

# Town of Fairhaven

## Finance Committee

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Minutes of the meeting for <January 16, 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 7:01 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 January 9, 2014. Seconded by Pat.

Vote: Unanimous

- Before the meeting officially started, Mr. Osuch passed out the submitted budget sheets, to committee members, from Town depts. for FY15.
  
- Chairman presents the committee with a printed copy of an email from Harbormaster David Darmofal in reference to Article 12 of the STM.
  - Mr. Osuch states that they may have found another funding source for the needed money.
  - Chairman states that the committee will need to know if Mr. Darofal plans on proceeding with the Article.
  
- Discussion begins on the STM warrant.
  - Article 1- Town Charges



Chairman states that he would recommend abstaining from this meeting, and if the Ethics Commission says he can vote on it, he could do so in the future.

7:29 PM. Pat leaves the meeting.

7:31 PM. Chairman calls recess. 7:35 PM back in session.

- Selectman Robert Espindola and Rogers-Oxford Study Committee member Gayla M.D. Reilly join the meeting to discuss Article 11
- Selectman Espindola distributes copies of emails concerning appraisals and advertising, and copies of questions from Chairman Roderiques with answers from the Study Committee.
- Chairman asks if the Board of Selectmen have voted to sell or lease the buildings. Selectman Espindola states they haven't but the committee is placing the Article on the Warrant now to meet the deadline.
- Discussion at length between Selectmen Espindola, Mr. Osuch, and the Chairman concerning the procurement laws and protocol for sale of property.
- Discussion about appraisals for both buildings.  
Chairman states that appraisals now would be useless unless it is known if there are going to be restrictions put on the use of the buildings.
- Chairman states that the money for the Oxford School title search should come from the legal budget.  
Selectman Espindola states that the ROS committee has voted to remove that money from the Article and lower the amount to \$ 12,000.
- Chairman asks how many members are on the ROS committee.  
Ms. Reilly states that unofficially there are 14 members. There is also a RFP subcommittee.
- Chairman states that it takes a Town Meeting vote to sell the property.
- Selectman Espindola references the RFP process used by Everett, MA in a similar situation.
- Chairman states that the biggest obstacle with the properties is that they are both zoned residential.
- Ms. Reilly states that the committee seeks public input.
- Kathy asks if the committee has considered demolition of the buildings.  
Ms. Reilly says they are still brainstorming but at least 1 member is opposed to demolition.
  - Scott motions to Recommend At Town Meeting. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous - with Pat abstaining.

8:30 PM Pat returns to the meeting

- Article 12-Port Security Grant Appropriation
  - Discussed earlier in meeting.
    - Scott motions to Recommend At Town Meeting. Seconded by Terry. Vote : Unanimous.
  
- Article 1-Town Charges
  - 2.b)Purchase of Services: Medical- seeks \$ 15,000 to cover worker's medical expenses for on the job injuries.
    - Chairman explains that police & fire are not covered by workmen's comp.
    - Mr. Osuch provides documentation for the expenses.
      - Scott motions for \$ 4,234 from the General Fund and \$ 10,766 from the Ambulance Fund. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
  
  - 3.c)Highway Department Sand & Salt
    - Previously discussed.
      - Scott motions to recommend Indefinite Postponement. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous.

8:40 PM. Chairman calls recess. Back in session @ 8:44 PM.

- 7. Town Insurance
  - Seeks \$ 10,000 to cover an overage caused by the Workmen's Comp. audit as well as an ongoing lawsuit against the Town in which the Town is responsible for up to \$ 25,000 for the insurance deductible.
    - Scott motions for \$ 10,000. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
  
- Chairman states that unless otherwise indicated all moneys are coming from Surplus Revenue.
  
  
- Article 4-Bills of Prior Year
  - Bills for FY 14 that came in after the close of the last fiscal year and Town Meeting.
  - Most are medical bills submitted by the Police & Fire Chiefs.
  - f.)Is for an insurance deductible for an at fault accident with a fire vehicle.
    - Scott motions for the following amounts:

- A. \$ 44.45
- B. \$ 100.00
- C. \$ 41.58
- D. \$ 65.91
- E. \$ 1,483.26
- F. \$ 551.03
- G. \$ 89.42
- H. \$ 26.84
- I. \$ 35.00

All amounts seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous.

- Article 5-Rogers-Oxford Schools FY14
  - Seeks \$ 5,000 for the balance of FY14 to cover alarm monitoring and electrical expenses on the 2 former school buildings.
  - Buildings were dewatered with the money from the previous Reserve Fund Transfer.
    - Scott motions for \$ 5,000. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous.
  
- Article 6- Maclean's Seafood Building
  - Seeks \$ 25,000 to cover expenses not covered by the grant to remove the former seafood building.
    - Scott motions for \$ 25,000 from The Waterways Account. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
  
- Article 7-Union Wharf Bulkheads
  - Seeks \$ 150,000 for the match to a grant to repair the bulkheads at Union Wharf.
    - Scott motions for \$ 150,000 from the Waterways Account. Seconded by Terry. Vote : Unanimous.
  
- Article 8-Amendment to Zoning Bylaws
  - Scott motions to Yield To Petitioner. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
  
- Article 9-Temporary Med. Marijuana Moratorium
  - Scott motions to Yield To Petitioner. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
  
- Article 10-Town Bylaw Amendment-Snow Ban Parking
  - Scott motions to Yield To Petitioner. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

- Chairman advises we will discuss Clerical contract next week.
  
- Discussion of Article 3-Funding Non-union Labor
  - This amount would fund a 1/2% increase in pay for the last half of FY14. Would be the same amount the unions that have settled have received.
  - There is no increase in benefits.
  - Terry states they already received a 1% increase on June 30,2013.
  - Pat states that the precedent was set when the BPW contracts were accepted.
  - Chairman states that all the contracts are going to receive something when they settle. Says nothing will change until "we hit the wall". We only have so much money to spend.
  
- Discussion of labor costs in general.
  - Chairman feels that the Town can sustain no higher than 2% overall.
  - John M. questions cutting benefits. Benefits are set with the contracts.
  
- Chairman advises committee to read contracts and submit any questions.
- Review material that was distributed tonight.
- Look over the fuel spreadsheet distributed by Mr. Osuch. He is holding \$ 3.60 as a figure per gallon.
  
  
- Terry motions to adjourn @ 9:35 PM. Seconded by John M.. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado  
Finance Committee Secretary

(accepted 1-23-2014)