

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
April 6, 2020**

Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Cameron Durant, Commissioner
Keith Silvia, Commissioner
Frank Coelho, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager
John Martelly, Martelly Building & Design
Mary Kellogg, Board of Health Agent



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 25, 2020

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of March 25, 2020. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous.

IV. Appointments

A. John Martelly, Martelly Building & Design – New Water & Sewer Drainlayer

Mr. Furtado – Mr. Martelly has submitted his paperwork to become a Water and Sewer Drainlayer.

Mr. Durant motioned to approve Martelly Building and Design to become a Water and Sewer drainlayer pending completion and approval of the first job. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

V. Items for Action

A. Sign Contract Agreement, GCG Associates, Pasta House, 100 Alden Road \$1,680.00

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Mr. Hobson motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement with GCG Associates in the amount of \$1,680.00 for Engineering Services at the Pasta House, 100 Alden Road. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote 4-1 with Mr. Silvia opposed.

B. Sign Contract Agreement, GCG Associates, Millicent Library Sidewalk Improvements, \$24,090.00

Mr. Furtado - In 2017 on behalf of the Board of Selectmen Mr. Rees submitted an application to the Community Preservation Committee to assess and repair the brick sidewalks on Williams Street and Walnut Street in front of the library. They would be continuing the work that was already done in front of the Town Hall. The application was approved and we were asked to take over this project because we are in charge of sidewalks. There has been money put aside for this project. With this agreement, GCG Associates will be in charge of putting this out to bid and the construction oversight. If the price of the bid comes in under what they put aside then we can pay the engineering from that money, if not we will have to use Chapter 90 money to pay for it.

Mr. Wotton – Let me make sure that I understand this correctly. They are just going to remove the bricks that are currently there, put the same bricks back and if there are any broken bricks, they will replace them. Why do we need to pay an engineer \$24,090.00 to watch the company that is hired replace the bricks?

Mr. Silvia - Are they going to be doing the electrical tubing like they did on the other side in front of Town Hall?

Mr. Furtado - I am going to ask for that to be part of the work since it was done on the other side.

Mr. Silvia – If they do put the tubing in we need a plan showing where it is because supposedly they installed it on the side near the Town Hall and nobody knows where anything is.

Mr. Durant motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement with GCG Associates in the amount of \$24,090.00 for the Millicent Library Sidewalk Improvements. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote 3-2 with Mr. Wotton and Mr. Silvia opposed.

Mr. Silvia – Does anyone else ever bid for engineering?

Mr. Wotton – I agree with the project, I do not agree with the oversight.

Mr. Furtado – We typically use the same people but if you think they are getting too comfortable I can ask for another proposal from another engineering company since engineering does not fall under 30B procurement laws.

Mr. Wotton - The next project that we send out for engineering I would like us to get three bids.

C. Water & Sewer Bill Dates

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Mr. Furtado - The Board of Public Works has autonomy over any water and sewer issues. The Governor created a COVID-19 Act, which makes the Selectmen able to waive any interest and penalties for the water and sewer bills. What I am looking to do is to include the letter that I gave to you at the beginning of the meeting in with the bills. The letter states that we will give residents 60 days to pay the bills instead of the 30 days that we usually give. Assuming that the Board is OK with this I would have to meet with the Selectmen and have them waive any penalties and interest. The bill date will be April 10, 2020 and the due date would be June 9, 2020 giving the residents an extra 30 days to pay their bills without any penalties or interest. Just in case you are not aware, the money that we collect in this fiscal year, which is anything before June 30, 2020, is what we can use for the operating budget in fiscal year 2021.

Mr. Silvia motioned to extend the water and sewer billing due date from May 10, 2020 to June 9, 2020. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. Brown and Caldwell, Potential Recycling Center, Bridge Street \$7,900.00

Mr. Furtado - I have received the proposal for Brown and Caldwell to do the evaluation that we were looking for them to do at the Landfill on Bridge Street. We cannot use Chapter 90 money for this so we will have to either wait until July or wait another couple months to make sure that we will have the money in the budget.

Mr. Wotton – Are they looking for their money upfront or do we pay them after they finish the work?

Mr. Furtado – Typically the money has to be available in order for us to enter into contract with a company. The worst-case scenario since Town Meeting is not until late June I will amend the Highway budget to include this.

