

Selectmen's Meeting – March 7, 2005

Dr. Bowcock, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Eckenreiter were present.

Also in attendance was Jeffrey Osuch.

Dr. Bowcock called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Silvia motioned to approve the minutes of February 28, 2005. Mr. Eckenreiter seconded. Vote was unanimous.

CATHRYN BROWER

Cathryn Brower was in attendance to discuss her letter to the Board regarding "parcels of land in the Town of Fairhaven that have been coded as Undevelopable Land (#132) and Potentially Undevelopable Land (#131) by the Town Assessors, on an owner's analysis." (See attached.) Ms. Brower requested an investigation be undertaken regarding the classifications and if parcels have been coded incorrectly, land owners must re-pay back taxes. She stated land was re-classified to avoid paying taxes and there is no documentation on the reasons for the classification of these non-buildable wetland lots. Discussion ensued. The Board agreed to discuss the matter with the Board of Assessors at a future meeting. Mr. Silvia motioned to have Town Counsel review the matter. Mr. Eckenreiter seconded. Vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mattapoissett River Valley Water District will meet with Town Counsel and Lisa Dickinson from Unibank on March 8th at 4:30 p.m. at the Board of Public Works.

MUNIS Computer Company will give a presentation on their system on March 9th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at the Town Hall.

VADAR Computer Company will give a presentation on their system on March 10th from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the Town Hall.

East Fairhaven School Building Committee will meet at Town Hall on March 9th at 6:30 p.m.

John Nunes and Jeffrey Osuch will meet with Paul Kitchen, School Business Administrator, on March 10th at noon.

Finance Committee will meet on March 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Public Works.

Deadline to submit applications to FEMA for the January 2005 blizzard is March 18th.

Selectmen's Meeting – March 7, 2005

Mr. Silvia motioned to sign the Settlement Agreement between the Town of Fairhaven and the Estate of Fred Nordeng in the amount of \$125,000. Mr. Eckenreiter seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Silvia motioned to sign the Joint Release and Settlement Agreement between the Town of Fairhaven and Earl R. Flansburgh & Associates to “resolve the gymnasium seating dispute and all remaining disputes that currently exist between the parties...”. Mr. Eckenreiter seconded. Vote was unanimous. (Flansburgh will pay the Town \$315,000. and the Town will pay Flansburgh \$65,000.)

Mr. Silvia motioned to authorize Dr. Bowcock to sign a letter addressed to the New Bedford Harbor Trustees supporting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration application for Round 3 funding to restore the West Island Beach salt marsh. Mr. Eckenreiter seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Eckenreiter read the following into the record concerning the sale of bonds to re-finance the High School project. (See attached.) Mr. Silvia motioned to authorize the sale as read by Mr. Eckenreiter. Dr. Bowcock seconded. Vote was unanimous.

ANIMAL SHELTER GIFT ACCOUNT

\$35.00 donation to the Gift Account was accepted.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Construction Report for January 2005 will be placed on file.

COALITION FOR BUZZARDS BAY

Mr. Eckenreiter motioned to place an article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant to support the preservation of the Viveiros Farm. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dr. Bowcock read the letter from the Police Chief requesting the re-location of a “no parking” sign on Ferry Street. (See attached.) Mr. Silvia motioned to approve the relocation of the sign. Mr. Eckenreiter seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Silvia motioned to appoint Arthur Shepard and Ralph Tate Special Police Officers pursuant to Chapter 160 of the Acts of 2003. Mr. Eckenreiter seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Selectmen's Meeting – March 7, 2005

2004 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

“Blue fiber” was selected as the cover color for the 2004 Annual Town Report.

Hoppy's Landing was selected as the cover photo for the 2004 Annual Town Report.

CABLE TV LICENSE RENEWAL

Legal/consulting services for the cable television license renewal process were briefly discussed with Attorney William Solomon. Members of the Cable Advisory Committee were present. Attorney Solomon is a Municipal Attorney specializing in cable television law. He has represented Marion, Mattapoisett, Rochester and Wareham in their renewal negotiations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:27 p.m., Mr. Silvia motioned to go into executive session to discuss the cable television license renewal process with Attorney William Solomon, Fire Union Contract negotiations, Clerical Union Contract negotiations and to reconvene in open session. Mr. Eckenreiter seconded. Vote was unanimous. Roll call vote 3-0. Open meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

CABLE TV LICENSE RENEWAL

The Board voted to hire Attorney Solomon to represent the Town in the cable television license renewal process.

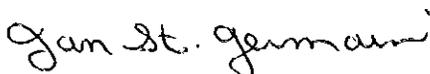
FY 06 BUDGET

The Fire Chief discussed proposals to use monies in the Ambulance Fund to supplement the FY 06 Town Budget. (See attached letters.)

