

Town of Fairhaven

Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting for <April 9, 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

Vincent D. 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 Scott to accept the minutes from April 2, 2015. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

- Mr. Osuch distributes copies of the updated Article spreadsheet, and an updated draft of the STM within the ATM Warrant & spreadsheet.
- Chairman states that the Selectmen have changed some of their votes, and now the Fin Com and Selectmen are in agreement on all money items on the Annual Town Meeting.
- Committee acts on Reserve Fund Transfer requests:
 - Chairman presents a Reserve Fund Transfer request from the Mr. Osuch, in the amount of \$1,214.54.
Money is requested to cover postage and printing for notices sent to voters who's polling places changed.
 - Scott motions to approve transfer of \$819.54 to Selectmen- Postage Acct# 011-122-00-5342-00-450 and \$395 to Selectmen-Printing Acct# 001-122-00-5422-00-450 from the Reserve Fund. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

- Brief discussion with Mr. Furtado about a transfer request from the Water Department. Request is tabled for now.
- Chairman presents a Reserve Fund Transfer request from the Sewer Department. Mr. Furtado reduces the original amount to \$20,000 to cover emergency repairs to a collapsed sewer main on Washington Street.
 - Scott motions to approve transfer of \$20,000 to Sewer- Purchase of Services- Contractor Assistance Acct. #029-440-00-5247-00-0460, from the Sewer Reserve Fund. Seconded by John M.. Vote: Unanimous
- Chairman presents a Reserve Fund Transfer request from the Highway Department in the amount of \$47,203.42 to cover sand, salt, calcium, and repairs to equipment. This would be used to cover the previously approved deficit spending.
 - Scott motions to approve transfer of \$47,203.42 to Highway- Snow and Ice Removal Acct# 001-420-00-5533-00-0272 from the Reserve Fund. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous
- Chairman presents a Reserve Fund Transfer request from the Highway Department in the amount of \$2,500 to cover heating because of the increase in use of the BPW building during the winter storms.
 - Scott motions to approve transfer of \$2,500 to Highway- Utilities- Fuel Oil Acct.# 001-420-00-5220-00-0272 from the Reserve Fund. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous
- Chairman presents a Reserve Fund Transfer request from the Highway Department in the amount of \$20,000 to cover the unexpected repair to the 2003 Loader.
 - Scott motions to approve transfer of \$20,000 to Highway- Purchase of Services- Vehicle Maintenance Acct.# 001-420-00-5243-00-0272 from the Reserve Fund. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous
- Chairman presents a Reserve Fund Transfer request from the Highway Department in the amount of \$10,000 to cover overtime used for snow and ice removal operations.
 - Scott motions to approve transfer of \$10,000 to Highway- Overtime Acct.# 001-420-00-5131-00-0272 from the Reserve Fund. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous
- Chairman again presents a Reserve Fund Transfer request from the Water Department. Money is needed because the department had 7 water main breaks that consumed overtime.
 - Discussion between Chairman, Mr. Furtado, and Mr. Osuch as to how much should be transferred to finish the year.
 - Scott motions to approve transfer of \$5,000 to Water-Overtime Pay Acct.# 025-450-00-5131-00-0575 from the Water Reserve Fund. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

- Chairman advises Mr. Osuch to be sure that the \$48,000 is added to this year's budget amount, plus a percentage, in order to come up with the following year's budget.
- Chairman states the budget is continually under estimated.
- Article 2- Conservation Restriction Donation Authorization
 - Chairman asks Mr. Osuch why we are giving the restriction to the Buzzards Bay Coalition?
 - Mr. Osuch states he hasn't heard back from them yet.
 - Scott motions to Recommend At Town Meeting. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 3- Street Acceptance- Welcome Street
 - Scott motions to Yield to Petitioner. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 4- Sale of Rogers School
 - Scott motions to Recommend Indefinite Postponement. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 5- Sale of Oxford School
 - Scott motions to Recommend Indefinite Postponement. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 6-Rogers-Oxford Disposition
 - Scott motions for \$4,000. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 7- Rogers-Oxford School Fiscal Year 2016
 - Discussion of the disposition of the schools.
 - Kathi asks if there is any sense of urgency in disposing of the schools?
 - Chairman states no. States the Selectmen don't want to come out and say whether the proposals are good or not.
 - Discussion of the need to keep buildings alarmed.
 - Scott motions for \$8,000. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 13-Bills of Prior Year- 9/10 vote
 - Scott motions for the following amount:

