

Selectmen's Meeting – October 17, 2005

Mr. Silvia and Mr. Manzone were present. Mr. Eckenreiter was absent. Today is his son's Birthday.

Also in attendance was Jeffrey Osuch.

Mr. Silvia called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Manzone motioned to approve the minutes of October 3, 2005. Mr. Silvia seconded. It was so voted.

Mr. Manzone motioned to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2005 executive session. Mr. Silvia seconded. It was so voted.

GERALD AND AYAKO ROONEY

The Board presented Gerald and Ayako Rooney with a proclamation to thank them for their many years of service to the Fairhaven/New Bedford Sister City Committee and the Manjiro Festival.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Renee Tavares, Director of Recreation and Tom Cooney, Program Director, were in attendance. Ms. Tavares submitted a proposal to combine Parks and Recreation. (See attached.) Discussion followed. Mr. Manzone motioned to form an advisory committee with members to come from Town boards/committees involved in recreation, a member of the Board of Selectmen, a member of the Board of Public Works, the Superintendent of the Board of Public Works and Jeffrey Osuch. Mr. Silvia seconded. It was so voted. A notice will be placed on the cable TV bulletin board. Deadline to submit a request for appointment is November 7th.

EAST FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL PROJECT

General Bids for the East Fairhaven School Project were opened on October 5th. The low bid of \$12,751,700. was received from Agostini Construction Company, Inc., 243 Narragansett Park Drive, East Providence, RI. Mr. Manzone motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign "Notice of Award" to Agostini Construction Company. Mr. Silvia seconded. It was so voted.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Special Town Meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hastings Middle School.

Selectmen's Meeting – October 17, 2005

Board of Selectmen will meet at 6:30 p.m. on October 18, 2005 at the Hastings Middle School.

Personnel Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. on October 18, 2005 at the Hastings Middle School.

Finance Committee will meet at the Hastings Middle School on October 18, 2005.

East Fairhaven School Building Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m. on October 19, 2005 at the Town Hall.

Board of Public Works will meet at 7:00 p.m. on October 21, 2005 to discuss the West Island well fields.

Tax Classification hearing is scheduled for October 24, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Retirement Board will meeting on October 24, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the Town Hall.

Buzzards Bay Action Committee will meet on October 26, 2005 at 12:00 noon in Wareham.

Homeland Security meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on October 26, 2005.

Ethic Commission will hold a seminar for Town employees and Town boards/committees on November 9, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Leases for the former Council on Aging Building at 150 Sconticut Neck Road and Southcoast Express, Inc. d/b/a Seaport will be placed on the October 24, 2005 agenda.

The owner of Nye's Oil will speak with Charles Cromwell about the Nye's Oil Clock. At this time, he asked the Town not proceed with drafting a contract between the Town and Nye's Oil.

Mr. Manzone motioned to award the Fairhaven Town Hall Exterior Masonry Restoration Design Services Contract to Dyer Brown & Associates, Inc., 65 William Street, New Bedford, MA. Mr. Silvia seconded. It was so voted.

Mr. Manzone motioned to authorize the School Committee to enter into negotiations and procurement of services with Dyer Brown & Associates, Inc., 65 William Street, New Bedford, MA for the design and construction of the Fairhaven High School Gymnasium Project. Mr. Silvia seconded. It was so voted.

Selectmen's Meeting – October 17, 2005

ANIMAL SHELTER

\$25.00 donation to the Gift Account was accepted.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Construction Report for September 2005 will be placed on file.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Donations to the Gift Account totaling \$675.00 were accepted.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Silvia read the Letter of Commendation from the Police Chief to Sergeant Michael Bouvier, Detective Glenn Souza, Officer Richard Ciccone and Dispatcher Lindsay Quintal regarding an incident that occurred on October 3, 2005. (See attached.)

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

On October 4, 2005, the Board of Public Works voted not to hold an auction this year.