Mr. Osuch discussed proposed cuts in the FY 06 Budget and estimated requests for the May 7th Special Town Meeting. (See attached.)

Dr. Bowcock read the letter from the Finance Committee to the School Department regarding their FY 06 Budget. (See attached.)

At 9:45 p.m., Mr. Silvia motioned to adjourn. Mr. Eckenreiter seconded. Vote was unanimous.


Jan St. Germain
Secretary

CATHRYN F. BROWER
P.O. Box 4091
New Bedford, MA 02741
Tel: (508) 997-4110

John Leedy
Assessor
2B

Winfred Eckenreiter
Dr. Brian Bowcock
Michael Silvia
Selectmen
Town of Fairhaven

RE: Plat 42, Lot 15 C, 2.16 Acres
Grace Nopper Family Trust

Dear Sirs:

I am writing this letter to ask that an investigation be undertaken relative to parcels of land in the Town of Fairhaven that have been coded as Undevelopable Land (#132) and Potentially Undevelopable Land (#131) by the Town Assessors, on an Owner's analysis.

During May, 1990, open land was revalued considerably. It was the year following the sale of the South portion of the Goulart Farm to Phil Lafrance's Oliver Development Corporation. I became familiar with the development project as my mother had retained the piece of land where my house is situated at 9 Goulart Memorial Drive.

I handled the abatement process for the lots owned by Oliver Development and Phil LaFrance as well as the one retained by my mother.

Abatements were granted based on wetland percentage, averaging about 25%-45% of the original assessment. For example, my mother's lot, Plat 42, Lot 15 G, 1.6 Acres was originally taxed at \$1063.15, an abatement was granted of \$401.57, leaving a tax of \$661.58. The 12 Oliver Development lots (plus the 2 lots retained by my mother and her brother's family) on the SE corner of Scoticut Neck had been engineered, with wet land delineation and perc tests done.

Across the street from Plat 42, Lot 15G, is Plat 42, Lot 15C containing 2.16 acres of the same farmland with a section of wetland is owned by Grace Nopper. In 1990, she and her husband petitioned to the Assessors (Jeanne Ready, Paul Matheson, etc) and for an Abatement for their lot, claiming it was totally unbuildable and wet. They took a photograph of a brick placed upright on the grass and placed the photo on a piece of paper and pointed an arrow, saying "water comes up to here". (This photo is in the Nopper file in the Assessors Office.) On August 20, 1990, the Assessors re-coded Plat 42, Lot 15G as undevelopable (Code 132) and lowered the assessment from \$128,000 to \$4300 with an annual tax of \$41.41. In 1990, for comparison's sake, this Lot 15 C has more upland than my mother's Lot 15G, which was being taxed at \$661.58 and is .5 acre larger. This parcel has been assessed every year since 1991 to 2004 at \$4300, with the Noppers paid anywhere from \$41 to \$60 per year in taxes to retain ownership of a buildable lot without paying fair market value taxes on it.

RECEIVED
BOARD OF ASSESSORS
2005 FEB -14 A 10: 33
FAIRHAVEN, MA

In 1990 and 1991, I complained vehemently to Jeanne Reedy and Paul Matheson when I found that they had granted the abatement to the Noppers, but to no avail. They would not investigate this property or they would have found out quickly that it was a developable lot. I confronted Jeanne Reedy and told her that the Noppers had 2 sons, 2 beach lots and this particular lot, given to Grace Nopper by her sister, and adjacent to their house, was inheritance for one of their sons that they did not want to pay taxes on. I further told Jeanne Reedy that I would be in her face when the Noppers flipped the land into a buildable lot.

That day arrived and this was this Summer. Jeanne Reedy, turned white when I confronted her. She remembered the discussions we had in 1990 and acknowledged (in the presence of Wayne Fostin) that I had warned her in 1990 that I would be returning to remind her how wrong she had been. Jeanne Reedy, then, in front of two members of her department said there were more lots out there like this. That really makes me feel even better about the whole re-coding process in this town!

I am asking you, the Selectman, to request Town Counsel Tom Crotty institute legal action to recover the taxes that were defrauded the Town from 1991 to the present by Grace Nopper before a building permit can be obtained so Grace Nopper's grandson, Peter can build a house on this lot. The perc test was completed successfully. According to my calculations, they owe approximately \$18,500, in unpaid back taxes, or the lot should remain "undevelopable".

I am also asking you, the Selectman, to force the Assessors to identify every parcel coded as Non Developable or Potentially Developable, put on a "Watch List" and monitored for flipping of these lots into buildable lots. I am not referring to lots made buildable by a new sewer line that were previously unbuildable. Further, I am asking the Selectman to insist that no land can be re-coded to undevelopable or potentially developable without adequate engineering proof, such as wetlands delineation, failed perc, etc. Assessors should not be re-coding land, Conservation and Board of Health should, based on wetlands and percing.

