



Fairhaven Board of Selectmen

February 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Present: Selectman Chairman Brian Bowcock, Vice Chairman Charles Murphy, Clerk Robert Espindola, Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch, and Administrative Assistant Anne Kakley. Also present: BPW Superintendent Vincent Furtado, Sewer Superintendent Linda Schick, Highway Superintendent John Charbonneau, Water Superintendent Ed Fortin, Kathy Tripp, Steve Riley, Robert Hobson, Bob Furtado, and Jean Perry.

Chairman Brian Bowcock called the meeting to order in the Banquet Room at 6:30 p.m.

BLIZZARD OF 2013

Mr. Osuch said that the Town of Fairhaven received about 13-14 inches of snow in the February 7-8, 2013 blizzard. He said that the plowing went well, despite the ongoing issue of residents shoveling snow back into the streets. He said that NSTAR did not do a good job communicating to the towns regarding power restoration. Dr. Bowcock agreed. The Board thanked the BPW for their hard work in keeping the roads clear.

Mr. Osuch said that there would have to be a discussion about establishing shelters and the responsibilities associated. He also said that the Board would have to talk about tree clearing and the tree warden.

Mr. Murphy expressed concern that the senior housing did not have a generator. Mr. Osuch said that the Housing Authority was a state agency with an elected board of directors, and did not answer directly to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Espindola said maybe the Board could send a letter to the Housing Authority regarding generators for the senior housing.

BPW FY14 BUDGET

The Board met with members of the BPW and the BPW superintendents to discuss their requested FY14 budgets.

Parks – Mr. Charbonneau said that Salary and Wages was up 1.6 percent. Everything else is level-funded except a request for park seed. Electricity will be lowered to \$2,200. Gasoline consumption will be changed to \$6,400.

Highway – The overtime account and the snow and ice account have both been exceeded for FY13. Mr. Osuch said that the Board would have to approve deficit spending in the current year.

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve deficit spending in the amount of \$20,000 for sand and salt and \$20,000 for salary for FY13. Mr. Espindola seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Mr. Riley said that the BPW is currently using a 3-to-1 sand/salt mix but would like to change to all salt for FY15. Although the cost is more, said Mr. Riley, they will not have to pay the labor involved in cleaning up sand in the springtime, and Mr. Charbonneau said that salt will not clog drainage or disturb wetlands like sand does. Mr. Riley said that the BPW would try to ease the salt into the budget by continuing with the 3-to-1 mixture on side streets and starting with the full salt on main roads.

Curbing and hard surface request increased from \$60,000 to \$80,000. Other Highway increases included \$6,000 increase for sidewalk repair, \$127,550 for equipment purchase and a \$13,700 increase for rubbish collection.

Under Highway articles submitted, the BPW said that they would prioritize Dogwood, North and Cooke Streets for road work. They are also looking to get the second part of the Macomber-Pimental field fence complete.

Sewer – Ms. Schick said that Sewer line items were up across the board due to the Digester. She said that she could not give an accurate net savings from the Digester until it was completely up and running. She prioritized the capital needs for her department, saying that a replacement for the electrician's emergency truck would be her top priority. Discussion ensued regarding the net savings the Town will see from the Digester. Mr. Osuch expressed concern that the projected spending would not adequately be offset by the projected savings. He said that the figure of \$406,000 for heat and light seemed high. Ms. Schick disagreed.

Mr. Riley asked the Board if a determination will be made regarding the Sewer department's rights to revenue from the wind turbines. He said that contractual language indicates that the wind turbines are supposed to offset wastewater costs.

Ms. Schick reviewed Sewer submitted articles, including \$80,000 to design high priority items for the Water Pollution Control Facility, \$445,000 for Inflow and Infiltration, \$100,000 for a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) and \$287,000 for the Taber Street pump station. Mr. Osuch expressed concern that the (CWMP) was being piecemealed. Ms. Schick said that doing the projects in portions was the only way she could fund them.

Water – Mr. Fortin said that he included three handheld water meter readers in the capital needs portion of his requested FY14 budget. In articles, the Water department will request \$200,000 to replace 40 to 50 hydrants, particularly on Sconticut Neck.

