



Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall - 40 Centre Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

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TOWN CLERK

MEETING NOTES

2021 JUL 19 P 1:47

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Date, Time, Location:

March 25th, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M., Remote through ZOOM

Meeting Overview:

1. Meeting called to order
2. Past meeting minutes approval
3. Discussions on the articles in the warrant
4. Discussions on capital projects as needed
5. Closing Remarks
6. 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 (9):

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

Town of Fairhaven (2):

- Wendy Graves (Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director), Tim Cox (Harbormaster), Sheri Souza Harbormaster), Vinnie Furtado (BPW), Chief Todd Correria (FD), Chief Michael Myers (PD)

Meeting called, 7:01 PM

PAST MINUTES

- Finance Committee 3.11.2021
- ◆ Rob, Bernie (8 - 0 - 1 abstain)

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

Article 22, shellfish

- \$20k, for seeding the bay
- Last year was cut because of COVID, but asking for more than last year because of the cut the prior year
- Pad: Impact last year & need this year?
 - Cox: Oil spill money was covering, but now that's dried up, so need the full amount now that it isn't subsidized
 - Wendy: We went with \$20k because that's what was asked, but the \$15k could cover it as well
- Pad: What's the revenue impact?
 - Wendy: Would need to look it up
- Pad: Do we run out of shellfish without this money?
 - Cox: Has become a put and take situation, where the shellfish are put in and disappear after that year; every other year they are propagated
 - Cox: Without the propagation, no shellfish; button sales would be affected
 - Sheri: Around \$18k in button sales

Article 24, new mooring fees

- New revolving account
- Mooring software has a license
- Wanted a fund instead of asking from general funding each year

Article 28, port authority grant

- Was in capital planning for next year but have a chance to apply for a grant
- Cost for the motors would be partially covered by the grant
- Motor is \$43k, and the grant would apply a 20% match
- Pad: Boat is still working?
 - Cox: Yes, but it was an \$8k cost last year to repair
- Rob: Can the money come from the Hoppy's fund?
 - Cox: Anything that is Hoppy's fund can only be spent at Hoppy's fund
 - Pad: Waterways? Cox: Could come out of Waterways
 - Wendy: Not enough to cover in Waterways; can get you a breakdown
 - We used 50k as a funding source for the operating budget
 - Pad: Is that usual? Cox: Yes, but last year we took a hit because of the match and dredging

Article 31, regulation bylaw

- 15-20 rules and regulations which were reviewed by a consultant, and we condensed everything to a single document
- Fees have not changed and no money is being asked for

Article 33, pier and Bridge St. land

- Pier is owned by town of Fairhaven, rented to the Seaport inn
- Negotiations around PSC

- Not much can be said at this time, per Wendy and the Fire Chief
- Will not be done tonight, but will be discussed in the future
- Rob: What's the income currently? Wendy: About \$1,200 per month

Capital Project: Harbormaster Truck Replacement

- Rob: What truck is being replaced?
 - Cox: F150 is the assistance truck, and replace with an SUV
 - Weather-sensitive gear would be negatively impacted if not covered
 - Rob: The accessories list for the truck is worth cutting.
 - Cox: That truck doesn't come in lesser versions and the \$8k is to cover the equipment for emergency response. This was the quote from the basic package.
 - Cox: A F150 with a cover was more expensive
- Kevin: This would likely come from the state bid list? And an emergency vehicle?
 - Cox: Yes, and yes
- Pad: What was the vehicle's age? Cox: 2010 but the vehicle sees saltwater almost every day

Article 7, Roadwork FY21

- Money left over from last year due to the typo
- Pad: Doesn't the article usually have the dollar figure?
 - Wendy: Actual articles will have the draft
- Bernie: What's the difference between Article 7 and Article 17?
 - Vinnie: What is for the roadwork missed and then another was for the road work this year, didn't want to wait for approval
- Lisa: We didn't get the full amount for last year?
 - Vinnie: We only got for Chase Road, which was only \$36k, which was the money meeting approved
- Pad: What happened to the money last year? Wendy: Went to Free Cash

