

Town of Fairhaven

Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting for <June 26, 2014>at the BPW Administration Building, Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance:

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

Member absent:

Scott Fernandes
Kathi Carter

Town of Fairhaven:

Jeffery Osuch- Executive secretary
James A. Cochran- Veterans Agent
Marc Jodoin- Emergency Management Director
Vincent Furtado- BPW Superintendent

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 Terry to accept the minutes from June 12, 2014. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

- Chairman presents the committee with a Reserve Fund Transfer request from Mr. Cochran, the Veterans Agent, seeking \$ 8,000.
 - Mr. Cochran's request states the transfer is needed because of an increase in insurances and unexpected dental bills along with unexpected hearing aid bills and eye glasses.
 - Terry motions to transfer \$ 8,000 to Veterans- Purchase of Services- Medical.
Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

- Chairman presents a Reserve Fund Transfer request from Mr. Jodoin, EMA Director, in the amount of \$ 130, for Electricity.
 - Mr. Jodoin's request states that the money is needed because when putting together the 2014 budget, he entered the wrong figures creating a shortfall.
 - Chairman tells Mr. Jodoin that the FY15 budget is "set in stone". If using the building, make sure the budget covers it.
 - Chairman states that Mr. Jodoin did not give the committee the facts about the use of the building.
Use of the building was intensified and they let the electric go sky high and blamed it on the cold weather.
 - Chairman states that the DOR said the Finance Committee was loose with its Reserve Fund practices.
Chairman tells Mr. Jodoin, if they don't have money to spend, they can't allow the use of the building.
 - Chairman states that the same holds true for the Vehicle Repair and Gasoline budgets.
 - Department needs to live within its budget.
 - If department wants to expand, they need to go to the Selectmen and come up with a plan and a budget.
 - Chairman states, despite what the sign outside says, this building is not the Public Safety Annex.
 - Finance Committee is responsible to the tax payers, not here to supplement operating budgets.
 - Terry motions to transfer \$130 to EMA- Electricity. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

7:10 PM. Mr. Jodoin leaves the meeting.

- Chairman distributes a Reserve Fund Transfer request from Highway Department in the amount of \$ 20,000.
 - Vincent Furtado states that the department's 2003 Caterpillar Loader needs a major overhaul, and it is an essential piece of equipment.
 - Chairman states, what is not included in our packets is an email between Mr. Furtado and Mr. Osuch.
That email notifies Mr. Osuch of the needed repair and states that the work will not take place until FY15.
 - Mr. Furtado states that Mr. Osuch suggested he come before the Finance Committee, and try for a Reserve Fund Transfer.
 - Mr. Furtado states that with the Transfer, he could get the process started faster.

- Mr. Furtado states he emailed Mr. Osuch to let him know the repair budget would take a major hit at the start of the new FY.
- Chairman relates that the last time the budget "took a major hit", money was turned back at the end of the FY.
- Chairman reminds everyone that before making Transfers, we should ask, can this wait until a Special Town Meeting.
 - Chairman asks if there is a motion to approve. There is not.
 - Terry motions to disapprove the Reserve Fund Transfer request. Seconded by Pat

On the motion:

- Pat asks about the use of the loader.
 - Mr. Furtado says the machine is used daily, and is used for road construction.
 - Chairman states that money not spent today will roll over into next year's free cash.
 - Vote on the motion to disapprove: Unanimous
- Chairman presents a Reserve Fund Transfer request from the Park Department, requesting \$ 300 for Electricity.
 - Chairman asks Mr. Furtado how much money is owed the department by the groups using the parks.
 - Mr. Furtado states he believes it is approximately \$ 200.
 - Mr. Furtado states that the use of the parks falls in a grey area.
The BPW are the Park Commissioners but the Rec Center handles the park scheduling.
 - Chairman says it is not a grey area. The BPW didn't want the scheduling.
 - Discussion with Mr. Furtado about the use of the Park lights.
 - Chairman states that if there is no money in the budget to turn on the lights, they cannot be turned on.
 - Chairman states he believes that something happened in the Spring with the Livesey League.
 - Chairman states there were 3 STM's in FY14, and the shortfall could have been made up at one of those meetings.
 - Chairman states he remembers the fact being brought up that one less league was using the fields in FY14.
 - Mr. Furtado states that he also discovered that there is a Town Meeting bylaw that requires the Revolving Account for the Department to charge 10% more than it costs to operate the lights.
The Department has been charging \$ 10 per night while it costs \$ 40 per night to operate the lights.

- Chairman states that the DOR report states that the Finance Committee should look at what TM would do when looking at a request.
- Chairman states he will look at the money the Department collects for FY15.
- Electricity budget is set in stone. Same for maintenance. If the Dept. is adding services, they need to cover the expenses.
- Terry questions why the numbers on the back-up sheets given to us don't add up.
 - Chairman states he has checked the numbers with the Town Accountant, and they are correct.
 - Terry motions to transfer \$ 300 to Acct. #001-650-00-5212-00-0376 Park-Electricity. Seconded by Pat.

On the motion:

- Pat asks who turns the lights on.
 - Mr. Furtado states the leagues have a key.
 - Chairman states that the park budget for electricity is \$ 90 / month, and anything over that must be paid for by the users.
 - Vote on the motion to transfer: Unanimous.

- Chairman presents a Reserve Fund Transfer request from Mr. Osuch, in the amount of \$ 24,000, to be added to Article #17 of the STM of May 3, 2014.
 - Mr. Osuch states the additional money is needed because asbestos was found in the portables at the Oxford and Rogers Schools, and in the house at 87 Main Street.
 - Pat questions why the asbestos was not discovered until after Town Meeting.
 - Mr. Osuch states, there was no way of knowing there was asbestos siding on the house under the vinyl siding.
 - Chairman states this should have been investigated beforehand.
 - The addition money needed for the portables should have been brought up at Town Meeting, in reference to the money already spent on the school buildings.
 - Chairman states this is stretching the appropriation of an Article at TM.
 - Chairman states, however, if the 87 Main Street building collapses the removal and disposal could be 4 or 5 times more.
 - Terry asks if this is a done deal. When will the buildings come down.
 - Mr. Osuch states that the Main Street house asbestos abatement could take place the 3rd week of July.
 - The portables could be done about 2 weeks after that.
 - John M. questions when the inspections took place. Why they didn't happen until after TM.
 - Mr. Osuch states the inspections didn't occur until approximately 2 weeks after TM.

- Chairman states that someone should have known better after seeing the disclaimers in the demolition proposal.
Never should have accepted only 1 quote.
- Mr. Osuch states the cost breakdown is \$ 19,500 for the 87 Main Street property and \$ 4,500 for the school portables.
 - Terry motions to transfer \$ 24,000 to Demolition Article #17 of the Special Town Meeting of May 3, 2014, Acct. #001-951-56-5201-14. Seconded by Pat.

On the motion:

- Lisa asks if the \$ 5,000 appropriated for maintenance of the abandoned schools could be put towards the DPW cutting the grass.
 - Chairman states he supports cutting the grass, but tells Mr. Furtado that they shouldn't be cutting the grass at Hoppy's Landing.
 - Discussion of School Dept. maintenance.
 - Vote on the motion to transfer: Unanimous.
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- Chairman states we will be meeting in late July or early August.
 - Chairman wants to have department heads in to discuss policies and procedures.

7:46 PM. Pat motions to adjourn. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado
Finance Committee Secretary
(accepted 9-25-2014)