



Town of Fairhaven

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TOWN CLERK

Town Hall - 40 Centre Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

2021 JUL 19 P 1:47

MEETING NOTES

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Date, Time, Location:

April 29th, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M., Remote through ZOOM

Meeting Overview:

1. Meeting called to order
2. Past meeting minutes approval
3. Continued Discussion of the Articles
 - a. (in the order discussed) Articles 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 23, 56, 24, 25, 26, 32, 33, 35, 39, 40, 47, 48, 55
4. Closing Remarks
5. 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, Rob Grinrod, Tracy Diggins, Jessica Dwelly, Carolyn Roberts, Kathi Carter, Jennifer Dupras (joined late)

Town of Fairhaven (3):

- Wendy Graves (Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director), Vinnie Furtado (BPW), Doug Brady (Rogers Re Use Committee)

Meeting called, 7:01 PM

PAST MINUTES

- Finance Committee 4.15.2021
- ◆ Bernie, Lisa, (9 - 0)

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

! Kevin Gallagher has resigned from FinCom

- Revenue projections will get redone
- Gov.'t funding will be brought in later
- May 10th will have the reworked General Fund

Continued Discussion of the Articles

Article 4, Setting Salaries of the Town Officers

- Board of Health plans to forgo their salaries
- Carolyn: Would it be more beneficial for them to select the salaries and then donate the money? Wendy: Shouldn't necessarily be better
 - Carolyn: I was recommended because of my work in nonprofits.
- Lisa: Is this just the Tree Warden's salary and not for any additional positions? Wendy: Yes, just his salary
 - Pad: His workers are funded from their own line item

◆ Recommend to Town Meeting, all items except E. Board of Health, Lisa, Rob, (9 - 0)

Article 7, Roadwork FY21

- What was planned for last year but was not done due to clerical error
- Rob: Do we have the money for this work? Wendy: Yes, the money was earmarked for this
- Pad: Fisherman is a dirt road, could you explain the maintenance cost?
 - Vinnie: Man hours, materials, probably about \$1,000 a year, depending on certain variables (water, use, etc.)
- Pad: Now an aggregate amount vs. a line item per road, since that's more versatile

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

! Jennifer Dupras joins the meeting

Article 10, Water Enterprise Fund

- Dealing with salaries and operating expenses
- Pad: What about other expenditures? Wendy: I would vote all of those as well
- Salaries are just contractual adjustments, non-union step increases

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

! Jennifer Dupras had connection issues and couldn't vote on all articles

Article 11, Sewer Enterprise Fund

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

Article 12, Town Cable Television Enterprise Fund

- Higher because of money moved for Professional Salaries

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

Article 13, School Cable Television Enterprise Fund

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

Article 14, General Fund Capital Plan FY22

- Pad: Is there an update to wording? Wendy: Yes, the SCBA and Fire Engine will be written as from borrowing
 - Pad: When will we see this wording? Wendy: Probably a few weeks away
- Pad: If push came to shove, I would pay for A. with free cash but not F.
- Wendy: Could balance with stabilization instead, but that's not desirable
- Vinnie: There's an additional charge for the PDFs, and the plotter scanner would save on that
- Pad: I'd be more comfortable voting on wants when

◆ Recommend to Town Meeting, B, C, E, H, Lisa, Carolyn, (9 - 0)

Article 17: Roadwork FY22

- Pad: Comfortable neglecting paved roads vs. fixing the dirt roads? Vinnie: BPW didn't vote for A. Sherry petitioned for it, but the BPW didn't vote on A.
- Lisa: Do you not have the funds for all 5 roads? Vinnie: Could make it work if supplemented with Chapter 90
- Wendy: I would suggest to skip this article for now so the language and spreadsheet can get updated
- Pad: The east side of the road looked fine? Vinnie: Should be from 45 to the end
- Rob: Is B a citizen petition? Vinnie: Yes, and the BPW voted on it

Article 23, Community Presentation Program Appropriations

- Should be skipped over for reworked wording and line items

Article 56, Rehab of Roger School

- SMEC is interested in the newer wing only for additional space
- SMEC is planning to invest serious money into this building
- There's significant costs for demolishing
- Currently, estimates are being drawn up, and SMEC would like to start working on this plan very soon
- Rob: What's currently being drawn up to amortize the cost of the investment for the town?
Doug: Currently looking for a 10 year contract with reinvestment into the building
- Rob: Have you considered the parking lot? Doug: Currently being investigated for the building and the town
- Lisa: The new portion of the building appears to be in good condition, and it appears to be an asset rather than a burden
- Doug: SMEC is currently looking for how to deal with what renovation cost vs. the cost to the town
 - Doug: The investment is substantial, but they are looking for the town to help and/or match the investment cost
- Rob: What's the intention of utilities provided? Doug: AC will be up to SMEC, heating would look at contract discussions, for electricity looking at solar panels
- Bernie: What's the potential fiscal cost to the town, such as what percentage? Doug: The moth ball cost for the older wing, but the newer part would be covered by SMEC