Everyone wants pay increases, costs are escalating, the teachers have a new contract and the Nopper's tax evasion is totally unfair to the rest of the Town who pay their fare share of taxes, each and every Year. The Assessors, specifically Jeanne Reedy and Paul Matheson, knowingly and willfully refused to evaluate this parcel and should be considered as co-conspirators in this fraud. They just rolled over and accepted a fraudulent convincing story and photograph without any hesitation, EVEN, when challenged that they were wrong..and they have never given me an adequate reason for their decision..because they never have had one! Further, I confronted members of the Nopper Family both in 1990 and this past Spring, 2004 as they were preparing to engineer this lot and both times, I was told to "Mind your own business!"

On a related issue, the Assessors were not even aware that Alcobia Drive which borders the Nopper residence and house lot to the East is incorrectly drawn on the Assessors Map #42 until I pointed it out to them. The Assessors Map shows Alcobia Drive as the driveway of the Nopper residence on the West side instead of the dirt road that is East of the Nopper residence/lot bordering the marsh and Jack's Cove. The Assessors go out and check property so they say and they do not even check to see if a new street is documented in the correct place on an official Town Assessors Map?? Oversight in this department is badly needed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Cathryn F. Brower
9 Goulart Memorial Drive

cc: Butch VanderPol, Conservation
Patricia Fowle, Board of Health
Wayne Fostin, Building Inspector
Jeanne Reedy, Assessors ✓

Plat 42 Lot15H* (Vacant across Street) Comparison with Lot 15C
1990- 2005

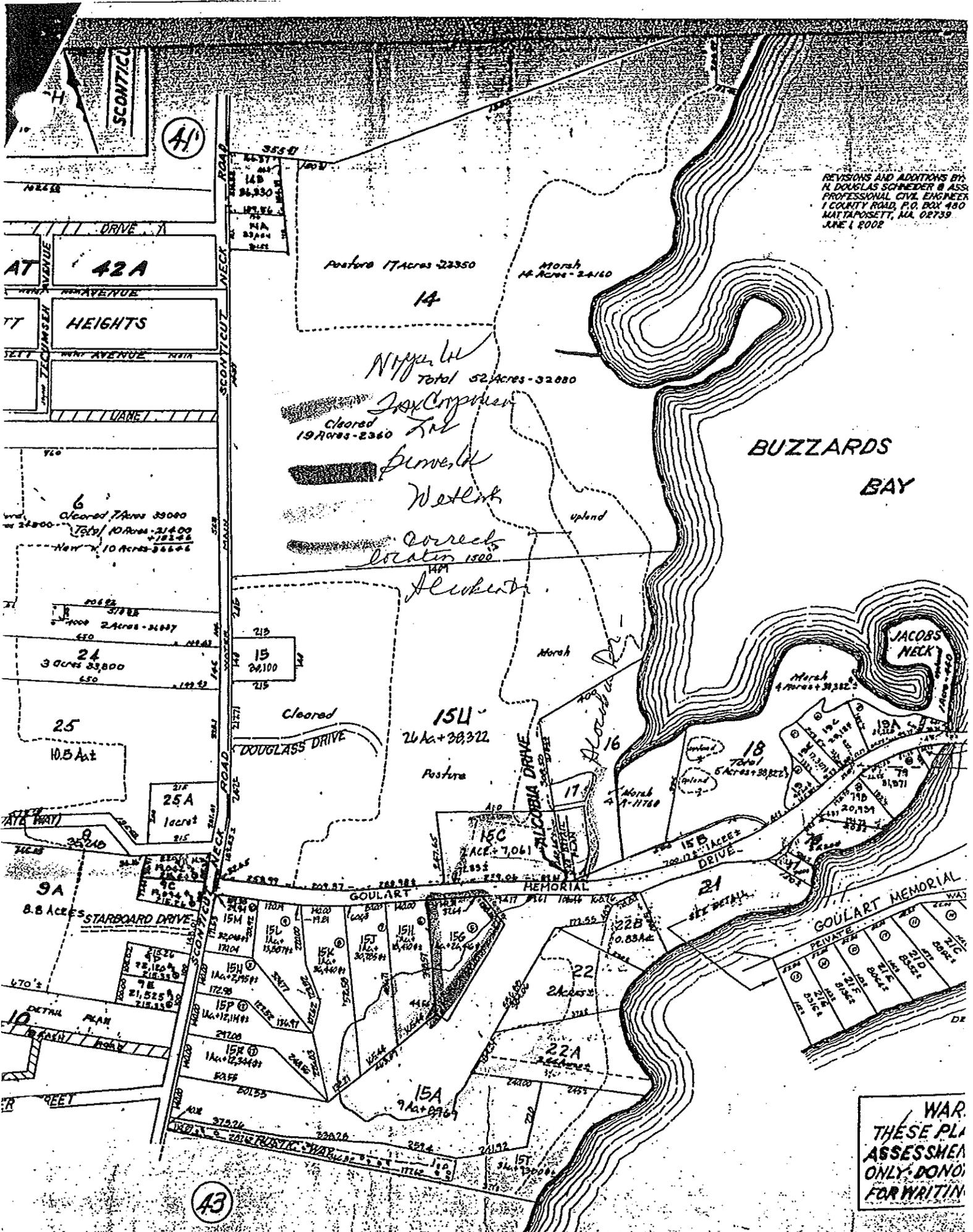
	Lot 15H* 1.42 A Assessment	Tax Paid	Tax Rate	Lot 15C* 2.16 A Assessm't	Tax Paid	Code*	Tax Mkt Rate Est
1990	\$104,300	\$901.15	\$8.64	\$128,000	\$1105.92	130	\$None
1991	104,300	1004.41	9.63	4,300	41.41	132	\$1235.52
1992	84,300	904.50	10.73	4,300	46.14	132	1162.05
1993	55,000	660.55	12.01	4,300	51.64	132	952.39
1994	55,000	682.00	12.40	4,300	53.32	132	983.32
1995	55,000	709.50	12.90	4,300	55.47	132	1022.97
1996	55,000	734.25	13.35	4,300	57.41	132	1058.75
1997	55,000	730.40	13.28	4,300	57.10	132	1053.10
1998	55,000	755.00	13.74	4,300	59.08	132	1089.58
1999	55,400	804.41	14.52	4,300	62.44	132	1151.43
2000	55,400	838.76	15.14	4,300	65.00	132	1200.60
2001	55,400	838.76	15.14	4,300	65.10	132	1200.60
2002	85,400	1192.18	13.96	4,300	60.03	132	1525.80
2003	135,400	1600.43	11.82	4,300	50.83	132	1764.72
2004	150,400	1643.87	10.93	4,300	10.93	132	2022.05
2005	180,800	1509.68	8.35	99,800**	833.33	131	1852.02

