

Town of Fairhaven

Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting for <January 9, 2014>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, John Mota

Town of Fairhaven:

Jeffery Osuch- Executive secretary

Meeting was covered by government access television. Member of the press was not 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 November 14, 2013. Seconded by Pat.
Vote: Unanimous

- The committee welcomes John Mota as a new committee member representing Precinct 5.
- Chairman presents a Reserve Fund Transfer from the Fire Chief in the amount of \$ 15,000. Money would be transferred to Medical Services acct. #01-220-00-5311-00.
 - Transfer is requested because the department has had an unusually high occurrence of on the job injuries, with long treatment plans.
 - Chairman states that the Fire Dept. and Police Dept. are not covered by Workmen's Comp. and the Town is responsible for their medical expenses.
 - The Chief has placed an Article on the February Special Town Meeting for the same amount.
 - The committee recommends letting STM appropriate the money.
 - Chairman states that there still is money left in the category.
 - Terry motions to deny the transfer of \$ 15,000 to Medical Services. Seconded by Scott. Vote: Unanimous.

- Chairman briefly reviews Finance Committee FY 14 budget and Reserve Fund balance.
- Chairman distributes a letter from the Selectmen stating the Special Town Meeting date and Town Meeting date and deadlines for Articles.
- Chairman presents a letter from the Mattapoisett Water District with their budget and expense breakdown.
- Brief discussion about committee member binder replacement and size required.
- Chairman presents paperwork from Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent, stating that he is running a deficit with the Snow & Ice budget and needs authorization to deficit spend.
 - Chairman states we will wait until next week's meeting to discuss this, as it also takes a vote from the Board of Selectmen to deficit spend.
 - There is an Article on the STM to cover this problem.
 - Mr. Osuch discusses raising the amount for Snow & Ice in the upcoming budget as the present amount is seldom adequate.
- Chairman distributes copies of the changes to the Clerical Collective Bargaining Agreement as well as the full Agreement.
 - Committee members are advised to read the agreement for discussion at the next meeting.
- Chairman starts discussion of STM Warrant.

7:25 PM. Chairman calls recess to allow members to read warrant. Back in session @ 7:29 PM.

- Warrant discussion resumes.
 - 1a) Selectmen seek \$ 2,481 for salary and wages.
One clerk has left the office and been replaced by a new person at a lower rate. This amount represents the amount needed to fulfill the former clerk's buyout which amounted to approximately \$ 11,000.
 - 2b) Fire Dept. seeks \$ 15,000 for Purchase of Services.
This Article would cover the medical expenses previously discussed. Committee needs to see a breakdown to know the amount coming from the Ambulance Fund.

- 3c)Highway Dept. seeks \$ 20,000 for Supplies
This would cover the previously discussed sand & salt issue.
Chairman states that TM can choose to deficit spend, but that amount would be added to next year's tax rate above the 2 1/2 % increase.
 - 4a)Board of Health seeks \$ 603.00 for salary and wages.
Chairman advises that the dept.'s 1% increase was left off last year's budget and the incorrect amount was voted on at the ATM.
 - 5a)Enforcement Agent seeks \$ 207.00 for salary and wages.
Same reason as 4a.
 - 6)Bristol County Agricultural seeks \$ 887.00
Increase is needed because 2 more students are attending than were budgeted for.
 - 7)Town Insurance seeks \$ 10,000.
Mr. Osuch states there is an overage because the Workmen's Comp Audit caused a \$ 40,000 increase as well as a lawsuit against the Town that is being defended by the insurance company. The insurance company is defending the lawsuit but the Town must pay up to the deductible.
- Article 2-Funding Labor Contracts-2014
 - 1)Clerical Union
There is a signed Clerical Union contract that the committee will discuss at next meeting.
 - 2)Police Dept.
Mr. Osuch advises that there is a possible agreement in the mail between parties.
Chairman advises there is a bylaw in regard to when the Finance Committee must receive contracts before a Town Meeting.
 - 3)Dispatcher Union
Mr. Osuch states that this contract is presently in mediation and is not expected in time for STM.
 - 4)Fire Department
Not settled.