Mr. Coelho – Maybe we could get this on the agenda for Town Meeting and have this approved as an Article. I believe the Selectmen would go along with this because they know the predicament that we are in.

Mr. Wotton - I do not think that we will be having Town Meeting in June. I think that it will be pushed back further due to the Governors orders of not having more than so many people in a building at one time.

Mr. Furtado - Rather than doing a separate article for Town Meeting I am looking to amend the proposed FY21 budget. As soon as we get the money, we can proceed with this.

Mr. Durant motioned to table the contract agreement with Brown and Caldwell for the potential recycling center on Bridge Street until the funds are available. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Tabled Matters

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A. Signs in the Public Way

Mr. Furtado- At the last meeting the Board voted to table this. Since our last meeting, we have put a notice on the Town's website and social media pages.

Mr. Durant motioned to discontinue discussion of signs in the public way and remove it from the agenda. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote 4-0-1 with Mr. Silvia abstained.

B. Contract Agreement WasteZero

Mr. Furtado - At this time we are still waiting to hear from WasteZero.

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

Ms. Kellogg - I think that everyone has heard that Governor Baker has asked for the State Parks and Beaches to close their parking lots to stop people from congregating. I do not think that we are at that point in Fairhaven as of today but I just wanted you to think about it because this is something that we might want to consider doing. The apex of all of this will be within the next week to two weeks when this is going to be the highest amount of cases. If we do not control this now it will just prolong it longer. In other communities, they have shut down the playgrounds and basketball hoops. They are trying to stop people from using the parks and facilities.

Mr. Hobson – Exactly what parking lots are you talking about?

Mr. Wotton – The parking lots for the State Parks and Beaches. She is just reiterating what the Governor is asking everyone to do.

Mr. Hobson - I go to a bunch of different spots throughout the day and I see vehicles spread apart. I do not see people getting out of their vehicles and congregating. I think that this is going a little overboard. What are people supposed to do to get fresh air? I am against whatever you are trying to do.

Mr. Wotton - I think that even if we close the gates at Fort Phoenix on the Town side that people will still go there. I do not think that it would stop people from going down there I think that they will just park on Fort Street and Green Street. I think that it is up to individuals to keep social distances and keep away from other individuals. I see a lot of people walking on the bike path. I understand why we are doing this because a lot of people are going out for walks to get out of their houses.

Mr. Silvia – I agree with Mr. Wotton I think that people will just get out and walk.

Mr. Durant - I think that as long as people are not congregating that we should leave them open at this time.

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Mr. Wotton- Are we still at 19 confirmed cases?

Ms. Kellogg – No, we are at 15.

Mr. Durant - What are other surrounding cities and towns doing in this scenario?

Ms. Kellogg - At this time it is not a statewide ban, it is for State and Federal Parks. The Governor has asked communities to follow suit but he has not mandated these closings as of yet, he may in the future. If you do not want to close the parking lots, that is your decision to make but I think we should close the playgrounds.

Mr. Wotton - We have closed all playgrounds and put caution tape around them.

Ms. Kellogg – I received a complaint about the playground at Livesey Park being opened.

Mr. Wotton - We will go back to Livesey Park and put the tape back up. However, people will keep removing it. I think that it is more of a police issue and they need to enforce the closures as well.

Ms. Kellogg - The Police are on board they are monitoring and helping enforce this as much as they can.

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for April 6, 2020

- Requested signs in public way info to be placed on Town Social Media and website
- Munitech charged \$3,500 for pole repair on Causeway - which included new pole, police detail and labor
- Range of electric vehicle is reported as maximum of 200 miles on a charge - Town is inquiring to what extent/if vehicle loses charge when not plugged in
- Work on stormwater pamphlet to go out with water/sewer bills
- Work on notice for water/sewer extension of due date
- Receive contract proposal for Bridge St assessment for recycling center - may have to push this off until FY 21 for funding
- Meet again at Pasta House - send notice to Board that work will begin - BOH Agent and Plumbing Inspector approve installation

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- Interviewed by Std Times
- Pump test scheduled for Tinkham Lane
- Town Counsel working on letter of agreement with Titleist to maintain drainage ditch
- Review Braley Rd Solar Array project for MRV approval
- Attend 2 remote Department Head meetings - updates on COVID 19
- Chapter 90 approves Hedge St additional needed monies - letter to proceed will be with Selectmen on 4/13 - project should commence in May

Mr. Furtado - I have put two documents in front of you. One is the water and sewer bill due date extension letter. The other is part of the stormwater permit requirements, we have to send out notices to the residents in the fall and spring with information pertaining to stormwater. Both of these notices will be included with the water and sewer bills.