A. Parakrama Ananta, MD	\$275
B. Parakrama Ananta, MD	\$825
C. Parakrama Ananta, MD	\$175
D. RAD Associates of New Bedford	\$295
E. Coastal Imaging Association, Inc	\$24
F. University Pathologists, LLC	\$44
G. Shield MRI	\$2,201.60

 - All amounts seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

- Article 12- Community Preservation Committee Appropriations
 - A. Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society- Carriage House Cultural Center Project
 - Lisa motions for \$20,000 from CPC Funds. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 11- Washington Street/Huttleston Ave. Sewer Main
 - Scott motions for \$165,000 from the Sewer Enterprise. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 10- Nancy Street/Scoticut Neck Road Sewer Stabilization
 - Mr. Osuch states this is just a housekeeping Article to rescind a previous vote and consolidating loans.
 - Scott motions to Recommend Adoption. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

7:55 PM. Chairman calls a recess. Back in session @ 8:01 PM.

- Article 9- Non-Union Personnel Review
 - Chairman asks Mr. Osuch his opinion of the review.
 - Mr. Osuch states that he feels that it is better to have this done by an outside person.
 - States that he knows this person has done work for the Town of Mattapoisett.
 - Chairman states we have lost 1 member of the Personnel Board.
 - Pat asks Mr. Osuch if he knows whether the salaries in Mattapoisett went up or down, as a result.
 - Mr. Osuch states he doesn't know.
 - Chairman states they may recommend that the salary go down, but it couldn't happen if the person is already at that level.
 - Mr. Osuch states they may determine that some positions should require less hours.
 - Scott asks if there was ever a breakdown of which jobs would be reviewed.
 - Chairman states he never got that information.
 - Bob states he doesn't have a problem with the review, if it will end the problem, but asks if it is unusual that we only have a proposal from 1 company.
 - Mr. Osuch states it is difficult to get proposals for small amounts such as this.
 - Kathi asks if less hours for a position are recommended, what would we do.
 - Mr. Osuch states that there are 7 positions that are currently being recommended for \$4,000 to \$5,000 raises. Some positions have changed and others have not.
 - Chairman states the review will never get done without paying someone to do it.
 - Lisa motions for \$8,000. Seconded by John M. Vote: Motion passes 6 to 1 with Kathi opposed.
- Article 8- Town Administrator Search/Hiring
 - Scott motions for \$18,000. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

- Chairman states the Precinct meeting will be April 29th.
- Discussion of Fin Com Article:
 - Chairman states that the number of 7 members doesn't seem to be an issue.
 - Kathi questions whether 7 will continue to work.
Chairman states it will depend on the people.
 - Lisa states she has a problem with any of the TGSC Articles being on the Warrant, because they weren't completed on time.
 - Chairman states it only takes 10 voters or the Selectmen to get anything on the TM Warrant. States it is more of a "pet peeve" argument.
 - Discussion of Moderator appointment of members.
 - Discussion of the priorities of the TGSC issues.
- Chairman advises members to watch their email.
He will probably cancel next week's meeting.
- Chairman states he will probably post meetings for the night of the Precinct Meeting, the Thursday after, and the morning of Town Meeting.
- Discussion of the budget process.
- Moving towards a more stable budget. Having unity on stage.
- Chairman states it is good that we held to 80% of estimated revenue and 85% of free cash.
We also now have a Capital Plan.
- Mr. Osuch states, that after going out for recent borrowing, our Moody's rating has remained the same.
- Chairman states his term will end at Town Meeting and thanks the members of the committee for their work.

8:29 PM. Pat motions to adjourn. Seconded by John M. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado
 Finance Committee Secretary
 (accepted 4-23-2015)

