## Town of Fairhaven

### **Finance Committee**

# Minutes of the meeting for **<February 20, 2014>**at the BPW Administration Building, Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

#### Members in attendance:

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

Member absent: Padraic Elliot

<u>Town of Fairhaven:</u> Jeffery Osuch- Executive secretary-- Arrived @ 7:55 PM.

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

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 February 13, 2014. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

- Chairman lays out future appointments: March 6th Police March 13th BPW March 20th School Dept.
- Chairman presents a request from Vincent Furtado- BPW Superintendent, requesting authorization to deficit spend for Snow & Ice materials in the amount of \$ 10,000.
  - Terry questions the need for \$ 10,000.
    Chairman explains that the BPW needs to order more material, in case of additional storms. They can only spend the money for Snow & Ice materials.
    - Scott motions to authorize deficit spending for Snow & Ice materials up to \$ 10,000. Seconded by John M. Vote: Unanimous

- Discussion of budget:
  - Chairman states that as of Tuesday the numbers are in flux again.
  - Selectmen are proposing using \$44,602,158 as the revenue figure. Using this figure amounts to about a \$714,000 shortfall.
  - Revenue number has dropped by approximately \$ 400,000.
  - This still includes the idea of establishing a \$ 300,000 Capitol Planning Fund.
- Discussion of Articles:
  - Town Government Study Committee sponsored Articles: Committee won't be in until mid March. Considerable part of one of our meetings will be dedicated to their Articles. May have to be Recommend At Town Meeting.
  - Article 18- Road work

Terry asks if we can know how much Chapter 90 money is spent on roads for the year. Chairman states that Chapter 90 money will be used for Dogwood Street, as well as painting "fog lines" on Sconticut Neck Road. A portion will also be used for overages on the Howland Road project.

Terry would like to know the overall figure that the Town spends on roads for the year.

Article 21- Street lights

Since last meeting, Terry, Bob, John M., & Lisa have viewed described pole and confirm that it is the first pole on Upton Street.

There is a light on the corner pole on Sconticut Neck Road. Using the Town's "every other pole" standard the light should be moved down Upton Street 1 pole.

#### Article 22- Fire Department Copy Machine

Chairman states that he spoke with the Fire Chief and the present machine is 15 years old and they can no longer get parts for it.

Article 30- Historical Commission

#### #30A

Scott motions for \$ 500. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous #30B

Request is for \$ 5,500.

Scott motions for \$ 5,000. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous #30C

Scott motions for \$ 1,000. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

#30E

Scott motions for \$ 500. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

7:40 PM. Chairman calls a recess. Back in session @ 7:55 PM. and Mr. Osuch joins the meeting.

- Mr. Osuch states that the BPW will be submitting a Reserve Fund Transfer for the repairs at the Tinkham Lane Well.
   The well is off line and cannot wait until Town Meeting.
   When the transfer is authorized, Article 34 will be withdrawn from the warrant.
- Mr. Osuch distributes updated Article 4 spreadsheets, Revenue Projection spreadsheet, and Expenditure Projection spreadsheet.
  - Mr. Osuch explains that the numbers in the Requested FY15 column on Article 4 spreadsheet, also labeled (Jeff's), are the worst case totals from dept. budgets.
- Chairman states that information will be forthcoming for Mr. Roth concerning the CPC Article.
- Mr. Osuch gives the committee an explaination of his Revenue & Expenditure Projection spreadsheets.
  - Rubbish projection is the same number as last year because the BPW is talking about moving to a "cart system" of collection that could lower costs.
  - Wages are best guess at this point with no contract for the Fire Dept. or Dispatchers.
  - Total for Articles includes \$ 300,000 for Road Work.
  - If large capital projects in the Articles are funded, the \$ 300,000 set aside for the Capital Planning Fund would not be needed.
- Discussion at length between the Chairman and Mr. Osuch concerning Mr. Osuch's revenue projections, and the rationale behind using the figure of 90% of this year's projected revenue after 6 months.
- Discussion of where the wind turbine receipts would go. The lease money goes directly to the General Fund.
- Discussion at length with Mr. Osuch about the Ambulance Fund.
  - Chairman states that the DOR has a template for valuing a service.
  - Mr. Osuch states the Ambulance Fund includes \$ 50,000 put aside each year to fund a new ambulance.
  - Chairman questions the Fire Chief listing only 4 full time personnel for the ambulance.

- Chairman states he has no intention of using the Ambulance Fund to fund other depts., but the Fund should cover all ambulance costs.
- Article 4- #52a. Capital Planning
  - Scott motions to recommend \$ 0. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
  - Mr. Osuch states that the town does need a long term Capital Planning plan.
  - Chairman states his apprehension with it being listed within Article 4.
- Discussion again concerning the Upton Street street light.
  - Mr. Osuch states that installing a new light costs approximately \$ 700.
  - Committee members will try to view the area again, when it is dark.
- Discussion again about the Ambulance Fund and when the town originally started billing.
- Discussion of the Ladder Truck Grant and use of the Stabilization Fund.
- Discussion of Road Work.
  - Mr. Osuch states that the BPW is not following the Road Condition Plan rating system that was created years ago.

Terry motions to adjourn @ 9:33 PM. Seconded by John M. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado Finance Committee Secretary

(accepted 2-27-2014)