

**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
May 22, 2023**

**Present**

Brian Wotton, Commissioner  
Robert Hobson, Commissioner  
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner  
Travis Rapoza, Commissioner  
Daniel Lopes, Commissioner  
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent  
Jeffrey Furtado, Water Superintendent  
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager  
Joshua Crabb, Highway Superintendent  
Nicholas Parker, Sewer Department  
Natalie Mello  
Joanne Weeks



**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

**II. Routine Matters**

**A. Signing of Departmental Bills**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**A. May 8, 2023**

Mr. Wotton – We are going to skip over approving the minutes until next meeting because Mr. Rapoza has some concerns with them.

**IV. Appointments**

**5:30 Highway Superintendent**

**A. Benoit Square Update**

Mr. Crabb - I met with the Town Administrator, two representatives from MassDot and Representative Straus to discuss the two short-term improvement concepts that MassDOT is presenting to the Town.

Mr. Crabb reviewed the two short-term improvements that MassDot prepared for the Town and the feedback that he received from the fire and police department regarding both concepts.

Mr. Crabb -Concept #2 seems to be the preferred concept by all departments that have reviewed them.

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Mr. Hobson – Are both Adam Street and Main Street going to be two-way operations.

Mr. Crabb – Yes. I think that either concept will help. In my professional opinion, I think that option two would be the best option. I do want to see the traffic analysis before I make a final recommendation.

Mr. Wotton – I would like to see option two with some additional green space made at Benoit Square. I also like the stop sign being added there. Have we received any feedback from the North Fairhaven Improvement Association?

Mr. Crabb – I do not know if they have seen the two concepts. I know that the North Fairhaven Improvement Association was working with Mr. Foley on this project before he left.

Mr. Wotton – I think that we should forward this packet to them for their review and comments.

Ms. Smith – Will we be doing the work?

Mr. Crabb – No, MassDot would be doing the work.

**B. Maintenance at Hoppy's Landing**

Mr. Crabb - There has been a bit of confusion with our staff with the areas we maintain at Hoppy's Landing so I met with Mr. Cox to confirm what needs to be maintained there by the Park Department.

Mr. Hobson - The whole area is public property. The back part will take your crew an additional 15 minutes to do. Why can't this be cut?

Mr. Rapoza entered the meeting at 5:51 p.m.

Mr. Crabb – After meeting with Mr. Cox he said those six spots in the back are leased and in the lease agreement it states that the person who leases the spot is to maintain the area.

**6:00 Interview / Hire for Assistant Sewer Superintendent**

Mr. Furtado – Mr. Parker is the current Foreman in the Sewer Department and he was one of the applicants for the Assistant Sewer Superintendent Position. The interview team believes that Mr. Parker is the best candidate for the position. The vacancy is for the Assistant Superintendent and it is a non-union position.

Mr. Hobson - I am happy to see the Town promote within. How long have you been with the Town?

Mr. Robillard – Mr. Parker has been the foreman for 3 years now. It is nice to see that he is interested in learning the treatment plant. He has a lot to learn but it's nice to be able to promote within the Department.

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Mr. Parker – I would like to start at a higher step than step 1. I am currently at a step 5.

Mr. Rapoza left the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Discussion ensued amongst all present.

Ms. Smith motioned to hire Mr. Parker as the Assistant Sewer Superintendent at a Grade 16 Step 1 and we can revisit this at his six-month review if requested. Mr. Lopez seconded. Vote unanimous.

**6:15 Buzzards Bay Coalition Red Brick Farms Conservation Restrictions**

Mr. Decker reviewed / explained the Overview with the Board for the Red Brick Farms Conservation Restriction.

Discussion ensued amongst all present.

Mr. Lopez motioned to approve the BPW to be a co-holder for the three Red Brick Farms Conservation Restrictions. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**V. Item for Action**

**A. Kristy Lavalette Vacation Carryover**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Ms. Lavalette to Carryover 4 Vacation Days. Mr. Hobson seconded Vote unanimous.

**B. Stantec Consulting Services Inc., Town Wide Sewer System Force Main Condition Assessment, Payment #22 \$9,336.59**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Stantec Consulting Services Inc., Town Wide Sewer System Force Main Condition Assessment Payment #22 in the amount of \$9,336.59. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

**C. Tata & Howard, Unidirectional Flushing Bidding Documents, Payment #2 \$725.00**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Tata & Howard Unidirectional Flushing Bidding Documents Payment #2 in the amount of \$725.00. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

**D. Award Annual Bids #24 – 74**

Ms. Smith motioned to Award Annual Bids #24-74 to the lowest bidders. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

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- E. Sign Contract Agreement, 2023 Sidewalk Restoration & Related Work, Century Paving \$70,500.00**

The Board skipped over this until the next meeting

- F. Sign Contract Agreement, Rochester Bituminous, 2023 Roadwork Rehabilitation & Related Work \$464,961**

The Board skipped over this until the next meeting

- G. GCG Associates, Akin, Farmfield & Harborview Construction Services, Amendment # 1 \$8,860.00**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve GCG Associates Amendment #1 for Akin, Farmfield & Harborview Construction Services in the amount of \$8,860.00. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

- H. Century Paving, Livesey Park Pickleball Court Project**  
**1. Sign Contract Agreement \$163,300.00**  
**2. Sign Notice to Proceed**

The Board skipped over this until the next meeting

- I. Firing of Cannons & Guns at Fort Phoenix**

Mr. Furtado - A resident reached out to us requesting that anyone firing cannons, guns, muskets, etc. submit a schedule to be posted to make people aware of the firings.

