

# Town of Fairhaven

## Finance Committee

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

Members in attendance:

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

Town of Fairhaven:

Jeffery Osuch- Executive secretary

Robert J. Espindola- Chairman Board of Selectmen (in @ 8:21 PM.)

Meeting was not 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 Chairman has to be notified if anyone present is recording the meeting by video or audio.

Motion made by Scott to accept the minutes from March 12, 2015. Seconded by John M..  
Vote: Unanimous

- Mr. Osuch distributes copies of the updated Article spreadsheet, and an updated Article 4 spreadsheet, draft of the STM within the ATM Warrant & spreadsheet, the printed copy of the PowerPoint presentation for the Wellness Article, and a copy of the proposed STM Article for the Sewer repair on Washington Street.
- Chairman presents a Reserve Fund Transfer request from Fire Chief Timothy Francis, in the amount of \$9,628.21.
  - The money is requested for funding repairs made to Medic 3, Medic 2, and Car 3 and to pay for upcoming repairs to Car 3.
  - The Chief is requesting the amount be transferred from the Ambulance Fund, as they are all EMS related repairs.
  - Chairman states that the Fin Com cannot transfer money from the Ambulance Fund, only Town Meeting can.

- Scott motions to Table the Transfer Request. Seconded by Pat. Vote:  
Unanimous

- Budget discussion.
- Chairman states that everything will hinge on the additional fire position. If the position is funded, we will go over the agreed upon spending figure.
- Review of the Special Town Meeting Warrant:
  - Article 1- Town Charges
    - 2. Fire Department
      - A. Salary & Wages- \$16,800
        - Mr. Osuch states the reason given for the request is that it was storm related overtime shoveling hydrants and helping with ambulance runs.
        - Chairman tells Mr. Osuch that the portion related to the ambulance runs should come from the Ambulance Fund.
        - Chairman states that worst case scenario, this could come from the Reserve Fund.
      - 3. Board of Health
        - A. Salaries & Wages- \$687
          - Mr. Osuch states the money is needed because the Salary figure in last year's budget was incorrect.
          - Chairman states this does not qualify as a Reserve Fund transfer.
        - 4. Veteran's Services
          - A. Purchase of Services- \$48,000
            - Mr. Osuch states the Veteran's Agent says he needs the money because he has picked up additional clients.
            - Discussion of the budget in past years.
          - 5. Highway Department
            - A. Salary & Wages- \$20,000
              - Chairman states that this is storm related and could come from the Reserve Fund.
            - B. Other Charges/Expenses- \$20,000
              - Chairman states this is for the issue that was brought before the committee last year related to a major repair on the department front loader.
              - Chairman states this could come from the Reserve Fund.
            - C. Sand and Salt- \$50,000
              - This is to cover the Deficit Spending that was storm related. Could come from the Reserve Fund.
            - D. Utilities- \$5,500
              - Chairman states that this is storm related, because the building was staffed during off hours, during storm events.

- This could also come from the Reserve Fund.
- Mr. Osuch states that the Sewer Department will be seeking \$10,000 for Overtime Salaries and the Water Department \$10,000 for Overtime Salaries, because of main breaks during the harsh winter.
  - Chairman asks Mr. Osuch to have the Reserve Fund Transfer requests for next week.
- Mr. Osuch explains the Sewer Article for the STM, seeking \$165,000.
  - This is for emergency repairs to the sewer main on Washington Street that has collapsed and has to be pumped out each day.
- Article 2- Conservation Restriction Donation Authorization
  - Mr. Osuch states this involves the Buzzards Bay Coalition.
  - Chairman states we will need more information.
- Article 3- Rogers-Oxford Schools Fiscal Year 2016
  - Brief discussion of the status of disposing of the schools.
- Article 4- Street Acceptance- Turner Ave Southeast to Buzzard's Bay
  - Discussion between Chairman and Mr. Osuch as to who owns the land now.
  - Chairman states he doesn't want to see the Town get into an Eminent Domain situation.
- Article 8- Non-union Personnel Review
  - Seeks \$8,000 for review of jobs and job descriptions.
  - Discussion of combining positions.
  - Pat questions if the consultant will be fair and balanced in the Town's interest.
  - Discussion of this being funded from the STM.
- Article 9- Sale of Rogers School
- Article 10- Sale of Oxford School
  - Chairman states that neither of these proposals will be ready for Town Meeting.
- Article 11- Nancy Street Stabilization
  - This is just a housekeeping article to move money to the proper account.
- Mr. Osuch instructs members that the funding for the Fire Dept. Purchase of Services, listed on the STM spreadsheet, would be from the Ambulance Account.

