



# Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall - 40 Centre Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

## MEETING NOTES

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK

2020 JAN -3 P 3:11

### Date, Time, Location:

November 7th, 2019 @ 7:00 P.M., BPW Administration Building, 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719

### Meeting Overview:

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Approval of last meeting minutes
3. Discussion of remaining articles for Town Meeting
4. Meeting close

---

### -Key-

#) = Issue being discussed

\* = Notes

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

- = Votes (Nom/Second)

! = Change in attendance

---

### Member Attendance (8):

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

### Town of Fairhaven (2):

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

### Guests (2):

\* Micahel Myers (Police Chief), Bob Espinadola (Selectmen)

Meeting called, 7:00PM

---

### 1) Approval of minutes

! Lisa, Jennifer 8-0 unanimous

---

### 2) Police Union Contract

\* 3%, 2.5%, 2.5%, additional step in 3rd year

\* Additional Management rights

\* Vehicle cameras

\* Pad: Cameras in Budget? FPD: Yes, would move into budget after this, get company to source the parts

\* Chris: Increases per year? Mark: Yes

! Chris, Bernie 8-0 unanimous

---

### 3) Article 17, handicap access

\* Been trying to improve handicap accessibility

\* Funding automatic door openers for improved access

- \* Currently have handicap access path (ramp, to lobby, door openers, into the building, elevator, etc.)
- \* More people use the ramps now, created privacy concern
- \* Joe Booth brought in to consult for handicap access and privacy concerns
- \* Building new ¾ height wall, moving offices
- \* Estimated cost is \$50,587 for wall
- \* Additionally, install vertical wheelchair lift
- \* Estimated cost is \$86,647 for
- \* Bernie: Free cash? Mark: Yes
- \* Bernie: Time required to construction? Mark: Would need to talk to architect more, not a load supporting wall
- \* Bob: Selectmen very much support the article, advocates for people with disability, built in 1892, continue to upgrade the access appropriately
- \* Bernie: Any grant funds available? Mark: Have applied through the State, could apply for CPA funds, but wouldn't be awarded until May, which is too late
- \* Pad: Cost includes preservation cost? Mark: Yes, Bob: Asked specifically about it, will make all efforts for it to blend in, Mark: Also allows us to not require a ramp towards the front
- \* Pad: Lift is a mini wheelchair? Mark: Yes, you wheel into it
- \* Kathi: Any picture? *Jessica shared a picture*
- \* Pad: Is this maze like? Mark: "It is somewhat maze like"
- \* Kathi: How do people know how to access these areas? Mark: Improved signage is a part of the project
- \* Bernie: Have the Historical Commission approved of this? Mark: Their primary concern is the exterior of the building
- \* Sidewalk and bathrooms are already handicap accessible
- ! Chris, Jessica 8-0 unanimous

#### 4) Appropriation for Broadband Consultant

- \* \$65,000 Town Cable T.V. Retained Earnings
- \* Fiber Study Committee as additional thought
- \* Came based off compliments with Comcast: price, quality, capacity, and customer service
- \* Were negotiation with Comcast, signed a 10 year contract
- \* Attorney said we could request from other providers, but there aren't many companies looking to compete with the incumbent, difficult to compete with
- \* Went through the process, sent out RFP, sourced different providers, all declined
- \* Some communities building their own infrastructure, expensive and complicated
- \* Renamed to Broadband study, because the system could be more than fiber
- \* Want feasibility study for the town
- \* Funding comes from retained earnings, generated from Comcast contract, 5% of their revenue, which is used for expanded public access
- \* Expanded access is part of the public television, can record
- \* Existing networks have built revenue from their services
- \* Purpose of the study is to find affordable, accessible, adaptable, and sustainable (big concern on sustainability), will this be here in 5 years, fiber is one of the best options\
- \* Municipal fiber network has been built for municipal services (town gov.'t, education, public safety)
- \* Town owns the municipal fiber network
- \* Will need to connect business, health care, education (private), and residential
- \* Checking existing connections educating the committee on how it work, costs
- \* Kathi: How does this work with Comcast? Bob: Don't know the answer right now, consultant would represent the town