Article 8, Sewer Retained Earnings to Capitalization Fund

- Twice annual invoice for water & sewer, which deals with a \$25 fee

Article 15 & 16, reviewed at previous meetings

Article 17, Roadwork FY22

- Pad: Will this list the actual roads and money? Wendy: Yes, this is just a draft
- Vinnie: Large amount is put forth to start from with intent to not spend more with potential savings when digging up the road, based on an engineering expert
- Pad: Can you speak to the need for the roads?
- Vinnie:
 - Eaton Road: drainage issues, dirt road, would be paved
 - Cove Street: hard surface petition, gravel, would be paved
 - Littleneck Road: hard surface petition, gravel, would be paved
 - Pleasant Street: paved road, but came from the pavement mgmt study
- Carolyn: What's the priority of need for the streets?
 - Vinnie: Pleasant and Littleneck have the most need

- Carolyn: How much could be done this year?
 - Vinnie: Only doing Chase Road currently
- Jenn: Regarding Pleasant Street, would it make sense to do it now when there might be potential construction soon?
 - Vinnie: We would consider that based what happens

Article 18, State Aid to Highways

- Town meeting needs to approve use of that money

Article 24, revolving funds for park utilities

- Have a revolving account of \$2k, when people play at night, the league pays for the electricity
- Leagues will pay into the fund which covers the eversource bill

Capital Project: Animal Control Replacement Truck

- No comments from FinCom members

Capital Project: Dashboard cameras for cruisers

- Part of contract negotiations for union and Town, Town request
- Would outfit frontline and backup vehicles with camera for traffic stops and other interactions with police
- Covered by Article 14, but isn't covered in detail

Review of the PSC progress

- Cost analysis studies have been done, including brand new vs. renovations, which covered 7 different scenarios and costs associated
- Cost was broken down as well for a 3 price levels (low, medium, high)
- Feasibility study was done for police and fire and the outcome came from those discussion about what department personnel and equipment needs there would be, along with what services are needed for the town
- Bernie: We've talked about a complex and there's a variety of scenarios, are those alternatives to the complex?
 - Myers: A bunch of different scenarios, including renovations, separate buildings, combined buildings, new buildings, etc.
 - Myers: Cheapest was brand new at a new site in a combined building, with the renovation more expensive beyond that
- Bernie: Are any of the other options viable? Myers: The alternatives seemed more expensive, given the study we had
- Pad: Last time, we saw needs assessment and location studies, vs. what we're talking about now. Myers: Yeah, this is a focus on the cost analysis
 - Pad: Seeing the cost analysis with the clearer draft of the article would be helpful
- Rob: In the process of doing this, did we give consideration to what happens to the old building? Myers: That decision would come from the Selectmen, which is likely to put it up for sale
- Pad: Worth tabling for a future date

- Chris: I'd like to know whether cost analysis includes any notion of vacating the other buildings
- Bernie: Is there a cost to the analysis of another plot? Myers: Yes, roughly \$20k
- Rob: How do we fund this? Myers: Likely through debt exclusion
- Pad: Would want to see this presented more than a land acquisition project (the greater picture)

Article 5

- Architect for the different town studies

Article 20, ambulance stabilization

- Annual article for buying new ambulances on a revolving cycle

Article 24, revolving funds HAZMAT

- For town clean-ups of hazardous material

Article 26 FEMA New engine, Article 27 FEMA SCBA

- Rob: Are we putting up 5% of the cost? Correia: 5% goes up
- Correia: 45 packs are required based on the riding positions, so we have 46 people who could be fully utilized, and each vehicle requires enough SCBAs for the riding positions
 - Will be revised for 45 to 44
- Rob: If we don't get the FEMA grant, could this be put off an extra year? Correia: The apparatus and study is being analyzed right now, and likely not available until late 2022
 - Correia: We have a long list of used engines that are up in age, and the actual borrowing won't happen until that time
- Jessica: Wouldn't we need to approve for the liability? Correia: We don't approve the borrowing until a month before it's needed
 - Rob: Does change the picture given that the town might be in a different place
- Carolyn: If the grant isn't approved this year, could we get it next year? Correia: Absolutely
- Wendy: The legal authority is the appropriation at town meeting

Article 4, setting salaries of town officers

- Pad: Is this a 2% raise? Wendy: I don't think so

Article 6, FY21 General Fund Operating Budget Adjustments

- For a person to do the cyclicals
- Company to do building permits

Article 12

- Haven't seen this yet, but would require someone from school in the coming weeks

