

**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
January 29, 2018**

**Present**

Michael Ristuccia, Commissioner  
Brian Wotton, Commissioner  
Robert Hobson, Commissioner  
Keith Silvia, Commissioner  
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent  
Kathy Tripp, Administrative Assistant  
Jeffrey Furtado



Mr. Durant was not in attendance.

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Ristuccia called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. Routine Matters**

**A. Signing of Departmental Bills**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**A. January 11, 2018**

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the minutes of January 29, 2018. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**IV. Appointments**

n/a

**V. Items for Action**

**A. Sewer Rates**

Mr. Ristuccia – Really in terms of what is happening this is just the beginning of the things we need to afford from the government.

Mr. Furtado – In the packet Kathy put together some numbers. The folks typically use in consumption. If we increase the rate by .25 .35 or .50, this is what extra money we will receive. This is an estimator. Right now the rate is \$6.65 per hcf. My recommendation because of the projects Linda spoke about two meetings ago as well as we are all aware down the pipeline from EPA the rate should go up from current to \$7.00 even. Increase of .35 based on the consumption annual net us another \$150,000. Not

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devastating but have to do this every so often. We have \$17 million in estimated projects coming the next three to five years. That's what I would recommend.

Mr. Hobson – To tell you the truth I'm not 100% behind this even though we have to. Retired people are paying cable \$25 to \$30 more a month. I can't understand why we have one cable company. Raise the rates and they show nothing on TV. They haven't shown a meeting of the BPW in months.

Mr. Furtado – You could table and vote next week. I hate the fact that I have to tell you we need to do this.

Mr. Ristuccia – We are in the process of spending \$8 million dollars. Need to borrow so we need to go up on the rates. It will hurt people but we don't have a choice.

Mr. Wotton – My water bill is thousands of dollars. The TV, that's a luxury. This is a necessity. The cable bill goes up every single month. Water isn't free and either is sewer. This is mandated by the federal government.

Mr. Silvia – I know we are in a hard spot. I think the seniors actually it hurts them but they adapt to things better. More in tune what they have to sacrifice.

Mr. Wotton motioned to table to the next meeting. Mr. Ristuccia seconded. Vote 4-0 in favor.

**B. External Grease Traps**

Mr. Ristuccia – The grease blockage is always the same section. It involves several restaurants contributing in the Route 6 and Bridge Street area. Legislation passed that all restaurants have external grease traps. We give waivers when we feel it's right. Before regulations the ones that don't have external creates a real issue. We are at the junction of Alden and Bridge Street several times a year. How big is that line?

Mr. J. Furtado – Eight inch.

Mr. Ristuccia – Where it turns it builds up on the corner. Think of how much grease you have to have and flow past it to our system here.

Mr. Furtado – A few years ago in conjunction with Public Works and the Board of Health, any issue with a restaurant external grease trap and anybody with a new restaurant have to have external unless they receive a waiver from BPW. Pasta House is a place where this woman called me about she has a product to try for one year. Bacterial strain introduced into their system and eats the grease. If it works I can't speak for them but they could be all set. If it doesn't work come in front of us and put in an external grease trap.

Mr. Hobson – This is the last time. We've already given them three chances.

Mr. Ristuccia – Bridge and Route 6 backed up a couple of weeks ago.

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Mr. Furtado – They need to up the game.

Mr. Wotton – Today clean the pipe and monitor it for a year. If not clear then put in an external grease trap.

Mr. Ristuccia – Even when they were contribute grease it's a problem. They had a failure of their pipe from the building to the street. Once they replaced that a few months later we put the camera down. Camera not showing any grease but they are still contributing.

Mr. Wotton – Inspect the pipe every six months or once a year. Introduce this woman to Mario and say here is our last chance. We've been very lenient. They are a good Fairhaven business but if major issues and the stipulation last time you had a year.

Mr. Ristuccia – Ask the health agent. Ask her to get copies of the maintenance reports. I'd like to see the copy of the law. I would like to see the list of inspections. As far as one year I think it's too long.

Mr. Wotton motioned to give the Pasta House three months to try this new procedure. Mr. Ristuccia seconded. Vote unanimous.

**C. Pierce Atwood – Revised Terms of the 5/23/17 Engagement Letter - \$50,000**

Mr. Furtado – This is when we first embarked on the WWTP upgrade we entered into an agreement with lawyers not to exceed \$30,000. That was before the negotiations and all time we have spent on this. Now it's \$80,000 not to exceed. First signed the contract we had no idea that this was going to be this long of period of time. Try to get the best limit that we can and time. Last town meeting we had asked for \$50,000 for the permit fee just in case this would come. It came in March. We've spent \$100,000 in legal and engineering fees. Next Thursday we have a face to face meeting with EPA.

Mr. Wotton motioned to enter agreement with Pierce Atwood not to exceed \$80,000 for the NPDES permit. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote 3-1 in favor with Mr. Hobson opposed.

**VI. Tabled Matters**

n/a

**VII. Old Business / New Business**

**A. Superintendent**

**B. Board Members**

Mr. Hobson – Sallie-Lou Johnson came by to see me about the Eagle Scout who wants to redo that building. She showed me pictures of signs that used to be down there. Not there no more. Concern is who is actually in charge of Little Bay? Building signs and kids destroy them. She wants to be able to tell

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this kid who puts up that building whoever is in charge put up some cameras. The road is in terrible condition. I want to find out who is in control of that whole area from the pier all the way to where the signs are.

Mr. Hobson – Just curious this guy on the subcommittee, did we pay him? Are we hiring this guy to break him in?

Mr. Furtado – No. We have a general services contract with Tata & Howard. We hired him and put him on the subcommittee when we formulated the questions because he deals with this everywhere.

Mr. Hobson - Long road got paved. Not one thing came before any board member about Long road. When did we stop picking streets to be done?

Mr. Furtado –

Mr. Wotton – Some spots on Alder and Littleneck need to be repaired.

**C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters**

**VIII. Set Date for the Next Meeting**

Mr. Wotton – The meeting has already been set.

**IX. Executive Session – Personnel Agreement and Adjourn**

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn open session and enter into executive session and not to reconvene in open session at 6:58 p.m. to discuss a water superintendent employment agreement.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. Tripp  
Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved on February 5, 2018.