TREASURER/DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

A letter was received from the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association announcing that John Nunes was awarded the designation of Certified Massachusetts Municipal Collector. The Board congratulated Mr. Nunes.

MARINER YOUTH SOCCER CLUB

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 61, Section 8, Mr. Manzone motioned to decline the option to purchase the following lots: Plat 30, Lots 22, 34A, 34C, 34F, 35, 35A, 36 and Plat 30B, Lots 97-101, 102-103. Mr. Silva seconded. It was so voted. Mr. Osuch did not participate in the discussion. He is involved with Mariner Youth Soccer.

NSTAR GAS

Mr. Manzone motioned to approve the petition for maintenance of gas lines at 10 Deane Street and 17 Eddy Street. Mr. Silvia seconded. It was so voted. (Approved by the Board of Public Works)

Selectmen's Meeting – October 17, 2005

Mr. Manzone motioned to approve the petition for maintenance of gas main and services at 44 Bayview Avenue. Mr. Silvia seconded. It was so voted. (Approved by the Board of Public Works.)

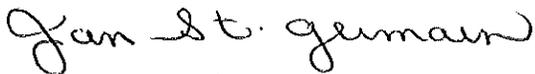
OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Manzone wished his wife a Happy Birthday.

Mr. Silvia attended the opening of the Swain Art exhibit this past weekend. He said the exhibit was well done and well attended and thanked the Historical Commission and Historical Society for their hard work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:20 p.m., Mr. Manzone motioned to go into executive session to discuss Clerical Union Contract negotiations, purchase of property near the East Fairhaven School and not to reconvene in open session. Mr. Silvia seconded. It was so voted. Roll call vote 2-0.



Jan St. Germain
Secretary



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN RECREATION DEPARTMENT

227 Huttleston Avenue Fairhaven, MA 02719
Phone 508-993-9269 Fax 508-993-9257
www.fairhavenrecreation.com
e-mail: fhvnrtares@comcast.net



MEMO

DATE: October 13, 2005

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Renee Tavares, CPRP, Recreation Director *RT*

RE: Discussion of combining Parks & Recreation

This memo is in response to the request of me to propose combining Parks & Recreation in the Town of Fairhaven. I will be meeting with you on Monday October 17, 2005 and look forward to discussing the future of Parks and Recreation in this community.

In the majority of the communities throughout the Commonwealth Parks and Recreation is one department. In some communities the staff and maintenance is performed under the direction of the Parks & Rec (P & R) Director and in other communities the maintenance is performed through the Public Works Dept. In our situation we would work collectively with the Public Works Dept. They would maintain the properties and P & R would oversee all other aspects from scheduling and assigning field permits, operation of concession stands and implementing new programs.

I have met with Robert Carey, BPW Director and reviewed the beach responsibilities and budget. I have also called Dana Almeida, Recreation Director but have not heard back from him. I have spoken with one other member from the Recreation Commission about these ideas. I envision this topic to be discussed in greater detail in the next few months. May I suggest that a member of the Recreation Commission, Board of Selectmen, Jeffrey Osuch, Bob Carey and myself meet to discuss this topic in depth should the BOS decide to move forward with the idea.

Enclosed you will find more detailed information on this subject. Thank you for your time and consideration of such an important matter.

