

Town of Fairhaven

Finance Committee

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Minutes of the meeting for <April 9, 2018> at the Jeffery W. Osuch BPW Administration Building, 5 Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Members in attendance:

Padraic Elliott, Robert A. Furtado, Kathi Carter, Lisa Plante in at 7:04 PM., Bernard F. Roderick, Tracey Diggins

Member absent:

Thomas Alden
Jessica Dwelly

Town of Fairhaven:

Wendy Graves- Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director
Doug Brady- Rogers School Committee
Nils Isaksen- Rogers School Committee Chairman
Gary Lavalette- Rogers School Committee
Barbara Acksen- Rogers School Committee

Meeting was covered by government access television.

Chairman Pat called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 Bernie to accept the minutes from March 29, 2018. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous

- Chairman apologizes for the need to reschedule this meeting from last Thursday.
- Ms. Graves presents a Reserve Fund Transfer request from the Fire Department in the amount of \$6,000.
The money is requested to outfit new firefighters hired due to unforeseen vacancies.
 - Ms. Graves states the transfer request speaks of 3 firefighters, but the amount is only for one.

Some money was recovered when a firefighter left before his minimum time after training was served, and he had to repay the money for his equipment.

- Lisa motions to make a Reserve Fund Transfer for \$6,000 to Acct. #01-220-00-5585-00 Fire Department- Supplies- Equipment for Men. Seconded by Bernie.

Vote: Unanimous

- Ms. Graves presents a Reserve Fund Transfer request from Mr. Rees in the amount of \$5,382.
 - Money is requested for repairs to the roof in the area of the Pleasant Street entrance lobby. Leaks developed after the winter's bad storms.
 - Lisa asks if the newer section of the school was supposed to be separated from the older building. Questions fixing the newer section.
 - Mr. Brady states it is a safety concern because there are electrical issues in the area of the leak.
 - Chairman tables this request for now, in order to discuss Article 14G.
- Article 14G. Selectmen/Town Adm. – Preserve & Restore Rogers School \$252,000
 - Chairman opens discussion.
 - Tracey states she has read the consultant's report and doesn't think the future of the building looks promising either way.
 - Lisa states she is worried about taking the building down.
 - Bernie asks what would be the worst case scenario if the money wasn't approved. Mr. Lavalette states no matter what we do, we will spend money on the building. He states if we don't do anything we will end up with another Atlas Tack building. He states the Rogers School Committee has been in contact with someone who is interested in the building, but it is just in the preliminary stages now.
 - Bernie suggests starting smaller and doing it over several years.
 - Mr. Isaksen suggests using the building as a Town Hall Annex.
 - Lisa asks if it can be used as an annex, why wasn't kept as a school.
 - Chairman asks what is the plan.
 - Ms. Acksen states the Rogers School is a historic building and should be maintained as part of the historic area.
 - Mr. Brady states \$150,000 would be used to stabilize the building and \$100,000 would be to maintain the building for ten years and allow for setting up the group that would be required to apply for the grants.
 - Mr. Brady states there are no grants to demolish the building.
 - Chairman asks what will happen with the newer section.
Mr. Brady states the plan now is just for the old section.

- Bob states he would be in support of the Article if Mr. Rees has worked it into the CIP and he feels it is workable, but Bob does not support using the building as a Town Hall Annex.

Bob also questions having 10 years of maintenance in the Article, as Article money is generally returned after 2 years.

- Mr. Brady states \$30,000 would be spent for a consultant to determine the priorities of what to do to the building.
- Chairman runs through the breakdown provided.
- Mr. Brady states up to \$25,000 is available for getting the building on the National Registry.
- Mr. Lavalette states someone is interested in the building for 14 units inside the building and 3 house lots on the property.

Mr. Brady states that proposal has not been vetted at all.

- Mr. Brady states what every happens with the building is going to happen down the road.
- Chairman states if we do nothing the building will come down on its own.
- Discussion of the cost of possible demolition.
- Chairman states if we wait until after tonight to vote, it won't be published in the book.
- Lisa states, with the cost of demolition, she is confident in gambling with the \$252,000.
- Bernie states he would like more concrete numbers on the cost of demolition.
- Tracey states she feels the report was very negative and it is a huge gamble.
- Chairman states voting for this is definitely a risk, but it buys us time to find a use for the building. Maybe it would look better to future buyers if we do this.

- Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting of Article 14G \$252,000. Seconded by Bob. Vote: 3 to 3 Pat, Bob, & Lisa in favor. Bernie, Kathi, & Tracey opposed.

- Article 21: Community Preservation Program Appropriations- FY19

- H. Bell Committee- Revere Bell Restoration & Permanent Display Project \$18,500

- Chairman states he thought the plan was to return the bell to the Oxford School.
- Mr. Brady states the cupola will be reinstalled, but the Town will retain the bell.
- Bob states the back-up information states the enclosure is not included in this project. Questions whether that will be done with donations or will they be seeking more money.

Mr. Brady states they plan to do the enclosure with donations.

- Mr. Brady states it will take time to restore the bell itself.
- Bernie asks if the bell will be exposed to vandalism.
- Mr. Brady states the enclosure will be designed to prevent that.

- Lisa asks how many Revere bells are surviving.
Mr. Brady states this one is the 3rd oldest. The other 2 are in Cambridge and Chestnut Hill.

- Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting of Article 21H \$18,500.
Seconded by Bernie. Vote: Unanimous

C. Stratford Capital Group- Oxford School Residences \$150,000

- Chairman questions why they need the money.
- Bob states that last year they originally asked for a larger amount, but reduced the request and stated they would be back in the future to request more.
Bob states he doesn't look at \$150,000 lightly, but if it will keep the project moving and return the building to a useful state, he is in favor of it.
- Kathi states she would like to see a detailed updated.
- Lisa questions why a large development company needs this money.
 - Lisa motions to Recommend at Town Meeting Article 21C . Seconded by Bernie.
Vote: Unanimous

J. Recreation Center/Wellness Committee- Bike Path Fitness Stations \$7,500

- Chairman states one was approved last year and they said they would probably do more.
- Discussion of waiting to see how much use the 1st one gets.
 - Chairman asks if there is a motion for approval. There is no motion.
 - Lisa motions to Recommend Against Approval. Seconded by Kathi. Vote: Unanimous
- After some discussion it is decided the motion should be for Indefinite Postponement.
 - Bernie motions to Rescind the Previous Vote. Seconded by Lisa. Vote: Unanimous
 - Lisa motions to Recommend Indefinite Postponement Article 21J. Seconded by Bernie. Vote: Unanimous

- Article 21 A. Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Open Space-\$45,000
 - Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting. Seconded by Bob. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 21 B. Fairhaven Housing Authority- Green Meadows Window Replacement Project- \$40,000
 - Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting. Seconded by Bernie. Vote: Unanimous

- Article 21 D. Board of Selectmen- Town Hall Handicap Door Openers- \$15,000
 - Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting. Seconded by Bernie. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 21 E. Library- Exterior Window Restoration Project- \$86,000
 - Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting. Seconded by Bernie. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 21 F. Historical Commission- Fire Museum- Gutter Project- \$2,000
 - Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting. Seconded by Bernie. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 21 G. Historical Commission- Old Stone School- Roof Project- \$7,000
 - Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting. Seconded by Bob. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 21 I. Board of Selectmen- Library Sidewalk- Walnut Street Project- \$92,000
 - Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting. Seconded by Bob. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 21 K. Administrative Spending Appropriation- \$13,500
 - Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting. Seconded by Tracey. Vote: Unanimous

- Discussion of the Economic Development Committee budget:
 - \$8,000 is requested.
 - Bernie states he is a member of the committee and can answer questions and not vote. Chairman states he recommends not doing that.
 - Discussion of the breakdown given.
 - Bob asks Ms. Graves if they have been using there appropriation this year. Ms. Graves states yes.
 - Kathi asks why they wouldn't use the Town website rather than create their own.
 - Lisa feels people would look at the Town Website rather than a Facebook page.
 - Chairman states they are presenting to the Selectmen tonight.
 - Lisa motions to Recommend At Town Meeting. Seconded by Bob. Vote: 5-0-1 with Bernie abstaining.

- Article 22: Revolving Funds- FY19
 - Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting for the following amounts:

Hazardous Materials	\$100,000
Sustainability	\$10,000
Hoppy's Landing	\$25,000

Town Hall Auditorium \$2,000

Park Utilities \$2,000

➤ Above amounts seconded by Bernie. Vote: Unanimous

➤ Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting for Wellness \$2,500.
Seconded by Tracey. Vote: Unanimous

- Article 15: Roadwork- FY19

- Vinnie Furtado- BPW Superintendent states the BPW has rescinded its vote to approve Billy's Way and will take the money from that road and use it to extend the work on Ebony Street.

