

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
January 8, 2018**

Present

Michael Ristuccia, Commissioner
Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Keith Silvia, Commissioner
Cameron Durant, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Kathy Tripp, Administrative Assistant
Antone Medeiros, Jr. Contractor
Antone Medeiros, III
James Moraux, Earl's Marina
Mike Rotondo
Chip Hawthorne
Colman Lopes
Andrew Hayward
Karen Vilandry
Al Benac
Cathy Delano
Dr. Barbara Acksen
Thomas Weir
Christopher Holland



I. Call to Order

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

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. December 11, 2017

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2017 meeting. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. December 18, 2017

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2017 meeting. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote unanimous.

IV. Appointments

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A. Antone Medeiros, Jr. Contractor – Re: Driveway Waivers

1. 43 Daniel Street

Mr. Medeiros – I have two applications. The first one is looking for a six foot extension on the apron. He has a lot of traffic. It's a narrow street.

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the six foot extension for 43 Daniel Street. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

2. 56 Goulart Memorial Drive

Mr. Medeiros, Jr. – The second one is for Earl's Marina.

Mr. Ristuccia – Is this where the block building next door is?

Mr. Medeiros, Jr. - Yes on the side of the Quonset hut.

Mr. Medeiros, III - The third opening is to divert the boat traffic and allow the second entrance to use for more parking. It would be a 230' entrance all natural shells. Dig out the stone and cover with sea shells.

Mr. Ristuccia– That third driveway is where?

Mr. Medeiros Jr. – It's where the boundary fence is.

Mr. Ristuccia – That driveway is going to access the back for parking?

Mr. Medeiros, Jr. – Off Goulart to the rear of Quonset hut.

Mr. Durant – Have you been to conservation yet?

Mr. Moraux - Not yet.

Mr. Wotton – There will be a stipulation for the third driveway based on a stipulation from conservation commission.

Mr. Medeiros, Jr. – We will do whatever the town wants and get it done correctly. Problem with seashells do that. Another product we will do that to.

Mr. Hobson – One driveway towards the restaurant goes in another driveway. Only issue address first will be the first six or eight feet should be tarred. BPW is not to decide what's on your own property.

Mr. Medeiros, Jr. – It will be a twenty-six foot opening with asphalt.

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Mr. Wotton – Good once the ten feet of asphalt, that might eliminate con com altogether.

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the third opening apron being asphalt. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mr. Wotton motioned to table the 6:10 appointment. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Mike Rotondo, Chip Hawthorne, Colman Lopes, Andrew Hayward– Re: BMX Bike Park

Mr. Rotondo – Since we met last we formed a committee and we went out and took a look at the site at Macomber and had a meeting there about where there and how to build it. We’ve brought that conversation to the table and get your opinion.

Mr. Wotton – I met with them there and the section they are looking at is a most underused section of the park. It still leaves a ton of space for football or soccer. Back closest to the water.

Mr. Hawthorne – There are a few residents on Bernese behind the pumping station and it keeps it out of site.

Mr. Wotton – There are a lot of arborvitaes blocking this whole section out.

Mr. Rotondo – We would have a sign made up with posted rules similar to Livesey.

Mr. Hobson – Rules are important.

Mr. Ristuccia – All parks have rules.

Mr. Hobson – Check with the rules at the other parks.

Mr. Ristuccia – Age of the participants?

Mr. Hobson– It’s hard to get young people involved. Nice to see young guys do this.

Mr. Ristuccia – What is your timeline?

Mr. Rotondo - In a perfect world we could break ground in March or April. Scrape the grass to build off of.

Mr. Lopes - If we had some material could we have a storage area before we start?

Mr. Ristuccia – Have Mr Furtado check. I see you need to get signage, rules, program for maintenance plus things I’m not even thinking about I’m sure. End of March, you have some work in the next couple of months.

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Mr. Silvia – Contact conservation, there are some cat and nine tails.

Mr. Wotton – Rule of thumb if you are not removing it, it's fine.

Mr. Hayward – There is a spigot on the west side of that pump house. What I was thinking was a lockable storage container with a combination lock because it needs to be watered before used.

Mr. Rotondo – The question with insurance. Was that looked into?

Mr. Furtado – All set.

