



Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall - 40 Centre Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

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MEETING NOTES

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Date, Time, Location:

February 18th @ 7:00 P.M., Remote through ZOOM

Meeting Overview:

1. Meeting called to order
2. Past meeting minutes approval
3. Overview of Fire Department budget and capital project requests
4. Overview of Police Department budget and capital project requests
5. Overview of Marine Resources Department budget and capital project requests
6. General questions with regards to budgets and capital project requests
7. Closing remarks
8. Vote to adjourn

-Key-

BOLD = Issue being discussed

- = Notes, indentation for more notes
- = Questions and discussions below
- ◆ = Votes (Nom/Second)
- ! = Change in attendance

Member Attendance (10):

- Padraic Elliot, Lisa Plante, Chris Fidalgo, Bernie Roderick, Carolyn Roberts, Tracey Diggins, Jessica Dwelley, Kathi Carter, Rob Grinrod, Kevin Gallagher (joined late)

Town of Fairhaven (5):

- Wendy Graves (Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director), Todd Correia (Fire Department), Lt. Joy Nichols (FD), Mike Botelho (Police Department), Tim Cox (Marine Resources)

Meeting called, 7:01 PM

PAST MINUTES

- Finance Committee 2.11.2021
- ◆ Lisa, Carolyn, (9 - 0 unanimous)

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

! Kevin Gallagher joined

FIRE

- Level funded
- Contractual increases, some newer staff going up in steps, retiring personnel
- Increase overtime goes up with steps
- Reduced a license, went to IT
- Losing 2 fire fighters and replace them, recruiting call firefighters, therefore physicals and tests
- Adding new iPads (3) to the circuits
- Maintenance agreement went up due to contracts
- Slight increase for confined space training
- Contracted services increase, recycling used syringes, grant was funded by grant
 - Grant money ran out, BPW requested FD take the payment
- Cleaning supplies exhausted due to Covid, so need to replace
- Academy books need to be purchased
- FEMA grants can cover the cost of masks, PPE
- Uniform allotments for new employees
- Cut automated CPA device
- New equipment to tie dispatch FD and EMS reporting together
- New equipment needed
 - Main repeater - broadcasts information - needed a loaner, parts not available, \$12k, can erode communications
 - Office computer - 2 more automated external defibs
 - Ambulance computers need updating
 - CUT: Replace aging nozzles, was cut last year, likely cut this year
- Kevin: With reductions, any service reductions? Todd: No, level service
- Kevin: Any impairment to safety of personnel? Todd: No
- Fire alarm - non-union classification
 - Regular pay increased
- Repair and maintenance of vehicles, cut
 - Wanted to repair Fire Alarm 1
- Replacing pages, not as many as requested
- Pad: Is this part-time? Todd: Stipend
 - Works with new businesses and ensures radio communication, and regular audits
 - Has part-time assistance (2 people)
- Emergency mgmt - no increase on pay
- Neighbor complaints about issues on Sconticut
- Want AED for all vehicles possible
- Pad: Want to look at gas, diesel projections, pricing seems to be rising. Wendy: Everything appears skewed due to COVID
- Fire capital requests
 - SCBA (Self contained breathing apparatus), rising costs, expiring next year
 - Replace engine 2 (1984 replacement), last replaced in 2008
 - Replacement hydraulic tools for engine 4

- Emergency management
 - Mobile message boards, unit not working, requires upkeep
 - EMA building needs siding and a roof
- Pad: What's the funding source for those? Pad: Borrowing

POLICE

- Wage and salaries - cut from request, requesting 3 additional positions
 - Part-time custodian, on police side only, increase the hours for police, fire, animal control, CARES act has helped fund FY21
 - Rob: Error in the budget shows incorrect hours. Wendy: Was removed from both
 - Additional dispatcher, which would be for Fire (in the Police budget and not the Fire)
 - Would better cover the hours required and overflow from fire (staffing problems)
 - Fire is using emergency staff to cover the hours for dispatch
 - Lisa: Will we have emergency service delays? Michael: When the dispatcher is alone, the executive assistant has to be leveraged to cover calls, or calls go to Acushnet; delays are happening now
 - Todd: Dispatchers also communicate with units on the street, if no one is at the station, then there's no one able to communicate back; makes more sense to add to police
 - Rob: Are the hours contractual? Michael: Yes, contractual
 - Chris: I believe this is a need, Lisa: Agreed
 - New program for licensed social worker
 - Would be a better fit for some specific cases
 - Carolyn: I think this is a much needed position. At what basis? Michael: Fulltime
 - Carolyn: At what frequency would they be needed? Michael: They would be used frequently, because many of our calls involve these issues
 - Lisa: I wish we weren't in dire of a situation, and I wish we could fund this.
 - Kevin: Would they be made available to officers? Michael: I don't see why not, primary goal is to help the citizenry
 - Kevin: For license to carry, have those increased? Michael: Yes
 - Rest of the increases are contractual increases
- General expense unclassified, reduction
 - Search warrants, assessors
- Reduction in vehicle repairs (tires, gas, mechanical issues)
- Repair maintenance building, reduced, PSC need continues to rise (HVAC system problems & associated costs, disrepair, upkeep, mold, flooding, roof, windows)
- Repair maintenance equipment, reduced, computers, radios, software, email system
- Rob: Under maintenance - what's the pervasive & safe boat line items?
 - Pervasive is tied to the dispatch system, software, cost to replace servers, printers, etc.
 - Safe boat is repairs, maintenance, Police has only 1 boat + 1 trailer
 - Todd: Fire has 3 for various purposes
- Keeper of lock-up, reduction, sheriff department fee (no cells at police)

