

Town of Fairhaven

Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting for <March 13, 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

Members absent:

John Mota

Padraic Elliot: absent from 7:45 PM. to 8:40 PM.

Town of Fairhaven:

Jeffery Osuch- Executive secretary

Vincent Furtado- BPW Superintendent

Kathy Tripp- Administrative Assistant

Robert D. Hobson- Vice Chairman BPW

Michael Ristuccia- BPW

John M. Charbonneau- Highway Superintendent

Linda L. Shick- Sewer/Wastewater Superintendent

Edward L. Fortin- Water Superintendent

Meeting was covered by government access television. Member of the press was 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 March 6, 2014. Seconded by Terry.

Vote: Unanimous

- Mr. Osuch passes out updated FY15 spreadsheet, updated spreadsheet for the ATM Articles, and an updated budget for the Fire Department.

- Chairman passes out a Reserve Fund Transfer request for \$ 10,000 from Fire Chief Timothy Francis, along with the Chairman's email response.
 - Chairman states the transfer cannot be made in the manner the Chief requests. He will discuss it more next week, and when the Chief comes in to present his budget.

- Chairman passes out the year to date ledgers for the BPW departments.

- Mr. Charbonneau presents the Park Dept. budget:
 - Salary category is up \$ 1,337 for the 1% increase plus longevity.
 - Other than Gasoline and Salary, everything is level funded.
 - Mr. Charbonneau states that the -2% budget would cut the summer help by 8 weeks. -1% Budget would cut the summer help by 5 weeks.
 - Mr. Charbonneau states that his ideal salary number for the dept. is \$ 88,700.
 - Pat asks if this is level service. Mr. Charbonneau states yes.

- Mr. Charbonneau presents the Highway Dept. budget:
 - Salary is up \$ 23,861 for contractual obligations. 9 Employees with Steps.
 - Snow & Ice is increased.
 - Equipment purchase: in order of priority
 - New Drain Jet Rodder to replace the existing 1987 unit that has a broken water pump.

Mr. Charbonneau explains the town has approximately 10 miles of drainage lines and gives several examples of lines that can't be cleaned now because the other Jet Rodder used by the Sewer Dept. isn't powerful enough.

Mr. Charbonneau gives several examples of flooding situations that have developed during bad storms. During these situations, the Sewer Dept. Jet Rodder is usually in use at the same time.
 - Utility Trailer to replace the present 1987 trailer that is rusted out and presently off the road.

Trailer would be used for transporting the 5 ton roller, and the skid steer.
 - 3/4 ton Truck with utility body to replace the existing 1994 model that has a bad transmission and needs a valve job.
 - Rubbish category is still up in the air until the contract is renewed.
 - Sub Division Mgt. Fees are the same.

These are paid by the developers for 20 years, to service the drainage, etc.
 - Scott states that, based on the 3 year average, they have turned back approximately 1/2% of their Purchase of Services.

- Mr. Charbonneau states that they can never predict the exact number.
 - Ms. Tripp states that they are presently at 68 % of appropriation.
 - Lisa questions the amount of Chapter 90 money for FY15.
 - Mr. Charbonneau states that the -2% budget would require elimination of leaf collection in the rubbish contract, elimination of the truck in Capital Outlay, and reduce the street resurfacing by \$ 4,800.
 - Mr. Charbonneau states that his ideal salary figure is \$ 917,645.
 - Chairman states that the Selectmen have voted to reduce the Highway Salary by \$ 10,000.
 - Mr. Furtado states that the BPW hasn't voted on what cuts they would make until they find out what budget they will get.
 - Chairman asks when they will know the number for the Rubbish Contract.
 - Mr. Furtado states that the BPW is meeting with the current contractor.
 - They should know in a couple of weeks.
 - Best guess now, contract would increase by approx. \$ 20,000 is they move to the cart program.
 - Terry asks if any of the equipment can be purchased with Chapter 90 money.
 - Chapter 90 money can only be used for equipment directly related to road construction.
 - Terry asks if the Dept. has any other trailers.
 - Mr. Charbonneau states they have a 25 ton trailer used for heavy equipment, but it is overkill for the smaller equipment.
 - The present utility trailer was taken off the road last year.
- Article 18- Road Work:
 - The BPW has chosen Bridge Street, Summit Drive, and Point Street in that order. They total \$ 299,356.
 - Bridge Street has numerous utility patches and drainage issues and would be hard surface reconstructed .
 - Summit Drive and Point Street would be triple stone seal.
 - Terry asks what the total spent on roads would be, including the Chapter 90 money.
 - Mr. Furtado states that this year they are doing Green Street from Washington Street to Old Fort Road, contributing \$ 350,000 towards the CDGB work on Francis Street, redoing the parking area at the Seaview Avenue boat ramp, and there is a payment plan for the overages on the Howland Road project.
 - They do not know the amount of Chapter 90 money from the state yet.
 - Lisa asks about Chapter 90 money being used for the Bikeway Committee.

