



# Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall - 40 Centre Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

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## MEETING NOTES

FAIRHAVEN,  
MASS.

### Date, Time, Location:

February 11th @ 7:00 P.M., Remote through ZOOM

### Meeting Overview:

1. Meeting called to order
2. Past meeting minutes approval
3. New member announcement & appointment votes
4. FY 22 Budget Overview
5. Listing of large cuts & associated reasons
6. Closing remarks
7. Adjourning vote

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### -Key-

- #) = Issue being discussed
- = Notes, indentation for more notes
- = Decrease in detail budget item
- + = Increase in detail budget item
- = Questions and discussions below
- ◆ = Votes (Nom/Second)
- ! = Change in attendance

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### Member Attendance (9):

- Padraic Elliot, Lisa Plante, Chris Fidalgo, Carolyn Roberts, Kevin Gallagher, Tracey Diggins, Jessica Dwelley, Kathi Carter, Rob Grinrod

### Town of Fairhaven (3):

- Wendy Graves (Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director), Todd Correia (Fire Department), Anne Carreiro (Town Accountant)

Meeting called, 7:01 PM

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### PAST MINUTES

- Finance Committee 12.29.2020
- Finance Committee 12.29.2020
- ◆ Lisa, Carolyn, (9 - 0 unanimous)

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## TONIGHT'S AGENDA

!New member, Rob Grinrod

### Vote for officers

Chair - Lisa, Jessica nominates Pad

◆ Lisa, Carolyn, (9 - 0 unanimous)

Vice Chair - Pad, Carolyn nominates Lisa

◆ Lisa, Carolyn, (9 - 0 unanimous)

Secretary Jessica, Pad nominates Chris

◆ Lisa, Carolyn, (9 - 0 unanimous)

### FY 2022 Budget

- Wendy fitting in as interim Town Administrator
- \$2.3m in increase expenditures, majority came from 5 sections
  - Police
  - Fire
  - School
  - Retirement
  - Group insurance
- New growth
  - Worked with assessors, increased by \$133k
  - Medical Marijuana, Bask received recreational license, used a rate of 2.5x for revenue
- Acushnet tuition reduced due to a loss of a few people
- Assessors
- Surplus revenue (2/3rds of last year)
  - If revenue trends up, let's not use it
  - Otherwise, was required to balance the budget
- Revenue adjusted
- Carolyn: Recreation Department \$233k -> \$50k? Wendy: Dropped due to COVID
- Expenditures
  - Cut new employees requested
  - No Staff cuts, except HR (currently vacant)

### Large Items Cut

- Itemized departments and what was cut
- HR cut due to vacancies, but left some for external service (if needed)
- Pad: What were the heuristics for the cuts? Wendy: Asked departments to due different levels of reductions, department tells us what they would cut, Town Administrator then cut those items and some additional (office supplies)
- Pad: Where are the cuts to revenue? Wendy: Room tax, restaurant tax, motor vehicle tax
  - Budget for FY22 is slightly bigger, even without larger issues
- Carolyn: Are people having problems paying taxes? Wendy: Only captured when paid
- Pad: Seems tighter than last year

- Part-time salaries were cut for Town Clerk (not as many elections)
- Assessors - needed to add Patriot Properties
  - Jessica: What is that? Wendy: Software, all information for the assessors
- \$27,000 cut for additional modules for permitting software (want to trial run before expanding)
- Conservation - new administrative assistant was cut
- Pad: These are cuts from the request? Wendy: Yes
- Police - requested new dispatcher, licensed social worker, part-time custodian
- Kevin: Any vehicle replacements scheduled? Wendy: On capital plan, safe right now
- Kathi: What was the social worker request? Wendy: Couple arguments, have social worker follow-up instead of police
- Fire - part-time custodian
- Building - contracted services (permitting software duplicate, assessors maps, historical)
- Marine - permitting software
- Schools - losing \$200k, still an increase (Pad)
- Lisa: Why are we increasing so much over last year? Wendy: Raises and steps, mostly
- Voc - ESSER II grant, Wendy will get more information
- Highway - vehicle line item has been discussed, Vinny saying it's a need
- Pad: Is BPW adopting the Tree department? Wendy: Has been talks, unclear how far along, would need additional staffing
- Board of Health - Community nurses picking up work for COVID, home cases, bills increasing; Wendy? Asked for more, but dialed back some
- COA - Girl who works there, had benefits put in, but was cut (Editor's Notes: Comments pertaining were rather unclear)
- Veterans - Could cut from medical and benefits, based on numbers from this year
- Recreation - Large cut because the programs won't start right away; income does pay for expenses when the program is running
- Town Insurance - workers' comp going down, has mostly fallen off now
- Reserve fund - wanted 100k, but was cut back to 75k, so it appears as a loss of 25k
- OPEB - 100k cut (Editor's note: no note why)
- Pad: Last column, percentage change is Wendy's recommendation compared to FY21 and NOT the requested? Wendy: Correct

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## CLOSING REMARKS

### Follow-ups:

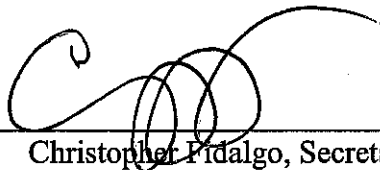
- Tree Warden
- Wire / Street Lighting
- Marine Resources
- Police & Fire next week
- School week after
- BPW week after that

### Questions:

- Pad: State aid expectations? Wendy: Most updated numbers from the state, seems like aid will be accurate
- Pad: Tree warden come in, review of how the department operates & the budget
- Pad: Street lighting as well
- Rob: Vehicle list, boat list, headcount by department
- Less Capital Projects due to the turf field, plan being prepared
- Road costs seem to keep going up
  - Lisa: Where are our priorities?
- Rob: Do we have benefits estimated? Wendy: It's broken down by line item.
- Pad: Has a calendar been put together? Wendy: Yes, can send it out when possible
- Kevin: Any department can appear, correct? Pad: Yes, departments are welcome to appear and plead their case
- Lisa: Any layoffs? Wendy: No, and we still self-pay, payouts, etc.
- Carolyn: Can anyone collect the lay off benefits? Wendy: Yes, had some people use it
- Rob: Free cash balance, after or before the field? Wendy: After, since the field was in FY21
- Estimate will be provided in the book
- Carolyn: I don't need the book printed. Wendy: People can pick-up the new ones at town hall
- Carolyn: Forward questions to you? Pad: Yeah, send them to me
- Jessica: Marine resources, is anything included for AirBNB for boats? Wendy: Unclear yet
  - Chris: Planning board is discussing it
- Rob: What happened to the pier Bridget Street land swap? Wendy: Will check if it's an article for this Town Meeting
- Voting should be finished by the 25th

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◆ Motion to adjourn, Lisa, Chris (9 - 0, unanimous), 8:25 PM

  
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 Christopher Pidalgo, Secretary