Administrative – Mr. Furtado said that there was a contractual one percent increase for salaries – everything else was level-funded.

POLICE DEPARTMENT FY14 BUDGET

The Board met with Police Chief Michael Myers at 7:55 p.m. to discuss the requested FY14 budget for the Police Department.

Chief Myers said that there was an increase in overtime because of required Excess and Deficiency (E&D) training for dispatchers. The majority of the lines were level funded. Capital outlay will include the two police cruisers that the Police Department replaces each year.

Chief Myers said he submitted an article with the Fire Department for a telephone system upgrade. The current telephone system breaks often and needs to be serviced in Florida, making repairs time consuming.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT FY14 BUDGET

The Board met with School Committee members Bernie Roderiques, Pam Kuechler, Brian Monroe and Paul Kitchen to discuss the proposed FY14 School Department budget. Mr. Kitchen gave an overview of the request, which totaled \$17,978,499. Mr. Kitchen said that it was a unique year because they would be combining Wood and Rogers into one larger building. He used the Lincoln School in New Bedford in estimating the energy costs of the new Wood School. Mr. Kitchen said that the School Committee's request is the result of two teacher retirements and a paraprofessional retirement.

Discussion ensued regarding the School Department budget and net school spending. There was some disagreement between the School Department and Mr. Osuch regarding how they arrived at the requested FY14 budget. Mr. Osuch asked if the School Department would submit a line-by-line budget. The School Committee said that they were not required by law to do so.

In School articles, Mr. Kitchen said that the School Department had, in addition to their two annual revolving account articles, submitted an article asking for \$200,000, to be matched with \$103,000 of leftover CPC funding to replace the fire escapes at the High School. Testing has indicated that the current fire escapes have unacceptable levels of lead paint on them.

Dr. Bowcock said that Town Meeting members would likely want to see a drawing of the proposed fire escapes. Mr. Kitchen said that the School Department would be putting an RFP out for the fire escapes soon.

FIRE DEPARTMENT FY14 BUDGET

The Board met with Fire Chief Timothy Francis at 8:55 p.m. to discuss the requested FY14 budget for the Fire Department. The Board acknowledged that the Fire Department had the smallest increase of all the large departments for FY14. Of the \$24,487 increase in the Fire Department, about \$23,000 was contractual, including an Early Retirement Incentive for Deputy Chief Donald Fletcher.

Fire Alarm – The Fire Alarm budget increased by \$123 for contractual increases.

For Fire Department submitted articles, Chief Francis reiterated the urgent need for a new shared phone system (\$22,710) at the Police/Fire Departments. He also presented the need for a Fire Department Security System (\$8,500), saying that the system the department is requesting at the 2013 Town Meeting could be removed and reinstalled if the Town ever votes to build a new Fire Station.

Another article will ask Town Meeting to match funds (\$38,450) if the Town is selected to receive a 5% FEMA grant for a new ladder truck.

FINANCIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Mr. Murphy said that he had received the Financial Policies and Procedures drafts and would like to wait until the next meeting to discuss it further. Mr. Osuch said that he had sent proposed drafts of the Financial Policies and Procedures to Town Counsel for review. The Board will discuss the policies and FY14 budget figures at the next meeting on February 19.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Murphy congratulated Pauline Parker for getting the 2013 Narragansett Council Award of the Silver Beaver for her work with the Scouts
- Mr. Espindola joined the rest of the Board in commending Town personnel for their hard work in cleaning up after the blizzard
- Mr. Murphy reiterated that he would like the Board to reach out to the Housing Authority to see what would be involved in getting a generator at the senior housing

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:11 p.m. to discuss Clerical Union negotiations, Police Personnel and to pick interviewees for Finance Director. Mr. Murphy motioned to enter Executive Session. Mr. Espindola seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0). Roll call vote: Dr. Bowcock in favor. Mr. Murphy in favor. Mr. Espindola in favor.

Respectfully,

Anne Kakley

Selectmen's Secretary
(Minutes approved 2/19/2013)