- Article 3-Funding Non-Union Labor
 - Mr. Osuch states that this amount represents the 1/2% increase for the 2nd half of FY14 that the unions that have settled have received.

- Article 4-Bills of Prior Year
 - Seven medical bills from the Police & Fire Chiefs that were received after the ATM. Bills have to be paid and require a 9/10 vote at STM.

- Article 5-Rogers-Oxford Schools FY14
 - Selectmen seek \$ 5,000 for expenses incurred at the former Rogers & Oxford schools until the FY15 ATM.

- Article 6-Maclean's Seafood Building
 - Dept. of Planning and Economic Development seeks \$ 25,000 to cover expenses that would not be covered by a grant to remove the Maclean's Seafood Building from Union Wharf.
 - The Town would still be allowed to rebuild a building in that location at some point if it chose to.
 - Money would come from the Waterway's Account.

- Article 7-Union Wharf Bulkheads
 - Dept. of Planning and Economic Development seeks \$ 150,000 to cover a required 20 percent match for a grant to repair the bulkheads at Union Wharf.
 - Town is allowed to put some funds already spent for repairs and engineering towards this 20%.
 - If repairs are not made the wharf will eventually collapse into the harbor..
 - Pat questions future use: Wharf would still be used for boat dockage. There are no plans to replace the building at this time.

- Article 8-Amendment to Zoning Bylaws
 - Zoning bylaw changes regarding Medical Marijuana Facilities.
 - Finance Committee does not get involved with zoning issues.

- Article 9-Temporary Moratorium Medical Marijuana Treatment Center Moratorium
 - Finance Committee does not get involved with zoning issues.

- Article 10-Town Bylaw Amendment-Snow Ban Parking
 - Not a Finance Committee issue.

- Article 11-Rogers-Oxford School Properties
 - Rogers-Oxford Study Committee seeks \$ 15,000 for expenses related to the disposition of the former schools.
 - Chairman states a representative from the committee will need to come in the explain the request.

7:55 PM. Chairman calls recess. Back in session @ 7:58 PM.

- Chairman and Mr. Osuch continue brief discussion about Article 11. Mr. Osuch promises more information for the next meeting.
- Article 12-Port Security Grant Appropriation
 - Dept. of Natural Resources seeks \$ 1,122.73 to fund a 25% match for funds expended in 2012/2013 Port Security Grant for maintenance on the boats.
 - Chairman questions whether this is for funds actually expended 2 years ago.
 - Committee will need more information on this Article.
- Chairman and Mr. Osuch have discussion of who needs to come in to discuss Articles with the committee.
- John M. questions Article 1 section 7) Town Insurance.
 - Mr. Osuch explains insurance deductible.
 - Will have more information for next meeting.
- Chairman tells Mr. Osuch there may be questions about the Clerical Agreement at the next meeting.
 - Terry questions 2 positions in the contract leaving the union. Mr. Osuch states it was done at the request of the Police and Fire Chiefs.
 - Discussion of new inclement weather provisions.
- Discussion of Revenue numbers:
 - Selectmen set the maximum spending limit at \$ 45,000,000.
 - Chairman anticipates a \$ 400,000 shortfall.
 - Selectmen want to set aside \$ 300,000 for a Capital Improvement Fund.
 - Selectmen have called for a 2% cut in every department's budget.
 - Mr. Osuch has included \$ 200,000 in his budget for both the February STM as well as the STM within the ATM. He has also included the wage increases that the unions have settled on, as well as the approximate amount spent on Articles last year.
 - Schools still don't have a contract for FY14 yet.

- Last year the Town actually had a net decrease in State Aid.
- Terry questions Town employees taking Town cars home.
 - Discussion follows concerning the cost of Town vehicles verses paying employees mileage.
 - Kathy suggests studying the situation more when vehicle replacement becomes necessary.
- Terry questions salary caps.
 - Committee discusses that steps and levels in contracts do have caps now.

- Pat motions to adjourn @ 9:02 PM. Seconded by John M.. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado
Finance Committee Secretary

(accepted 1-16-2014)