

# Town of Fairhaven

## Finance Committee

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Minutes of the meeting for <February 6, 2014>at the BPW Administration Building, Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance:

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

Member arriving late:

Scott Fernandes- in @8:10 PM.

Town of Fairhaven:

David Despres- Chairman of Fairhaven Historical Commission

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 Pat to accept the minutes from January 30, 2014. Seconded by John M.

Vote: Unanimous

- The Chairman passed out updated draft of the May Town Meeting warrant and the ledger history for the Historical Commission for FY14.

7:05 PM. Meeting with David Despres to consider the Articles for the Historical Commission.

- The Commission seeks \$ 5,500 for the Academy Building. This is \$ 500 more than last year.
  - Mr. Despres explains there was an expensive repair to the alarm system, this year, totaling \$ 1,000.  
Additional, \$ 648.95 was spent on plumbing materials for the installation of a new bathroom sink.  
He states that these are not recurring expenses.
  - Chairman states that the sink installation was not a necessity.

- John M. questions why their budget is done through an Article.  
Chairman explains it has always been done this way and he has suggested many times that it should be done in Article 4.
  - Terry asks where donations to the Academy Building go.  
Mr. Despres explains that the money left in the donation box in the Academy Building goes to the Historical Society.
  - Pat questions the large All Security expense.  
Mr. Despres explains there was a major equipment failure in the alarm system that had to be replaced.
  - Terry questions the landscaping expense of \$ 280.  
Mr. Despres explains that some landscaping is done by volunteers, the grass is mowed by the School Dept., but this was for topping of arborvitae hedges near the parking lot, and mulching & general clean-up of the landscaping.
  - Lisa asks if they are asking for extra money for a specific repair.  
Mr. Despres states that this is just a cushion because of the age of the building.  
Mr. Despres asks the Chairman what would happen if there was a needed, unforeseen repair at the building.  
The chairman states that this is why they should be in Article 4, but in the past if it was truly an unforeseen emergency, it could come from the Reserve Fund.
  - Terry asks about the payment to Donald Wunschel.  
Mr. Despres explains this was to repair a section of the South roof shingles that blew off.
  
- Commission seeks \$ 1,500 for Fort Phoenix. This is \$ 500 more than last year.
  - Mr. Despres explains there were extra expenses for light and flag pole repairs this year. He states there are 2 lights at the Fort that the Commission is responsible for.
  - Chairman asks about changing them to LED type.  
Mr. Despres states he is checking into this. There may be a chance to have them changed, and split the cost with Nstar.
  - A payment to Clearwater Pools & Spas is questioned.  
Mr. Despres explains that this was for chemicals to restore a salvaged canon.
  - Terry questions a payment to Rexel. And also for landscaping.  
Mr. Despres explains that this was for lighting parts. He states that the BPW supplies their electrician, but the Commission must pay for the parts.  
He also states that the landscaping is usually done by volunteers, but this was for heavy brush removal and poison ivy removal.
  - Terry asks how much is in the gift account.  
Mr. Despres states the balance is \$ 484.

- The Commission seeks \$ 1,000 for the Fire Museum.
  - Pat questions large bill from All Security.  
Mr. Despres explains that this alarm system also had a failure of major components.
  - Discussion among committee that this is more of a garage for old fire trucks than a museum.
  - Mr. Despres explains a brief history of the 2 buildings.  
The Spring ST. building was built in 1839 and was originally at the site of the Post Office.  
The Washington ST. building was built in 1840 and was originally taking over by the Fairhaven Protection Society, which was a group of volunteers who used to help save the contents of buildings on fire. It was the original Town Jail.
  
- The Commission seeks \$ 500 for the Old Stone Schoolhouse. This is the same amount as last year.
  - The money is used to clean and treat the wood gutters each year and repairs to the fence.
  
