

Town of Fairhaven

Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting for <February 13, 2014>at the BPW Administration Building, Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance:

Chairman-John Roderiques, Robert A. Furtado, Scott Fernandes, , Kathi Carter, Therese Szala, Lisa Plante, John Mota

Member arriving late:

Padraic Elliot - in @7:05 PM.

Town of Fairhaven:

Jeffery Osuch- Executive secretary

Warren Rensehausen- Recreation Director

Meeting was covered by government access television. Member of the press was not present.

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 Scott to accept the minutes from February 6, 2014. Seconded by John M.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion made by Scott to accept the minutes from February 12, 2014. Seconded by John M.

Vote: Unanimous

- Mr. Osuch passed out updated draft of the May Town Meeting warrant, updated copy of the Article 4 spreadsheet, and updated spreadsheet of the Articles.

7:07 PM. Meeting with Warren Rensehausen- Recreation Director, to discuss his budget.

- Chairman asks Mr. Rensehausen to give the committee a brief update of what is going on at the Rec Center.

- Mr. Rensehausen states that they have restarted the afterschool program at the Wood and East Fairhaven Elementary Schools.
They have approximately 44 participants each day between the 2 schools.
The program so far has brought in \$ 35,515 with expenses amounting to \$ 18,000.
 - Mr. Rensehausen states they are doing occasional trips to the casinos as well as trying to plan a trip to Maine in the future.
- Mr. Rensehausen explains that his budget with a 1% increase would include the purchase of a storage shed.
- The budget with a 2% increase would include the purchase of the shed as well as an inflatable water slide for use during the summer program.
 - Currently, they rent a slide every Friday during the summer program. That slide rents for \$ 125 each week.
If they do not get the shed they would not get the slide, because there would be no place to store it.
- The Chairman and Mr. Osuch discuss the Program Fees & Membership Fees.
- This year to date, the Rec Center has taken in \$ 129,906 in revenue. Mr. Rensehausen expects to hit \$ 200,000 for the entire year.
- Terry questions the charge for Digital Document Solutions.
Mr. Rensehausen explains this is for software the center uses.
- Terry also questions the charge for GM Refrigeration.
Mr. Rensehausen explains that service was required on the roof top HVAC units.
- Mr. Osuch asks Mr. Rensehausen what his plans are for future equipment replacement.
Mr. Rensehausen states that 2 pieces of equipment were purchased the previous year and the existing plan is to try to replace 2 units every other year. That would amount to an expense of approximately \$ 10,000 next year.
- Pat asks what the size of the shed would be, how long the slide would last, and whether the salary line includes the 1/2%, and 1% increases for the year.
Mr. Rensehausen states the shed would be 8' by 10', similar to what the COA is using.
The slide is expected to last at least 5 to 7 years.
The Salary line is correct. Some employees have left and the replacements are at a lower step.
- Mr. Rensehausen states that starting April 1st. the Rec Center will be offering online registration and accepting credit cards.

Having answered the committee's questions, Mr. Rensehausen leaves the meeting at 7:35 PM.

- February 20th the Selectmen will be having budget meetings between 5:00 PM. and 7:00 PM.
The Finance Committee will still have their meeting, but will not have any appointments.

- Chairman starts discussion about gas budgets.
 - #13 Council on Aging c.1. Gasoline
Request is for \$ \$ 7,400.
 - Chairman questions why their gas consumption has risen.
 - Mr. Osuch states taking on an extra van has caused the increase.
 - Terry asks if the COA can ask for donations when they give rides.
Chairman states that any donations go to the gift account.
 - Chairman states that if the departments are given additional gas, they usually use it.
 - Scott motions for \$ 7,200. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
 - # 25 Police Department c.1. Gasoline
Request is for \$ 80,200.
 - Request is down from last year because of the newer more efficient police vehicles.
 - Scott motions for \$ 80,200. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
 - #26 Fire Department c.1. Gasoline
Request is for \$ 26,640
 - Discussion between the Chairman and Mr. Osuch about the true cost of the 3rd ambulance and the use of the ambulance fund.
 - Scott motions for \$ 26,640. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
 - #27 Fire Alarm Maintenance c.1. Gasoline
Request is for \$ 700.
 - Scott motions for \$ 700. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
 - #28 Building Department c.1. Gasoline
Request is for \$ 1,610.
 - Scott motions for \$ 1,610. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
 - #29 Tree Warden Department d.1. Gasoline
Request is for \$ 4,840. Last year's appropriation was \$ 5,070.
 - Terry motions for \$ 5,070. Seconded by Scott. Vote: Unanimous
 - #30 Shellfish Inspection c.1. Gasoline
Request is for \$ 6,950.
 - Discussion of variation in gas consumption in previous years.
 - Mr. Osuch states that the \$ 6,950 includes \$ 2,200 in boat gas money.
 - Scott motions for \$ 6,950. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

