

# Town of Fairhaven

## Finance Committee

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Minutes of the meeting for <March 1, 2018> at the Jeffery W. Osuch BPW Administration Building, 5 Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance:

Padraic Elliott, Robert A. Furtado, Kathi Carter, Lisa Plante, Thomas Alden, Jessica Dwelly

Members absent:

Tracey Diggins, Bernard F. Roderick

Town of Fairhaven:

Mark Rees- Town Administrator

Wendy Graves- Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director

Meeting was covered by government access television.

Chairman Pat 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 Tom to accept the minutes from February 15, 2018. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous

- Mr. Rees joins the meeting at 7:04 PM.
- Mr. Rees passes out a new copy of page 11 of the Capital Improvement Plan, because of a typo in the original.
- Mr. Rees discusses the Capital Improvement Plan:
  - Mr. Rees refers to the cover letter and explains the system used for ranking requests for the plan. This is a system he had established at other communities he has worked at.
  - Mr. Rees runs thru the project for FY19, on the spreadsheet page 11. Discussion of how they will be financed.
  - Mr. Rees states one goal is to maintain 4% of the operating budget in free cash.
  - The following items will be financed entirely from Free Cash:

BPW-Highway	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year lease of the 963 Loader	\$143,191
BPW-Highway	Roadwork	\$350,000
Fire-	Hydraulic rescue equipment	\$32,000
Information Technology-	Hardware Equip. Replacement	\$30,000
Police-	2 Police Cruisers	\$90,000
BPW-administration	Vehicle	\$30,000
Fire-	Radio Communication repeater	\$64,000
BPW-administration	New camera system for BPW	\$20,000
Police-	Live Scan Fingerprint Machine	\$25,000
BPW-Highway	Replace 2000 Ford Van- unit #13	\$55,000
BPW-Highway	Replace 1986 Bobcat- Unit #23	\$65,000
BPW- Parks	Replace 1999 Ford Tractor- Unit# 1920	\$44,000
BPW-Parks	Parking at Livesey Park	\$70,000

- Information Technology- Fiber Connectivity for all Town departments \$505,000 will be funded with \$275,000 from the Cable TV Franchise Fund and \$230,000 from borrowing.
- Selectmen/TA- Preserve and Restore Rogers School \$252,000 will be funded with \$36,000 from Free Cash and \$216,000 from Overlay Surplus.
- School Department- Fairhaven High School Gymnasium Dehumidification Project \$283,000 is coming from borrowing.
- Council on Aging/Recreation- Replace HVAC System at Senior/Rec Center \$200,000 is planned on coming from borrowing, but Mr. Rees states he has heard that money may be coming from a State Grant to cover it. He will check further into it.
- \$841,217 will be transferred to the Capital Planning Stabilization Fund.
- Mr. Rees states next year's plan will include \$2,289,000 for the design phase of the new Public Safety Complex.
- Discussion of borrowing for the plan.
- Mr. Rees states the Facilities Improvement Plan has not been completed yet, but when it has he expects it to have an impact on the CIP in the future.
- Lisa asks about the Cable TV Franchise Fund.  
Mr. Rees states this is money that Comcast collects. They are willing to put it towards the Fiber Optic network in return for not having to maintain the copper wire system in the future.
- Lisa asks about "mothballing" the Rogers School building. Are the Selectmen in agreement?  
Mr. Rees states they are in agreement that we have to do this now until we have a use for the building.

Mr. Rees states a proposal has come forward for market rate housing in the building. There is also talk of a public/private partnership.

Mr. Rees states in order to obtain grants and tax credits that are available; the public/private partnership must be formed. The Town cannot be the recipient of them.

- Kathi asks about the Public Safety Complex, does this monetary amount include the site. Mr. Rees states it is a preliminary number based on a study that was done in past years and it does not include the site, but they have one in mind.

Mr. Rees states they are considering land adjacent to the Animal Shelter.

- Chairman asks how this year's spending compares to FY18.

Mr. Rees states the amount is similar, but he is recommending increasing the amount for Roadwork each year in order to better maintain the roads.

- Lisa asks about the Fairhaven High School Dehumidification project. What happened to the money from the gymnasium settlement?

Chairman states Police and the School Dept. will be in next week and this should be brought up then.

- Tom asks if the Fiber Optic Network was a result of the IT Survey that was conducted. Mr. Rees does not immediately recall the IT Survey and says he will look into it.

- Chairman states \$505,000 for the IT project is a large amount and asks if there will be an explanation of the work.

Mr. Rees states he will have the IT person in to explain, as she is better able to.

- Mr. Rees distribute a list of the Articles and runs thru it.

- Measurer of Wood and Bark & Town Report are customary articles
- Report of Committees- Mr. Rees states he would like the Planning Board to report on the Master Plan work and would also like to have a presentation of the Facilities Improvement Plan.

- Kathi asks why the Senior- Work Program is under review.

Mr. Rees states this is just a place holder in case they want to raise the amount of the Article.

- Bob asks about the article pertaining to sales tax on recreational marijuana. States he has heard, because it is still federally illegal, the banks do not want to deal with the money. How will this work?

Mr. Rees states there is talk of the State setting up their own bank for this purpose.

Mr. Rees states we still have the moratorium in place and this is looking toward the future.

- Pat asks about the Roadwork. Could the BPW bring the Road Management Plan in with them when they come?
- Tom asks what percentage goes into maintenance of roads.

Mr. Rees states there is money in the regular Highway budget for repairs.

- Chairman asks when we can expect to vote on the Articles.

Mr. Rees states the Selectmen should vote on the Articles on March 26, 2018.

- Jessica asks if we will know how the Selectmen are voting when we take our votes.

Chairman states we will vote after the Selectmen.

- Chairman asks Mr. Rees to run down his Revenue pages.
  - Mr. Rees states the number he is using for State Aid is the same as the Governor's budget. He states he has never seen less money come in than was in the Governor's original budget.
  - Mr. Rees states he has increased the school revenue by \$100,000 to reflect the Acushnet students attending the high school.
- Chairman asks if any committee members have departments they would like to have come in.
  - Tom asks about the tree truck in the future CIP. He is surprised to see it still there after the Tree Warden stated last year, with all the repairs made to the existing truck it should last another 10 years.
  - Mr. Rees states he is not as optimistic as the Tree Warden with the life of the truck.
  - Chairman states this discussion is better left until the year the truck is proposed.
- Chairman states there are many +’s and –’s in the budget compared to last year’s numbers, and he doesn’t want to end up with a lot of holds when we get to voting.
  - Mr. Rees suggests, starting next week, we run through the budget and he will answer any questions we have.
  - Lisa questions the Veteran’s Department now that the veterans’ agent has retired. Mr. Rees states the Selectmen have it on their agenda to discuss. Mr. Rees states he has lowered the numbers in their budget, because historical data shows it has been over funded in the past.
  - Bob asks if Mr. Rees is recommending the full time clerk that the Harbor Master is asking for. Mr. Rees states he is recommending it.
  - Tom asks about the EMA department. He states he has spoken with the Fire Chief, and because the EMA is a part time position there is talk of merging it into the new Public Safety Complex. Mr. Rees states there is talk of that happening, and selling the Sconticut Neck Rd. building. They don’t require the space that building has.

- Chairman states next week, after Schools and Police leave; we will start to run through the rest of the budget.
- Mr. Rees states the IT Dept. head is also part of the school system, so we can discuss that department also.
- Chairman states we can expect to start voting on March 15, 2018.

8:22 PM. Lisa motions to adjourn. Seconded by Tom. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado  
Finance Committee Secretary  
(accepted 3-8-2018)