➤ Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting of the cumulative sum of \$350,000 to be spent between:

- A. Hope Avenue
- C. Bluepoint Road
- D. Ebony Street

➤ Above amount seconded by Bernie. Vote: Unanimous

➤ Lisa motions to Recommend Indefinite Postponement for:

- B. Billy's Way
- E. Ebony Street
- F. Fir Street
- G. Gifford Street

➤ Seconded by Bernie. Vote: Unanimous

- Article 23: Social Day Care Center- FY19

➤ Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting not to exceed \$160,000.
Seconded by Tracey. Vote: Unanimous

- Article 24: Propagation of Shellfish- FY19

➤ Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting not to exceed \$20,000.
Seconded by Tracey. Vote: Unanimous

- Article 25: Maintenance to Rogers and Oxford School Buildings- FY19

➤ Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting not to exceed \$8,000.
Seconded by Bernie. Vote: Unanimous

- Article 26: Cultural Council Funding- FY19 \$2,500

- Kathy asks if we received any information about what they do.

- Ms. Graves states the information was provided last year.

➤ Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting. Seconded by Tracey.
Vote: Unanimous

- Article 27: Waterways Rules and Regulations Funding- FY19
 - Lisa motions to Recommend At Town Meeting. Seconded by Tracey. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 28: Wind Turbine Electricity Purchase- FY19
 - Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting. Seconded by Tracey. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 29: Senior Tax Work-Off Program- FY19
 - Lisa recues herself.
 - Bernie motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting. Seconded by Tracey. Vote: 5-0-1 with Lisa abstaining
- Article 30: Transfer From Surplus Revenue- FY19
 - Lisa motions to Recommend At Town Meeting. Seconded by Tracey. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 31: Amend Town By-Law Chapter 141. Licenses and Permits
 - Ms. Graves states this would change the timeline on preventing property owners from getting permits if their taxes are not up to date.
 - Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting. Seconded by Tracey. Vote: Unaimous
- Article 32: Adopt Town By-Law Stretch Energy Code
 - Lisa motions to Yield To Petitioner. Seconded by Tracey. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 33: Authorization to Petition the Legislature to Amend the Town Administrator Act to Provide That the Town Clerk Shall be Appointed by the Town Administrator
 - Lisa motions to Yield To Petitioner. Seconded by Tracey. Vote: 5-0-1 with Bernie abstaining.
- Article 34: Accept M.G.L., Chapter 90, Section 17C and Section 18B
 - Lisa motions to Yield To Petitioner. Seconded by Tracey. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 35: Citizen Petition-Street Acceptence-Doane Court
 - Lisa motions to Yield To Petitioner. Seconded by Tracey. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 36: Citizen Petition-Amendment to Zoning Map- Huttleston Avenue, Assessor's Map 31-Lots 115A and Lots 117C.
 - Lisa motions to Yield To Petitioner. Seconded by Tracey. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 37: Citizen Petition-Amendment to Zoning Map-273 Alden Road, Assessor's Map 37A, Lot 538.
 - Lisa motions to Yield To Petitioner. Seconded by Tracey. Vote: Unanimous
- Article 38: Ammend Town By-Law, Chapter 206, Part 1: Animal Control Fees
 - Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting. Seconded by Tracey. Vote: Unanimous

- Article 39: Accept M.G.L. Chapter 64N, Section 3: Local Sales Tax on Recreational Marijuana.
 - Lisa motions to Recommend Approval at Town Meeting. Seconded by Tracey.
 - Vote: motion passes 5-1 with Bernie opposed.

- Chairman brings back the Reserve Fund Transfer Request for the Rogers School roof repair.
 - Discussion of the building.
 - Chairman states , at some point we need a report from the Rogers Committee about the progress with the building.
 - Lisa motions to transfer \$5,382 to Acct # 001-122-12-5201-18-1318 Rogers/Oxford Maintenance. Seconded by Tracey. Vote: Motion passes 3-2-1 Pat, Lisa, Bob in favor. Bernie & Kathi opposed. Tracey abstains.

- Chairman states we will not meet this Thursday.
- Chairman will talk with Mr. Rees to see about the items we still haven't recommended.
- Chairman will email members with the next meeting.

9:33PM. Lisa motions to adjourn. Seconded by Tracey. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado
Finance Committee Secretary

accepted 4/26/2018
Robert A. Furtado