

**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
July 11, 2022**

**Present**

Robert Hobson, Commissioner  
Cameron Durant, Commissioner  
Anne Smith, Commissioner  
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent  
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager  
Jeffrey Furtado, Water Superintendent  
Leo Monte, 1 Hampton Way  
Christopher Sobral, Laborer Interview  
Donald Barrows, Roto-Rooter Service Company



Mr. Ferro was not in attendance

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**II. Routine Matters**

**A. Signing of Departmental Bills**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**A. June 21, 2022**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of June 21, 2022. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**IV. Appointments**

**A Leo Monte, Hampton Inn, Water Issue**

Mr. Monte - I am the engineer at the Hampton Inn. We received a high water bill that was a lot higher than normal. The usage for what was billed was 262,800 cubic feet and we usually use half of that. The General Manager is asking for the sewer charges to be abated because the water softener system was clogged and this was allowing the water to run through the meter and down the drain.

Mr. Durant – Did the water go into the sewer?

Mr. Monte – Yes. They do not mind paying the bill for the water portion but they are looking for an abatement for the overage of the sewer. When we found out that we had high usage we called Culligan who deals with our water softener unit and they said that it was due to something getting stuck in the lines.

Mr. Durant - Do you have something from Culligan stating what they found?

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Mr. Hobson - We have strict rules for water leaks. I have seen water bills for houses that are high and we have not been able to help them. If the Water Superintendent speaks in your favor than we may be able to do something.

Mr. Wotton - The water went through the meter and then it kept leaking?

Mr. Monte – The water goes through a filtration system and the shut off was stuck open because there was debris stuck in the line.

Mr. Wotton - Where does the water go after it goes through the filtration system? Does it go into the sewer?

Mr. Monte- I believe so.

Mr. Wotton - The only way that we would be able to give an abatement on the sewer charges is if the water did not go into the sewer. Since it went into the sewer there is nothing that we can do.

Mr. J Furtado - The issue that I have with this is we noticed this when we read the meter in April. I went there at that time to let them know that their usage was a lot higher than normal. Mr. Monte and I walked around and we heard something running in the area of the water softener. On June 13, I went back to the property again with someone from Baystate Winsupply to look at the 3” meter that needs to be changed. That is when he noticed that there was a very large leak on the water softener system. He then shut the system off so the water did not leak anymore and notified them to contact the company to come and repair the issue. The whole issue could have been rectified sooner as we notified them when we saw the high usage in April.

Mr. Monte – The General Manager feels that something happened while the Town was flushing the water mains and that the leak was out of our control.

Mr. Wotton - Flushing the water mains would not bring debris into your line. I personally do not agree with any abatement. I feel we did you a favor by alerting you of the issue that you were having at the property and that your equipment failed which caused the water to leak by.

Mr. Hobson motioned to deny the sewer abatement request from the Hampton Inn. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous.

**B. Interview Highway Department – Laborer**

**1. Christopher Sobral**

Mr. Furtado – Mr. Sobral has worked for us the past four summers. He is a great person and a great employee. We have quite a few vacancies in the Highway Department, we have posted a few HMEO positions, and we have had no one apply for the position. Tonight I would like to recommend that the Board hire Mr. Sobral as a Laborer in the Highway Department.

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Ms. Smith - What makes it appealing to you to work here full time?

Mr. Sobral - I get along with all of the guys and I would like to better myself.

Mr. Hobson – I have spoken to Mr. Pinard and he says that you are one of the best workers that he has worked with during the summers. Also, I saw you in action a few weeks ago at Hoppy's Landing and you did a great job.

Mr. Hobson motioned to hire Mr. Sobral as a Laborer in the Highway Department pending pre-employment screenings at a Grade 4 Step 2. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous.

**C. New Water & Sewer Drainlayer – Roto-Rooter Service Company**

Mr. Barrows - I would like to get my water and sewer drainlayers license in Fairhaven. We do a lot of service calls in Fairhaven and because I am not an approved drainlayer I have to turn away a lot of work.

