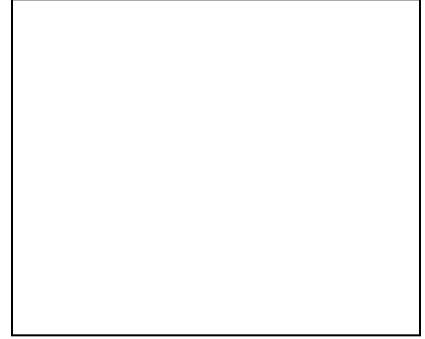


**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
March 27, 2023**

Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner
Travis Rapoza, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager
Joshua Crabb, Highway Superintendent
Paul Foley, Town Planner
Mike Carter, GCG Associates
Linda Overing, Breezeway Farms Consultants
Dawne Babbitt, 60 Hedge Street
Cynthia Haines, 64 Hedge Street
Laurie Powers, 240 Main Street
Charlie Powers, 240 Main Street
David Farland, SMEO Interview
Robert Frias, SMEO Interview
Chris Amaral, Highway Department
James Lawrence, Highway Department
Charles Hurley, Highway Department
Nancy Santoro, 148 Dogwood Street
Lianne Hodson – 143 Dogwood Street



I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. March 13, 2023

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of March 13, 2023. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. March 13, 2023 – Executive Session A

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the minutes of March 13, 2023 – Executive Session A. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

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C. March 13, 2023 – Executive Session B

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of March 13, 2023 – Executive Session B. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. April 4, 2022 – Executive Session B

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of April 4, 2022 – Executive Session B. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

E. May 9, 2022 – Executive Session A

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the minutes of May 9, 2022 – Executive Session A. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mr. Rapoza enter the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

IV. Appointments

6:00 Public Hearing, Hedge Street Phase 3

Mr. Foley - This is a required public hearing for the midway point of the Hedge Street Phase Three project. As you know, the first phase was from the river to Cherry Street, the second phase was from Cherry Street to Main Street and this third phase is from Main Street part way to Adams Street. We received a grant somewhere around \$636,000 and the work for phase three was started in the fall and then they stopped for the winter and now we are looking to start the project back up again in the beginning of April. Before we restarted the project we want to meet with the neighbors to make sure they are happy with what has already been done and to see if they have any concerns.

Ms. Overing – This public hearing is required for the grant that we have. Jim Coe from GCG has been onsite with Gravity Construction the General Contractor for this project to make sure everything is done correctly.

Mr. Carter - In the fall the water, sewer and drainage was installed and we put down the first coat of pavement. A notice went out stating that we would like to start next week depending on the weather. We would like to start by removing the sidewalks and curbing. Then we will reinstall the sidewalks and curbing and plant some trees. We will loam and seed mid-May. We should be done with the final coat of pavement by the end of June.

Ms. Powers – We had a gentleman come and mark the property line with stakes. I have a back gate that has a step and it is in the way. What will they do about it? Will they replace it?

Mr. Carter – When we take up the step we will look at the condition of the step. We may have to replace it and we may have to cut back.

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Ms. Haines – I have lived on Hedge Street for 48 years. I am speaking for myself and a few of my neighbors and we are really pleased with what has gone on so far. The workers have been pleasant and helpful. There are two things I would like to bring up. The first thing is the curbs, about 20 years ago, the street was resurfaced, the curbs were removed, and they reinstalled cement curbing that crumbled. Can we make sure the curbing that is put in is a quality concrete and it will not crumble?

Mr. Carter - The curbing that is going back in is cured and should last about 30 – 40 years.

Mr. Wotton – The concrete that we get to day is a lot stronger density concrete than 20 years ago and it is a better product now.

Ms. Haines- My second question is about the trees. About 20 years ago when they put in the cement curbs, they lined the street with maroon or red maple trees but there is only one of those trees that is still alive. Those are not good trees. I have noticed what you have done in the center of Fairhaven and I am hoping the trees that you choose for Hedge Street might be interesting.

Mr. Carter – The trees that will be planted on Hedge Street is the same tree program as the trees that were placed throughout the center.

