



Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall - 40 Centre Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

MEETING NOTES

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TOWN CLERK

2021 AUG 13 P 3:01

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Date, Time, Location:

May 13th, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M., Remote through ZOOM

Meeting Overview:

1. Meeting called to order
2. Vote for Acting Secretary - Carolyn
3. Discussion on the budget
4. Discussion on various articles
5. Closing Remarks
6. Vote to adjourn

Member Attendance (9): Padraic Elliott, Lisa Plante, Kathi Carter, Bernard F. Roderick, Jennifer Dupras, Tracey Diggins, Jessica Dwelly, Carolyn Roberts

Town of Fairhaven: Wendy Graves, (Collector/Temporary Town Administrator), Tim Cox (Harbormaster), Vinnie Furtado (BPW Superintendent), Wayne Oliveira (Historical Commission), Don Collasius (Tree Warden)

Pat advises the committee Kevin Gallagher has resigned.

In the absence of the clerk, Chris Fidalgo, Carolyn Roberts is voted to act as clerk and take the minutes. Roll call vote – 9
-0

Wendy notifies the committee the town will be receiving money from the American Rescue plan (ARP) – don't know much yet - \$1.586. There also will be money going to Counties to be used infrastructure, but that is unknown presently.

Pat advises the committee will make decisions tonight based on the budget we now know.

Bob asks if the ARP money restricted to a particular item

Wendy – depends on guidelines, but the money will cover from 2022 – 2024.

Wendy review revenue account changes – some increases totaling \$652,000

Bob – there's an increase in Marijuana revenue – how are receipts coming?

Wendy - actually better than hoped. We're taking money from surplus free cash for operating.

Pat – where does free cash stand now? Wendy - at 3.6 now – should be between 3 and 5

Attention is turned to the budget:

Wendy noted that in salary and wages – nonunion 2% cola is added which the selectmen voted in. This had already been reserved previously

Wendy reviews changes in operating expenses line by line.

Pat questions "permit software" in many expenses

Tim Cox – this is for consolidated system across depts

Pat noted that School dept expenses added back 195,000. Last year cut 200,000 due to \$ from Cares Act Wendy - cut 395,000 this year – restore 195,000

Total increase operating expenses 652,000

Pat advises he will read through every line – committee members can hold for question/alternate motion.

Holds placed: Pat: Human Resources
Pat: Board of Health
Pat: COLA for non-union employees

Motion to recommend all operating expenses except for "holds": Lisa so moved, Bob seconded - voted unanimous

Human Resource hold – Pat supports concept of dept – question do they get involved with elected boards or only deal with employees. Wendy – technically elected boards are employees – haven't gotten involved in the past. Pat – I'd like to get better understanding – it's new dept. Would that position need to be a higher level and would it be able to be part time. Wendy – there are other towns have part time position. Bob – think biggest issue is negotiating contracts – probably best to contract that out. Pat: Any outlook to a fall town meeting. Wendy yes. Pat – still have town administrator position to be settled. Pat: Is position of HR Director intentionally being held open until permanent town administrator. Wendy – I thought it would be held until new town administrator – been open since Nov 30. Bob: Could have inhouse lawyer and be part human resource.

Board of Health – are they paid out of this budget (Pat) Wendy = yes but separate line item because they are elected. Pat states in flux because they may take less money – this budget has more money. Wendy – didn't want to remove money if needed in the future.

Cola – Pat I'm thinking is to recommend remove the entire \$50,000 -- Wendy selectmen already voted – would be nice for selectmen and finance vote in unison – this money won't be used.

Motion to accept HR figures – BOH figures – Cola figures as stated made by Lisa, Bernie seconded – unanimous 8-0 (Jenn unavailable to vote)

Articles:

Selectmen have voted

4E. Motion to accept BOH made by Bob, Lisa second – voted 9-0

5. Bills of prior years. Motion to accept by Lisa, Bob second. Bob what is "D" – Wendy bill from last year never paid – voted 9-0

6. FY21 Budgets – work to do prior year end – motion to accept by Bernie, Lisa second 8 – 0 (Jenn unavailable)

14. Gen Fund Capital: A – Pat is there language in the article relating to borrowing: Wendy – yes – from bond counsel – it's lengthy. (Wendy can share with committee) Can't change language from bond counsel. Bob - thought we were going to separate borrowing items from free cash. Pat - it's general fund capital plan. Lisa – any way to talk to moderator to get some discussion if there's another motion made from free cash. Pat – I'm planning on speaking to this article before it gets voted – making it clear Finance Committee is recommending borrowing on certain items because we don't want to dip into free cash. Pat – I think Finance should be meeting with selectmen prior to town meeting to discuss. Pat – we can talk to town moderator to take these 1 at a time.