- \* Roadblock here is incumbent owns the infrastructure
- \* One model: Could build, service town could provide, like town and sewer, part of taxes
- \* Hands Off Model: hands off approach, someone else would take care of building and maintenance
- \* Co-Op Model: People pay into it, infrastructure is built
- \* Builder Model: Open system or any other provider could use, and select from providers, can easily change between providers, which lowers the cost
- \* Opt-In Model: Everyone opts in, pays an upfront cost, until a take rate, developer will build once the take rate is high enough, pay for infrastructure but not further
- \* Objective of the program is for something less than current
- \* Bernie: Are we trying to aim for less cost or more competition? Bob: Both, but also better capacity
- \* Carolyn: But this is just a consultant proposal? Bob: Yes, and the cost could be 15m
- \* Carolyn: How much do we get from the 5% back annually? Bob: \$330k for all 3 channels
- \* Kathi: Other communities have done this? Bob: Taunton is one of them
- \* Kathi: Any outreach to them? Bob: We have, several guests have spoken, Taunton Light included
- \* Also quasi-government agency that we pay in, helps with zoning, transportation, had them look at it
- \* Kathi: Did the outcomes improve? Bob: Can't keep up with demand, many people want it
- \* Comtrack, they helped with municipal fiber loop, discussed with them as well
- \* Bernie: Cost? Bob: Consultant cost is not to exceed \$65k
- \* Bernie: We cannot proceed on our own, so consultant has a need
- \* Consultant would estimating, educating, pre-engineering (using more actual data), funding & grants, models
- \* Chris makes a bunch of remarks towards favorability of this (massive reduction in cost, massive increase in speed)
- \* Quincy is a great committee to look to
- \* Pad: Does this give us the same leverage with Comcast? Bob: If another provider came in tomorrow and built a network to compete, erosion of 5% could happen due to cord cutting
- \* Pad: No issues with money from this account being used for this purpose? Mark: No
- \* Bernie: Any safeguards to prevent early problems with public access? Bob: Can block program, just must be played eventually (4am)
- \* Some communities use non-profit model
- \* Want to study all models available
- ! Chris, Lisa, 8-0 unanimous

#### 5) Article 10 on land acquisition

- \* Will be passed over
- \* Bernie would like consultant and land acquisition to be separate articles

#### 6) Article 17, PILOT authorizations

- \* Considerable savings for the school, millions, for extremely low cost
- \* Lisa: These buildings don't benefit from other solar panels and turbine? Mark: Different buildings
- \* Bernie: Would architecture need changes? Mark: No, can support these panels
- \* Purpose is to provide provider with constant stream of revenue
- \* PILOT must exceed revenue expected to be collected in taxes
- \* Similar to wind turbines
- \* Balances out the payments over the years
- \* All costs are upfront
- \* Pad: These panels will cover the cost to no cost to us? Mark: Yes
- \* Pad: Additional energy generated goes where? Mark: Excess can be sold to the grid
- \* Jessica: Any maintenance cost in this? Mark: Contracts have been reviewed by Town Council and that includes repairs and maintenance

- \* Pad: Why this arrangement? Mark: Greater incentivize to put on buildings for grants
- \* Private offers are under negotiations with accessor
- \* On private lane owned by solar company
- \* Increases tax revenue for that land
- \* Bernie: Installation time? Mark: Likely during the summer

! Chris, Lisa 8-0 unanimous

\* Extra remark, Mark: Under Article 3, because we haven't set the tax rates yet, that allows us to raise and appropriate the funds rather than use surplus revenue, which we have, continues the practice of funding operating expenses with operating revenues

---

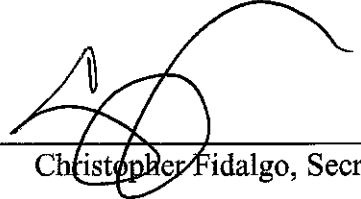
#### Closing Remarks

Next meeting, 6:30 before town meeting, to discuss any remaining matters

---

Close Meeting

! Chris, Lisa 8-0, unanimous 8:17



Christopher Fidalgo, Secretary