

Town of Fairhaven

Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting for <May 3, 2014>at the Elizabeth Hastings Middle School,
30 School St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance:

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

Town of Fairhaven: joined the meeting @ 8:20 AM.

Jeffery Osuch- Executive secretary

Anne Kakley- Administrative Assistant

Robert Espindola- Chairman Selectmen

Charles K. Murphy, Sr.- Selectman

Geoffrey A. Haworth II-Selectman: joined meeting @ 8:40 AM.

Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM. Chairman has to be notified if anyone present is recording the meeting by video or audio.

- Chairman tells committee that he received an irate call from the Veteran's Agent James Cochran.
 - Chairman states that Mr. Cochran claimed he was confronted by an irate Fin Com member for spending town money.
 - Chairman states that Mr. Cochran also claimed he was approached by a high town official.
 - When pressed for who these people were, Mr. Cochran would not say.
 - Chairman states that Mr. Cochran demanded a public hearing in front of the TV camera.
 - Chairman states that he and the committee have always been very supportive of the Veteran's Services, even though Mr. Cochran is not good at budgeting.
 - Chairman advises members that if they are speaking with anyone, without the consent of the entire committee, they must make it perfectly clear that they are speaking only for themselves.

- Discussion of taking Articles #31 and #15 out of order.
- Discussion of Capital Planning Article.

- Discussion of continuation of the TGSC.
 - Chairman states he will not argue against giving them the money.

8:20 AM. Mr. Osuch, Ms. Kakley, Mr. Espindola, and Mr. Murphy join the meeting.

- Mr. Murphy states that the Selectmen have voted to Pass Over Article 14-Handicap Parking.
- Discussion of the Fire Contract
 - Chairman states Selectmen should not be involved in contract negotiations.
Chairman states if you negotiate you have a stake in the matter, and then the other Selectmen feel they have to support the contract also.
 - Chairman states this is why he will not support the TA Article, because the Selectmen are involved with contract negotiation.
 - Chairman states he is inclined to support the contract, even though they gave away too much.
 - Chairman states the union should not have been allowed to restructure the contract.
 - Chairman advises we are only talking about the dollar amount, because the Selectmen have signed the contract.
 - Chairman understands that the stipends have been in the pension for years, therefore it is probably correct to include them in the wages.
If something is pensionable it is usually considered part of the salary.
 - Chairman states arbitration probably wouldn't work. Uses the Police union as an example.
 - Chairman doesn't believe this is the place to take a stand.
 - Pat discusses the process. If voting \$0 does it go to arbitration?
 - Mr. Osuch and the Chairman discuss the process.
Parties would 1st go back to bargaining table, then Fair Labor.
Base salary increase wouldn't change because it is the same amount all the other unions got.
 - Scott asks the Selectmen, why should we support this?
 - Mr. Murphy states the Fire Chief was involved with the negotiations, and this got the contract cleaned up.
 - Chairman and Mr. Murphy have a difference of opinion as to a cleaned up contract.
 - John M. asks about adding the stipend to the salary.
 - Chairman states it is there now.
 - Mr. Murphy compares the increase to the Police education incentives.
 - Lisa asks if this is sustainable in 2 years. Asks if the Police Ed. incentives are part of the base.
 - Selectmen state yes.

- Chairman states there are lots of rumblings going on now because the other unions stayed with the 1/2, 1, 1%.
- Chairman states no one got as much as the police and fire.
At some point we are going to make hard decisions.
- Terry states the stipend goes up every year when it is in the base.
- Mr. Espindola states that the stipends go away if the ambulance service is ever privatized.
- Chairman discusses privatizing ambulance. Says he can see it happening in 5 years or less.

8:40 AM. Mr. Haworth joins the meeting.

- Scott motions for \$ 47,149 for Article 3, #2. Fire Department a. Salaries and Wages on the STM. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Passes 5 to 3 with Terry, Lisa, and Kathi opposed.
 - Scott motions for \$ 1,150 for Article 3, #2. Fire Department c. Supplies on the STM. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Passes 5 to 3 with Terry, Lisa, and Kathi opposed.
 - Scott motions for \$ 1,833,272 for Article 4, #26 Fire Department a. Salaries and Wages on the ATM. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Passes 5 to 3 with Terry, Lisa, and Kathi opposed.
 - Scott motions for \$ 57,834 for Article 4, #26 Fire Department c. Supplies on the ATM. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Passes 5 to 3 with Terry, Lisa, and Kathi opposed.
- Mr. Haworth discusses adding solar to the Article for the Fire Department roof.
 - Chairman states, as long as it can be done for the same amount.
 - Mr. Espindola asks whether it will be leased or owned, and where the power would be credited.
 - Mr. Haworth states it would be owned, and if there were any questions about during TM, he would handle them.
 - Mr. Osuch discusses the wording of the Article.
- Chairman asks Selectmen if they would support moving the order of Articles 31 & 15.
 - Selectmen are in support.
 - Chairman will make a joint motion.

8:52 AM. The Finance Committee adjourns to the stage for Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado
Finance Committee Secretary

(accepted 6-12-2014)