



# Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall - 40 Centre Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

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TOWN CLERK

## MEETING NOTES

2019 NOV -6 A 9:31

### Date, Time, Location:

October 10th, 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. Discussion and voting of articles
5. Executive Session

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### -Key-

#) = Issue being discussed

\* = Notes

\*\* = Specifies issues voted on if multiple are voted on within a section

- = Votes (Nom/Second)

! = Change in attendance

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### Member Attendance (9):

\* Padraic Elliott, Chris Fidalgo, Lisa Plante, Kathi Carter, Bernard F. Roderick, Jennifer Dupras, Carolyn Roberts

### Town of Fairhaven (2):

\* Mark Rees (Town Administrator), Wendy Graves (Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director)

### Guests (4):

\* Vincent "Vinnie" Furtado (BPW), Michael Botelho (Police), Mike Myers (Police Chief), Todd Correia (Fire Department)

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Meeting called, 7:05PM

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### 1) Approval of minutes

\* Bernard made a correction to 3rd item

\* Jessica, Tracey, 9-0 Unanimous

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### 2) Mark Rees goes over the Free Cash Estimate

### 3) Update of the Article list with Selectmans' recommendation

\* Pad: Vote on what's appropriate, but abstain on more controversial

\* Mark Rees cannot attend last October meeting

BPW Specific Items, with remarks from Vinnie Furtado

4) \$7,606 Highway, salaries and wages

- \* Non-union

- \* BPW Admin, not Highway

! PASSED OVER ! For next meeting

5) \$50,000 Appropriation for Stormwater Permit

- \* Town needed to apply for new stormwater permit

- \* Several tasks must be completed based on the mandate

- \* Data based on grant revealed several areas that need to be remedied

- \* Chapter 90 money was requested but was denied

- \* Requires new items in the budget (mapping, vents, area testing)

- \* Bernard: Will this amount the same based per each year? BPW: This is a guess as a starting point

- \* Bernard: How long will this project exist? BPW: Mandated based on recommendations, will be on-going cost to the town

- \* Chris: Consequences? BPW: EPA fines \$25,000 per violation, per day

- \* Jennifer: Outsourced? BPW: Mostly internal with outsourcing as needed

- \* Carolyn: Can we apply again for Chapter 90? BPW: Carefully worded the past requests, but all were denied

- \* General fund item

- \* Carolyn: Deadline? BPW: Due by next October

- \* Pad: Did selectmen review? Not yet, but Vinnie was asked to report to the Selectman's next meeting

- \* Sewer overage must be discussed further

- \* Sewer contract is completed internally but has not been released yet

! PASSED OVER ! For next meeting

6) \$6,980, Bills of Prior Year

- \* No way to take the item off for taxes

- \* We pay money, but get hydrant fees in exchange

! Chris, Lisa, 9-0 Unanimous

7) Approval for Fire Contract

- \* Selectmen are charged with negotiating, Mark Rees has delegated responsibility

- \* Goal is to be as close to market as possible

- \* Management changes for efficiency

- \* Salary survey proved we were competitive (3%, 2%, 2% steps), but we're underpaying at the mid to higher range of service

- \* Added two step increases for more competitive standing

- \* Putting GPS monitors in ambulances and fire trucks

- \* Added incentivize for working during emergency

- \* Lisa: Increases are over wage and reclassification? Mark: Only impacts non-union, but the percentage gains are tied to highest paid fire worker/police person at the higher end

- \* Jessica: What is the "civil service"? Todd: Trying to open up pool of candidates

- \* Lisa: Issue with GPS before? Todd: Not a problem, but should increase efficiency of vehicles

! Lisa, Chris/Bernard, 9-0 Unanimous

8) New Bedford Harbor \$4,070 (from Free Cash to Harbor Master Operating Budget)

- \* Error in a bill we need to pay, now past due

- \* Lisa: Didn't we allocate at last town meeting? Wendy: The error wasn't encumbered until FY20

\* Jennifer: Bill has already been paid? Mark: If we miss the deadline, we need to bring it up at the next town meeting

! Chris, Lisa, 9-0 Unanimous

9) \$4,240 Thomas P. Crotty Associates & \$2,581 Clifford & Kenny

\* Pad: Money went beyond what we planned? Mark: Yes, first time exceeded

\* Contracts, 2 town meetings, hopefully less cost next year

\* Bernard: Why the redactions? Mark: Specific employee names that should remain confidential

\* Kathy: Can we better improve for next year? Mark: By spending here, we save money down the road

\* Bernard: Were all issues resolved? Mark: No outstanding personal matters

\*\* \$4,240 Thomas P. Crotty Associates

! Chris, Lisa, 9-0 Unanimous

\*\* \$2,581 Clifford & Kenny

\* Chris, Lisa, 9-0 Unanimous

Amending General budgets

10) \$1,000 Town Clerk/Elections, Salaries & Wages

\* Lisa: Request for more precinct workers? Mark: For additional staff

\* Chris: Supposed to get us an additional poll worker, based on speaking to Carolyn Hurley

! Chris/Lisa, 9-0 Unanimous

11) \$2,000 Marine Resources, Operating Expenses

\* Lisa: Which boat? Todd: Main boat in the harbor

! Chris/Lisa, 9-0 Unanimous

11) \$10,000 Fire Department, Operating Expenses

\* For ISO Rating & cutting back insurance rates, town needs a backup truck, must be ready for use

