



Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall - 40 Centre Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

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MEETING NOTES

2019 OCT 16 P 12:36

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Date, Time, Location:

October 3rd, 2019 @ 7:00 P.M., BPW Administration Building, 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, MA.

Meeting Overview:

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Minute review
3. Opening Preliminary note from Town Administrator
4. Preliminary discussions for articles¹
5. Closing Remarks

-Key-

#) = Issue being discussed

* = Notes

! = Votes (Nom/Second)

-/+ = Change in attendance

Member Attendance (5)

* Padraic Elliott, Bernard F. Roderick, Caroline Roberts, Jessica Dwelly, Chris Fidalgo

Town of Fairhaven (2):

* Mark Rees (Town Admin), Wendy Graves (Finance Director)

Meeting called, October 3rd, Finance Committee, 7:06PM

1) Minute Review

* No comments

* Figurehead/Seal, Add Date

! Jess/Bernard, 5-0

1) Preliminary cash was certified

* Brought in more revenue & spent less money

* Pad: Breakdown of spend vs. revenue? _ Mark asked Wendy to send spreadsheets along, cash is mostly from reserve

2) Article overview:

* Water, completed at Spring Town meeting, therefore will not be apart of the meeting

* Mark: Warning, Police contract, might come in close or past town meeting

* Pad: Settled contracts (Fire & Sewer), can we have heads come in? _ Mark: Will be arranged.

¹ No voting; instead just discussion and calls for attendance for next meeting

3) Bills of prior year:

- * \$4,070 = Cleanup operation with New Bedford
- * \$4,240 = Error for billing for Legal
- * Bernard: Budget for legal? Mark: Legal services \$170k, this \$4,240 is in addition (\$4,240 exceeded appropriation)
- * Clifford & Kenny, Mark will follow up with cost
- * \$6,980 = Recurring cost for owned property
- * Jessica: We own property in Mattaposiatt, Why? _ Mark: Our water system borrows from Mattaposiatt (Mattaposiatt owns the wells)

4) Article 14:

- * Purpose: Look at budgets, see if we can rectify for town meeting
 - * \$1,000 = Cost for funding upcoming election
 - * \$2,000 = Unanticipated equipment problem, need maintenance
 - * \$10,000 = Backup fire engine service, could affect ratings
 - * \$500,000 for new truck, easier to pay \$10k now
 - * Jessica: Based on frame issue, should this be driven at all? _ Fire Chief should speak
 - * \$241,892 = Special education cost
 - * Needed a balance budget, so we funded less; school budget was short
 - * Chapter 70, can we use the money to fund this? _ Doctor Baldwin should speak on this
 - * Mark: Ask him for trend analysis on the special education cost to ensure we're not on track for deficit
 - * \$7,606 = Budget mistake (part time employee not counted) & reclassification for an employee
 - * Funding went to the wrong department (Money was in water and sewer but not in highway)
 - * Wind Turbine electric expense
 - * Occasionally under budget the expense line item and cannot spend more than appropriate, but money needs to be appropriated regardless of increased revenue
 - * Revenue from receipts
- 5) Article 17
- * \$26,000 = Police security lockers (cannot lock weapon lockers)
 - * \$38,416 = Fire department stretchers (not meeting standards)
 - * Bernard: Delay? _ Mark: Cannot wait till May
 - * Mark: Ambulance receipts should be able to cover
 - * Fire Chief should discuss this

(Continued below)

- * Land acquisition
- * Executive session, so not much can be spoken about at this time
- * Pad: Backup information? _ Mark: Not at this time

+ Kathy Carter joins 7:33PM

- * \$17,000 = Polling station ADA compliant
- * Updated building, which made it public, and therefore needs updating
- * Handicap Access included here

* (For Article 17 as a whole) Pad: These are capital funding above and beyond where we had appropriated? _ Mark: Yes, most likely from Free Cash fund

6) Article 21

- * Specialize savings account for ambulances
- * Can be covered by receipts, but money needs to be appropriated

7) Article 27

- * Jessica: Didn't we already vote on this? _ Mark: Yes, but this is for FY20, we voted on FY19
- * Can be covered by receipts, but money needs to be appropriated

8) Article 12

- * Legal word changes, should not impact FinCom

9) Article 13

- * Legal word changes, should not impact FinCom

10) For Oxford School project, need additional parking

- * Protected under law (cannot affect park land without equivalent exchange; will be exchanging with another park)

11) MS4 Stormwater Mgmt

- * To bring in compliance with State and Federal regulation
- * Outside town pressure to come into compliance
- * Will increase in cost year over year
- * Mark will ask BPW head to appear

12) Municipal Fiber Network Consultant

- * Seek consultant for feasibility
- * Caroline: Is this what happened with New Bedford security breach? _ Mark: Valid concern, but security is a prime concern as we move forward
- * Pad: Champion of this article? _ Mark: Bob Espindola

13) General By-Law

- * Not likely to impact FinCom

14) Zoning By-Law:

- * Not likely to impact FinCom

15) PILOT Authorizations

- * Could save money in electric cost
- * Panels on school roof
- * Panel company seeks property owner, the owner is paid, taxes come into town
- * Specific owners want tax arrangement specified

16) Layout & Acceptance of Robert St.

- * [No notes recorded]

17) Office hours on Saturday

- * Pad: Why is this required? _ Stated reason: Assist town when calculating dates for elections
- * Town Clerk should appear to explain; _ Mark: Optional appearance, will ask for written clarification first

18) Amend Town By-Law Chapter 87

- * Change timing to Spring to make things easier
- * Not likely to impact FinCom

19) Amend Town By-Law Chapter 87

- * Not likely to impact FinCom

20) People being requested for next week:

- * Fire chief
- * BPW
- * Police chief
- * Dr. Baldwin
- * Optional: Town Clerk, pending paperwork for clarification

(Final notes below)

Final Notes:

* Caroline: Could we meet earlier? _ Pad: Would need to discuss as a Committee, more members should be in attendance

* Bernard discussed FinCom member being a part of capital funding board

* Specifically for increased flow of information

* As long as the committee is advisory, we CAN have a member


* Requires Selectman to vote for member to be added, pending the FinCom's desire for a member

* MOTION: To submit to Selectmen a request to have a FinCom member on the board of Capital Funding

! Bernard/Jessica, 6-0

Close meeting

8:02, Bernard, Jessica



Christopher Fidalgo, Secretary