Est Total Taxes Paid from 1991-2004, "The Fraud Years" = \$772.07
Est Total Taxes Should Have Paid from 1991-2004 = \$19274.82

ESTIMATED TOTAL TAXES NOT PAID BY NOPPERS = \$ 18502.25

** Class Code changed from 132 (Undevelopable Land) to 131 (Potentially Developable Land) and resulting assessment increased to potentially developable land after I notified Jeanne Reedy that it had been perced; I maintain it should have reverted to developable land (Class Code 130) as it was in 1990, along with the 14 lots across the Street. Lot 15C has been developable land, but Jeanne Reedy refused.

Code 130 Developable Land
Code 131 Potentially Developable Land
Code 132 Undevelopable Land



REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS BY:
 N. DOUGLAS SCHNEIDER & ASS.
 PROFESSIONAL CIVIL ENGINEER
 1 COUNTY ROAD, P.O. BOX 480
 MATTAPOISETT, MA, 02739
 JUNE 1, 2002

Wetland
 Total 52 Acres - 32080
Cleared
 19 Acres - 2360
Marsh
 Wetland
 Correct location 1991
 Alcock

BUZZARDS BAY

WAR
 THESE PL
 ASSESSME
 ONLY DONO
 FOR WRITIN

SCONTICUT
 (A)

(A3)

AT 42A

HEIGHTS

LANE

6
 Cleared 7 Acres 39000
 Total 10 Acres 21400
 + 12146
 New 10 Acres 23546

24
 30 Acres 33800
 650

25
 10.5 Acs

25A
 1 acre

9A
 8.8 ACRES STARBOARD DRIVE

10
 DETAIL PLAN

SCONTICUT NECK ROAD
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Pasture 17 Acres 23350

Marsh 14 Acres 24160

14

15L
 26 Acs + 38,322
 Pasture

15C
 7,061
 1755

Marsh 4 Acres + 31,322

18
 Total 5 Acres + 30,322

JACOBS NECK

16
 Marsh 4 1-11760

17
 Marsh 4 1-11760

15B
 700.12 ACRES DRIVE

21
 512 DETAIL

GOULART MEMORIAL

GOULART MEMORIAL

22
 2 Acres

22A
 2 Acres

15A
 9 Acs + 29,674

22B	0.0342
22C	0.0342
22D	0.0342
22E	0.0342
22F	0.0342
22G	0.0342
22H	0.0342
22I	0.0342
22J	0.0342
22K	0.0342
22L	0.0342
22M	0.0342
22N	0.0342
22O	0.0342
22P	0.0342
22Q	0.0342
22R	0.0342
22S	0.0342
22T	0.0342
22U	0.0342
22V	0.0342
22W	0.0342
22X	0.0342
22Y	0.0342
22Z	0.0342

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN
BOARD OF ASSESSORS
40 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719
(508) 979-4018

February 28, 2005

TO: Board of Selectmen

From: Board of Assessors

Re: Map 42 Lot 15 C

We have reviewed the file on the above referenced property. We are sure that you are aware Abatement Applications are not public information. The fact that an abatement was granted is public information. The Board did grant an abatement to the Noppers after the assistant assessor viewed the property and made a recommendation to the board.