Benefits to forming the Fairhaven Parks & Recreation Department

- ✓ Combining the administration of field permits, park activity and beach functions will make things more easily accessible for the users of these facilities.
- ✓ The Town of Fairhaven would become consistent with many other communities in the Commonwealth who already exist as a Parks & Recreation agency. This will prove to be helpful for newcomers moving into our community because they most likely come from somewhere that the department already exists in this way.
- ✓ More organized. Everything pertaining to parks and recreation would be under one roof. The Recreation Center becomes the hub for the community's recreation and leisure needs. Currently the recreation center receives phone calls regarding swim lessons, beach passes and field permits, we then have to give out one of three phone numbers in order for the customer to begin to receive the service they are looking for.
- ✓ The Board of Public Works is in the business of maintaining these facilities not programming and providing leisure activities for the community. The West Island Beach and swim lessons would be under the jurisdiction of the Parks & Recreation Department. Aquatic activity falls within the spectrum of Recreation programming. It will be easier for Recreation professionals to plan and implement additional events and activities at the beach when we will be the ones to oversee, manage and staff the facility.
- ✓ One of the most important benefits which ties into organization and accessibility is the fact that the Recreation Center is open 72 hours per week including evenings, Saturdays and most holidays. The longer hours and weekends will be more convenient for the residents looking to purchase beach passes or apply for field permits.
- ✓ The Recreation Director is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional and is affiliated with the National Recreation & Park Association as well as the Massachusetts Recreation & Park Association. This allows our department access to other Parks & Recreation agencies in the state and country with which ideas are shared, assistance is available and educational opportunities are plentiful.
- ✓ More activity can be brought into the parks because of programming staff knowledge and expertise. The more utilization of the parks the less vandalism will occur.

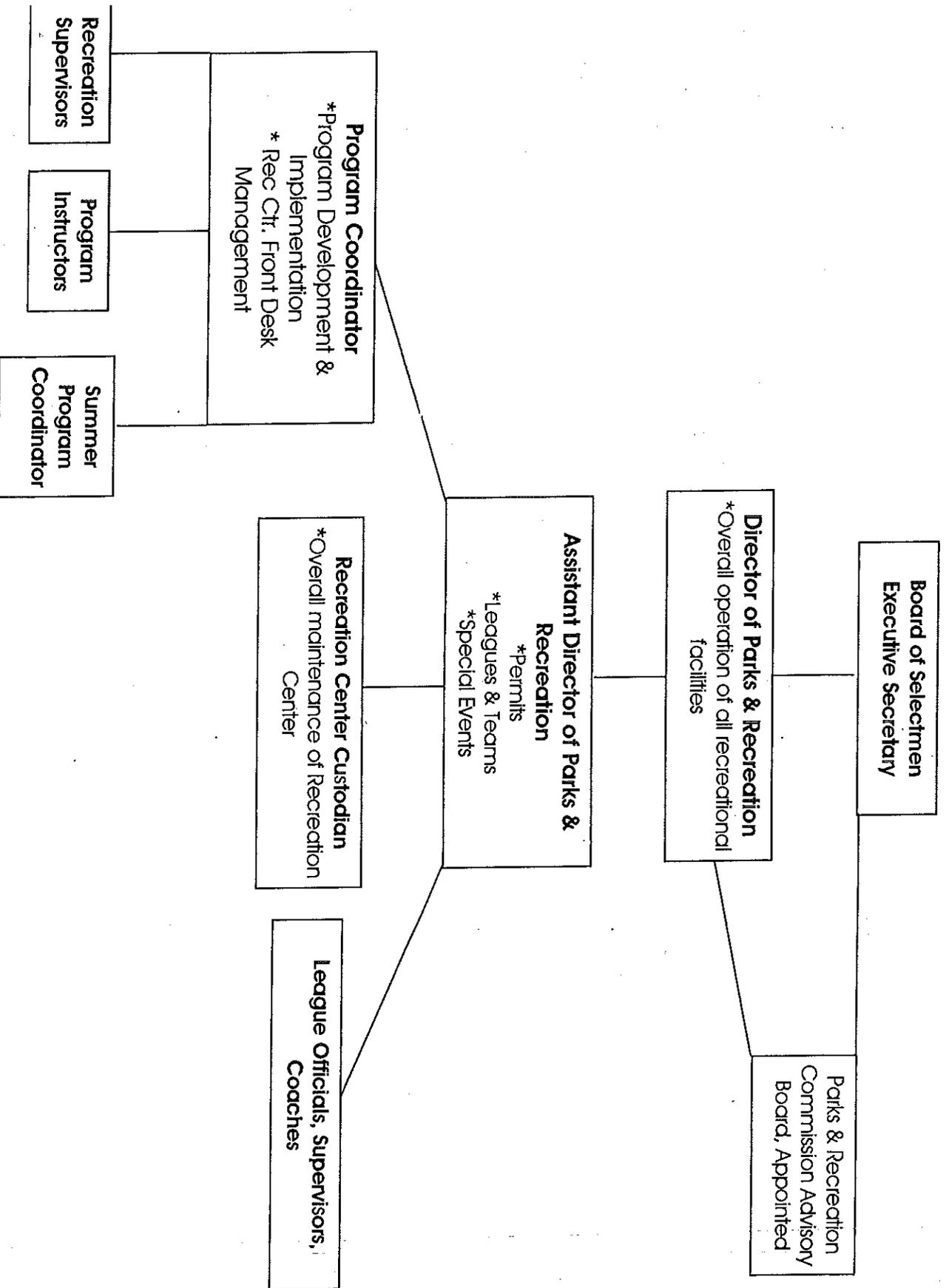
- ✓ Facilities in the park such as the concession stand at Cushman would be staffed and managed by this department providing additional revenue for the town.

