.
  - The Selectmen need to agree on a maximum spending figure available and the committee will try to give the taxpayers the best "bang for the buck".
- Kathy questions whether we should have a meeting with the department heads like last year.
  - Chairman doesn't feel it is needed this year.
  - Chairman states that any major change in the budget process now may be changed again when the Government Study is completed.
  - Chairman states that the Town should be proud that it has gone through the great recession and still not touched it's Stabilization Fund.
- Mr. Osuch informs the committee that the long term borrowing for the new Wood School came in at \$ 9.2 million dollars at an average rate of 3.08%.
- Scott suggests a letter be sent to the Selectmen requesting their revenue figure as early as possible.

- Committee has brief discussion about Indirect Costs.
  - Chairman states that despite what some in the community have said, Indirect Costs are not a new revenue source.
  - Costs were calculated incorrectly for approximately 8 years.
- Terry asks what would trigger a Special Town Meeting during the winter.
  - Chairman states in could be required for union contracts.
- Chairman advises the committee to plan on starting to meet the second Thursday in January, and every Thursday after that.  
It may be necessary to double up on some weeks if a STM is called.
- Pat motions to adjourn @ 7:51 PM. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado  
Finance Committee Secretary

(accepted 1-9-2014)