



# Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall - 40 Centre Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

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## MEETING NOTES

FAIRHAVEN,  
MASS.

### Date, Time, Location:

April 15th, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M., Remote through ZOOM

### Meeting Overview:

1. Meeting called to order
2. Past meeting minutes approval
3. Review of Cable School Enterprise Budget
4. Discussion on Free Cash Spending
5. Discussion and voting on various articles
  - a. Articles, in order discussed: 8, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 32, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56
6. Closing Remarks
7. Vote to adjourn

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### -Key-

**BOLD** = Issue being discussed

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

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### Member Attendance (10):

- Padraic Elliot, Chris Fidalgo, Bernie Roderick, Rob Grinrod, Jennifer Dupras, Tracy Diggins, Lisa Plante, Jessica Dwelly, Carolyn Roberts, Kathi Carter

### Town of Fairhaven (6):

- Wendy Graves (Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director), Dr. Robert Baldin (School Superintendent), Nicole Potter (Director of Technology and Finance), Vinnie Furtadeo (BPW), Derek Frates (Public Access), Tim Cox (Harbormaster)

Meeting called, 7:01 PM

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### PAST MINUTES

- Finance Committee 4.1.2021
- ◆ Approval of the minutes, Bernie, Rob (9 - 0 - 1 abstain)

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## **TONIGHT'S AGENDA**

### **Review of Cable School Enterprise Budget**

- Pad: Why did mileage allowance change? Nicole: New England Emmy's and Film Contest bus transportation
  - Has been done in the past, but different line item; maybe purchase of services the last time
- Carolyn: How is the revenue split determined? Frates: 56/44 based on a memorandum of understanding, signed by Dr. Baldwin
  - Baldwin: Based on a needs based analysis
- Pad: Understanding was about revenues because Comcast revenues are going down
  - Baldwin: We're aware of this trend and have been planning for it long term
  - Derek: The money that's posted is for allocation but won't necessarily all be used

### **Discussion on Free Cash Spending**

- Pad: For the articles that are funded from free cash, how is the money allotted to those items?
  - Wendy: Determined by the Town Administrator, using the Capital Planning Board recommendations
- Carolyn: Are there any other departments or committees involved in the vetting process?
  - Wendy: The Budget Committee
- Chris: What governs
- Pad: Articles that touch on Free Cash seem to automatically have that money allotted vs. any vetting
- Rod: What happens if we approve more at town meeting than we have allotted?
  - Wendy: The town needs to be informed of any vote that negatively impacts the balance of Free Cash, per our Financial Policy

**Pad: For any article that has contention, we'll table those articles until later**

**Any articles that will still change in the near term (salaries, bills of prior year)**

- On hold, so we can make a single vote later

### **Article 8, Sewer Capital Fee**

- Done every year, needs to be allotted for use

**◆ Recommend to Town Meeting, Lisa, Chris (10 - 0)**

### **Article 14, General Fund Capital Plan FY22**

- Pad: There's concerns around this article due to motion from last year about a change of funding source
- Carolyn: Can we talk to who does the bonding? Wendy: Can ask
- Rob: Can we split these requests into 2 separate articles, one for borrowing and one for free cash? Wendy: I can ask

**! Bernie Roderick having mic issues and therefore intermittent attendance**

**Article 15, Akin Street Water Main Replacement**

- Rob: Is Water Enterprise the only funding source?
  - Chris: Yes, as written in the warrant

◆ Recommend to Town Meeting Lisa, Chris (9 - 0)

**Article 16,**

- Rob: Can we do without the pickup truck?
  - Vinnie: Currently the vehicle assigned is a Prius, which was more beneficial to the last, vs. we'd like to use the vehicle to plow
  - Pad: But you'll still keep the Prius? Vinnie: Yes

◆ Recommend to Town Meeting, Lisa, Chris (9 - 0)

**Article 18, State Aid to Highways**

- Pad: Is there a monetary value attached to this?
  - Vinnie: Around \$500k, based on town census and state allotment

◆ Recommend to Town Meeting, Lisa, Chris (9 - 0)

**Article 20, Ambulance Stabilization fund**

- Setting money aside into the fund

◆ Recommend to Town Meeting, Rob, Lisa (10 - 0)

**Article 21, Social Day Care Center**

- Wendy: Money is in a special funding source which requires allotment

◆ Recommend to Town Meeting, Rob, Lisa (10 - 0)

**Article 22, Propagation of Shellfish**

- Wendy: Recommendation is \$15,000 vs. the petitioned \$20,000
- Pad: Doesn't seem like it makes a ton of money...
  - Chris: There's probably knock on benefit to the bill, like spending in town

