

# Town of Fairhaven

## Finance Committee

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Minutes of the meeting for <May 5, 2016> at the Jeffery W. Osuch BPW Administration Building, 5 Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance:

Chairman-Scott Fernandes, Robert A. Furtado, Padraic Elliott, Kathi Carter, Lisa Plante, Tracy Diggins, Thomas Alden

Members absent:

Ann Ponichtera DesNardis  
John Mota

Town of Fairhaven:

Mark Rees- Town Administrator  
Wendy Graves- Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director  
William Roth, Jr.- Director of Planning & Economic Development  
Debra Charpentier- Millicent Library Archivist/Building Manager

Meeting was covered by government access television.

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 Lisa to accept the minutes from April 28, 2016. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

Motion made by Lisa to accept the minutes from May 4, 2016. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

- Mr. Roth and Ms. Charpentier appear before the committee to answer questions about STM Article 9 part B.
  - Mr. Roth states the Article would digitize the Fairhaven Star newspaper that is stored at the Millicent Library.
  - Ms. Charpentier shows a Standard Times news article about the project.

- Ms. Charpentier states the Fairhaven Star was the town newspaper that was published from 1879 thru 1967.
  - Ms. Charpentier states the newspaper was put on microfilm, but the microfilms have been used so many times that they have become scratched.  
The microfilm machine has since broken, and cannot be repaired. It would cost \$12,000 to replace the machine.
  - Ms. Charpentier states 5 other libraries in the Commonwealth have done this
  - Ms. Charpentier states the Boston City Library has a set of master copies of microfilm of the Fairhaven Star and those would be used for the digitizing process.
  - The working copies of the newspaper would be discarded, and the stored copies would be retained.
  - Tom asks how many inquiries she receives about the newspapers.  
Ms. Charpentier states she gets 2 to 3 inquiries a week.
  - Ms. Charpentier states this would save hundreds of hours doing research on projects.
  - Mr. Roth states the existing copies have finite life span. The more they are handled the more they will deteriorate.
  - Chairman asks why the library cannot pay for this themselves?  
Ms. Charpentier states they don't have the money for it.
  - Kathi asks if they have any other digitizing projects?  
Ms. Charpentier states they digitize the Town Reports, but Boston City Library does that free of charge. They will not do newspapers however.
  - Lisa asks if this will be accessed thru the library website?  
Ms. Charpentier states yes.
    - Pat motions for \$31,000 for STM Article 9 Part B. Seconded by Lisa. Vote:  
Unanimous
- Discussion of STM Article 7- Rogers School Disposition
    - Mr. Rees explains the process that has got us to where we are now.
    - Mr. Rees states that Doug Brady has asked to look at repurposing the building.
    - There would also be an environmental study done to look at any hazardous issues in the building.
    - Bob states that the Petersham RFP that was presented also looks into demolition and asks if this would do the same.  
Mr. Rees states the idea is to look at all possibilities.
    - Pat states he is afraid if we don't do something we will end up with another "Atlas Tack".
    - Discussion of use as a Town building.
    - Chairman states there is no unison in Town about what to do.

- Pat asks where do we go from here?  
Mr. Rees states this study should give us an idea of how to proceed.
  - Pat asks how long should the process take?  
Mr. Rees states he hopes to have something for the next Annual Town Meeting.
  - Chairman states he would like to have more information.  
Mr. Rees states that will not be possible before Town Meeting.
    - Tom motions to recommend transfer of \$33,000 from Group Insurance for Article 7. Seconded by Pat. Vote: motion passes 4 to 3. Bob, Pat, Tracy, & Tom in favor. Scott, Kathi, & Lisa opposed.
- Discussion of STM Article 10- Pilot Agreement with Blue Wave Capital
    - Mr. Rees presents the draft agreement.
    - Mr. Rees states the agreement has been reviewed by Town Counsel and has the wording he wanted pertaining to the solar farm closing prematurely.
    - The agreement also contains a spreadsheet showing the tax payments.
    - Chairman states the Selectmen have not voted on this yet.  
Chairman states we can vote, and if they do not agree to it Saturday morning we can revote.
      - Pat motions to Recommend Adoption of Article 10. Seconded by Tom. Vote: Unanimous
- Discussion of STM Article 6- Sale of Oxford School
    - Mr. Rees states the developer has asked for more time to respond to questions about the project.
    - The Selectmen will Pass Over this Article.
    - Mr. Rees states the developer will pay for the Special Town Meeting if it is required for this.
- STM Article 3- Anaerobic Digester
    - BPW is requesting \$15,000.
      - Pat motions for \$15,000 from Sewer Retained Earnings. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
- Chairman states we will meet 8:30 AM. Saturday before Town Meeting.
  - Chairman states our next regular meeting will be in June to reorganize the committee.

7:59 PM. Tom motions to adjourn. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado  
Finance Committee Secretary

(accepted 6-23-2016)