Mr. Durant motioned to approve Roto-Rooter Service Company as a Water & Sewer Drainlayer. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**V. Item for Action**

**A. Stantec Consulting Services, Town-Wide Sanitary Force Main Condition Assessment, Payment #14 \$11,991.89**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve payment # 14 to Stantec Consulting Services for Town-Wide Force Main Condition Assessment in the amount of \$11,991.89. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**B. Stantec Consulting Services, Town-Wide Sanitary Force Main Condition Assessment, Payment #15 \$7,777.99**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve payment # 15 to Stantec Consulting Services for Town-Wide Force Main Condition Assessment in the amount of \$7,777.99. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**C. Hart Engineering, West Island Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades, Payment #11 \$55,836.00**

Mr. Durant motioned to approve payment #11 to Hart Engineering for West Island Treatment Facility Upgrades in the amount of \$55,836.00. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**D. Highway Superintendent Interview Team**

Mr. Furtado - We received fifteen applications for the Highway Superintendent Position and we are looking to see if anyone is interested in being on the interview team with Mr. Wotton, Mr. Charbonneau and myself. We will narrow the search down to three candidates and present them to the Board.

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Mr. Durant nominated Mr. Hobson to be on the Highway Superintendent Interview Team. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

**VI. Tabled Matter**

**A. n/a**

**VII. Public Comments / Open Forum**

**VIII. Old Business / New Business**

**A. Superintendent**

Superintendent Report for July 11, 2022

- Highway Union negotiations continue - sewer and water to be scheduled
- Attend monthly BBAC meeting as Town Rep
- Pre-construction meeting for water, road and drainage work on Akin and Farmfield
- Town Counsel and Town Insurance Agent continue work with boat owner insurance company re: water main under causeway - work held off until then
- Meter tampering fine issued
- Non union evaluations for fiscal year
- DEP meeting re CWMP
- CDBG shortfall
- Amendment to AMI due to meter issue
- Attend State Run Risk Management seminar
- Staff works on numerous fiscal year end issues
- Test pit work for Sewer Force Mains
- SRTS required public hearing slated for September 15
- Meet with Civil Engineer re current and proposed projects including redo of skatepark from CPC and proposal for design/oversight of pickleball courts

Mr. Furtado answered any questions that the Board had regarding the Superintendent Report.

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Mr. Furtado- Our insurance company and Attorney Crotty are working with Progressive Insurance which is the boat owner's insurance company for the Causeway Road Bridge Repairs. We will not be moving forward with the repairs until this is resolved.

Mr. Hobson- What is going on with the meter tampering issue?

Mr. Furtado - With our new meter system we received an alert for a property that had no flow and backwards flow. We then sent a technician to the property to make sure there was not an issue with the new meter and they discovered that the meter was tampered with and the owner admitted to tampering with the meter.

Mr. Hobson - What was the fine?

Mr. Furtado - The Board set the fine at \$1,000 a while back.

Mr. Furtado - The pickleball committee has reached out to us and we will be helping them with the addition of pickleball courts at Livesey Park. Another thing is the Safe Routes to school will be having their first public hearing on September 15.

**B. Board Members**

Mr. Hobson - Is there any progress with relocating the recycling center to Bridge Street?

Mr. Furtado - There was a Phase 2 Environmental Assessment done. The town is still contemplating who can move there. As far as I know there is nothing stopping us from going there but there maybe some cleanup that needs to be done before we can relocate.

Mr. Hobson - If the police and fire want it can we still go there?

Mr. Furtado - Yes

Mr. Durant - Can we find out how much it is going to cost to relocate the recycling center? I think we need to know the breakdown for just the recycling center.

Mr. Hobson - I have been going down to the Town Beach every day and the employees that are working there this year are doing an excellent job. Also, there are some beautiful benches that were placed at Grimshaw Park.

Ms. Smith - I am really excited about working on the upgrades to the BMX Track at Macomber Field.

Mr. Furtado - I have forwarded the design to our Engineer so they can add the drainage.

Ms. Smith - After getting feedback it shows that the basketball courts are not being utilized.

**C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW related Matters**

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Mr. Hobson - I have no updates, as they will not be meeting until sometime in August.

**IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting**

Mr. Hobson motioned to set the date for the next meeting on July 25, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**X. Adjourn**

Mr. Hobson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rebecca L. Vento*

Rebecca Vento  
Office Manager

Minutes approved on July 25, 2022