- Medical services, reduction, all medical & psychological examines
- Training, reduction, difficult for FY22 anticipating at least 1 officer
 - Carolyn: Academy costs? Michael: \$3k fee + laptops and additional costs per officers
 - Carolyn: What additional training? Michael: Classes and licensing
- Service and maintenance agreements, reduction
- Contracted services, reduction
 - Taser supplier & training
 - Assessment center to help with promotion mgmt
- Office supplies, reductions
- Preprinted forms, reduction
- Building maintenance supplies, reduction
- Medical supplies, reduction; will affect Defib replacement program
- Print photos, reduction, for crime scenes
- Handbooks & legal updates, reduction
- Equipment for personnel, reduction, ammunition and any other contractual obligations
- Dues & professional gatherings, reduction
- Kevin: Any reduction in service or safety of officers? Myers: Training and defib would constitute some issues, maintenance of the building (mold)
- Wendy: If more money comes available, public safety would be the first place we restore funds
- Pad: High employment in 2008, we're trying to budget without any cuts, but this is the most challenging budget I've seen; only \$75k in reserve transfer
- Animal control: level funded
 - Telephone, slight increase, but covered with a reduction on police
- Carolyn: Pet first aid class, was there participation? Botelho: Was really popular, likely will try to do it again
- Police capital requests
 - 2 police cruisers
 - In-car vehicle cameras from collective bargaining agreement (contractual)
 - Animal control van, getting older, wasn't properly set-up for its intended work, funding with 50% through gifting
 - Botelho: Not efficient, can't do inspections, transportation of animals and officers is not safe, electrical issues
 - Pad: What year? Botelho: 2012

! Fire and Police Representatives leave

MARINE RESOURCES

- Salaries slightly down, grant can pay for some of the deputies, but head count is the same (non-union)
- Pad: Non-union will get a 2%? Wendy: Goes before selectmen next week
- Paying on delivery to the meter, but just storage
- Repair maintenance of vehicles, up from last year
- Maintenance and boats, building needs work on trimming materials, would be done by contractor

- Dockage and storage for boat slips, west island marina; kept for response time (would be significantly longer without a boat there)
- Advertising, for bidding
- Training is required for skills upkeep (e.g. search and rescue training)
- Payment for catskills monitoring, town is obligated to pay
- Computer line item for morning info
- License holders, shellfish buttons, down slightly
- Buoys, down to 0
- Supplies and equipment, daily supplies for random occurrences
- Uniforms, up, to cover replacements (includes winter gear & safety t-shirts)
- Dues & gathers, down, dues for different groups
- Keith: Any reduction in service or safety? Tim: No, I think we'll be good
- Pad: No capital? Tim: 2010 Truck which won't pass inspection (failed the last 3) which is now rotting; motors on 2011 boat, couple of major issues in the last 2 years, in the water all year round, at idle or full; 2 boat replacements as well, replace the Carolina skiff (plant quahogs) and 21 foot Whaler (to push)
- Pad: How many vehicles? 2, other vehicle is 3 years old

General Questions

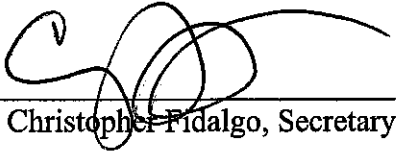
- Bernie: Requests would be coming from free cash? Wendy: Everything is from free cash, except the 2 fire department items, which will be borrowed
- Bernie: What's free cash currently? Wendy: Should be in email
- Bernie: How do we refurbish free cash? Wendy: We had \$3.3m, dropped to \$715k
- Carolyn: Short on health insurance trust fund? Wendy: Yes short, self funded, but we keep 3 months in an account, hoping figures are better
- Pad: OPEB, started at \$50k, this is a benefit, lacking in money, and unfunded, a problem across many municipalities. How do we find money? Wendy: Most have the problem, only 3 in MA are fully funded, big liability which needs to be funded, can matter when requesting borrowing
- Pad: What's the goal of this? How much are we funded? Wendy: Not close, once unfunded liabilities from retirement are paid, we'd fund OPEB, which funds unfunded retiree benefits
- Pad: The non-union COLA, both union and non-union should get the same increases. Can we put non-union off a year?
- Kevin: OPEB doesn't have public visibility. Can we earmark a revenue source to tackle OPEB? Could we earmark BASK earnings, potentially? Wendy: Has been discussed, but had no specific revenue sources in mind
- Rob: Shouldn't we tackle free cash first and then OPEB? Wendy: Free cash isn't totally depleted, but 3-5% is left (\$1.6m)
- Carolyn: Social worker might qualify for grants

CLOSING REMARKS

- Pad: Any feedback from lights or tree warden? Wendy: Not yet
- Next week schools & finance
- Chris requests discussion on TA process, Bernie discusses the following

- Selectmen requested various departments to set-up a screening committee
- 7 people, Bernie was appointed chair
- All roll call votes, 4 for the majority
- Discussion halted (concerns about Open Meeting Law from Kevin)
- Rob's email: rwclx@aol.com

◇ Motion to adjourn, Bernie, Rob (10 - 0, unanimous), 8:25 PM



Christopher Fidalgo, Secretary