

Town of Fairhaven

Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting for <January 23, 2014>at the BPW Administration Building, Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance:

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

Member arriving late:

Kathi Carter in @ 7:30 PM.

Town of Fairhaven:

Jeffery Osuch- Executive secretary

Police Chief Michael Myers

Selectman Robert Espindola

Meeting was covered by government access television. Member of the press was not present.

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 16, 2014. Seconded by Terry.

Vote: Unanimous

- Mr. Osuch passes out updated FY15 spreadsheet, updated warrant for the Feb. STM, budget sheets from the Millicent Library, Governor's Cherry Sheet, and draft of Articles for the May ATM.
- Chairman presents the committee with a bill from WB Mason in the amount of \$ 185.01 for paper and binders for the committee.
 - Motion by John M. to pay the bill. Seconded by Scott. Vote: Unanimous
- Chairman and Mr. Osuch discuss the Governor's Budget and the Cherry Sheet with the committee.

- The net effect is \$ 51,000 less for the town than FY14.
 - Because Mr. Osuch had budgeted \$ 100,000 of additional aid, the result is an additional shortfall of \$ 151,000 for FY15.
- Police Chief Michael Myers and Selectman Robert Espindola join meeting to discuss the Police Contract with the committee.
 - Selectman Espindola states that the 3 Selectmen all endorse the contract.
 - Chief Myers presents the committee with a list of surrounding communities that offer educational incentives.
 - Chief Myers states that every time an officer is trained and starts working for the town, when that officer leaves for another job it costs the town approximately \$ 80,000. This is for the training, uniforms, and salary while they are training.
 - The Chief states that 5 officers have gone to other towns.
 - Discussion of funding the increase in future budgets.
Chief states he will do his best to try to make up for it in the rest of the budget.
 - Scott questions procedure: Do we have to fund the entire amount?
Chairman states if you fund the increase this year, you are approving the contract.
Mr. Ouch states the increase will be \$ 56,260 for FY14, \$ 120,000 for FY15, and \$ 170,000 for FY16.
 - Discussion of the unfairness of the State repealing the Quinn bill.
 - Chief discusses the problem the dept. is having retaining officers.
Approximately 1 out of 3 or 4 leaves within 2 years.
 - Chairman states that the committee will not cannibalize other dept. budgets to fund the increase.
Other unions will want more just because the police are getting this.
 - Discussion of the required qualifications to be hired as a police officer.
 - John M. asks if recruits could be required to sign an agreement to stay with the Town for a period of time after being hired.
Chief Myers states that it is illegal and they can only require the officer to repay the training academy cost of \$ 3,000.
 - Discussion of what college degrees qualify for the incentive.
Chief states they must be law enforcement related.
Selectmen Espindola states that the contract gives final judgement on that issue to the Board of Selectmen.

7:30 PM. Kathi Carter joins the meeting

- Chief Myers states that nine officers hired after 2009 and having degrees, are not receiving any incentive.
- Pat asks if the communities with incentives are paying to officers hired after 2009. The Chief says yes.
Pat states he would have liked to have seen the incentives ramped down and not up as time went on.
- Chief discusses the hiring process and the Civil Service requirements.
- Terry questions the personal days and differential in the contract.
The Chief states that is a carryover from the previous contract.
- Chairman discusses arbitration if the contract is not approved.
- Kathi asks the Chief if he thinks eventually a 4 year degree will be required to be an officer.
That would have to be decided by the legislature.
- Bob asks if the Chief can decide what minimum staffing will be or is it controlled by the union.
The Chief states that it is his decision.
- Scott asks if the Chief had to make up the increase for FY14 in his budget, how many officers would be cut.
It would cost 2 to 3 positions.
- Lisa asks if the Chief had to choose between losing officers and have the incentives, would he still want the incentives.
The Chief states that while not wanting to lose officers, he believes the education incentives are needed.
- John M. asks if any officers have announced their intention to retire.
The Chief states that 1 officer has and 2 are eligible to retire.

Having answered the committee's questions Chief Myers and Selectman Espindola leave the meeting at 7:55 PM.

- Kathi asks the Chairman for clarification of the policy of announcing retirement.
Chairman states that it was originally stated for police and fire employees because it takes time to hire and train a replacement.
Other unions starting asking for it because police and fire had it.
- John M. asks who pays for arbitration if it is needed.
Mr. Osuch states that the costs are shared equally between the Town and the Union.

- Terry motions for \$ 56,260 for Article 2-Funding Labor Contracts 2014 2. Police Department. Seconded by Lisa
- Scott motions for 46,260. The motion fails to obtain a second.
- Vote on Terry's motion of \$ 56,260: Passes 7 to 1 with Scott opposed.