\* Jessica: How often do we need to operate the backup? Todd: Called into service, 4 times a year, but this item is mostly driven by ISO rating concerns, truck is used in blizzards and hurricanes

\* Jessica: Is the frame cracked? Todd: Frame is "separating", can last for 2-3 years

\* Truck is 35 years old, recommended is for 20 years, pumping failed during testing

\* Lisa: Insurance increase for the town would be more than cost here? Todd: Yes, we don't use it as much as we could, but helps with ratings and therefore taxes for the town

\* Carolyn: Supposed to be a bad year, is the truck prepared? Todd: Things that were fixed--brakes, manifold, pumps, temp gauge--trucks will be winter ready however

\* Pad: New pumper truck? \$500K

\* Pad: Will they ask for more? Todd: Fire department should be able to cover the cost for additional service this year, additional cost will come out of ambulance repair budget as needed

! Chris/Lisa, 9-0 Unanimous

12) Wind Turbine Electric Expense \$100,000

\* We pay per kilowatt generated but we sell to the grid for more per kilowatt, which is net earnings

\* Increase is supported by revenue generated

\* Jennifer: Are we adjusting the numbers and not really spending? Mark: The spending is more, but offset by revenue, so more of an adjustment

\* Lisa: Projection seems large? Mark: Based on increase from prior year

\* Chris: Gross- or percentage-based projection? Mark: Based on gross revenue, not percentage of month-over-month increase year over year

\* Carolyn: Seems like net revenue even if projection is poor? Mark: Yes

! Chris/Jennifer, 9-0 Unanimous

General Fund Capital Budget

13) \$26,000 Police Lockers

\* Risk has been better explained

\* Mark: Can we transfer new lockers to new facility? Myers: Possible, but not ideal, more office lockers than "true" lockers, not movable because the dimensions of the lockers probably won't fit the ideal space

\* Myers: Significant issues have popped up, now turning this article into a legal issue

\* Bernard: Each officer has a locker? Myers: Yes

\* Bernard: Anything missing? Myser: No

\* Jennifer: How many? Myers: 34 Lockers

\* Carolyn: When did they become compromised? Myers: Over 25 years, slowly become compromised

\* Jessica: Service weapons in lockers? Myers: Yes, temporary storage, not overnight

\* Jennifer: Comes from? Mark: Free cash

! Bernard/Lisa, 9-0 Unanimous

14) \$38,416 Stretchers replaced

\* Jenn: Any grants we can apply to? Todd: Comes out of ambulance receipts, received \$37k from receipts

\* Spent on stretchers? Todd: Yes...

\* Todd: 2 electronic stretchers, cheap fix for certification, issues with new loading systems due to computer issues, 2 options: repair for \$5k but could not be validated due to age (liability concern) OR completely replaced (removes legal concerns)

\* Bernard: 2? Todd: Yes, with a 3rd that's not old enough

\* Chris: Electronic? Todd: Back injuries due to manual stretchers, but this helps with back issues, new loading system can help with loading, brand new ambulances

\* Shouldn't need a higher repair or maintenance budget for at least a year

\* Pad: From where? Mark: Free cash, needs appropriation

! Lisa/Chris, 9-0 Unanimous

15) \$17,000 Central Fire Station/Polling Handicap Access

\* A lot of discussion done at previous meetings, investigation email as well

! Chris/Lisa, 9-0 Unanimous

16) \$15,000 Article 21

\* No impact on tax rates

! Chris/Lisa, 9-0 Unanimous

17) \$15,000 Article 27

\* Jennifer: More people using this service? (unidentified): Should be fixed at Spring meeting

! Lisa/Jessica, 9-0 Unanimous

18) Office hours on Saturday

\* If we do not adopt, in February, we'd have unusual accounting of hours, resulting in a mandatory opening on Saturday

\* Lisa: Doesn't change anything? Chris: Not really

\* Carolyn: Adopting would result in days being counted corrected? Mark: Yes

\* Pad: Adopted by other towns? Mark: Yes

! YIELD ! Pad/Lisa, 9-0 Unanimous, believed to have no relevance for Finance Committee

19) Land acquisition, Design & Engineering

\* Moving into executive session, because open meeting would be detrimental; requires roll call vote

! Roll call !

"AYE"

1. Chris Fidalgo
2. Lisa Plante
3. Kathy Carter
4. Bernard F. Roderick
5. Jennifer Duprees
6. Tracey Diggins
7. Jessica Dwelly
8. Carolyn Roberts
9. Padraic Elliott

"NAY"

None

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EXECUTIVE SECTION

\* Presentation from Chiefs about public facility

\* Case and background was reviewed

Close for meeting

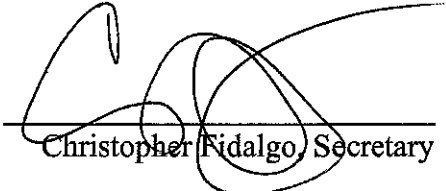
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15. Tracey Diggins
16. Jessica Dwelly
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18. Padraic Elliott

"NAY"

None

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Christopher Fidalgo, Secretary