Jeanne C. Reedy

Jeanne C. Reedy, Chairman
BOARD OF ASSESSORS

RECEIVED
2005 FEB 28 P 11
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FAIRHAVEN MA

I, the Clerk of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts, certify that at a meeting of the board held March 7, 2005, of which meeting all members of the board were duly notified and at which a quorum was present, the following votes were unanimously passed, all of which appears upon the official record of the board in my custody:

Voted: that the sale of the \$13,565,000 Refunding Bonds of the Town dated March 15, 2005, to Corby Capital Markets, Inc. at the price of \$14,076,222.05 and accrued interest is hereby confirmed. The bonds shall be payable on June 15 of the years and in the principal amounts and bear interest at the respective rates, as follows, subject to earlier redemption at the option of the Town as provided in the Preliminary Official Statement dated March 1, 2005:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2005	\$ 140,000	2.10%	2012	\$1,300,000	4.00%
2006	75,000	2.50	2013	1,365,000	4.00
2007	80,000	3.00	2014	1,435,000	4.00
2008	1,025,000	3.00	2015	1,500,000	4.00
2009	1,070,000	3.00	2016	1,570,000	5.00
2010	1,110,000	3.25	2017	1,650,000	5.00
2011	1,245,000	4.00			

Further Voted: to confirm the provisions of the bond purchase agreement dated March 7, 2005.

Further Voted: that the bonds shall be secured by a Financial Guaranty Insurance Policy issued by Ambac Assurance Corporation.

I further certify that the votes were taken at a meeting open to the public, that no vote was taken by secret ballot, that notice stating the place, date and time of the meeting was filed with the Town Clerk and a copy thereof posted in the office of the Town Clerk or on the principal official bulletin board of the Town at least 48 hours, including Saturdays but not Sundays and legal holidays, prior to the time of the meeting and remained so posted at the time of the meeting, that no deliberations or decision in connection with the sale of the bonds were taken in executive session, and that the official record of the meeting was made available to the public promptly and remains available to the public, all in accordance with G.L. c.39, s.23B as amended.

Dated: March 7, 2005

Clerk of the Board of Selectmen

7A.



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
1 BRYANT LANE
FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719

TELEPHONES
Dial 911 Emergency
(508) 997-7421 Non-Emergency
(508) 997-1344 Business
(508) 997-3147 Fax

GARY F. SOUZA
CHIEF OF POLICE

DONALD A. JOSEPH
LIEUTENANT

March 1, 2005

Board of Selectmen
Town Hall
40 Center St.
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Gentlemen:

I respectfully request the Board authorize the re-location of a no parking sign on Ferry Street. Specifically, I request the No Parking to Corner sign on the south side of Ferry Street just east of the intersection with Water Street be moved fifteen (15') feet east.

A diagram reflecting the requested change is attached.

I received the attached letter from the management of the Euro Ship store regarding the problem at that location.

My investigation into the matter revealed that the letter is accurate in that large trucks coming from the waterfront often have great difficulty navigating the turn from Water Street onto Ferry Street. The current location of the No Parking to Corner sign on Ferry Street allows vehicles to be parked too close to Water Street to allow for navigating those large trucks through the turn. As you are aware, there is much truck traffic due to waterfront activity.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

RECEIVED

2005 MAR -2 A 11:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FAIRHAVEN MASS

Sincerely

Gary F. Souza
Chief of Police

cc: B.P.W.