Ms. Mello – We have a son that served in Iraq and suffers from PTSD. We live on Fort Street and we cannot have him visit during the summer due to these loud unexpected noises. We are not looking to eliminate the firings but we are asking for these events to be scheduled and posted so people can plan accordingly.

Mr. Wotton - I think that this is a great idea. Do we have a recommendation how we could notify the public?

Ms. Mello - We did discuss this at a Historical Committee Meeting and we thought this would be done through the Office of Tourism. After reaching out to the Tourism Director we were informed that the BPW is the ones who approve these permits.

Mr. Lavalette - At these events the musket firings are scheduled randomly.

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Mr. Wotton - I think that if someone that suffers from a medical condition from loud noises are properly notified then they will be able to prepare for it a little better.

Ms. Weeks – I grew up near the Fort and I agree that these firings could be scheduled. I think people can come and enjoy the activities and if they are scheduled and there is a sign posted that, this would be beneficial.

Ms. Mello – Whoever the event holder is should be responsible for posting a schedule at the event and notifying the BPW.

Mr. Wotton - With our permit we need to request a schedule for firings.

Mr. Wotton motioned when someone submits a request to use town property they also need to submit a schedule for firing cannons & muskets and have the event holders post a sign at the entrance of Fort Phoenix. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**J. Sign Contract Agreement, GCG Associates, Bridge Street Project \$81,540.00**

Ms. Smith motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement with GCG Associates for Bridge Street Project in the amount of \$81,540.00. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

**K. Maintenance of Cooke Memorial Park**

Mr. Furtado –The Park Department only maintains the grass at Cooke Park. When it comes to the rain garden we were under the premise that the New Bedford Garden Club was going to maintain the gardens.

Discussion ensued amongst all present.

Mr. Lavalette – That was the agreement that was made but the New Bedford Garden Club is unable to maintain it now. Everything that was installed has been encased for the maintenance purposes. We created the gardens and we have volunteers to maintain them. All we are asking the BPW to do is to cut the lawn.

Mr. Wotton - If the gardens get out of control we will just cut them down and replant grass there.

Mr. Lavalette - We will take care of the gardens at Cooke Park.

Ms. Vilandry – You saw the pictures of Cooke Park that I sent? The retention basins were put there to help with retaining the water. The vegetation and overgrowth needs to be maintained. Also, at the last Historical Committee meeting they gave someone permission to plant at Cooke Park. It needs to be brought up that the BPW is the one with jurisdiction over Cooke Park.

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**VI. Tabled Matter**

A. n/a

**VII. Public Comments / Open Forum**

**Mr. Silva-** I would like to thank the BPW for all their help with the street lights down the center of Town.

**VIII. Old Business / New Business**

A. Superintendent

**Superintendent Report for May 22, 2023**

- Attend various meetings with TA
- Chair monthly MRV meeting
- Sewer Union - mediation
- Speak of Flushing effort on Fun 107
- Complete Streets bid opening
- Speak of same at Selectboard
- Seek legal opinion re meter issue
- Josh and Jeff meet with Eversource re breaking of our service lines
- Josh and I meet with Engineer re Bridge St improvements
- Jeff and I attend DWSRF meeting re emergency funding approval for water plant filter upgrade
- Meet with TA and Town Counsel re: engineering services contract for Sewer Plant Upgrade
- Brokerage agreement update with Town Counsel and E L Harvey

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- Receive DEP ok for Lead Service Inventory project - a portion which may be \$\$ given back to us
- Josh and I meet with School Supt re SRTS update
- Rene and I meet with engineers re bid update on Force Main project

Mr. Furtado answered any question the Board had regarding the Superintendent Report.

**B. Board Members**

Mr. Hobson - The fence around the track at Cushman Park needs some attention if we could check it out. At the end of Winsegansett Avenue the guardrails are rusty could we put a quick coat of paint on them?

Ms. Smith -At Cival War Park there is a bench on the south side that has been pushed over. I am just wondering if that needs to be there or could we move it closer to the water?

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

Mr. Hobson - We have not met since the last time we had a meeting.

**D. Community Preservation Committee – BPW Relate Matters**

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

Mr. Hobson motioned to set the date of the next meeting on June 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**X. Adjourn**

Mr. Hobson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rebecca L. Vento*

Rebecca Vento  
Office Manager

Minutes approved on June 5, 2023