Town of Fairhaven Parks & Recreation Department

Combining Parks & Recreation into one department would require a restructuring of the current Recreation Center and Recreation Commission.

1. The current Recreation Commission would change to a Parks & Recreation Commission working as an advisory board to all recreation facilities including the center, parks and the town beach. This would allow the current recreation commission to become more involved with recreation programming. This would also allow for the vacant positions on the current commission to be filled.
2. Restructure of the Recreation Center
 - Recreation Center Director becomes Parks & Recreation Director which results in a change in job description and reclassification of position. Recommendation for reclassification; the reassigning of job duties and salary adjustment would involve careful review of this position in similar cities and towns in order to be consistent with other communities and similar department head positions.
 - Creation of an Assistant Parks & Recreation Director position. This position and salary would be created by conducting a careful review of similar towns and cities in order to be consistent in the Parks & Recreation field.

Town of Fairhaven Parks & Recreation



**Please note the asterisk represents only the overall function of the positions, job descriptions contain detail.

7.



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
1 BRYANT LANE
FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719

TELEPHONES
Dial 911 Emergency
(508) 997-7421 Non-Emergency
(508) 997-1344 Business
(508) 997-3147 Fax

GARY F. SOUZA
CHIEF OF POLICE

DONALD A. JOSEPH
LIEUTENANT

October 13, 2005

Board of Selectmen
Town Hall
40 Center St.
Fairhaven, MA 02719

RE: Letter of Commendation
Sergeant Michael Bouvier
Detective Glenn Souza
Officer Richard Ciccone
Dispatcher Lindsay Quintal

Gentlemen:

At approximately 12:30 am on October 3, 2005, a 26 year old Fairhaven woman was, sleeping and was alone in her apartment or so she believed. She was woken by a masked man on her bed holding a knife to her face and his hand over her mouth. The man told the terrified woman that she would not get hurt if she did not scream. He took the covers off the partially clad woman, turned her over and tied her hands behind her back with a shoelace.

The man had taken the victims credit cards out of her pocketbook before waking her. He told the victim that she was going to go with him to take money out of her ATM accounts. The victim asked to be allowed to get dressed but the male only threw a bathrobe over her. She was forced outside still tied up and placed in the passenger seat of her own car. The male demanded she tell him the location of her bank and her PIN numbers then drove the car to Bridgewater Credit Union on Alden Road. He was unsuccessful in getting any money from that ATM so drove to Sovereign bank where he was able to withdraw \$300 from her account with information he had forced her to divulge.

The male drove the victim back to her apartment and brought her back inside. He stripped off all her clothing. The victim began crying hysterically. At that time, the man fled the apartment.