Ms. Babbitt- I have lived on Hedge Street for almost 4 years. I am extremely concerned with the speeding that is going down Hedge Street. We have a lot of elderly people that walk down Hedge Street with walkers, people walking their dogs, and children. I know one time when I brought this up I was told that everyone knows that the speed limit is 25 on this road, but there is no speed limit sign anywhere. I do not know what we can do about it but people are flying down that road and someone is going to get killed. Could there be a speed hump installed to deter speeding on the street?

Mr. Wotton - In order to install a speed hump that would require a traffic study to be done. The best thing that we could recommend is to call the police department and let them know that you are concerned with the speeding there and maybe they could install one of their temporary signs that shows the speed the vehicle is doing. Unfortunately people use Hedge Street as a cut through between Main Street and Adams Street.

Mr. Foley - They narrowed the street about a foot and that tends to slow down traffic.

Mr. Furtado – Mr. Carter do you have any thoughts on this?

Mr. Carter- It is really traffic control and putting a speed bump in there might cause them to speed up and then slow down for the bump and then speed up again. I think that the sign might be a good thing and it will send a message.

Ms. Babbitt - My front step disappeared in the last bulldozing of the street. Will this be replaced or is this something I have to do?

Mr. Carter- We will take care of all that stuff.

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Mr. Hobson - How many tree are being taken down?

Mr. Carter - I don't think we are taking any trees down and off the top of my head I am not sure how many trees will be planted.

Mr. Wotton closed the public hearing for Hedge Street Phase 3 at 6:21 p.m.

6:15 Interview Special Motor Equipment Operator, Highway Department

Mr. Furtado - We have two Special Motor Equipment Operator positions available in the Highway Department.

A. David Farland

Mr. Furtado – Mr. Farland is the first applicant for this position. He is the most senior qualified applicant and he has all the necessary licenses for this position. Mr. Crabb and I both recommend Mr. Farland to the Board for promotion.

Mr. Hobson - If we promote both of the applicants who will have the most seniority?

Mr. Furtado – Whomever the Board hires first.

Mr. Farland - I have been working two jobs since I started working here at the BPW. I am asking the Board if they would consider starting me at a step 5 so I can leave my other job.

Mr. Hobson - I would like to hire him at the highest step possible without having an issue with the union.

Mr. Hurley - All of the operators are ok with Mr. Farland starting at a step 5.

Mr. Lawrence – There will be no issues from the union if Mr. Farland starts at a step 5.

Mr. Hobson motioned to promote Mr. Farland to a Special Motor Equipment Operator starting at a Level 7 Step 5. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Robert Frias

Mr. Hobson – I want to be fair and I would like to give Mr. Frias the highest step that we can give him.

Mr. Furtado that is a step 2

Mr. Rapoza motioned to promote Mr. Frias to a Special Motor Equipment Operator starting at a Level 7A Step 2. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

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6:45 Nancy Santoro, 148 Dogwood Street, Sewer Tie-In

Ms. Santoro - I am currently working with the Town to see what I can do and what I cannot do.

Ms. Santoro showed the plan to the Board that shows the existing dwelling and the proposed garage with a bonus room or in law apartment above it.

Ms. Santoro - I was under the impression that there were two betterments paid for this property and there is still no clarity on that at this time.

Mr. Furtado – Are you saying that you believe that property had two sewer stubs?

Ms. Santoro – Right. So far, all I can find is what the previous owner paid and what I paid.

Mr. Furtado – I can research that and let you know because that would show on the agreement that the Town made with the State and the Federal Government to get the funding.

Mr. Wotton - The garage that you are putting on is attached to the house?

Ms. Santoro –What is being proposed is an attached breezeway with a garage and a living space above. The question is an in-law apartment or just a bonus room and I can tie in the water from the original house? Where does the BPW stand with this?

Mr. Furtado reviewed the sewer tie in regulations. I do not believe that we can approve this.

Mr. Hobson - If she can prove that the property that she bought has two sewer stubs she can tie-in the garage.

Mr. Wotton – Can we send this info to the Building Inspector and see how he interprets the regulations? In addition, we can send it to the Town Attorney to make sure we are telling to the right thing.