Article regarding the trucks and SCBA

- Pad: Would like stronger language around the funding source for the articles
- Chris: I won't be voting unless the wording is stronger

- I'll include notes to the minutes we're discussing¹
- Wendy: Language comes from the borrowers
- Pad: Let's definitely pay attention to these

Article 21, Social Day

- Rob: What pays for this? Wendy: Will look into it

Article 23, Community Preservation

- Rob: Where does the money come from? Wendy: CPA Tax money
 - Rob: Not required to spend it? Wendy: No, but some amount can be reserved, such as holding off for specific projects

Article 25, Mass Historical Commission Grant Match

- Pad: Who is the petitioner? Wendy: Paul Foley, the planning director
- Pad: Would come from the General Fund? Wendy: Yes

Article 29, Procurement Officer Contracts

- Pad: When we purchase these items, this is done on an annual basis, and the superintendent wants to set-up a contract for multiple years for a better price. Would that be priced over 5 years? Wendy: Presumably broken up to each year

Article 34, Municipal Light Plant for the broadband

- Would require someone to better explain it

Article 35, short term rentals

- Would require someone to better explain it

Article 39, Historic Town Lamps

- Want to talk to the petitioners
- Rob: Why not take from the community preservation fund?

Article 42, Zoning By-Law Change Photovoltaic Energy Facilities

- Rob: Is there a tax impact? Wendy: Unsure

Article 44, Town Warden from elected to appointed

- Pad: Does this have salary implications?
 - Wendy: Unclear right now

Article 48, Charter Committee

- Pad: No funding source. Can this be taken up legally? Wendy: Would go to town council

Article 49, Ethics Committee

¹ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MDZn06XYuXZI-BYaDZ7JtRomoVu3F0HDd5Qnl-Q-230/edit> See 4th bullet point in section Discussion B - "If the language is intentionally broad, then there are more possible motions that can be made"

- Pad: Are these volunteers?
- Pad: Want more explanation

Reserve Fund Transfer, rescind the \$20k

- Because FEMA is covering the money fully

◆ Motion to rescind the money from the account listed to reserve fund transfer, Chris, Bernie (11 - 0)

Reserve Fund Transfer, Balance of street light costs

- Balance of street light costs to cover expenditures
- Pad: If we don't have the money, then the lights go off

◆ Motion to appropriate money from reserve fund to the street light fund, Chris, Rob (11 - 0)

Reserve Fund Transfer, Town Insurance

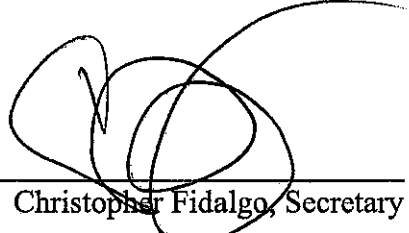
- Workers comp audit revealed a bill of \$40k, so we need to move the money over
- More claims than usual
- Wendy: Was cut last year
- Pad: This would leave \$10 in the account? Wendy: Yes, that is correct

◆ Motion to appropriate money from reserve fund to town insurance, Chris, Rob (11 - 0)

CLOSING REMARKS

- *Pad lists several articles to be discussed further*
- Broadband, Historical, Building Commissioner, hopefully for next week
- April 1st
- Pad: No more information on adjustments so far? Wendy: Yes, but we could do the enterprise funds, given they won't change
- Publisher date is May 7th, so last votes would be on the 6th
- April 8th, we could start up voting, along with enterprise and yield to petitioner articles
- 3 meetings will cover the votes, with less controversial votes first
- Other items would be handled as they appear (PSC)
- Carolyn: Were you saying the FinCom has no input on the wording of the wording of the articles? Wendy: The attorney for the borrowing gives us the language of the articles
 - Wendy: The risk would be changing the article wording might make it null and void
 - Pad: I would ask Wendy to talk to town council around the wording for it to be very specific for the funding source
- Bernie: Has any money from last year been found that's not in contract?
 - Wendy: Will ask Anne to follow-up

◆ Bernie, Chris (9 - 0) 9:45 PM



Christopher Fidalgo, Secretary