

Town of Fairhaven

Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting for <February 19, 2015>at the BPW Administration Building,
5 Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance:

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

Member absent:

Padraic Elliott

Town of Fairhaven:

Jeffery Osuch- Executive secretary

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 12, 2015. Seconded by Lisa.
Vote: Unanimous

- Mr. Osuch distributes updated copies of the ATM warrant, and updated Article spreadsheet.
- Chairman presents a Request for Deficit Spending, in the amount of \$ 15,000, for the Highway Department- Snow & Ice.
 - The line item is currently showing a deficit of \$3,217.42
 - Scott motions to authorize Deficit Spending in the amount of \$15,000. Seconded by John M.. Vote: Unanimous
- Chairman states the Fire Chief will be in next week.
March 5th the Selectmen will be back

Chairman is trying to schedule Police Dept. & BPW after that.
Schools should be in the end of March

- Chairman advises members to look at all the roads that are petitioned.
 - Also, look at the 2 street lights that are petitioned.
 - The policy has been lights on every other pole. If there are none existing, look at where it would be best placed.
- Chairman brings up Historical Commission Articles. Asks Mr. Osuch if he has seen any back-up for the increases over last year.
 - Mr. Osuch states no.
- Lisa asks if the EMA is coming in.
 - Chairman states he has not heard from them.
 - It is up to them to make an appointment if they want to come in.
 - Chairman discusses the \$19,999 truck purchase with Mr. Osuch.
 - Chairman asks Mr. Osuch about the committee that was supposed to be looking into the dept.
 - Chairman states the TA will take care of it when he comes on board.
- Chairman advises members to look over the CPA Article requests, and decide by the next meeting if the committee needs to come in.
 - Discussion of money going towards the Housing Authority.
- Discussion of Capital Planning Committee and their 1st year program.
- The committee moves on to Article 4:
 - #1a. Moderator-salary
 - Scott motions for \$800. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
 - #2a. Selectmen- a. Salary-Board
 - Scott motions for \$15,600. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
 - #4 Audit Expenses
 - Increase this year is caused because of the retirement audit.
 - Scott motions for \$41,500. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
 - Chairman asks Mr. Osuch if he could ask Wendy Graves to attend the meeting on March 5th, when the Selectmen will be returning.
 - Discussion of the IT Article.

- #7 Tax Title
 - Chairman asks Mr. Osuch if he feels the 2% increase is needed.
 - Mr. Osuch states they could use more.
 - Chairman mentions having an outside company come in to handle the tax title cases.
 - Scott motions for \$30,000. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #9 Election & Registration
 - Scott asks if the change in the polling places is included in this budget.
 - Mr. Osuch states no.
 - We will wait.
- #11 Assessors
 - Chairman states we will wait to see if the Selectmen make the changes they should, to see if we need to have the Assessors come in.
- #12 Town Hall
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:

a. Salary & Wages	\$44,437
b. Purchase of Services	\$11,455
1. Utilities	\$36,950
2. Telephone System	\$6,500
c. Supplies	\$3,200
d. Other Charges/Expenses	\$100
e. Capital Outlay	\$00
f. Rogers/Oxford Maintenance	\$00
 - All amounts seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #14 Town Meeting
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:

a. Salary & Wages	\$1,067
b. Purchase of Services	\$3,000
c. Supplies	\$1,400
d. Other Charges/Expenses	\$00
e. Capital Outlay	\$00
 - All amounts seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #15 Finance Committee
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:

a. Salary & Wages	\$1.00
b. Purchase of Services	\$170
c. Supplies	\$2,670
d. Other Charges/Expenses	\$475
e. Capital Outlay	\$00

- All amounts seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- Chairman states the Other Charges/Expenses is increased \$200 for the annual ATFC meeting.
- Chairman states that this committee never asks for mileage or lodging for their conference.
- #16 Planning Board
 - Discussion of 1% increase in Salary line and Other Charges/Expenses increased for mileage to meetings in Taunton.
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:

a. Salary & Wages	\$1,900
b. Purchase of Services	\$1,500
c. Supplies	\$1,450
d. Other Charges/Expenses	\$955
e. Capital Outlay	\$00
 - All amounts seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #17 Planning and Economic Development
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:

a. Salary & Wages	\$101,703
b. Purchase of Services	\$9,100
c. Supplies	\$1,025
d. Other Charges/Expenses	\$1,500
e. Capital Outlay	\$00
 - All amounts seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #19 Personnel Board
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:

a. Purchase of Services	\$00
b. Supplies	\$00
c. Other Charges/Expenses	\$00
d. Capital Outlay	\$00
 - All amounts seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #20 Legal Expenses
 - Discussion of increase in rate.
 - Mr. Osuch states the 3 year contract was for \$150/hr. the 1st year, \$160/hr. the 2nd year, and \$170/hr. the 3rd year- for the first 500 hours, and \$150/hr. after that.
 - Chairman states that Town Counsel is used to often to make decisions.
 - Notes Town Counsel getting paid to sit at Selectmen meetings.
 - Discussion of spending on the school disposal issue.
 - Chairman will wait for a few more months of legal bills before voting.