◆ Recommend to Town Meeting, Lisa, Rob (10 - 0)

- Pad: Does this pay for the labor or other costs?
  - Tim: This article does pay for some labor, Gas is paid by the gas line item

**Articles 24 & 32 were swapped**

- Wendy: Because the revolving fund must exist for the appropriation of money for it
- Pad: Is the harbormaster going to actually use the fund, or just set it up?
  - Wendy: Setting it up with a limit of \$2,000
- Pad: Can we have the harbormaster come in for the explanation of using that fund?
  - Derek: Might be able to grab him now

Article 24, on Hold until Article 32 is explained

**Article 29, Fairhaven Public Schools Procurement Office Contracts**

- Doing 5 year chunks vs. 3 year chunks
- Rob: This does lock in people to longer contracts

- Chris: I believe Dr. Baldin said this gave them more freedom when negotiation
  - Pad: Yes, it should give them more flexibility
- ◆ Recommend to Town Meeting, Rob, Lisa (10 - 0)

**Article 30, Amendment to Zoning Map: Flood Insurance Rate Map**

◆ Yield to Petitioner, Lisa, Rob (10 - 0)

**Article 31, Adoption of Waterways Regulation Bylaw**

- Rob: Do we know what the status of this bylaw is? Seems last updated in March
  - Wendy: Would need to talk to the Harbormaster
- *Tim Cox joins the meeting for more explanation*
- Pad: Selectmen would be setting the town fees?
  - Wendy: Yes, selectmen set all the town fees
- Pad: It appears this hasn't been finalized yet, which means the revolving fund's use cannot be established

On Hold until Final Language

**! Timothy Cox joins the meeting**

**Article 32**

- Pad: Will we use the revolving fund after its established?
  - Tim: Yes, we plan to use it
- Tim: The rules and regulations need to be approved to Town Meeting for the revolving fund to be used

On Hold until Article 32 is explained

**Article 34, Municipal Light Plant/Telecommunications Facility**

- Pad: I believe this falls outside the 4 Corners of the FinCom
- Wendy: Selectmen Espindola asked me to look into the legal fees

◆ Yield to Petitioner, Lisa, Rob (9 - 0)

**! Kathi Carter was having intermittent communication issues**

**Article 37**

◆ Yield to Petitioner, Chris, Rob (9 - 0)

**Article 38, 41, 42, 43, 44**

- Taken in bulk as written in the warrant

◆ Yield to Petitioner, Lisa, Rob (9 - 0)

**Article 45**

- Pad: Need an amount to vote

On Hold

**Article 46**

◆ Yield to Petitioner, Lisa, Chris (9 - 0)

**Article 47, Increase Board of Selectmen from 3 to 5**

- Pad: Town Council believes the FinCom should have a suggestion on the change in pay
- Total budget \$20,601, split 5 ways between the selectmen

On Hold

**Article 49, Citizens Petition - Establish an Ethics Committee**

- Rob: What's the power of this board?
- Lisa: Usually Ethics boards are handled by Lawyers. Are they lawyers?
- Pad: Are these paid or volunteer members? Are there legal fees as an outcome of this board existing?
- Lisa: Seems redundant when we could consult with an ethics specialist from Boston for free

◆ Yield to Petitioner, Lisa, Rob (9 - 0)

- Pad plans to make a statement that there *could* be a financial impact, currently not specified in the warrant

**Article 50, 51, 52, 53, 54**

- Taken in bulk as written in the warrant

◆ Yield to Petitioner, Rob, Lisa, (9 - 0)

**Article 56, Rehab New Wing Rogers School**

- Rob: In addition to what they currently have? Wendy: Yes.

On Hold

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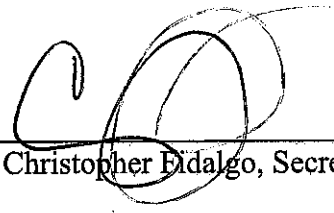
**CLOSING REMARKS**

- Pad: Next meeting is on the 29th
- Pad: When is the next selectmen board meeting? Wendy: April 26th
- Pad: When will we have a better picture of the revenues?
  - Wendy: March revenues were just closed, and there's a training/conference for the state money tomorrow
    - Should have more information for the 29th
- Wendy: Likely can take up water, sewer, cable
- Pad: Would like to take up the capital budget
- Lisa: Are we bringing this up to the Selectmen?
  - Wendy: Selectmen have already voted on the Capital budget
    - Will talk to bond council tomorrow for more specific wording, reasoning for the wording
- Pad: For community preservation, I will remove myself from that article

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◆ Vote to adjourn, Lisa, Rob (8 - 0)

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a small vertical stroke on the left side.

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Christopher Hidalgo, Secretary