C. Karen Vilandry, Al Benac, Cathy Delano, Barbara Acksen – Re: Cooke Memorial Park

Mr. Ristuccia – We talked about Cooke Park at the last meeting or before that. Pretty talked out and so we had checked with town counsel just to see if there is something and he said "I would use caution that erecting a sign recognizing Cooke Park as a cemetery is the equivalent of declaring it a burial ground which means that the town would be foreclosed from altering that designation and using the land for other purposes. Given the importance of this decision to the future of that property, I would suggest that the Board follow the advice of the State Historical Commission."

Mr. Ristuccia - You were on the agenda and we discussed it but did not make any decisions.

Ms. Vilandry – We are happy to be in front of a board that is happy to think this is important. As a reminder, Cooke Park has already been listed as a cemetery. Now the Mass Historical Commission regarding the letter Mr. Furtado had received from Mass Historical Commission, one particular law we had printed out that was in that letter. Cooke Memorial Park satisfies this law. The next item from Mass Historical Commission is very important. They said "The documentation submitted indicated that skeletal remains were found in 1902 during excavations to place the Cooke memorial boulder at the park."

Mr. Ristuccia – I'm getting back to the sign. It comes down to is do we want to put a sign there or don't we?

Ms. Vilandry – We are coming up with a couple options. Simply or show you something else. We are going to pay for the sign. We have a picture of the Woodside Cemetery sign. Traditional sail background. We came up with this.

Mr. Hobson – The park is named Cooke Memorial Park. What's wrong with that?

Mr. Durant – If this is a cemetery it needs to be marked a cemetery. I think the best thing for the town is to lay off and maintain what we agreed as a board. No town events on it. Once designated as a cemetery we will do to make it right.

Mr. Hobson – I've been listening to this for two years. I'm willing to give you a small sign Cooke Memorial Park and we can be done with it.

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Mr. Ristuccia motioned not to put a sign of any sort at Cooke Park.

Mr. Hobson motioned that we name it Cooke Memorial Park.

Ms. Delano – We know it's a cemetery. There are bones there. It's an old historic cemetery. Why are you afraid to put up a sign?

Mr. Furtado – The connotation is from the tourism with John Cooke. If that is designated that, then it's given the connotation if we put the sign up is that going to have the same connotation that Cooke is buried there.

Mr. Ristuccia – I'm operating under the advice and guidance of town counsel.

On the motion not to install a sign was seconded by Mr. Wotton. Vote 3-2 with Mr. Ristuccia, Mr. Wotton and Mr. Durant in favor and Mr. Hobson and Mr. Silvia against.

D. Interview for Water Superintendent – Thomas Weir

Mr. Furtado - Tom is one of finalist. We have a copy of your resume.

Mr. Weir – I have a D-3 and T-2 license. I have the cross connection survey and tester license. I have a hoisting 2A and CDL B.

Mr. Furtado – Any experience with backflows?

Mr. Weir – Yes. In Foxboro we do not enough personnel so we do hire an outside company. If they failed we send letters out and do the retest.

Mr. Furtado – Backflow surveys?

Mr. Weir – Yes.

Mr. Furtado – Other than where you are how many water systems have you worked in?

Mr. Weir - Just Foxboro.

Mr. Furtado – How many services?

Mr. Weir - We have about 5,800 services. We also have over 1,000 hydrants we maintain with about 130 miles of pipe; 24 miles being asbestos pipe. Also I am a certified for asbestos removal. Lastly I did get my pesticide license and wastewater collection license.

Mr. Furtado – Are you or have you had to do any type of budget prep or tracking?

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Mr. Weir – Yes, majority thru formulas. Capital improvements we are going to a five year plan of what like to see done. Also we are trying to move towards doing a water treatment plant in Norton.

Mr. Furtado – This time of year, this is our budget time right now. Flushing program?

Mr. Weir - Yes. We have very aggressive planning Foxboro. Hired an outside engineer that did a hydraulic model. It has worked. In Norton we don't have a hydraulic model yet. Working with their engineers.

Mr. Furtado – As the water superintendent numerous times we receive plans from engineers and planning. Are you comfortable looking at set of plans and advise?

Mr. Weir - On the elect board we look at new developments and sit with the fire department to see where they want hydrants. Then for Foxboro pretty routinely there is a lot of building going on. We go out all the time.

Mr. Furtado – I'm sure you know the specifications for training that is required.

Mr. Weir – Yes.

Mr. Furtado – There are quite of regulations, total coliform, various DEP water regulations for lead and copper; consumer confidence reports.

