

# Town of Fairhaven

## Finance Committee

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Minutes of the meeting for <June 25, 2015> at the BPW Administration Building, 5 Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance:

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

Members absent:

Kathi Carter

Thomas Alden

Town of Fairhaven:

Jeffery Osuch- Executive secretary

Michael Myers- Chief of Police

Meeting was covered by government access television.

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 Pat to accept the minutes from June 11, 2015. Seconded by John. Vote: Unanimous

- Chairman states, for the benefit of those watching the meeting, that there are still 2 committee vacancies in Precinct 2, and 1 in Precinct 1.
  
- Chairman distributes a Reserve Fund Transfer request from Wendy Graves- Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director.
  - Request seeks \$10,600 for Tax Title
  - Pat asks if she has been more aggressive in going after Tax Title properties?
    - Mr. Osuch states yes. The majority of the overage is going to legal expenses.
  - John asks if they have a schedule for going after Tax Title cases.

- Mr. Osuch states he is not sure and explains the time table for a Tax Title case. States that the owner can get the property back right up until transfer of ownership, but they would be responsible for all accrued expenses and interest.
- Chairman states that if we do not grant the transfer, the money will come off the tax recap sheet.
- Lisa asks if Ms. Graves knew she was going that much over her budget.
- Chairman states that if we don't do anything, the increase will be passed onto the tax payers.
  - Pat motions to transfer \$10,600 to Tax Title. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- Discussion of the Tax Title process and budget.
- Discussion of the Finance Committee sending a letter to all departments concerning Reserve Fund Transfers.
- Discussion of the committee having our 1st meeting in late August or early September.
- Mr. Osuch states that because of a decrease in staffing on the State level, it may take longer to get the Certified Cash numbers.
- Chairman states he will email members the turnback numbers and final receipts, when they come in.

7:24 PM. Chairman calls a recess. Back in session @ 7:30 PM.

- Police Chief Myers joins the meeting
  - Chairman presents a intradepartmental budget transfer from the Chief.
  - Chief wishes to transfer \$5,500 from Supplies to Salary and \$28,000 from Gasoline to Salary.
  - Chairman states that intradepartmental budget transfers can be made between categories, up to 3% of the budget, if both the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee agree.
 

Mr. Osuch states that the Selectmen voted to approved at their Monday night meeting.
  - Chief Myers explains that 2 police officers and 1 dispatcher resigned without warning, and 1 police officer had planned to retire in October.
 

Because of this, 4 candidates were sent to the police academy. When only 3 of the people left, it created a problem. The officer who was supposed to retire, because of reasons the Chief couldn't go into, still hasn't left.
  - The Chief states he thought he was going to be OK with the budget until about June.
  - Pat asks at what point did the retiring officer change his mind.

- Chief states originally it was set for October, then it was changed to July.
- Pat asks what will happen if he doesn't leave.
  - The Chief states that 1 of the recruits will have to be laid off.
- The Chief also states that the retiring officer's cash out is not in the FY16 budget. It was carried in last year's budget and now has been used to cover the overtime.
- Chairman states that money will have to come from a Special Town Meeting.
- Chairman states he is uneasy about using Gasoline money for Salaries.
- Pat questions the size of the transfer. It is a lot of money.
- Chief states that the 2 officer positions had to be covered by overtime. The 4 positions contributed to the problem.
  - Pat motions to transfer \$5,500 from Supplies-Equipment for Men Acct. #01-210-00-5585-00 to Salary Acct. #01-210-00-5131-00 and transfer \$28,000 from Gasoline -Acct.#01-210-00-5410-00 to Salary Acct. #01-210-00-5131-00.  
Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous

7:51 PM. Chief Myers leaves the meeting.

- Pat requests that in cases where the Reserve Fund Transfer does not look obviously extraordinary or unforeseen, the person requesting should appear before the Committee. It would also be more helpful to have more explanation as to where the money is going.
- Discussion of the appointing authority signing off on Reserve Fund Transfer requests before they are presented to the Finance Committee.
- Chairman states he will email as much information as possible to members during the budget process.
- Discussion of continuing the collaboration with the Selectmen this year.
- Bob asks about filling the TA position and if the BPW change to the position will slow the process.
  - Mr. Osuch states the Selectmen will have to petition for the language change.
  - Mr. Osuch lays out a time frame for the TA search process.
  - Possibility of a TA search committee.

8:08 PM. Pat motions to adjourn. Seconded by John. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado  
Finance Committee Secretary  
(accepted 7/14/2015)