- Discussion of the Annual Town Meeting
  - Chairman states that the Capital Planning Committee will be in next week.
  - Discussion of Capital Planning Articles.
  - Discussion of the Police Dept. pick-up truck.
  
  - Article 6- Water Enterprise Capital Plan
    - Chairman states the work needs to be done, but they have a spending issue. They may have to eliminate the truck.
    - Mr. Osuch states the BPW may do everything listed this year, and do nothing next year.
    - The department has an issue collecting all water bills owed.
    - Mr. Osuch states that Water and Sewer have enough to do everything listed this year, but from here on there will have to be rate increases to continue Capital projects.
  
  - Article 9- Road Work
    - Chairman states the Selectmen are recommending Elm Ave. and Akin Street, and moving \$92,000 to Article 4 for road repair
    - Mr. Osuch states he is expecting additional money from the State because of the storm damage.  
If they use the same percentage as last year, we should expect about \$78,000.
    - Scott motions the following amounts:
 

A. Akin Street	\$36,212
B. Billy's Way	Indefinite Postponement
C. Bluepoint Road	Indefinite Postponement
D. Brown Street	Indefinite Postponement
E. Elm Ave.	\$172,292
F. Hopkins Street	Indefinite Postponement
G. Winsegansett/Sippican	Indefinite Postponement
    - All amounts seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous
  
  - Article 30- Street Lights  
Temple Place Light Petition
    - Scott motions for \$800. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous
  
  - Article 31- TGSC- FinCom Restructuring
    - Chairman states we will wait on this.
    - Mr. Osuch asks if the TGSC is coming in.

- Chairman states they have not contacted him.

8:21 PM. Selectman Espindola joins the meeting.

- Article 32- TGSC- Term Limit Non-Binding Referendum
  - Chairman states we will not get involved with this Article.

8:25 PM. Chairman calls a recess. Back in session @ 8:30 PM.

- Selectman Espindola goes over his presentation for Article 25-Town Employee Wellness Program.
  - Selectman Espindola states that a steering committee has been formed consisting of Robert Baldwin- Superintendent of Schools, Vincent Furtado- BPW Superintendent, Jeffery Osuch, Selectman Espindola, and a health teacher from the high school.
  - Selectman Espindola runs through his presentation of the estimated excess medical costs, high risk thresholds, estimate of savings.
  - Selectman Espindola states it would be a voluntary program.
  - Figures are based on 50-60% participation.
  - Selectman Espindola states that they need someone from each facility to promote the program.
  - Selectman Espindola states the budget is based on Blue Cross Blue Shield's suggestions.
  - Pat states he may want to abstain, because his wife works for the Town.
    - Chairman states that it is not an issue, and he can stay and listen.
  - Selectman Espindola states that the savings is based on a robust program. He lays out the requirements of a robust program.
  - Selectman Espindola discusses incentives for participation.
  - Chairman asks how the 6 to 1 return is realized.
    - Selectman Espindola states it comes from less claims, healthier employees, less missed work.
  - Chairman asks if Selectman Espindola has looked for other municipalities that have Wellness Programs.
    - Selectman Espindola states that BCBS did the proposal.
    - States the committee would coordinate the program.
    - Leadership in the Town needs to show support and participate.
  - Chairman asks when the money from the marijuana program will kick in.
    - Selectman Espindola states it would start 6 months after the dispensary is started.
  - Discussion of budget cuts to pay for the program.
  - Discussion of other communities doing this.

- Discussion of continued support with future administrations.
  - Chairman states it looks like a health insurance cost. Thinks the unions should help pay.
  - Chairman states he will not support it, if it causes us to go over the \$46,750,000 spending figure.
  - Lisa states she doesn't think the tax payers should be footing the bill.
  - Kathi asks where the money for the incentives would come from.
    - Selectman Espindola states it would come from the marijuana program.
    - Chairman asks, why not wait until the marijuana money is available.
  - Chairman states that the Selectmen's spending plan will create a crunch down the road.
  - Selectman Espindola states he is asking the Town to make a good faith investment.
  - Bob asks when the screening in the plan would be done. Would it be done during the work day.
    - Selectman Espindola states, at his job, it is done between shifts.
- Chairman states that Selectman Espindola and Selectman Murphy will be back in on April 2nd.
  - Next week will be Capital Planning and the Schools.

9:31 PM. Pat motions to adjourn. Seconded by John M.. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado  
Finance Committee Secretary  
(accepted 3/26/2015)