Mr. Weir - Yes. I routinely do the monthly bacteria samples. DEP we do the entire schedule for the year.

Mr. Furtado – Why do you think you are the best candidate for us?

Mr. Weir - I'm not just looking to go somewhere for my last couple of years before I retire. I might not have all the answers but I have the knowledge to get those answers.

Mr. Furtado – Why do you want to work for Town of Fairhaven?

Mr. Weir - I've looked a little at the towns and they are pretty similar where I'm coming from. Not much difference.

Mr. Furtado – If selected what do you think some of the responsibilities of position are?

Mr. Weir - Big part budgeting. Again meet with contractors or pass off to foreman just be able to see the day to day operations.

Mr. Furtado – An important trait for me is people skills. We have people here all the time looking for the superintendent, no matter who it is as a customer. Are you confident in your communication style?

Mr. Weir - Yes. Regular residents deal with complaints. I have no problem talking with people.

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Mr. Furtado – Do you work well with other people?

Mr. Weir - I do.

Mr. Furtado – Greatest strength?

Mr. Weir - I'm good at doing multiple things at the same time.

Mr. Furtado – What is your favorite aspect of your job now?

Mr. Weir – Of the treatment and distribution system I love the distribution aspect. Treatment is starting to grow on me. Bacteria samples; just being out in the system.

Mr. Furtado – Least favorite?

Mr. Weir – Treatment.

Mr. Furtado – What do you do when things don't go smoothly?

Mr. Weir – I try to look for different ways, sometimes change your tactics. I don't get flustered. It's not worth it.

Mr. Furtado – Would you have any issues disciplining an employee?

Mr. Weir - No. My current role in Foxboro I am the shop steward. I've had to sit in on those and be part of it.

Mr. Furtado – What are you passionate about?

Mr. Weir - I'm passive about the outdoors.

Mr. Furtado – Something about you that is not your resume?

Mr. Weir - I'm a very mechanical person, numbers person. Good for us at the yearend unaccounted water. My current superintendent relies on myself.

Mr. Furtado – If hired what is something you would go to in Fairhaven to implement?

Mr. Weir - Before in talking to you, have no hydraulic model for flushing. In Foxboro about eight or nine years ago we had a ton of dirty water. Since implementing the hydraulic model in town and flushing has worked wonders.

Mr. Hobson – In Fairhaven we have five employees.

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Mr. Furtado – Including the girls, about ten.

Mr. Hobson – The town you work for all union?

Mr. Weir - Made up of two separate unions.

Mr. Hobson – They don't get something they file a grievance. In Fairhaven we have to deal with the guys thru you. Any employees under you?

Mr. Weir - So on a day to day in the field digging up services I do 90% of the digging with between four and six people.

Mr. Hobson – You have a D-3 and T-2?

Mr. Weir – Yes.

Mr. Durant – I was going to ask what Mr. Hobson asked how many people.

Mr. Ristuccia – Experience with primary equipment operating water and sewer?

Mr. Weir - We don't do much with the sewer, outside company. We do have ten stations we go to daily to write down the flow. We use Weston and Sampson.

Mr. Ristuccia – You are an articulate young man and you say you are nervous but you don't seem that nervous to me. Obvious you are looking to better yourself. We have a lot of things happening in Fairhaven right now. If there were another position here that had you thinking like a hydraulic position. Water and sewer into one person to do certain aspects of both, what would be your feelings about that?

Mr. Weir - I probably wouldn't be the right candidate for that. Not enough with sewer background.

Mr. Ristuccia – Is this the only position you have applied for?

Mr. Weir - So far, yes.

Mr. Hobson – No problem traveling?

Mr. Weir – No, it's about thirty-five minutes.

Mr. Hobson – A lot of times you might have to come back at night to supervise.

Mr. Weir - My position now I am on call 2nd.

Mr. Furtado – Today in exec session we are going to talk about how we are going to proceed. Either way I will let you know.

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Mr. Wotton – If we did hire you tonight what type of notice would you need?

Mr. Weir - At least three weeks.

E. Interview for Sewer System Maintenance Craftsman – Christopher Holland

Mr. Furtado – This is Chris Holland and he has his grade 5 wastewater license. He would take the place of Joe Bonneau. Most of the time we fill these positions from inside. Currently he works for Fall River Veolio.

Mr. Ristuccia – Did you take his class?