- Chairman states that we only authorize the use of the funds. We can't tell them where it goes.
 - Mr. Furtado states that the Bikeway Committee has asked them to paint "Fog lines" on Sconticut Neck Road. It would cost approximately \$ 14,000.
 - MASS DOT must approve it before the funds can be expended.
 - Terry asks about triple stone seal.
 - Mr. Charbonneau states that it is less expensive than traditional hard surface but should only be used on low traffic roads.
 - Last year's higher price estimate for Summit Road was for full reconstruction.
 - Scott asks how the triple stone seal that has been done in the past is holding up.
 - Mr. Charbonneau states that three roads have been done so far.
 - Potter Street is OK.
 - They are having some issues with Wayne Street.
 - Mr. Hobson states that triple stone seal is better than a dirt road, is 1/3 the cost, and allows them to do more dirt roads to offer relief to people who live on them.
- Article 32-Public Works Door Replacement:
 - Mr. Charbonneau states that all the door frames are rotting. Some have large transoms over them that could create a safety hazard if they failed.
 - Terry asks if they received bids.
 - Mr. Charbonneau states that he obtained 3 bids and used the lowest one. The price was not broken down by individual door.
 - Mr. Ristuccia states, as an example, that the side door that the finance committee enters through is in better condition than the others.
 - BPW Administration budget
 - Everything is level funded except Salary.

7:45 PM. Pdraic Elliot leaves the meeting

- Mr. Fortin present the Water Department budget
 - Salary is up because of the 1% increase plus longevity.
 - Equipment Maintenance is up \$ 400, that was a transfer from the misc. category for inspection stickers.
 - Well cleaning and Maintenance is up. \$ 6,000 was transferred from Water Purchase line.
 - Postage is decreased by \$ 500 and that amount was moved to advertising.
 - Power is up \$ 5,000. That is the actual cost, they have always run short.

- Capital Outlay consists of \$ 21,000 for a replacement van. The present model has significant body rot.
- Water District is the actual line item they are given.
- Scott asks about the postage expenses.
 - Mr. Fortin states that \$ 11,600 is used for water and sewer bills. The balance is used for misc. bills, certified letters, etc. that the dept. is responsible for.
 - Chairman states the numbers are in line with past years.
- Terry questions the use of the new van. Asks if a 6 cylinder engine would be more practical.
 - Mr. Fortin states that the van is used for reading meters and transporting equipment that can't be carried in a open truck.
 - He states that a 6 cylinder engine would not hold up in the long term.
- Terry asks about the charges from MRV Water District. Asks about the cost breakdown with Mattapoisett and Marion. Questions the overtime.
 - Mr. Osuch states that originally Fairhaven's share of the plant was 55%. The last time the usage was analyzed Fairhaven's share was actually 58%. That amount percentage will remain until it is reanalyzed in 5 years.
 - Mr. Osuch states that the operational expenses are billed at their cost. The plant operators are Mattapoisett employees.
 - Mr. Furtado states that the extra overtime this year is due in part because of the Bostin Hill water tower being off line for painting.
- Brief discussion of Tikham Lane well.
- Chairman questions use of water reserves or raising water rates.
 - Mr. Osuch states that the present budget would cause a \$ 300,000 shortfall.
 - Mr. Furtado states that he doesn't agree with the numbers.
 - Chairman states the committee will need to know before we can make a decision.
- Ms. Schick presents the Sewer Department budget:
 - Salary line is up \$ 22,000 because of contractual increases and steps.
 - The overall operational budget is down 5% because they are able to "dial in" the digester now.
 - Heatlight & power were cut back last year, but they need that amount back now. They are currently at 106% of appropriation in that line.
 - Power was reduced \$ 42,000 for the solar power from the highway dept.
 - Chemicals are down.
 - Capital Outlay totals \$ 111,500.
 - Ms. Schick states that treatment plant equipment generally has a 25 year life expectancy, and the plant is 27 years old.

1. Is for a motorized valve in the center of 1 of the tanks. The motor is not functioning now and it takes three men to operate it manually because of its location.
\$ 16,500
 2. Is for replacing the sleeves on 288 UV bulbs as part of regular maintenance.
\$ 22,000
 3. Is for replacement of a pump that is used in dewatering the sludge. The present pumps have been cannibalized for parts and can no longer be repaired.
\$ 10,000
 4. Is for probe replacement in the aeration tank.
Ms. Schick states that the tank was upgraded with a past project, but it was cheaper to have the town electrician do this part of the work.
\$ 9,000
 5. Is to replace a 1 ton utility body truck that is used to tow the sewer rooter.
The present truck has 140,000 miles on it and cannot be used to plow anymore.
\$ 54,000
 - Chairman asks how they will make up the deficit of \$ 93,000, through reserves or by a rate increase.
 - Mr. Furtado states, as with water, they have to reconcile the numbers.
- Article 12- Wastewater Treatment Contract Amendment:
 - This would allow the Town of Mattapoissett to use 18% of the treatment plant capacity as opposed to the 10% they have now.
 - Ms. Schick states that the contract is currently in the hands of the Mattapoissett town counsel.
 - Article 16- Sewer System Collection Rehab I & I:
 - Ms. Schick states that this is the next step in the ongoing process.
 - The camera has been purchased and Ms. Schick is now certified to inspect the pipes.
 - Chairman is assured that last year's money will be spent by the end of this year.
 - Mr. Furtado states that this process will increase the use of the jet rodder.
 - Article 19- Sewer Collection Pump Station Rehab-South St. & Taber St.:
 - Final phase of this project.
 - This part would replace all the pumps.
 - These stations run 24/7.
 - Mr. Furtado tells the Chairman he will send him an email with the board's decision on the shortfall in the budgets.