Ms. Hodson –Where we live is very congested. If she has the double lot someone else could live there and add to the sewerage. If this is ok I am afraid this is going to set a precedence.

Mr. Furtado - I will send it to the Building Commissioner but I feel that this property is not able to tie into the sewer system.

V. Item for Action

A. Mattapoissett Land Trust Inc., Tour de Crème Bike Ride - May 21, 2023

Mr. Rapoza motioned to approve Mattapoissett Land Trust Inc., Tour de Crème Bike Ride on May 21, 2023. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

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B. Millicent Library Sidewalk Improvement Project

1. Sign Contract Agreement

Mr. Rapoza motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement with Sandstone Construction for the Millicent Library Sidewalk Improvement Project in the amount of \$169,240.00. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

C. Award Bid for Jerusalem Road Stormwater Retrofits Project

Mr. Furtado – We are going to skip over this because we have to rebid the project. The bids came in higher than the Grant money that we received.

D. Bulky Item Pickup

Mr. Furtado – I received an email from E.L. Harvey requesting that we change the way that they pick up bulky items. They would like to collect bulky items once a week. The residents would contact E.L. Harvey to make an appointment and then they would put the item out on that day.

Mr. Hobson - I am against this. If you do it, one day a week then there will be stuff on the curb all week long.

Ms. Smith - Would this way save the Town any money?

Mr. Wotton - I think that this is something that they should address in the next contract.

Mr. Rapoza motioned to deny the request for E.L. Harvey to change the bulky item pick up and leave it the way the contract currently reads. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

E. Request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund, Highway Department \$20,000

Mr. Furtado - In the past this is something that the public works superintendent could sign on their own without the Boards approval. Since we have a new Town Administrator, the form has changed because she wants the Board to be involved with these transfers.

Mr. Wotton - I would like to approve the transfer and going forward allow Mr. Furtado to approve the day-to-day transfers on the Boards behalf.

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Mr. Rapoza motioned to approve the Request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund for the Highway Department in the amount of \$20,000 and going forward to allow Mr. Furtado to sign the transfers on the behalf of the Board. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

F. Office of Tourism, Encampment Request for Fort Phoenix

Mr. Furtado - Our Tourism Director sent me an email asking for the Boards permission to coordinate encampments at Fort Phoenix with different historical groups.

Mr. Rapoza motioned to allow the Office of Tourism to coordinate encampments with different historical groups at Fort Phoenix. Ms. Smith second. Vote unanimous.

G. Beta Group, Pavement Management Agreement \$52,700.00

Mr. Furtado - We are going to skip over this because Town Counsel is still reviewing the agreement.

VI. Tabled Matter

A. n/a

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for March 27, 2023

- Continued negotiations with sewer union
- Notified Selectboard of BPW Vacancy - they are scheduled to vote on April 18
- Josh and I meet with State re finalization of SRTS project
- Attend joint meeting of Fincom/Selectboard with management staff
- Meet with TA on numerous occasions re FY 24 budget
- Review/approve MRV plans
- Sign Flushing MOU with Water Union

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- Meet with Hub International - insurance for water treatment plant
- Open bids for Jerusalem Rd Stormwater BMP
- Shared streets meeting with Planning and TA
- Rene and I met with Engineer re bidding of force main work
- Attend Eversource meeting with Josh - upcoming 2023 roadwork
- Meet with Tree Warden
- Meet with Concom re recycling center NOI
- Continue to work with Grant Consultant on distribution requirements of ARPA flushing \$\$
- Working with Bond Counsel on securing \$\$ for water plant upgrade

Mr. Furtado answered any question the Board had regarding the Superintendent Report.

B. Board Members

Mr. Hobson - Have you gone down to Water Street and seen how bad it is. The street is caving in and every time I see the Planning Director I mention it to him.

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW related Matters

Mr. Hobson – We have not met since the last meeting.

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Rapoza motioned to set the date for the next meeting on April 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Rapoza motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. Mr. Wotton seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Office Manager

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Minutes approved on April 10, 2023