- Discussion of Clerical Union Contract
 - Pat questions the increase in longevity payments.
Mr. Osuch states it is typical of all contracts.
Discussion about longevity and sick days in contracts in general.
 - Scott motions for \$ 2,800 of which \$ 2,464 comes from the General Fund, \$ 155 from the Water Enterprise Acct. and \$ 181 from the Sewer Enterprise Acct. for Article 2 Section 1. Clerical Union FY14. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

- Article 3 -Funding Non-Union Labor
 - Same amount that unions that have settled have received. 1/2% for the last half of FY14.
 - It would pertain to non union workers, call fire fighters, part time workers at the Rec Center, and some contracted employees.
 - Chairman states his displeasure with contracted works getting a raise after signing a contract.
 - Scott motions for \$ 4,600 of which \$ 4,007 comes from the General Fund, \$ 208 from the Water Enterprise Acct., and \$ 385 from the Sewer Enterprise Acct.
Seconded by John M. Vote: Unanimous

- Terry questions Article 6-Maclean's Seafood Building, voted last week.
 - Terry asks if the \$ 25,000 is going to pay a 3rd party for the building.
 - Chairman answers no. The money is being used for items not covered by the grant, such as removing the underground fuel tank.

- Article 11-Rogers-Oxford School Properties
 - Chairman states the Rogers Oxford Committee is trying to do the right thing with the buildings, but it is still too early.
 - Chairman states he would support the appraisal for the Rogers School only, at this time.

- The committee has completed voting for the February STM.

8:36 PM. Chairman calls a recess. Back in session @ 8:45 PM.

- Committee briefly discusses the draft of the Articles for the Annual Town Meeting in May.
- Discussion of Mr. Osuch's spreadsheet for gasoline.
 - The Town pays approximately \$.20 less than the general public.
 - Scott motions for \$ 3.60/ gallon. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

Discussion and voting of FY 15 budgets:

- #4 Audit Expenses:
 - Mr. Osuch states the audit contract is for \$ 35,000. He has added \$ 1,000 buffer for additional services that are required.
 - Scott motions for \$ 36,000. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
- #5 Data Processing
 - Chairman and Scott question increase in Purchase of Services. Treasurer will have to come to discuss.
- #7 Tax Title
 - Scott motions for \$ 29,400. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
- #15 Finance Committee
 - Reduced the budget in Purchase of Services and Supplies from last year.
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:

a. Salary & Wages	\$ 1
b. Purchase of Services	\$ 170
c. Supplies	\$ 2,670
d. Other Charges/Expenses	\$ 275
e. Capital Outlay	\$ 0
 - All amounts seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous.

- John M. questions lack of breakdown in the library budget.
 - Chairman explains the history of the library.
 - Town is responsible for funding the library, insuring the building, maintaining the exterior and boiler.
 - Terry questions if the salaries are public record.
- Lisa questions the lack of categories in the school budget.
 - Breakdown is not required.
 - The Town cannot adjust individual categories, other than transportation. If the Town does touch that category, then they are responsible for it.
 - School budgeting requirements changed when Prop 2 1/2 went into effect.

- #45 Millicent Library
 - Scott motions for \$ 595,519. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

- #48 Contributory Retirement
 - Scott motions for \$ 2,533,204. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

- #44 Bristol County Agri. HS.
 - John M. motions for \$ 20,604. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

- #53 Reserve Fund
 - Scott motions for the following amount:
 - a. General Fund \$ 175,000
 - b. Water Enterprise \$ 25,000
 - c> Sewer Enterprise \$ 25,000
 All amounts seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

- #54 Town Insurance
 - Scott motions for \$838,000. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

- #55 Town Report
 - Scott motions for \$ 3,200. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

- #61 General Fund Debt
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:
 - a. Debt \$ 2,357,715
 - b. Interest on Debt \$ 646,749
 - c. Interest on Temp Loans\$ 60,000
 All amounts seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

- #62 Water Fund Debt
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:
 - a. Debt \$ 16,000
 - b. Interest on Debt \$ 3,765
 - c. Interest on Temp Loans\$ 0
 All amounts seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

- # 63 Sewer Fund Debt
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:
 - a. Debt \$ 493,048
 - b. Interest on Debt \$ 213,588
 - c. Interest on Temp Loans \$ 0
 All amounts seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

- #14 Town Meeting
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:
 - a. Salary & Wages \$ 1,067
 - b. Purchase of Services \$ 3,000
 - c. Supplies \$ 1,400
 - d. Other Charges/Expenses \$ 0
 - e. Capital Outlay \$ 0
 All amounts seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

- Chairman will let the committee know if anyone is coming in next week.

- Terry motions to adjourn @ 9:27 PM. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado
 Finance Committee Secretary

(accepted 1-30-2014)