- Rob: What happens to the older part of the building, if we have these tenants for 10 years?
Doug: A firewall would separate the two buildings.
 - Doug: This could benefit the other section by renovating the newer wing.
- Bernie: Have the selectboard voted yet? Doug: Going before the selectboard May 10th
- Pad: Would this need \$425k from the town? Doug: Yes
 - Pad: And from where? Doug: Unclear just yet
- Pad: Has the previous developer been removed? Doug: The selectboard declined to move forward with the previous developer, and SMEC was approached after
- Kathi: It feels like there's too many questions currently.
- Tracy: What is the cost to knock down the building? Wendy: Well over \$2m several years ago
 - Tracy: It seems like there will still be money involved in the cost to the older side
 - Doug: Numerous quotes for knocking everything down was around \$2m, but the renovation would remove the asbestos, which was the largest demo cost
 - Doug: The old building does not have asbestos
- Pad: Would best to have a spreadsheet that explains all the details
 - Tracy: Would good to know what the town has spent so far
- Wendy: Trying to pursue grants for the old building
- Doug: No money will be spent until a contract is handled
- Kathi: Who would do the demo cost? Doug: It's involved in the submission of the RFP

Article 24, Mooring Fees Revolving Funds

- Still requires more work, so being held off for right now

Article 25, Historical Commission Grant Match

- Requires more information about the standing of the general fund budget

Article 26, Fema Grant Engine 2 5% Match

- Rob: Could we take money elsewhere to fund the 5% match?
 - Pad: This money is already earmarked
 - Rob: I'd prefer the money come from somewhere else
 - Pad: The options are to be in favor or not in favor, or to name an alternative funding source
 - Pad: You would have to take up the Capital Planning Budgets and vote against them

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

Article 32, Revolving Funds

- Pad: I'd like to vote on everything except the mooring fees. Can we do that? Wendy: Should hold off till next week

Article 33, Land Acquisition & Engineering Design Services for the PCS

- Being passed over currently

◆ Not voted on at this time

Article 35, Short Term Rentals

- Wendy: Not finalized by the planning board

Article 39, Historical Lamps

- Pad: Would prefer to hold off for now, as it is a want

Article 40, Checkout Bag Charge Authorization

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

Article 47, Increase Selectboard from 3 to 5

- Pad: At town meeting, will yield, but will make a recommendation for how to fund it
- Pad: More members could mean less work for each Selectboard member
- Pad: The FinCom should work through the proposals so far and have a recommendation
- Bernie: The focus of this is on voting, not the financial impact. Pad: I agree, which is why we plan to yield to petitioner
- Jess: My proposal was not formal and just an example.
- Pad: The wording appears incorrect, so I don't expect the article to move very far.
- Carolyn: Why is the pay what it is? Wendy: Started at a flat rate but has risen by 2%
- Lisa: I'd be comfortable with the motion of keeping the pay the same and dividing by the count of selectboard members, seconded by Carolyn
- Bernie: I would make a motion for the \$34,335 and keep the pay per selectboard member the same, seconded by Rob
- Pad: Do they pay taxes on this income? Wendy: Yes.

◆ Recommendation of \$34,335, divided by the number of selectboard members, (2 - 7, not approved)

◆ Recommendation of \$20,601, divided by the number of selectboard members, (8 - 1)

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

Article 48, Charter Committee

- Holding off because this appears more as a want than a need
- Bernie: I'm in favor of this article, and that this money will be well spent to improve the town government
- Lisa: It feels like a new layer of government and therefore redundant and unnecessary
 - Bernie: This is a recommending body and not a new functioning department
- Carolyn: Does feel like this is needed and worth looking at, given that other towns now have charters
- Rob: I agree with Bernie

Article 55, Street Lights


- Pad: The old wire inspector is no longer employed, and the poles currently appear mismarked
- Pad: It's unclear why we would recommend this vs. our current standard of every other pole

CLOSING REMARKS

- Rob: What is Article 58 pertaining to? Wendy: It's about drainage about a property, but it's a carryover from last year

- Pad: Currently lacks the wording to vote
- Pad: Will meet next week, likely shorter

◆ Vote to adjourn, Lisa, Chris (9 - 0)



Christopher Fidalgo, Secretary