

Town of Fairhaven

Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting for <March 10, 2016> at the BPW Administration Building, 5 Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance:

Chairman-Scott Fernandes, Robert A. Furtado, Padraic Elliott, Kathi Carter, Lisa Plante, Tracey Diggins, Thomas Alden

Member absent:

Ann Ponichtera DesNardis
John Mota

Town of Fairhaven:

Mark Rees- Town Administrator
Wendy Graves- Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director
Michael Myers- Chief of Police

Meeting was covered by government access television.

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 March 3, 2016, with the correction that Tracey Diggins was absent. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous

- Mr. Rees distributes copies of his detailed proposed FY17 budget.
- Chairman presents a memo from the Selectmen's office concerning copy paper charges.

- Appointment with Chief Myers to discuss the Police Dept. budget.
 - Chairman explains that at Town Meeting the budgets will be voted with just 2 categories: the salary side and the operational side.
The department can transfer from different line items within the category, with the approval of the TA.

- Chief Myers states that the Salary line includes step raises and longevity increases.
- Chief Myers states the main increase is for the restructuring of the Police Dept.
Chief Myers states the command structure of the dept. now is the Chief with Sergeants directly below him. This is not common among police depts.
The new plan would create the rank of 1 Captain and 2 Lieutenants.
- Chief Myers states he is figuring \$35,000 to cover the cost for 6 months, because he doesn't see the new program starting before the 1st of the year.
- Chief Myers states the Captain would serve as his second in command and oversee the lieutenants. 1 lieutenant would oversee the patrols and 1 would oversee the administrative side.
- Tom questions the steps in rank.
 - Chief Myers states it would be 1 step from sergeant to lieutenant, and 1 step from lieutenant to captain. He is estimating approximately 18% increase between each position.
- Chairman states he has an issue with funding something that is not in place yet.
- Chief Myers and Mr. Rees states that the program will be put in place, but they must talk about it first.
- Discussion of the new command structure.
- Discussion of shuffling positions.
- Lisa asks if positions will be added.
 - Chief Myers states 1 sergeant may have to be added to satisfy the union. He states that he is down 1 position now.
- Tracey asks how he covers his vacation now.
 - Chief Myers states he picks the most senior sergeant to cover for him.
- Chief Myers discusses his Operational budget.
- Keeper of Lock-up is increased to \$15,000 this year. It was cut last year, and he feels with more officers there will be more arrests and more lock-up expense.
- Service & Maintenance is up because of computer service agreements.
- Chairman asks if this will be lowered with the new IT position.
 - Mr. Rees states no, but the new IT position will allow dept. personnel who are doing the IT work now to concentrate on their duties.
- Mr. Rees distributes the gasoline spreadsheet.
- Lisa asks the Chief if they are staying with SUV style vehicle for the new cars. Chief Myers states yes.
- Tracey asks about the Contracted Services.
 - Chief Myers states this is for assessment center services that will be used for interviewing the promoted officers.

- Kathi questions the Breathalyzer line at \$0.
 - Chief Myers states this has never been used during his command.
 - Bob questions the increase in Professional Dues.
 - Chief Myers states it is because the dues for the Southeastern Ma. Law Enforcement Council have increased. They used to be covered by Homeland Security.
 - Lisa asks if the School Resource Officers patrol or are they strictly in the schools?
 - Chief Myers states they are just for schools, when the schools are in session. During the off season, they patrol.
- Chairman states next week the Fire Dept. will be in. Schools will be in on the March 24th. DPW and related depts. in on the 31st.
 - Mr. Rees states he will email the narratives ahead of time.
 - Mr. Rees anticipates finalizing the TM Warrant tomorrow.
 - Chairman anticipates starting to take votes next week.
 - Discussion of Revenue numbers.
 - Discussion of the High School debt exclusion coming off the books this year.
 - Bob asks about the salaries being level funded in the budget.
 - Mr. Rees states the salaries are level funded except for the School Dept., which has reached an agreement with their contract, and is fully budgeted at that number.
 - Discussion of the \$300,000 Salary Reserve that Mr. Rees is proposing.
 - Mr. Rees states the only major changes are the adding of 1 IT position and the restructuring of the Police Dept.
 - Tom states he feels the restructuring is important and asks about incentives to bring businesses to town.
 - Chairman states the incentives are not within our purview.
 - Mr. Rees states the Selectmen are establishing an Economic Development Committee.
 - Next meeting March 17,2016.

8:15 PM. Tom motions to adjourn. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado
 Finance Committee Secretary
 (accepted 3-17-2016)