Euro Store

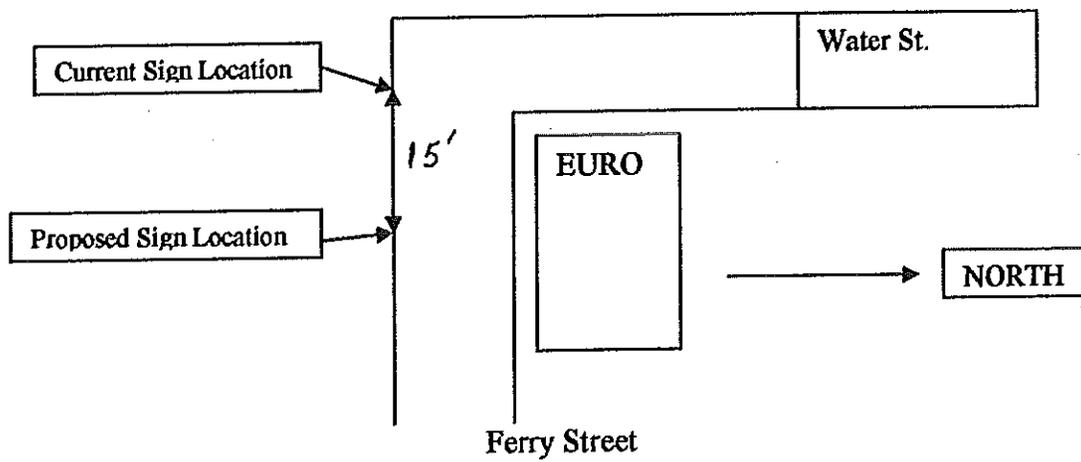
cc: Police Dept 3/8/05

BPW

Town Clerk

Requested Re-Location of No Parking to Corner Sign (Fifteen Feet to East)

Ferry Street



February 28th 2005



SHIP STORE, INC.

Fairhaven Police Department,

Euro Ship Store is requesting that a NO PARKING SIGN be moved about 12 to 15 feet up the block, South. The problem is, when cars or trucks are parked within the signs, legally, a large trailer truck cannot get around the corner. Ferry Street is a one-way, so there is only one way to drive. The sign we ask to be moved, is near the corner of Water and Ferry Streets, on the west end. This is a working waterfront and we should make it easier for business deliveries. Please consider our request. Thank you.

Euro Ship Store
2 Ferry Street

Sonya G. Lovick,

One Person Only



Town of Fairhaven
Massachusetts

TIMOTHY P. FRANCIS
Chief of Department

FIRE DEPARTMENT

146 Washington Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

Tel. (508) 994-1428
Fax (508) 994-1515

March 4, 2005

Board of Selectmen
40 Centre Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

RE: Fire Department Budget/ Ambulance Fund

Dear Sirs:

It has come to my attention that Mr. Osuch is requesting a meeting with the Finance Committee regarding the Fire Department budget and the amount of money he would like taken from the Ambulance fund. Let it be known, that I made a request in the beginning of the Fiscal 2006 budget process to be able to be included and make suggestions for budget cuts and what comes from the tax levy or the ambulance account. Mr. Osuch did not consult me with his ideas.

In the Fire Department EMS is a fast growing part of our job but fire duties is, was and always shall be the bulk of this department. In any given day the ambulance may occupy $\frac{3}{4}$ of our day but haz mat, confined space, in-service training and fire safety inspections amongst many others are still the stronghold of this department.

Everything we do here is what causes fewer fires in our community and this department is successful because of the people that work here.

It has been said that EMS is 90% of our department, that is wrong. Last year out of 3505 total runs and inspections only 1613 were EMS runs. The remaining 1892 are all fire related calls and safety inspections.

This department is a well diversified department and I challenge anyone to prove otherwise.

With that being said, if the Town feels the need for this department to fund more of its general budget out of the Ambulance account this year, I want public reassurance that this will not be a continual practice every year thereafter. I would like you to be aware however of the monetary items that will be or will request to be funded from the Ambulance account this coming fiscal year.

Fire Department Budget (current request)	\$ 339,259.00
Police Department Dispatcher	\$ 29,724.00
Future Ambulance purchase	\$ 30,000.00
Vehicle purchases	\$ 65,000.00
EMS Computer System	\$ 31,800.00
EMS/Fire/Police Phone System	\$ 12,200.00
Debt on Building	\$ 56,000.00 plus interest

I appreciate your taking time to read this letter and understand the Fire Department's view on this account. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Timothy Francis
Chief of Department

TF:ka

cc: Finance Committee



Town of Fairhaven
Massachusetts

TIMOTHY P. FRANCIS
Chief of Department

FIRE DEPARTMENT

146 Washington Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

Tel. (508) 994-1428
Fax (508) 994-1515

March 4, 2005

Board of Selectmen
40 Centre Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

RE: Ambulance Fund

Dear Sirs:

After watching last Monday night's meeting and hearing the Superintendent of Schools refer to the Ambulance fund as the "Fire Department slush fund", I felt I needed to send you this letter giving you my views on the fund, my department and what we anticipate for the future of EMS and the fire service.

I understand that everyone is concerned about the Town's finances, as am I. I also understand that some people are concerned about the Fire Department having this Ambulance fund, which for the past 5 years that I have been in charge of it has grown to a very stable account. Because of diligent budgeting and hands-on billing, such as small claims collections, this department has been able to hire additional Firefighter/ Paramedics and, in conjunction with the Police Department, is in the process of hiring a Dispatcher for the Police Department which will encompass Fire, EMS and Police emergency dispatching. Those salaries and the corresponding training and contractual items are all being supported by the Ambulance fund. This is in addition to some of the current incentives, EMS overtime and EMS related line items that already are sustained by the ambulance fund. Another item being paid for from the Ambulance fund is the debt on the EMS building located on the Police side, which will be retired in 2007.