- #31 Care of Dogs & Others c.1. Gasoline
Request is for \$ 800.
 - Scott motions for \$ 800. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

8:09 PM. Chairman calls a recess. Back in session @ 8:19 PM.

- #32 Emergency management Agency c.1. Gasoline
Request is for \$ 1,060.
 - Discussion of how many vehicles the Agency has registered.
Mr. Osuch believes there are 6 vehicles registered.
 - Chairman asks if maintenance records are checked on vehicles.
 - Scott motions for \$ 1,000. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

- #34 Street Lighting
 - Since switching to the LED lighting the cost has gone down significantly.
 - Next year this line will be less because the Town will not be purchasing any new lights.
 - Chairman asks Mr. Osuch if there is any money built in the budget to eventually replace the lights as needed.
Mr. Osuch states the lights have a life expectancy of 17 years.
 - Mr. Osuch brings it to the committee's attention that this line item also covers 2 sets of traffic lights, and the warning lights at the school crossings.
 - Scott motions for \$ 90,000. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

- #35 Board of Health
 - d.1. Gasoline
Request is for \$ 480.
 - John M. motions for \$ 480. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
 - e. Intergovernmental
This is for the Community Nurse contract.
 - Scott motions for \$ 17,000. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
 - h. SEMASS
 - Scott motions for \$ 284,576. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
 - j. Hazardous Waste
Hazardous waste is collected every other year.
On the collection year \$ 11,000 is requested. On the off year \$ 1,000 is requested.
 - Scott motions for \$ 11,000. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
 - k. Landfill Inspection
Request is for \$ 21,000

- Used to monitor the closed landfill
 - Scott motions for \$ 21,000. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
- #38 Highway Division
 - c. 1. Gasoline
 - Request is for \$ 64,080
 - Scott motions for \$ 64,080. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
 - k. Subdivision MGT Fees
 - Request is for \$ 8,647
 - Scott motions for \$ 8,647. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
- #40 Water Division c. 1. Gasoline
 - Request is for \$ 22,500
 - Scott motions for \$ 22,500. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
- #43 GNBRVTHS
 - Mr. Osuch states he hasn't received the official written number yet, but feels the number listed is correct.
 - Committee will wait.
- #47 Park Division
 - Discussion of grass cutting. Cutting of grass at Hoppy's Landing and at the former Rogers and Oxford Schools.
- #49 Group Insurance
 - Scott motions for \$ 4,250,000. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
- #50 Memorial Day
 - Scott motions for \$ 2,500. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
- #56 FICA-Medicare
 - Chairman asks Mr. Osuch if the figure has the increase for the raises and Education Incentives in the Police Dept.
 - Mr. Osuch says yes but committee holds off on voting.
- # 12 Town Hall
 - Discussion of new phone system
 - Mr. Osuch would like to consolidate all the Town Hall phone expenses into 1 line item and remove that amount from the various depts. budgets. It would make the accounting easier and also save money by removing some lines and phone listings.
 - Scott motions to "Alter the budget by removing all Town Hall hard-line telephone charges from individual budgets and consolidate them in 1 budget- #12 Town Hall b. Purchase of Services 2. Telephone system". Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous
 - Scott motions to recommend \$ 6,500 for #12 Town Hall b. Purchase of Services 2. Telephone system. Seconded by Terry. Vote: Unanimous

- Chairman advises members to look over Articles for next meeting.
 - Look at streets and street light Article.
 - Look at the smaller budgets to see if there are any questions.
 - Chairman will contact Police, Fire, and BPW for appointments to come in.
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- Terry motions to adjourn @ 9:12 PM. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado
Finance Committee Secretary

(accepted 2-20-2014)