Mr. Coelho - After the last meeting, I went for another ride in the Sewer Department's electric vehicle. I think that if we were going to get an electric vehicle we should get one like theirs. I would not mind sitting in the back seat of the Prius with the chairman to see how much room there is. The Water Department was telling me when they take samples they travel over 200 miles and I do not think that the electric vehicle the Town is looking to lease will make it on one charge.

Mr. Furtado - I do not know what the grant entails. I agree if we could get another Prius that it would better serve us.

Mr. Coelho – How did we make out with the pump test on Tinkham Lane?

Mr. Furtado - It failed on Friday but we got it up and running today, we do not have it at full throttle at this time. We are just waiting for the DEP to come on Friday and give their approval.

B. Board Members

Mr. Hobson- Did the Finance Committee get back to you about the streets?

Mr. Furtado – No, they have not met since their last meeting.

Mr. Hobson - Did you tell them that the Highway Superintendent, Board of Public Works Superintendent and the Board all approved these streets.

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Mr. Furtado - I wrote an email to Mr. Rees and the chair of the Finance Committee and I included the list that is comprised of the street assessment. I think that in the past they were more concerned if we were doing things politically or doing this because of the conditions of the roads.

Mr. Silvia - One of the women asked if she could have the list of streets because she likes to drive the roads and see what streets she thinks should be done.

Mr. Hobson - When you go back I would like to go with you.

Mr. Durant - I am not sure when the trash was last emptied at the Seaview Avenue Boat Ramp. As of yesterday the garbage, barrels were overflowing with trash.

Mr. Furtado – They should have picked that up today.

Mr. Hobson - I think that the Town should provide a dumpster for the residents that are cleaning out their houses. If you could put two more trash barrels at Union Wharf that would help with the trash that is being left there.

Mr. Furtado - We can add a couple more barrels at Union Wharf.

Mr. Coelho - Could we send a letter to MassDOT. On Adams Street between Rt. 6 and Bellevue Avenue, the road is a mess and we should ask them to fix it.

Mr. Silvia - I have a problem with the grease trap at the Pasta House, not the grease trap itself but how we went about it. I think that there was injustice done to this Board and other people in Town that have had to install an exterior grease trap. The owner came before the Board and at that time Mr. Furtado told him exactly what he needed to bring to the next meeting and that he would need to hire an engineer. When he came in again, he had no engineering and he had not even started it. Then we gave him another three-month extension, after the three months was up he was supposed to come back in front of the Board and he did not. The plans that we have now that we received the other day are a joke, there is nothing showing on it. I do not think that it is fair to everyone else that has spent the money to install a grease trap and did things the correct way. Just doing an as-built is not how it is designed it is what actually went into the ground. Mr. Coelho asked if we were going to have plans with engineering on it and Mr. Furtado said that we were. I am glad that they put the grease trap in and it is working but the problem is that this has gone on for 10 years and all of a sudden, there is a big rush to have it done in one week. If this was done the right way the engineering would have been done the correctly and we would have been on track to have it done right.

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Mr. Wotton - I would like to see on the next agenda a grease trap bylaw procedure which should state everything that the Board is going to need to see prior to approval. Everything needs to be universal across the board so what is good for one person is good for the next.

Mr. Furtado – Our play with grease trap installations is to approve the location either inside or outside and to make sure that the bathroom waste does not go into the grease trap. We will have all the plans for the Pasta House once we get the as-builts from GCG.

Mr. Silvia - When he came before the Board at the first meeting he asked if there was a way to get a waiver for engineering and the Board told him no and he still got it without the engineering.

Mr. Wotton - I do not want a policy on how to install a grease trap, I want a checklist to go down to make sure we have everything that is needed before we approve the plans.

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

Mr. Coelho - There is not another meeting until May.

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Durant motioned to change the date of the next meeting from April 13, 2020 to April 22, 2020 at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote unanimous.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Hobson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote unanimous.

XI. Executive Session

A. n/a

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Vento
Office Manager

Minutes approved on April 22, 2020