My concern is with people outside of this department trying to determine what's going to happen with the account.

Here are some items that I, as an administrator to this account, would like the Selectmen to consider for the future of the Ambulance fund. Five years ago Phase I of our Fire Department renovation was completed, with the intention that Phase II would be brought shortly thereafter to Town Meeting for funding. But because of one thing or another throughout those years such as town financial problems, East Fairhaven School, etc. I was asked not to request funding in order to hold off borrowing and keep our bond ratings where they should be. Phase II, strives to increase apparatus space which we are badly in need of, was originally Phase I but was changed due to the cost factor. We feel

that when the debt for the EMS building, which has been in existence for 10 years, is retired in a few years we would be able to go forth with Phase II and pay the debt from the Ambulance fund. This appears to be the only way that we will see the much needed renovations as well as leaving money in the fund.

Another item is \$30,000/year is taken from the fund to put aside for a future ambulance purchase. This allows us to replace our ambulance at evenly spaced intervals without needing money from the tax levy. Additionally, we have a Paramedic intercept vehicle that needs to be replaced now because it no longer passes inspection. Funding for this new vehicle naturally should come from the Ambulance fund, not the tax levy, and I feel that a yearly sum of money should be put aside for replacement costs down the line for that vehicle as well. The same goes for our ALS Pumper, Engine 3. Putting money aside for these large purchases softens the blow when it is time for replacement of the vehicle and lessens any money needed from the stabilization fund.

In no way do I want to see this money subsidizing any other department especially, and I will go on record, any department which is mismanaging their budget to the point that they are requesting extra large sums of money over other departments. The Fire Department over the past 5 years has been asked to level fund our budget, which we have attempted to do with minimal increases to the tax levy due to fee increases. Any other budgetary increases have been funded through the Ambulance account. We have tried to show good restraint with these increases trying to get by with as little needed.

This department understands the Town's financial concerns, but if the Fire Department is pulling in our own resources, we believe that the money should stay to benefit the Fire Department and EMS Services. Some of the things we've asked for or will be asking for like 2 cars at the Special Town Meeting will alleviate the tax levy burden when taken out of this fund. We are trying to do our part by the things we get out of the EMS fund, softening the blow on the taxpayer.

We appreciate that everyone is in financial trouble, to a certain extent the Fire Department is trying to take care of its own needs within and to allow any other department to come in and pilfer from this fund is wrong and I will fight strongly against anyone coming forth with any recommendation to do such thing. I understand the schools have financial issues but a lot of their issues are brought on by themselves, mismanagement of funds comes to mind. Schools should get what they need but other departments in town need to survive also.

I as Chief of this Department, appreciate your consideration to make sure this account stays solvent.

Sincerely,



Timothy Francis
Chief of Department

TF:ka

cc: Finance Committee

**ESTIMATE - SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLES
GENERAL FUND ONLY**

1. SCHOOL RAISES	\$155,000.00	
2. SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS?	-\$169,000.00	
3. 2% RAISE OTHER DEPTS.	\$120,000.00	
4. LEGAL (DUE TO ATLAS TACK)	\$50-\$75,000.00	
5. POLICE SALARIES - 3 BUYOUTS	\$39,000.00	
PURCHASE OF SERVICE	\$6,500.00	(REPAIRS, HEAT, LIGHT)
SUPPLIES	\$4,000.00	(GASOLINE)
6. DATA PROCESSING - COMPUTER	\$30,000.00	(CRASH)
7. BRISTOL AGGIE	\$1,239.04	(TUITION)
8. AUDIT	\$8,000.00	(GASB 34)
9. TREASURER SALARIES	\$5,532.00	(ANDY'S)
10. DEBT SERVICES - INTEREST	\$19,169.00	(E.F. SCHOOL)
11. MISC. - HEAT, LIGHT, GASOLINE	\$50,000.00	
12. SNOW REMOVAL	<u>\$25-\$50,000.00</u>	
TOTAL	\$513,440.04 - \$563,440.04 + SCHOOL SPEC NEEDS =	
	\$169,000.00	
	POSSIBLE TOTAL \$682,440.04 - \$732,440.04	

OTHER ARTICLES - FROM ENTERPRISE FUND

13. SEWER DEBT - INTEREST	\$157,726.00	(NANCY STREET & SCONTICUT NECK)
14. SEWER - FORT STREET	\$103,000.00	(MAIN - PIPE)