Officers Ciccone, Sniezek and Riggs along with the shift supervisor, Sgt. Bouvier, arrived on scene shortly after the crime was reported. The victim was crying and shaking from the stress of the incident. She had great difficulty in speaking.

Sgt. Bouvier and Off. Ciccone exhibited their professionalism in working with the victim. Officers must exhibit a great amount of patience and compassion when interviewing a victim of this type of incident so soon after it occurred. These two officers took the time to reassure the victim, patiently obtain the facts and get a good description of the suspect consistent with the fact his face was covered.

The skillful interviewing by these two officers led the victim to recall that the man's voice was similar to that of a man who had briefly shared an apartment with another man upstairs from the victim months earlier. Officers noted that the man had probably gained entry into the common hallway through the locked outside door with a key as the outside door was not forced nor did it appear to have been tampered with.

Sgt. Bouvier directed Dispatcher Quintal to research prior calls to that house in order to identify potential suspects. Dispatcher Quintal's expertise with our in house computer system and the state and federal criminal information systems allowed her to identify a 29 year old Fairhaven man, Anthony Faria, as a suspect. She was also able to ascertain that he now listed an address on Middle Street and was the subject of an arrest warrant for an unrelated incident in Fall River.

Officers went to the Middle Street address but were unable to locate anyone. Detective Glenn Souza recalled the name of a Fairhaven woman who had previously lived at that address. He contacted the woman and found that she was still the property owner. Further, that her daughter Cheryl, resides in the first floor apartment with Faria and that Cheryl was with her. Officers received permission to enter the apartment but were not able to locate Faria.

Cheryl spoke to Faria by cell telephone but he refused to reveal his location. Detective Souza requested Cheryl again call Faria but this time he took the telephone and spoke to Faria. Detective Souza spoke calmly to Faria and exhibited great empathy toward his drug dependence assuring him that treatment would be available if he turned himself into police. Detective Souza was extremely persuasive and calming on the telephone resulting in Faria revealing that he was hiding in a car on the property. He was found in the back seat of a car hidden beneath garbage and clothing where he was arrested.

It is clear to me that Detective Souza is among the most skillful and effective interrogators I have seen in my 25 years in law enforcement. Faria was brought to the station where Detective Souza ensured he was informed of all his rights under the law. Detective Souza again conversed with Faria calmly and patiently. He was able to gain Faria's confidence resulting in him admitting to being the person who had broken into the apartment stating he had done it for money to purchase drugs. He was convinced to bring

police to the area where he had thrown the knife and his clothing off the Fairhaven bridge while enroute to New Bedford to buy drugs with the money taken from the woman.

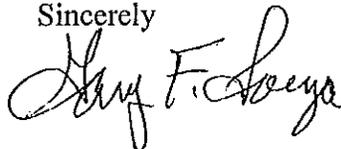
This was an extremely serious case. Few things are more unsettling than the thought of someone breaking into your home with a weapon while you are sleeping. All the officers working that night took this crime very seriously and worked conscientiously to locate the perpetrator. They included Detective Sergeant Michael Botelho and Officers Edward Riggs and Frank Sniezek as well as police dive unit members Officers Glenn Cudmore, Scott Gordon, Jerald Bettencourt, Kevin Kobza and Marc Darmofal who searched in the harbor for evidence.

But I would especially like to commend Sgt. Bouvier for his professional command and coordination of resources during the investigation, Off. Ciccone for his thorough interview of the victim so soon after the traumatic incident, Dispatcher Quintal for her investigative work leading to the identification of a suspect and Detective Glenn Souza for his skillful and professional interrogation of the suspect leading to a confession.

I am thankful that the Town has given me the opportunity to command the fine group of men and women that comprise the Fairhaven Police Department. I see their professionalism and dedication day in and day out on matters from the mundane to the serious. But it is when an incident such as this occurs that their abilities are really evident. I am proud to be their chief

I am placing a copy of this letter of commendation in the permanent files of the above five officers.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary F. Souza". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "G".

Gary F. Souza
Chief of Police