



Town of Fairhaven

FAIRHAVEN TOWN OFFICE
 40 CENTRE STREET
 FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719
 TEL: 508-548-2100
 FAX: 508-548-2101
 WWW.FAIRHAVENMA.GOV

Town Hall- 40 Centre Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

Town of Fairhaven Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes, 6 April 2023

Members Present – Pat Elliott, Lisa Plante, Bob Grindrod, Linda Gallant, Terry Szala, Steve Levesque, Claire Millette, and Peter Gardner

Town of Fairhaven Staff Present – Anne Carreiro, Angie Lopes-Ellison, Vinny Furtado, and Josh Crabb

Meeting called to order at 6:33pm

Prior Meeting Minutes with approved by unanimous vote (8-0).

Motion to approve made by Bob Grindrod, seconded by Steve Levesque.

1. Discussion of General Fund Budget.
2. Discuss contingent versus non-contingent budget.
3. Discussion of setting of tax rate.
4. Discussion of DPW Budget
 - a. Asst Garage Superintendent position removed for FY24.
 - b. Removal of two tool carts from OPEX.
 - c. Discussion of reducing paving expense, article vs budget.
5. Discussion of Fire Dept budget.
 - a. Discussion on hiring of two additional fire fighters and override.
 - b. Town has side bar agreement to hire two additional fire fighters.
 - i. Effect of above on contingent versus not-contingent budget
 - c. Discussion of using free cash to avoid override for FY24.

Dept Name	Item	Decision	Motion	Second	Vote
Hwy Div	Salary & Wages	App	Claire	Steve	8- 0
Hwy Div	OPEX	App	Claire	Steve	8- 0
	Remove two tool carts, \$4,000				
Fire Dept	Salary & Wages	App	Claire	Steve	5- 3
	Funded by general fund, Bob, Terry, Linda against				
Fire Dept	OPEX	App	Claire	Steve	8- 0
	Remove ice sled, \$2,995				
Public Safety	Salary & Wages	App	Claire	Steve	6- 2
	Bob and Terry against				

Public Safety	OPEX	App	Claire	Steve	8- 0
School Dept	Budget	App	Bob	Terry	5- 3
Reduce by \$250K, Claire, Pat, Steve against					
Salary Reserve	Salary & Wages	App	Bob	Terry	5- 3
Reduce to \$800K, Claire, Lisa, Steve against					
Non-Dept	OPEX	App	Bob	Steve	8- 0
Debt Service	Budget	App	Peter	Claire	8- 0

6. Discussion on methods to generate new revenue.
 - a. Rogers School Development.
 - b. Increasing Recreation Center fees.
 - c. Overall increase in fees for permits, licenses etc....
7. Discussion of School Budget.
 - a. Lingering effects of turf field funding from free cash.
 - b. Work to develop policy to prevent this from happening again.
 - i. Work to rebuild faith in Town Administrator and School Superintendent.
8. Discussion of Finance Committee Minority Report.
9. Recess from 8:46 to 8:54.
10. Discussion of Salary Reserve.
 - a. Police and Fire contract settlements.
 - i. 2.5% salary increase for police & fire to exit Civil Service.
 - ii. Articles are legal mechanisms to exit Civil Service.
 - b. Non-Union Staff COLA and Wage Evaluation Study.
 - c. Reclassification of Clerical Staff and Wages.
 - d. Transition of Town Clerk from elected to appointed position.
 - i. Increase of Town Clerk salary increase.
 - e. Creating of Facilities Manager position.
 - f. Increasing Finance Director salary to improve recruitment efforts.
 - g. Increasing hourly wage for election workers.
11. Discussion of Enterprise Capital Articles.
 - a. Discussion of DPW HVAC Article.

Article	Name	Decision	Motion	Second	Vote
4	Bills of prior year	App	Claire	Steve	8- 0
7B	Water Ent Approp	App	Claire	Steve	8- 0
7C	Sewer Ent Approp	App	Claire	Steve	8- 0
7D	Town Cable Ent Approp	App	Claire	Steve	8- 0
7E	School Cable Ent Approp	App	Claire	Steve	8- 0
9A	Water Ent Fund Capital	App	Claire	Steve	8- 0
9B	Water Main Rplcmnt	App	Claire	Steve	8- 0

10A	Sewer Ent Fund Capital	App	Claire	Steve	8- 0
10B	Pump Station Imp	App	Claire	Steve	8- 0

12. Review of agenda for next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 by unanimous vote (8-0).

Motion to adjourn made by Claire Millette, seconded by Steve Levesque.

Submitted by Peter Gardner