PROPOSED FY 2006 CUTS & NEW REVENUE

ARTICLE

- 4/11 ASSESSOR - D. CAPITAL OUTLAY CUT \$2,000. CHEAPER COPIER
4/13 COUNCIL ON AGING - FUND \$10,000. FROM SOCIAL DAY PROGRAM OR OTHER ACCOUNT
4/20 LEGAL - CUT \$15,000. ATLAS TACK CASE RESOLVED
4/22 CON. COM. - FUND \$8,000. FROM CON. COM. ACCT.
4/25 POLICE - A. CUT SALARY ACCOUNT \$73,000.
RESOURCE OFFICER \$38,000.±
DISPATCHER \$29,000.±
SECRETARY'S PAID HOLIDAYS \$1,500.±
PORTION OF EXTRA OT \$4,500.±
- 4/26 FIRE A. & C. CUT CAPITAL OUTLAY \$70,000. HEATING & AC SYSTEM - ADDRESS IN FALL & CUT OVERTIME \$3,000.
ALSO INCREASE \$50-\$100,000. FROM AMBULANCE FUND
4/28 BUILDING - A. REDUCE SALARY ACCOUNT \$4,000. TO CLOSER MATCH ACTUAL HOURS FOR INSPECTIONS
4/29 TREE - SALARIES \$26,000. EXTRA POSITION
4/30 SHELLFISH - A. REDUCE SALARY ACCOUNT \$15,000.± NO NEED FOR TWO POSITIONS NOV.-MARCH
4/31 CARE OF DOGS & OTHERS - APPROPRIATE \$3,000. FOR ANIMAL ACCTS. TO OFFSET GENERAL FUND OR REDUCE HOURS
4/35 & 4/36 BOARD OF HEALTH/ENFORCEMENT CUT \$1,000.
4/38 HIGHWAY SALARIES CUT \$10,000. (\$9,609. BUYOUT-BALANCE FROM OT, SICK LEAVE, ETC.)
CUT \$7,000.± RUBBISH CONTRACT - LEAF COLLECTION & TREE
CUT \$66,000. ± EQUIPMENT (PURCHASE ONLY 1 TON; 2 YR. LEASE BACKHOE;
PLUS CHAPTER 90 MONEY)
- 4/42 SCHOOLS - REDUCE REQUEST BY \$1,172,000.-\$1,222,000. DEPENDS ON OTHER BUDGET CUTS AND ARTICLES. ALSO
NEW REVENUE SOURCES
4/46 RECREATION COMMITTEE - SALARY REDUCE \$1,000. BASKET BALL PROGRAM AT REC. CENTER
4/47 RECREATION CENTER - SALARY REDUCE \$2,000.± CUT STAFF
4/48 PARK SALARIES - CUT \$4-5,000.± REDUCE WEEKS- LIFE GUARDS, BEACH ATTENDANTS 1-2 WEEKS SUMMER HELP
- TOTAL CUTS \$295,000. + \$1,172,000. = \$1,467,000. (\$1,517,000.)
NEW REVENUE \$71,000.-\$121,000.
- SEPARATE ENTERPRISES
4/39 SEWER CUT CAPITAL OUTLAY \$15,000.- CAR TRIPS OUT OF TOWN - SHARE VEHICLE SEWER SALARY NEW POSITION - P.T.?
4/40 WATER - SALARY NEW POSITION - 1/2 PART-TIME COMBINE WITH SUMMER/PART-TIME POSITIONS
NOTE: THERE IS ADDITIONAL 2% (\$120,000.) RAISE FACTORED IN FOR FY 05 & FY 06 THAT WOULD BE LISTED IN
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FOR ALL UNION AND NON-UNION PERSONNEL FOR FY 05 & FY 06 (\$240,000.)

CUTS TO GENERAL FUND ARTICLES

ARTICLE #	TITLE	REQUEST	CUT
12	ROADWORK	\$814,450.00	\$387,450.00
14A	WOOD & HASTINGS DESIGN	\$45,000.00	\$20,000.00
14B	WOOD & HASTINGS ROOF *COULD BORROW AFTER BID	\$445,000.00	*\$445,000.00
17	EXTERIOR REPAIRS TOWN HALL ** FUND \$38,000. FROM TOURISM ACCOUNT	\$72,000.00	**\$72,000.00
23	ESTUARIES ***FUND \$57,000. FROM SEWER ENTERPRISE	\$57,000.00	***\$57,000.00
24	SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
27	HASTINGS PARKING LOT	\$212,235.00	\$212,235.00
29	ROGERS BOILER ****FUND FROM ROGERS TRUST	\$25,950.00	****\$25,950.00
			\$1,349,635.00

ARTICLE CUTS \$1,349,635.00
 ARTICLE 4 \$1,467,000. - \$1,517,000.
NEW REVENUE \$ 71,000.- \$121,000.
 \$2,887,635. - \$2,987,635.

NOTE: ADDITIONAL LAYOFF ABOVE (4/52 \$110,000.) WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FUNDING. ALSO THESE ESTIMATES ARE BASED ON THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING NOT EXCEEDING \$711,000.