

# Town of Fairhaven

## Finance Committee

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Minutes of the meeting for <May 2, 2018> at the Elizabeth Hastings Middle School,  
30 School Street, Fairhaven, MA

### Members in attendance:

Padraic Elliott, Robert A. Furtado, Lisa Plante, Kathi Carter, Bernard F. Roderick, Tracey Diggins, Thomas Alden, Jessica Dwelly

### Town of Fairhaven:

Mark Rees- Town Administrator

Wendy Graves- Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director

Vicki Paquette- Assistant to the Town Administrator

Anne O'Brien- Human Resources Director

Charles K. Murphy, Sr.- Vice Chairman-Selectmen

Robert Espindola- Selectman

Daniel Freitas- Chairman-Selectmen

Meeting was called to order at 6:11 PM.

- Selectman Freitas states that committee members from both committees will have 2 minutes each to make a statement about the wage reclassification.
  - Chairman Pat states when the economy was bad in 2008 salaries were held and positions cut to balance the budget.  
Ten years later the economy is better and people deserve raises, but this feels too fast. Pat feels option #3 is better to allow the Selectmen time to vet the new plan, and come back at the fall Town Meeting and distribute the funds.
  - Lisa is in favor of option #3 for the same reasons.
  - Kathi questions if moral will be affected with some raises higher than others.  
Favors option #3 to allow more time to look at the plan.
  - Bernie echoes Pat's statement option #3, stating salaries need to be adjusted, but more time should be taken.
  - Tom states the reclassification is long overdue. Thanks Mr. Rees for the background of the plan, and is in favor of option #3.
  - Tracey asks if there is going to be a fall Town Meeting.  
Mr. Rees states yes, for the marijuana regulations.

Tracey states she was comfortable with option #1, because it was going to be vetted anyway, but with the fall Town Meeting she would support option #3.

- Jessica is in support of option #1. She states the study was done by professionals, and the Selectmen have 2 months to vet the plan.
  - Bob states he was comfortable with option #1, but if people still have questions he would be comfortable with option #3. He states the plan was done by a professional, and believes someone from outside of the town government should do it to remove the personalities from it.
  - Selectman Murphy states he is in favor of option #1.
  - Selectman Espindola states he was comfortable with #1, but because of the questions people are having he would go with option #3 to allow more time.
  - Selectman Freitas states he favors option #3 because there are having questions about the plan.
  - Discussion of the steps in the plan.
  - Discussion of steps being performance based.
- Meeting adjourns to cafeteria at 6:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado  
Finance Committee Secretary

*accepted 6/18/2018*

*Robert A. Furtado*