

Town of Fairhaven

Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting for <April 27, 2017> at the Jeffery W. Osuch BPW Administration Building, 5 Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance:

Chairman-Scott Fernandes, Robert A. Furtado, Padraic Elliott in @ 7:25 PM., Lisa Plante, Bernard F. Roderick, Tracy Diggins, Jessica Dwelly

Member absent:

Kathi Carter

Town of Fairhaven:

Mark Rees- Town Administrator

Wendy Graves- Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director

Vincent Furtado- BPW Superintendent

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 Tom to accept the minutes from April 13, 2017. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous

- Chairman introduces Jessica Dwelly as the new Fin Com member from Precinct 3. However, the Chairman states she has not been sworn in by the Town Clerk yet, so she will not be voting at this meeting.
- Chairman advises members they should have received their Fin Com Town Meeting booklet in the mail.
- Mr. Furtado is present to present the Water and Sewer contracts.
- Mr. Furtado starts with the Water contract:
 - Mr. Furtado runs down the changes to the new contract.
 - Mr. Furtado states the increase amounts to FY 17-3%, FY 18-3%, FY19-2.5%.

Mr. Furtado states they surveyed other towns and the City of New Bedford to obtain salary ranges.

Chairman advises staying with towns only.

Mr. Furtado states the problem is not all towns have water & sewer depts.

- Mr. Furtado states \$25.00 has been added to the Distribution & Water Treatment stipends.
- Article 18 of the contract refers to Water employees who volunteer to plow snow with the Highway Dept. If they take a sick day, the day after plowing, it counts against their bonus.
- Article 26 states that new employees must take the exam for the next grade license within six months of the DEP Allowance to take the test. Employees failing the test must retake it within six months and continue until they pass. Employees will be reimbursed upon passing the exam.

Mr. Furtado explains that there are 4 grades of licenses. You must take the exams sequentially with a certain amount of time in between.

- Mr. Furtado states the retroactive amount for FY17 would be \$21,408.
FY18 increase would be \$31,557.96 making the new number \$574,977.96.

7:25 PM. Pat joins the meeting.

- Article 7- Funding Labor Contracts FY17
 - Lisa motions for \$16,540 Water Dept. Union salary & wages. Seconded by Bernie. Vote: Unanimous

- Sewer Contract:
 - Art. 4 of contract pertains to people refusing to come in for emergency calls being subject to disciplinary action.
 - Art. 14 requires BPW Superintendent approval for more than 2 employees to take the same time for vacation.
 - Wage increases amount to FY17-3%, FY18-3%, FY19-2.5%
 - Stipends have increased for all licenses.
 - "Holding the Beeper Compensation" has also increased, but now the person does not get paid overtime unless they are called out.
 - Sewer Dept. employees that volunteer to plow snow must punch in and out on the Highway Dept. time clock when they are plowing.

- Article 7- Funding Labor Contracts FY17
 - Lisa motions for \$9,397 Sewer Dept. Union salary & wages. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

- Article 10- Amended FY17 Sewer Enterprise Fund Operating Budget

- This is for non-union.
 - Pat motions for \$4,932 for Sewer Salary & Wages from retained earnings. Seconded by Tom. Vote: Unanimous

- Article 11- Amended FY17 Water Enterprise Fund Operating Budget
 - For non-union.
 - Bernie motions for \$2,868 for Water Salary & Wages from retained earnings. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous

- Water Dept FY18 Budget
 - Pat motions for the following amounts:

Salaries & Wages	\$574,978
Operating Expenses	\$382,401
Water District	\$1,128,556
Indirect Costs from General Fund	\$413,866
Reserve Fund Water	\$50,000
Debt	\$48,354
Interest on Debt	\$17,918

 - All amounts seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous

- Sewer Dept FY18 Budget
 - Discussion of lowering amounts in Utilities and Minor Equipment
 - Pat motions for the following amounts:

Salaries and Wages	\$968,663
Operating Expenses	\$1,139,684
Purchase of Services	\$271,200
Utilities	\$368,000
Supplies	\$153,450
Gasoline	\$13,500
Minor Equipment	\$33,534
Sludge Disposal	\$300,000
Indirect Costs from General Fund	\$549,591
Reserve Sewer Fund	\$50,000
Debt	\$278,760
Interest on Debt	\$73,077
Interest on Temp Loans	\$152,200

And further to transfer to the Sewer Enterprise Fund

Sewer Betterment West Island	\$13,895
Sewer Betterment Boulder Park	\$3,179
Sewer Betterment Nancy Street	\$2,605
Sewer Betterment SN Road	\$12,553

➤ All amounts seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous

- Mr. Rees presents the Reserve Fund Transfer Request from the Tree Warden.
 - This was approved at a previous meeting, but the committee stated we needed the paperwork to officially vote.
 - Pat motions to transfer \$35,000 to Tree Dept.- Repair & Maintenance of Equipment Acct. #001-295-00-525-00-0552. Seconded by Tom. Vote: Unanimous.
- Chairman states he will post for the Precinct Meeting Wednesday night at the HMS, and also for the morning of Town Meeting.
- Lisa and Chairman discuss the At Large Fin Com position.

8:03 PM. Tom motions to adjourn. Seconded by the Lisa. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado
Finance Committee Secretary
(accepted 6-8-2017)