



Fairhaven Board of Selectmen

March 11, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman Charles Murphy, Vice Chairman Robert Espindola, Clerk Geoffrey Haworth, Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch, and Administrative Assistant Anne Kakley.

Chairman Charles Murphy called the meeting to order in the Town Hall Banquet Room at 12:10 p.m. The meeting was telecast and video recorded by Government Access and audio recorded by Anne Kakley.

Mr. Murphy stated that it was a budget meeting, but that he had two time-sensitive items for the Board to consider within the meeting:

LETTER OF SUPPORT – BUZZARD’S BAY COALITION

Mr. Murphy said that the Board had received a request from the Buzzard’s Bay Coalition to send a letter of support from the Town of Fairhaven for Buzzard’s Bay Coalition to receive NRDA (Natural Resource Damage Assessment) funds from the Bouchard Oil recovery funds for a Nasketucket Bay land acquisition deal. Mr. Espindola stated that he was in favor of the request. Mr. Haworth said that he did not know enough to express support, but that he would vote in favor of the request, as he did not see anything about it that would financially jeopardize the Town.

Mr. Espindola motioned to send the letter of support for the Buzzard’s Bay Coalition. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

CLERICAL UNION PETITION

Mr. Murphy acknowledged a petition from the Clerical Union asking the Board to reinstate the Planning and Economic Development Administrative Assistant position back to part-time. Mr. Haworth said that once the position is part-time, it is no longer under the purview of the Clerical Union. The Board agreed that it would not make a decision until they could talk with department head Bill Roth.

FY15 BUDGET AND TOWN MEETING

Based on the previous decision to base the FY15 budget on 80 percent of the Town’s local receipts, Mr. Osuch said that the amount that the Board would have to remove to create a balanced budget would be \$421,000.

Discussion centered on capital improvements, including a need for a new roof at the Police/Fire Station and a new roof at the Academy Building. Road work was discussed; Mr. Murphy said that he supported the road work requests submitted by the BPW, which were Bridge Street, Summit Drive, and Point Street.

Mr. Murphy expressed interest in raising their local receipt percentage to 85%, but Mr. Haworth said that he would not be comfortable budging from the figure they picked. Mr. Osuch said that the Treasurer and Accountant both favored the 80% figure.

Mr. Murphy made cut suggestions, including reducing the OPEB line item from \$75,000 to either \$50,000 or \$25,000.

In a request from the School Department for an article to fund the replacement of flooring at the Hastings Middle School, the Board received no answer from the School regarding the feasibility of splitting up the job, so the Board did not favor the request for this year.

Mr. Espindola asked Mr. Osuch which departments in Article 4 had requested a figure over two percent from last year's figure. Mr. Osuch said that the Highway Department had requested \$6,000 over two percent.

Mr. Osuch advised that the House version of the budget will be higher than the Governor's budget.

The Board made the following recommendations for cuts to the FY15 budget:

\$20,000.00	From Police Department
\$15,000.00	From Fire Department
\$10,000.00	From Highway Department
\$120,000.00	From Schools
\$15,000.00	From Other Departments

In regards to a request from a Community Preservation Committee article to provide a solar-operated self-contained unit at the bike path crossing on Sconticut Neck, Mr. Haworth requested that MassDOT be notified that the Town intends to use the unit, to make sure it fits their specifications.

BUDGET/ARTICLE VOTES

All items were voted to come out of the General Fund unless otherwise noted:

- **Article 3 – Setting Salaries of Town Officers**
D. Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$6,631. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- **Article 6 – Community Preservation Appropriations (all sums to come from CPC funds)**

- A. Community Housing reserve – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$50,000. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- B. Open Space reserve – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$30,000. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- C. Open Space and Recreation Plan Update – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$20,000. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- D. High School Window Restoration – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$50,000. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- E. Town Hall Sidewalk Restoration – William and Center – Mr. Espindola asked to Hold this item.
- F. Historical Commission Academy Building Restor. Phase 3 – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$2,000. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- G. Historical Commission Fire Protection Building Phase 2 – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$10,000. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- H. Bikeway Committee – Sconticut Neck Crossing – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$12,000. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- I. Livesey Park Rehab Project – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$60,000. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- J. Administrative Spending – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$12,600. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- **Article 8 – Fire Department Roof** – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$253,717. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- **Article 16 – Sewer System Collection Rehab I&I** – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$425,000. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- **Article 17 – OPEB** – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$50,000. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- **Article 18 – Road Work**
 - A. *Billy’s Way* – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend Indefinite Postponement. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
 - B. *Bridge Street* – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$217,083. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
 - C. *Summit Drive* – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$32,683. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
 - D. *Point Street* – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$32,683. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- **Article 19 – Sewer Collection Pump Station – Taber Street** – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$575,000. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- **Article 21 – Street Lights** – This item was held.
- **Article 22 – Fire Department Copy Machine** – This item was held.
- **Article 24 – Wind Turbine Electricity Purchase FY15** – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$900,000. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).
- **Article 27 – Hastings Middle School Floors** – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend Indefinite Postponement. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous.
- **Article 29 – Cultural Council Funding** – Mr. Haworth motioned to recommend \$1,000. Mr. Espindola seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

- **Article 30 – Historical Commission** – A request for the Academy Building appropriation, the Fort Phoenix appropriation, and an appropriation for a roof at the Academy Building were held.
- **Article 33 – Public Works Door Replacement** – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend Indefinite Postponement. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

For the FY15 budget:

- **Line 54 – Town Insurance** – Mr. Espindola motioned to recommend \$863,000. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Mr. Espindola motioned to adjourn at 1:29 p.m. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Respectfully,

Anne Kakley

Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen
(Minutes approved 03/17/2014)