

# Town of Fairhaven

## Finance Committee

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Minutes of the meeting for <April 28, 2016> at the Jeffery W. Osuch BPW Administration Building, 5 Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance:

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

Members absent:

Ann Ponichtera DesNardis  
Padraic Elliott  
John Mota

Town of Fairhaven:

Mark Rees- Town Administrator  
Wendy Graves- Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director

Meeting was covered by government access television.

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 Tom to accept the minutes from April 14, 2016. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous

- Chairman distributes a Reserve Fund Transfer Request from the Town Clerk.  
Mr. Rees distributes a status spreadsheet with the Warrant Articles.
- Chairman makes known the vacancies that are currently available on the Finance Committee.
- Chairman states we will meet in June to reorganize the committee and handle any Reserve Fund Transfer requests.  
Chairman floats the idea of possibly meeting during the summer.

- Mr. Rees states he expects there to be a fall Special Town Meeting.
- Chairman presents the Reserve Fund Transfer Request from the Town Clerk, in the amount of \$1,074.94
  - Reasons given for the transfer are because of additional Mass. General Law books required this year, a larger number of people who requested party, name, or residence changes because of the elections, and an increase in office supply expenses.
    - Tom motions to transfer \$1,074.94 to Town Clerk- Purchase of Services.  
Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- Chairman states he will post meetings for May 4, 2016 @ 6:00 PM. (Precinct Meeting), May 5, 2016 @ 7:00 PM. (regular Thursday night meeting), and May 7, 2016 @ 8:00 AM. (morning of Town Meeting).
- Discussion of Article 6 of the Special Town Meeting- Sale of Oxford School.
  - Chairman states we will wait until the Selectmen take a vote on the Article.
- Discussion of Article 7 of the Special Town Meeting- Rogers Disposition
  - Mr. Rees mistakenly thought that the Finance Committee had voted in favor of this. After being reminded that the original Warrant we were given had a printing error for this Article, Mr. Rees states he does not have the information with him that the committee requested.
  - We will wait until next week to discuss this and vote.
- Discussion of Article 10 of the Special Town Meeting- PILOT agreement with Blue Wave Capital
  - Mr. Rees explains this would be an agreement to fix the amount of Personal Property Tax for the Solar Farm, at a fixed amount for the next 20 years.
  - Mr. Rees states the State allows the developer to request this from the Town, and for the Town to negotiate it.
  - It can be seen as helping both the Town and the developer.  
It helps the Town because the property that the Personal Property Tax is assessed on is normally depreciated over time.  
It helps the developer because they would pay the same amount each year, and be able to plan for it.
  - Bob asks if the agreement is only for the Personal Property Tax and will the development still pay Real Estate Property Tax.  
Mr. Rees states they would still pay the Real Estate Property Tax.

- Chairman states we will vote next week when the agreement is actually available.
- Discussion of Article 9 of the Special Town Meeting- Community Preservation Act
  - A. Bikeway Committee Town Hall Bike Racks
    - Tom motions for \$1,000. Seconded by Tracey. Vote: Unanimous
  - B. Library- Star Newspaper scan
    - Tracey asks what is the Fairhaven Star?  
Chairman explains it was a local newspaper that operated in Fairhaven for years.
    - Tom asks how the library is preserving them now.  
Chairman states they are kept in the basement of the library.
    - Chairman states he will contact Mr. Roth and request additional information. We will wait for him.
- Chairman states the Selectmen have requested that the Finance Committee sit with them at the table, in front of the room, at the PreTown Meeting the night of the Precinct Meetings.

7:34 PM. Lisa motions to adjourn. Seconded by Tom. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado  
Finance Committee Secretary  
(accepted 5/5/2016)