

Town of Fairhaven

Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting for <April 11, 2013>at the BPW Administration Building, Arsene St., Fairhaven, MA

Members in attendance:

Chairman-John Roderiques, Robert A. Furtado, Scott Fernandes, Kim Hyland, Kathi Carter, Therese Szala, Colin Veitch, Dawn Devlin, Phil Washko, Padraic Elliot

Members absent:

Sid Martin

Town of Fairhaven:

Jeffery Osuch- Executive secretary (in @ 7:04 PM.)

School Department

Dr. Robert Baldwin- Superintendent of Schools, Paul Kitchen- Business Administrator

School Committee: Pam Kuechler- Chairperson, Bernard Roderick

Meeting was covered by government access television.

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Announced that the meeting was being recorded by government access TV. Chairman has to be notified if anyone else present is recording.

Motion made by Kim to accept the minutes from April 4, 2013. Seconded by Scott.

Vote: Unanimous

- Chairman passed out a memo from Vinnie Furtado, BPW Superintendent. The memo states that the Board of Public Works voted on April 8, 2013 to amend Article #28, and increase the figure to \$ 175,000. This amount would be enough to complete the study and there is enough money in the account to cover it.
 - Scott motions to reconsider the previous vote on Article #28 and move the figure of \$ 175,000. Seconded by Phil. Vote: Unanimous
- Chairman passed out copies of the draft special legislation setting the responsibilities of the Selectmen and Town Administrator as per Article #4a on the Special Town Meeting.

- Chairman states the committee will not vote until they have the final Article.
- Mr. Osuch passes out ATM spreadsheets, STM spreadsheets, breakdown of suggestions for Reserve Fund Transfers, and updated budget spreadsheet.
- 7:08 PM- Meeting with the School Department concerning their Articles:
- Dr. Baldwin and Mr. Kitchen discuss Article #10 on the ATM.
 - Several designs have been looked at for the High School fire escapes.
 - After much consideration, the School Dept. feels the best and most economical plan would be to rehab the 2 existing fire escapes.
 - The fire escapes would be dealed, repaired, and repainted. The existing rails may be replaced with a mesh system. Security at the bases will also be addressed.
 - This method could extend the life of the fire escapes for another 20 to 25 years.
 - This could be accomplished using \$ 105,000 from the CPC, \$ 35,000 from the HHR High School Trust, and \$ 30,000 from the town.
 - Scott motions for \$ 30,000 for Article #10. Seconded by Phil. Vote: Unanimous
- Dr. Baldwin discusses Article #9b on the STM, Rogers School Study:
 - School Dept. placed this Article because they wanted to "get the ball rolling" on finding a use for the Rogers School.
 - They did not mean to slight the Oxford School by not including it. They have already brought that building up to code, and is in more of a commercial setting.
 - They now realize that after they declare the buildings surplus, they would not be able to expend the money for buildings they no longer control.
 - The Article must be changed, but only the CPC can do that.
 - Chairman suggests Recommend at Town Meeting to allow time to see if the CPC can change the Article.
 - Scott motions to Recommend at Town Meeting for Article 9b. Seconded by Phil. Vote: Unanimous
- Chairman states that the EMA will be in either next week or the week after to discuss the Cot Article.
- ATM Article #37 Macomber Pimental Field
 - Committee discusses condition of fence after members were given a chance to visit the field.
 - Less of the fence was replaced with the earlier Article then was original understood.
 - Discussion of safety concerns.

- Scott motions to reconsider the previous vote. Seconded by Pat. Vote: Motion passes 8-2 with Terry and Phil opposed.
 - Scott motions for \$ 6,003. Seconded by Colin.
 - Terry motions for Indefinite Postponement. seconded by Phil.
 - Vote on Terry's Motion for IP: Motion fails 2 to 8 with Terry & Phil in favor.
 - Vote on Scott's motion for \$ 6,003: Motion passes 8 to 2 with Terry & Phil opposed.
- Discussion of Article # 20, and #19 & #20 within Article #4 where the Finance Committee has recommended a different figure than the Selectmen.
 - After discussion, the Finance Committee stands by their votes.
 - Discussion of STM Articles verses Reserve Fund Transfers.
 - Reserve Fund Transfers:
 - Chairman presents a Reserve Fund Transfer from Vincent Furtado- BPW Superintendent, requesting \$ 16,100 for Highway: Supplies-Snow & Ice, because of the storms this winter.
 - Scott motions to transfer \$ 16,100 to Highway: Supplies- Snow & Ice acct.# 001-420-00-5533-00-272. Seconded by Phil. Vote: Unanimous
 - Chairman presents a Reserve Fund Transfer from John Charbonneau- Highway Superintendent, requesting \$ 28,000 for Highway: Salaries & Wages-Overtime, because of the storms this winter.
 - Scott motions to transfer \$ 28,000 to Highway: Salaries & Wages- Overtime acct.# 001-420-00-5131-00-272. Seconded by Phil. Vote: Unanimous
 - These 2 transfers will take the place of Article #1- 3a & 3b on the STM
 - Chairman presents a Reserve Fund Transfer from Fire Chief Timothy Francis, requesting \$ 3,464.39 for FA Purchase of Services- R&M Vehicles, for repairs to the bucket truck.
 - Scott motions to transfer \$ 3,464.39 to Fire Alarm Purchase of Services- R&M Vehicles Acct# 01-225-00-5243-00. Seconded by Phil. Vote: Unanimous
 - Chairman presents a Reserve Fund Transfer from Fire Chief Timothy Francis, requesting \$ 2,000 for Salaries-Overtime because of the storms this winter.
 - Terry motions to transfer \$ 2,000 to Salaries-Overtime Acct# 01-220-00-5131-00. Seconded by Phil. Vote: Unanimous
 - These 2 transfers will take the place of Article #7b and part of Article #6a on the STM.
 - Special Town Meeting Articles:
 - Article #1 Town Charges

