

Town of Fairhaven

Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting for <March 21, 2013>at the BPW Administration Building, Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance:

Chairman-John Roderiques, Robert A. Furtado, Scott Fernandes, Kim Hyland, Kathi Carter, Colin Veitch, Dawn Devlin, Sid Martin, Phil Washko, Padraic Elliot

Members absent:

Kevin Costa

Therese Szala

Town of Fairhaven:

Jeffery Osuch- Executive secretary, arrived @ 8:55 PM

William D. Roth, Jr.- Planning Director

Jeffery Lucas- Chairman of Community Preservation Committee

Natural Resources Dept. 8:30 PM appointment:

David S. Darmofal- Harbormaster/Asst. Shellfish Warden

Timothy Cox- Shellfish Warden/Asst. Harbormaster

Meeting was covered by government access television. Member of the press present.

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Announced that the meeting was being recorded by government access TV. Chairman has to be notified if anyone else present is recording.

Motion made by Kim to accept the minutes from March 14, 2013. Seconded by Sid.

Vote: Unanimous

- The committee received the resignation of Kevin Costa from Fairhaven Finance Committee. The Chairman and the committee thank Kevin for his service.
- Chairman distributes a draft of the letter from the committee to town meeting members, for the TM booklet. Members are advised to review the letter before the next meeting.
- Mr. Roth presents the budget for the Planning & Economic Development Department:

- The salary category is up because of the 1% increase.
 - All other categories are level funded.
- Mr. Roth and Mr. Lucas present the CPC Articles:
 - #31b FHA Anthony Haven Roof:
Seeks \$ 40,000 as a contribution to the replacement of the Anthony Haven Roof. The existing roof was last done in the early 1980's. Mr. Roth states that the total project cost is approximately \$ 145,000.
Mr. Lucas states that the share of the CPC money that the Housing Authority receives for their projects is usually a small percentage of the total project cost. Mr. Roth states that a minimum of \$ 40,000 must be put aside for Housing Category even if this request is not approved.
 - #31c Fairhaven High School:
Seeks \$ 86,000 for repairs to the East & West gutter lines. This work would be to eliminate water intrusion issues.
 - #31d Fort Phoenix Restoration Phase II:
Seeks \$ 16,000 for design work for the capping of the gun magazine at Fort Phoenix. This is the second phase of a project started 6-7 years ago. This is for the study and design only. They would be back for a much larger amount for the actual repair. If the work is not done, eventually the roof of the magazine could collapse.
 - #31e Bike Path Committee:
Seeks \$ 10,000 for materials for signs, stencils, and paint for crosswalks, for use along the bike path.
Mr. Roth states that after a minimum of 10% of funds are used in each of the 3 other categories, money can be used for recreation.
Materials would be used for painting the entire crosswalk in areas of the bike path, and for Share The Road signs along New Boston Rd., Scoticut Neck Rd., Alden Rd., Main St., and Middle St.
 - #31f Livesey Park-Tennis/Bball Court Project:
Seeks \$ 32,000 for sealing cracks and repairs to the courts at Livesey Park. This should extend the life of the surface for 7-10 years.
The Fairhaven Tennis Association would be providing an additional \$ 10,000. Chairman questions whether the Association intends to lock the courts after the repairs. Town courts should not be kept from the taxpayers. Mr. Roth will check with the BPW.
 - #31g Administrative Spending:
Seeks \$ 12,600 for the administrative work of the CPC. Level funded from last year.
 - #31a Nasketucket Bay Conservations:

Seeks \$ 200,000 for the Buzzards Bay Coalition as part of a \$ 6,000,000 purchase of conservation restrictions on approximately 400 acres of land. The land would remain under the present ownership but would not be able to be developed.

Committee discussion:

- Would the land be able to be developed as it stands now?
- Most of the areas are marshland, wetlands, or land locked.
- Lots of small parcels in separate areas, belonging to the same owner.
- What is the town getting for their money?
- Questions if solar or wind generators could be placed on the parcels.
- Suggestion of using CPC money to fund a land bank for town purchase of land, for town use.

CPC Articles on the STM

- #10a Town Hall:

Seeks \$ 44,000 for the repair and restoration of the front entrance doors and light fixtures.

- #10b Rogers School Study:

The School Committee seeks \$ 40,000 for engineering, structural, and future use study of the Rogers School building.

Discussion of why is the School Committee dealing with this instead of waiting until the building is deemed surplus. Why isn't the Oxford School building included?

Some CPC committee members also strongly felt the Oxford School should have been included.

If this is not approved the money would stay in the undesignated balance.

- #10c Fire Protection Building:

The Fairhaven Historical Commission seeks \$ 3,000 for painting of the Fire Protection Building on Washington ST.

- #10d North Fairhaven CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Plan:

The Fairhaven Planning & Economic Development Dept. seeks \$ 60,000 to be used for the required work to designate the next CBG areas to the north & south of I-195. Includes approximately 688 properties and infrastructure.

- #11 High School Fire Escapes:

Would transfer \$ 105,000 from last year's Article #42e, to be used toward the Fairhaven High School fire escapes.

School Dept. would be back in to discuss.

- Chairman calls recess @8:17 PM. Back in session @ 8:25 PM.

- Mr. Darmofal and Mr. Cox present the Harbor Master and Shellfish Department budgets:
 - Salary category is listed as the same as last year, but does not include the 6-30-13 1% increase or longevity.
 - Purchase of Services:
\$ 50 has been added to the phone category to help cover the use of cell phones.
 - The cost of the shellfish buttons has increased 25 % but Mr. Cox is trying to control this by ordering smaller quantities, only as they are needed.
The department is also saving money by using silk screened shirts and eliminating badges.
 - The slip fees for dockage have gone up, but they are trying to keep them down by using a bartering system at some docks.
 - Department is trying to save money by reusing old signs from the BPW and relettering them. Signage is important in order to enforce shellfish closings.
 - Training: is up because new laws require additional training and certifications for both Harbormaster and Shellfish Warden.
 - Capital Outlay: seeks \$ 3,500 to replace the motor on the shellfish work boat with a rebuilt motor that will be warranted for 1 season. The last time the existing motor was repaired it only lasted a couple of days.
 - Discussion of using more money from the Waterways Enterprise account to fund the budget.
Mr. Darmofal will investigate this before next year's budget process begins and report back to the committee.

- Chairman submits a letter from the Police Chief requesting support, at the STM, for the transfer of \$ 30,739 from the Police Technology Acct. to cover technology equipment. This money is funded by the issuance of Firearms Licenses.
- Chairman submits an email from the Fire Chief requesting support, at the STM, for the funding of \$ 3,464.39 for bucket truck repairs and \$ 10,000 to cover overtime related to the storms this winter. Chief Francis has also submitted a Reserve Fund Transfer for the same amounts.

Mr. Osuch in @ 8:55 PM.

- The Chairman and committee quickly review the draft of the Special Town Meeting within the Annual.
 - Veterans Services are seeking \$ 144,000.
 - Building Dept. seeks \$ 17,000.
 - Highway Dept. seeks \$ 45,000 to cover the snow & ice.
 - Elections seeks \$ 8,770 to cover the extra election this year.

The Chairman advises that this is half of the money needed for both the primary and final election, but the remainder will have to come from the Reserve Fund because the Primary will be in April, before Town Meeting.

- Brief discussion of the DOR Articles that have not been released yet.

- Chairman advises members to be ready to vote on all items in the budget at the next meeting on March 26, 2013.

- 9:03 PM Kim motions to adjourn. Seconded by Sid. Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado
Finance Committee Secretary

(accepted 3-26-2013)