14A. SCBA replacement funds from borrowing. Motion to approve Bob, Carolyn second – 9 -0

14F. Fire engine funds from borrowing. Motion to approve Lisa, Bob second – 9 -0

14D. Harbormaster truck. Bob – Question why not keep your truck and replace 1 that is bad and save \$. Tim – can't get truck less than \$50,000 Talked to police chief – this is important for the police as well - my dept only has 2 trucks other towns have more. We have 30 miles of shore line only portion patrolled by boat. Pat – truck quote? Last item? Tim - that's the equipment for the truck. Motion made to fund from free cash made by Lisa, Jessica second passed 8 -0 (Jenn unavailable)

14G. plotter scanner. Vinnie – I think it's worthwhile – everything now is digital – easier to have this info on tablet in a truck rather than having to come back to office to look up. Pat – will this be able to be used immediately? Vinnie – after training. Jessica – will special software be needed? Bob – trying to avoid buying a \$20,000 piece of equipment which may turn into a more expensive project to get the materials scanned by outside consultant. Where is the machine going to be? Vinnie: this isn't BPW request – assume would be at town hall. We used consultants because we didn't have the equipment.

Pat option to take up at town meeting and ask Paul, Building Dept, to come to meeting to speak on this one. Bob - thought he said he would need consultant. Don Collasius – we've had software like this in my experience and installing software was easy – could get high school intern to assist. Takes low level skill to scan in. Just sharing information.

Kathi – are we hearing we might need to hire additional staff? Pat- sounded like contracted services. Wendy – we wouldn't approve that – we would look for other means like interns.

Motion to recommend at town meeting made by Bob, Carolyn second 8 -0 (Jenn unavailable)

17. Road Articles. Bob - if A is voted in at town meeting are 1 of the others voted off the list? Pat - one option would tap into free cash. Town meeting has final vote.

17A: Lisa move indefinite postponement, Lisa second – 9-0 . Vinnie – We would put on list for next year.

17B – E Motion to accept made by Bernie, Bob second – 9 -0

Article 19 – motion to recommend \$0 made by Lisa, Carolyn second 9 -0

Article 23 – CPC – Pat recuse himself as a member of Unitarian Church

Lisa - Are we doing each one separate – Wendy yes

Art 23A – skate board park – Bob move to accept, Jessica second – voted 8-0

23B. Green Meadow roof – Carolyn move to accept Bernie second voted 8-0

23C Academy building – Wayne Olivera, historical commission – originally written “front door” \$80,000 – actually phase 2 of ADA project making front entrance ADA friendly. Already have ramp at back of building. Lisa – selectmen didn't take up because of wording – will you still be able to do everything while it says “front door”? Wayne – yes.

Motion to adopt – Bob, Bernie – 8-0

23D. Old Stone School exterior – Bob move accept, Bernie second – 8-0

23E. High school windows – Bernie is this completion or is there a phase 5 – Wendy – don't know. Motion to accept made by Kathi, Bernie second – 8-0

23F. Millicent library – Bob move to accept, Bernie second– 8 -0

23G Unitarian Church – Bernie - feel illegal to use taxpayer money for religious institution – ask Tom Crotty if legal or appropriate. If we do this we're establishing a precedence. Wendy - I heard from Tom Crotty it is legal.

Lisa – we reviewed religious aspect and ran by counsel and was approved. Kathi: what were they using it for? Windows? Lisa – yes – windows - stipulation was it couldn't have any religious pictures/information. Lisa heard it was for roofing – leaks in the roof. Jessica – have we used CPC funds for a private party before. Wendy- I believe we have – even the Millicent library. Mr. Collasius – I'm on property committee at church and it is for roof leak. Bernie – my question is if St Joseph's has leak in roof will we repair it. Mrs. Collasius – it's historic because a gift of H.H.Rogers to the town. Kathi – could any church in Fairhaven request \$ from CPC for improvements. Wendy – as long as historical.