Mr. Holland - Yes. I started in the field about a year back. It took me about seventy-five days to get the grade 5 license in the mail.

Mr. Ristuccia – Why wastewater and come here?

Mr. Holland - Currently I have a really demanding schedule there. Sometimes I work seven days in a row. A lot of crazy schedules and third shift. I was able to tour this plant. You have some concerns about the environment. That's the direction I see myself going.

Mr. Wotton - No problem with the travel?

Mr. Holland – No.

Mr. Silvia – All set.

Mr. Durant – Clarification, you left the City of Fall River in 2016 and Veolio a year back?

Mr. Holland - In the city I worked for the DPW. I have experience plowing and pothole repair.

Mr. Furtado – You can sign up for the snow removal unless it's crazy snow. There is a highway volunteer list for other departments.

Mr. Hobson – I have nothing.

Mr. Wotton motioned to hire Christopher Holland as the sewer system maintenance craftsman at step 2 pending all physical and testing requirements and notice to your employer. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote unanimous.

V. Items for Action

A. Sewer Laterals

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Mr. Furtado – Section 8. which was approved back in 2014; basically defines lists private drain that they are responsible. Public is us. What I want to see is if the board wants to do is take out section d. main line in street the town owns it and the lateral. That wouldn't change. Get rid of d. If there were a town tree that infiltrated the lateral and caused a backup we wouldn't own that anymore as long as the main is flowing freely. In New Bedford we gave them one year.

Mr. Wotton – I think they should own it. We should get out of the lateral business.

Mr. Ristuccia – No private contractors will be paid under b.

Mr. Wotton motioned to eliminate paragraph d. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mr. Durant motioned to add a line b including town tree roots in lateral lines. Mr. Ristuccia seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Tabled Matters

A. n/a

VII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent's Report for meeting of 1/08/18:

From last meeting

- Thomas Weir will be interviewed at our meeting of 1/8
- Placed Water Supt. vacancy on Utility Websites

New Items

- Attended BBAC meeting
- Attended Department head meeting
- Receive correspondence from Teamsters Union re: Grievance violation
- Attended meeting with Town Personnel lawyer re: Teamsters Suit against Town for grievance violation
- Chaired Mattapoisett River Valley Meeting
- Attended Nitrogen Removal session in Lowell
- Attended CPC meeting representing BPW for parking plan at Livesey

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- Meet with other Town officials re: ABC recycling increase
- Contact GCG for engineering analysis proposal per Army Corps
- EPA pre conference call
- EPA Conference call – issue with timetable – supposed to meet sometime in January
- Employee Christmas Party
- Turn in I and I report to DEP
- Linda and I interviewed licensed wastewater candidate for vacant position
- Send additional Water Supt candidate resumes to subcommittee
- Attend Capital projects submittal meeting with Kathy and Linda
- Snow removal

B. Board Members

Mr. Wotton – I had a call about a water pipe that had busted on a house on Wilbur's Point. It was an ice skating rink. I heard the guys were there for awhile. They should pay that bill.

Mr. Silvia – Did a good job with the storm. Only so much you could do.

Mr. Furtado – We had crews work Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Everywhere there was a stop sign we sanded.

Mr. Ristuccia – First of all, corner of Bridge and Route 6, the house that fills up with sewage a lot. What is causing that?

Mr. Furtado – Pasta House.

Mr. Ristuccia – I would like to see the Pasta House and the diner and look at their traps. Also in the past two years we gave exclusions for outside grease traps go inside and see their traps.

Mr. Furtado – EPA, we will talk sometime this month. On the Friday before Christmas we had a conference call with them and the sticky wicket is the timetable. They want us to expedite. We have to start raising the rates. Put it on the agenda.

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Mr. Ristuccia – We talked about it before and we need to put a letter in the bills. There is so much going on right now with the sewer stuff. Very wise on weekly basis or bi-weekly just what we started a year ago.

C. Marine Resources Committee

Mr. Hobson - Nothing to report.

VIII. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Wotton motioned to hold the next meeting on January 22, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Ristuccia seconded. Vote unanimous.

IX. Adjourn and Executive Session

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn the open session at 8:03 p.m. and enter into executive session to discuss personnel and the water superintendent's potential hire and not to reconvene in open session.

In favor: Mr. Ristuccia, Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Durant.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. Tripp
Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved on January 22, 2018.