- #21 Engineering
 - Discussion of money this year being used for an easement for right of way to the water on Turner Street.
 - Scott motions for \$2,000. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #22 Conservation Commission
 - Mr. Osuch states the Conservation Agent is looking for an additional 1 hour per week.
 - We will wait on the salary line until the Selectmen vote on it.
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:

b. Purchase of Services	\$1,550
c. Supplies	\$1,000
d. Other Charges/Expenses	\$1,050
e. Capital Outlay	\$00
 - All amounts seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #24 Commission on Disability
 - Chairman states he has an issue with them increasing their budget 1% when they never come close to spending their money.
 - We will wait until Selectman Murphy comes in.
- #25 Police Department
 - Scott motions for:

e. Capital Outlay	\$00
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 - Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
 - Chairman states that this is being moved to the Capital Planning Article.
- #29 Tree Warden Department
 - Scott asks, if there is a new Tree Warden coming on, should the salary be reduced back to \$6,000.
 - Chairman states the salary may be the reason the present person is leaving.
 - Chairman states that this department should be looked at by the TA. Should be part of Public Infrastructure.
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:

a. Salary- Tree Warden	\$6,631
b. Salary-Other	\$31,549
c. Purchase of Services	\$11,500
1. Utilities	\$200
d. Supplies	\$250
1. Gasoline	\$3,458
e. Other Charges/Expenses	\$750
f. Capital Outlay	\$00

- All amounts seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- Chairman states Other Charges/Expenses is reduced because that is to cover gasoline for the Tree Wardens personal truck.
- #31 Care of Dogs and Others
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:

a. Salary & Wages	\$38,910
b. Purchase of Services	\$13,265
1. Utilities	\$4,850
c. Supplies	\$2,500
1. Gasoline	\$575
d. Other Charges/Expenses	\$00
e. Capital Outlay	\$00
 - All amounts seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #30 Shellfish Inspection
 - Chairman asks Mr. Osuch if the \$2,000 for boards for the dock is coming from the Waterways Account.
 - Chairman tells Mr. Osuch that this isn't really a Capital Outlay, perhaps should be in Purchase of Services.
 - Chairman states this department should be looked at by the TA.
- #32 Emergency Management Agency
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:

a. Salary & Wages	\$1,683
b. Purchase of Services	\$2,575
1. Utilities	\$2,975
c. Supplies	\$700
1. Gasoline	\$731
d. Other Charges/Expenses	\$00
e. Capital Outlay	\$00
 - All amounts seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
 - Chairman states he has nothing against this department, but there is no oversight by the administration.
 - Their gas is at 60% of their budget already. It should be lower because gas is quite a bit cheaper
- #33 Sealer of Weights and Measures
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:

a. Salary & Wages	\$6,468
b. Purchase of Services	\$125
c. Supplies	\$75

- d. Other Charges/Expenses \$780
 - e. Capital Outlay \$00
 - All amounts seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #34 Street Lighting
 - Scott motions for \$50,000. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #36 Enforcement Agent
 - a. Salary & Wages
 - Scott motions for \$20,503. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #44 Bristol County Aggie HS
 - Scott motions for \$22,000. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #45 Millicent Library
 - Scott motions for \$619,705. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
 - Chairman states, for the public, that this number is controlled by an agreement formed when the Town took over the Water Dept.
 - The library is funded at the State average per person multiplied by the number of residents.
- #46 Recreation Center
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:
 - a. Salary & Wages \$144,007
 - b. Purchase of Services \$11,620
 - 1. Utilities \$29,300
 - c. Supplies \$3,300
 - d. Other Charges/Expenses \$700
 - e. Capital Outlay \$00
 - f. Rec Center Program Acct. \$115,000
 - All amounts seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #48 Contributory Retirement
 - Lisa motions for \$2,662,396. Seconded by John M.. Vote: Motion passes 5-0 with Scott abstaining.
- #49 Group Insurance
 - Scott motions for \$3,950,000. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #50 Memorial Day
 - Scott motions for \$2,500. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #51 MA Employment Insurance
 - Scott motions for \$125,000. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #52a. OPEB
 - Chairman states he has no problem with putting money towards OPEB, but the Town needs to establish the irrevocable trust for it.

- Lisa motions for \$75,000. Seconded by John M.. Vote: Motion passes 5-0 with Scott abstaining.
- #53 Reserve Fund
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:

a. General	\$175,000
b. Water	\$25,000
c. Sewer	\$25,000
 - All amounts seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #54 Town Insurance
 - Scott motions for \$745,000. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #55 Town Report
 - Scott motions for \$3,200. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #56 FICA- Medicare
 - Scott motions for \$321,000. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #57 Buzzard's Bay Action Comm.
 - Scott motions for \$760. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #58 Rape Crisis Project
 - Scott motions for \$2,000. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- #61 Stabilization Fund
 - Scott motions for \$00. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
 - Chairman states that this year the money will go towards OPEB and Capital Planning,
- Municipal Debt and Interest
 - Scott motions for the following amounts:

#62 General Fund	
a. Debt	\$2,439,294
b. Interest of Debt	\$560,738
c. Interest on Temp. Loans	\$60,000
#63 Water Fund	
a. Debt	\$46,950
b. Interest on Debt	\$25,005
c. Interest on Temp Loans	\$00
#64 Sewer Fund	
a. Debt	\$304,261
b. Interest on Debt	\$91,349
c. Interest on Temp Loans	\$00
 - All amounts seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous

- Chairman states, for the public, we just made a lot of votes with no discussion. The debt has to be paid, there is not much to discuss.
 - Chairman also states he has gotten calls saying there is not enough discussion at Town Meeting.
 - Chairman states, if people have questions, it is their responsibility to get to a microphone and ask them.
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- Next week Fire Chief will be in.
 - Chairman assigns Vice Chairman Scott with the job of notifying Pat.

8:44 PM. Lisa motions to adjourn. Seconded by John M.. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado
Finance Committee Secretary
(accepted 2-26-2015)