Bob move to accept, Jessica second – 6 yes 2 no

23H Whitfield-Manjiro house Bob move accept, Jessica second – 8-0

23I. expenses Carolyn move to accept, Bob second 8 -0

Pat returns as Committee chair.

24. mooring fees – Pat amount of fee resolved? Tim Cox – putting \$25 per mooring but not yet approved.

Pat – would replace waterway fee for those who use mooring or both? Tim – both

Pat - what would \$ be used for - Tim - if I had to remove moorings or something related to moorings.

Bob – there is no problem in Fairhaven – the proposed regulation is unnecessary. Pat – my understanding is other town's do have mooring fees and this is for privately owned. Tim - yes. Pat – where I'm moored there are numerous abandoned moorings and cause a problem. Tim – that's the problem we're having. Jessica – do we have to take a position on this? Pat – we take a position on all revolving funds. This does fall under purview of finance committee.

Motion to accept made by Lisa, Jessica second – No 2 Yes 6 abstain 1

Bob move to indefinitely postpone Bernie second - yes 2 no 6 abstain 1

Article 25 – Historical commission – Bob – why redo what was done previously. Wayne - this is matching grant for which we need money ahead of time. Years ago historic record of properties – not done very well. This will be done properly. Redo work done improperly some 40 years ago. Wendy - we put up \$30,000 and they reimburse \$15,000.

Motion to accept made by Carolyn, Lisa second - No 1 Yes 8

It appears at this point Jenn left the meeting since the total votes changed from 9 to 8 from now on.

Art 28 – harbormaster boat engines – Lisa move to accept , Jessica second - 5 yes 3 no

Art 31 – waterways - Tim – created one document to encompass all the rules already in place – does include mooring fee. Move to accept by Lisa, Carolyn second 8-0

Art 32 – revolving funds – Lisa move to accept, Bob second 8 – 0

Art 33 – motion to be made at town meeting made by Carolyn, Jessica second Bernie/Bob – concerned about no information for discussion prior to town meeting. 8-0

Art 35 A Bob move to accept, Lisa second - 7 yes 1 no

Art 39 Historic town lamps – Bob why not funds from CPC. Wayne told not eligible because not replacing existing. Pat – why doesn't go through capital planning process. Wayne this is to bring lights down to focus on street.

Pat – what is the criteria to be on capital plan Wendy - \$20,000 but this came to us after – capital already been completed.

Lisa move to approve, Bob second 5 yes 3 no

Art 45 transfer from surplus revenue motion to approve by Lisa, Bob second 8-0

Art 48 – Lisa move indefinite postpone, Kathi second - no 5 yes 3

Move to accept made by Bob, Carolyn second Yes 5 no 3 - motion to approve passes

Art 47 – Pat - I will make a statement to address how selectmen paid – we recommend \$25,000 (\$5,000 per selectmen)

Art 55 – motion to be made at town meeting made by Lisa, Bob second 8 -0

Art 57 Rogers wing – motion to be made at town meeting Bob, Lisa second – 8 -0

Art 56, 59 and 60 Bob move to yield to petitioner, Bernie second 8-0

Art 58 motion to be made at town meeting 8 -0

Articles completed the committee turns to other business:

Request for transfers

Tree Warden– motion \$2,000 from salaries to operating made by Bob, Carolyn second - 8 -0

Motion \$7500 from salaries to operating (leaving 15,000) made by Bob, Carolyn second- 8 -0

Wendy request transfer \$11860 from unemployment: \$ 4,860 to town insurance \$7000 to workers comp

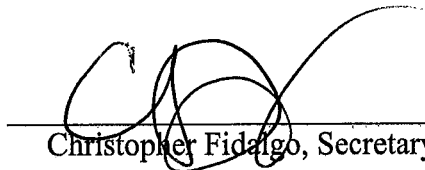
Bob move to accept, Bernie second 8 -0

Wendy request transfer \$47,100 from wind turbine to town hall electricity \$14,000 police dept \$13,500 street lights \$12,000 and Rec center electricity \$7600 Bernie move to accept, Bob second 8 -0

Wendy request transfer \$36000 from unemployment to legal - motion made by Bob, Lisa second, 8 -0

Wendy request \$28,500 from unemployment to assessor's contract service 1-time fee. Motion by Bob, Bernie second 8 -0

Motion to adjourn: 11pm made by Bernie, Jessica second 8 -0



Christopher Fidalgo, Secretary