- Chairman advises that Road Work will probably be \$ 300,000 this year, but if Billy's Way passes Town Meeting first, Summit Street will have to be dropped.
- Chairman also advises the BPW that the TGSC is scheduled for April 3rd. One of their Articles involves the Board of Public Works.

8:32 PM. Chairman calls a recess. BPW staff leaves the meeting.

8:40 PM. Back in session. Pat rejoins the meeting. Lisa's cookies are distributed.

- Next week School Dept. and CPC will be in.
March 27th Fire & Natural Resources
- Article 18 Road Work:
 - #18a. Billy's Way
 - Scott motions to Recommend Indefinite Postponement. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
 - #18b. Bridge Street
 - Chairman states that this is not the lowest rated street on the schedule, but it gives the BPW the most "bang for the buck".
 - Terry motions for \$ 217,083. Seconded by Scott. Vote: Unanimous
 - #18c. Summit Drive
 - Scott expresses concern for triple stone seal after hearing about issues on Wayne St.
 - Chairman states he wouldn't recommend spending for hard surface on these lesser used roads.
 - Lisa asks if Conservation Commission has issue with triple stone seal, what would happen.
 - Chairman states the money couldn't be used for anything else. The money would return to the general fund after two years.
 - Terry motions for \$ 49,590. Seconded by Lisa
 - Scott motions for Indefinite Postponement. Motions fails to obtain a second.
 - Vote on Terry's motion: Motion passes 6 to 1 with Scott opposed.
 - #18d. Point Street
 - Terry motions for \$ 32, 683. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Motion passes 6 to 1 with Scott opposed.
- Article 21- Street lights:
 - Terry canvassed the neighborhood and spoke to all the neighbors.
 - The neighbors would be fine with moving it to the next pole down.
 - Chairman doesn't know if the Article can be amended at this point.

- Scott motions to Recommend at Town Meeting. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
 - Scott motions for \$ 750 if the pole number can be amended on Town Meeting floor. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
- Mr. Osuch asks the Chairman, if the Selectmen place it on the STM within the Annual, with the proper pole number, would the committee recommend it.
 - Chairman states yes, although he doesn't like to see the Special used that way.
- Article 20- State Aid to Highways
 - 20a. Acceptance of the Funds
 - Scott motions for Adoption. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
 - 20b. Expending the Funds
 - Scott motions to "Recommend the figure given by the State". Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 19- Sewer Collection Pump Station South St. & Taber St.
 - Scott motions for \$ 575,000. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 16- Sewer System Collection Rehab I & I
 - Scott motions for \$ 425,000. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 14- Handicap Parking Violations- COD-Statute
 - Chairman states that nobody has an exact number of handicap tickets issued. The number seems to be between 12 and 24 tickets each year, with 18 probably being a good number.
 - Chairman states the accounting could be very cumbersome for the sake of \$ 1,800.
 - Terry asks if the Commission on Disabilities has a plan for the money.
 - Chairman states the money could only be used for persons with disabilities. States he would be in favor of setting the amount aside from the General Fund if it was possible.
 - Also important to remember that this is still taking money from the General Fund that is now going towards something else.
- Article 10- Hazardous Material Revolving Account
 - Scott motions to Recommend Adoption. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 3- Setting Salaries of Town Officers
 - 3a. Board of Selectmen
 - Scott motions for \$ 15,600. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
 - 3b. Town Clerk
 - Scott motions for \$ 52,457. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
 - 3c. Moderator
 - Scott motions for \$ 800. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

- 3d. Tree Warden
 - Scott motions for \$ 6,663. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
 - 3e. Board of Health
 - Scott motions for \$ 4,000. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
 - Pat asks why the Town Clerk's salary seems like a 2 1/2% increase.
Mr. Osuch states that it is the 1% on June 30, 2013, the 1/2% on January 1, 2014, and the 1% on July 1, 2014.
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- Chairman states that the School Dept. should take 45 minutes next week.
 - Advises committee to have any questions about the CPC Article ready to address.
 - All votes for the book must be done by April 3rd.
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- Terry motions to adjourn @ 9:32 PM. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado
Finance Committee Secretary

(accepted 3-20-2014)