- 1. Veteran's Services
 - Terry motions for Recommend at Town Meeting for the following categories:
 - 1b. Purchase of services \$ 60,000
 - 1d. Other Charges & Expenses \$ 84,000
 - Phil seconds RATM. Vote: Unanimous
- 2. Building Department
 - 2a. Salary & Wages \$ 14,000
 - Scott motions for \$ 14,000. Seconded by Phil. Vote: Unanimous
- 5. Election & Registration
 - Scott motions for the following amount:
 - a. Salaries & Wages \$ 7,900
 - b. Purchase of Services \$ 870
 - Phil seconds all amounts. Vote: Unanimous
- 6. Fire Department
 - Scott motions the following amount:
 - a. Salaries & Wages: Appropriate \$ 6,000 from the Ambulance Fund
 - Seconded by Phil. Vote: Unanimous
- 8. Police Department
 - Scott motions the following amount:
 - b. Purchase of Services: Appropriate \$ 30,739 from the Police Department Technology Account
 - Seconded by Phil. Vote: Unanimous
 - Terry motions the following amount:
 - b. Purchase of Services: \$ 10,000 from the General Fund
 - Seconded by Phil. Vote: Unanimous
- Article #9a. Town Hall Restoration Exterior Project Phase V
 - Scott motions for \$ 44,000 from CPC Funds. Seconded by Kim. Vote: Unanimous
- Article #9c. Historic Commission- Fire Protection Building
 - Scott motions for \$ 3,000 from CPC Funds. Seconded by Kim. Vote: Unanimous
- Article #9d. North Fairhaven CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization
 - Kim motions for \$ 60,000 from CPC Funds. Seconded by Phil. Vote: Unanimous with Scott abstaining.
- Article #10 CPC-High School Fire Escapes
 - Scott motions for \$ 105,000 from CPC Funds. Seconded by Phil. Vote: Unanimous

8:28 PM. Chairman calls a recess. Back in session @ 8:35 PM.

- Article #4 DOR Recommendations, Sections a,b,c
 - Discussion if whether the Town Administrator Special Legislation would be read into the Article.
 - Discussion that Article is too general.
 - Scott motions for Recommend at Town Meeting for Article #4a., b., c. Seconded by Phil. Vote: Unanimous.

- Article #5 Combining Treasurer/Collector
 - Discussion of combining the positions in the Article.
 - Article does not do what the DOR report recommends.
 - Combining Director of Finance, Treasurer, and Collector cuts down on the "checks and balances".
 - Past experience has shown that combining Director of Finance and Treasurer is less than ideal.
 - Mr. Osuch will relay the committee's concerns to the Selectmen. Perhaps the Article can be modified before TM.
 - Scott motions for Recommend at Town Meeting. Seconded by Phil. Vote: Unanimous

- Article #11 Town Government Study Committee
 - Phil Washko speaks on behalf of his Article. States that he is speaking as a private citizen and will abstain from any voting.
 - Seeks to have the Moderator appoint a committee of seven citizens of the Town, knowledgeable in Town affairs, to review all aspects of local government. Also seeks \$ 5,000 to cover the committee's expenses.
 - \$5,000 would be used for mailings, surveys, printing, etc., not salaries.
 - Discussion by some that elected officials and town employees should not be allowed on the committee.
 - Concern by some that the moderator would be selecting all the members.
 - If the committee was selected, and towns people did not have faith in the members, the recommendations would be worthless.
 - Concern that the Article would get nitpicked to death and end up not passing TM, and missing an important opportunity.
 - Scott motions for Recommend Adoption and appropriate \$ 5,000. Seconded by Colin. Vote: Motion passes 6-3-1 with Kathi, Terry, & Dawn opposed and Phil abstaining.

- Kim motions to adjourn @ 9:36 PM. Seconded by Phil. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert A. Furtado
Finance Committee Secretary
(accepted 4-18-2013)