- The Commission seeks \$ 8,000 to replace the South side of the roof and associated flashing work, on the Academy Building.
  - Discussion of the merits of doing just 1 side of the roof.
  - Discussion of Prevailing Wage laws and Procurement Laws.
  - Terry questions if this price would still be correct if these laws took effect.  
Mr. Despres says no.
  - Mr. Despres will discuss the matter with Mr. Osuch, the Town Procurement Officer.

7:45 PM Chairman calls a recess and Mr. Despres leaves the meeting. Back in session @ 7:54 PM.

- Chairman lays out upcoming appointments.
  - February 13 Rec Center
  - February 27 Director of Finance: to cover Treasurer, Audit, Data Processing, Collector, Personnel Board, Assessor, Accountant, General Fund Debt., and Tax Title.
  - March 20 School Dept.
  
- Discussion and voting on the Annual TM Warrant:
  - Article 1- Measurer of Wood & Bark
    - Terry motions Recommend Adoption. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

- Article 2- Town Report
  - Terry motions Recommend Adoption. Seconded by John M. Vote: Unanimous
  
- Article 3- Setting Salaries of Town Officers
 

No votes taken. Chairman will talk with Tree Warden about his salary figure.
  
- Article- Town Hall Repairs
  - John M. questions if there is any Capital Improvement Plan.
 

Chairman explains it has been tried in the past with no result. The Town Government Study Committee has an Article concerning this.
  
- Article- Road Work
  - Terry asks if a total amount has been chosen yet.
 

Chairman states that there is preliminary talk of \$ 300,000.
  - Pat asks what happened to the roads left on the list from last year.
 

Chairman states that the BPW is doing Dogwood St. with Chapter 90 money.

Scott joins the meeting @ 8:10 PM.

- Article- OPEB- GASB45
  - Requested amount is up \$ 50,000 from last year.
  
- Various Articles for recurring yearly revolving accounts
  
- Article- Worker's Compensation Assessment
  - 3rd year of a audit from self insured collaborative.
    - Terry motions for \$ 19,593.37. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
  
- Article- Hoppy's Landing Revolving Account
  - John M. asks if the committee gets a breakdown on how the money is spent.
 

Chairman states that the money can only be spent at Hoppy's Landing.

    - Terry motions Recommend Adoption. Seconded by Scott. Vote: Unanimous
  
- Article- Social Day Care Center
  - Terry motions Recommend Adoption. Seconded by Kathy. Vote: Unanimous
  
- Article- Sustainability Revolving Account
  - Terry motions Recommend Adoption. Seconded by Scott. Vote: Unanimous

- Article- Propagation of Shellfish
  - Terry motions for \$ 17,500. Seconded by Scott. Vote Unanimous
  
- Article- Historical Commission
  - Chairman will hold off until we have more information.
  - Bob questions why the Commission can carry over their unexpended money at the end of the fiscal year.  
Chairman explains because their budget is done by an Article, they can carry over for 2 years.
  
- Numerous Articles from the TGSC.
  - Committee will need information on each Article.
  
- Article- Waste Water Treatment Contract Amendment
  - Chairman states that Mattapoissett owns 10% of the Fairhaven WW Treatment Plant and would like to increase the amount of sewerage they are sending to the plant.
  
- Several Articles from the Fire Dept.
  - Committee will need additional information.
  
- Article- Street Lights
  - To install 1 street light on Upton Street.
  - Chairman advises committee members to drive by the pole.
  
- Article- Wind Turbine Electricity Purchase FY15
  - This would be a mechanism to take in money from NStar and pay the WT developer.
  - Language of Article may need some work.
  
- Several Sewer Dept. Articles
  - Money would come from Sewer Enterprise Acct.
  - Terry questions the amount of improvements in the system.
  - Chairman explains that many improvements are being done in several stages.
  
- Tinkham Lane Well
  - Chairman advises that this may come off the Warrant and may be done with a Water Reserve Fund Transfer.
  - Substantial failure of a part in the well, that has the well off line now.

- Discussion of blanks in the Article 4 spreadsheet.
  
- Terry motions to adjourn @ 8:50 PM. Seconded by John M. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado  
Finance Committee Secretary  
(accepted 2-13-2014)