

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
June 5, 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
Jeffrey Furtado, Water Department
Alessandro dossantos, Highway Department
Charles Hurley, Highway Department
Karen Vilandry, Hands Across the River Coalition
Tobie Simmons
John Cronan
Eric Britto, True Bounce



I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. May 8, 2023

Mr. Rapoza motioned the minutes of May 8, 2023. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. May 22, 2023

Mr. Rapoza motioned the minutes of May 22, 2023. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

IV. Appointments

6:00 – 6:20 Interview & Hire Working Foreman Highway Maintenance Man

Mr. Furtado - Mr. dossantos has been with the Town for 8 years. He works in the Highway Department and he has worked as a truck driver and an operator. We have a vacancy for the Foreman Position because Mr. Silva retired. We had two applicants and the other candidate withdrew his application. Mr.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
June 5, 2023**

Crabb and I both interviewed Mr. dossantos and we would like to recommend him to the Board to be hired for the Foreman Position.

Mr. Crabb- I have only worked with Mr. dossantos a short time but I think that he will be a great asset to the team.

Mr. Hobson motioned to hire Mr. dossantos as a Working Foreman Highway Maintenance Man at a Grade 9 Step 3. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**6:20 – 6:45 Karen Vilandry, Hands Across the River Coalition, Presentation of
Archeological Survey at Cooke Memorial Park**

Mr. Rapoza motioned to table the discussion and presentation of the Archeological Survey at Cooke Memorial Park until July 24, 2023. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

6:45-7:05 Tobie Simmons, Water Meter (Continuation from May 8, 2023 Meeting)

Mr. Wotton – We are going to take our 6:45 appointment at 6:15 since we are ahead of schedule if they are ready. This is a continuation from our meeting on May 8th. Just so you are aware you will be given 3 minutes to speak and then we will let the Board members have commentary on it.

Mr. Cronan requested permission to take an audio recording of the meeting.

Ms. Simmons- I really do not have anything to say. I really appreciate the time you spent with us last time and heard our concerns and you basically assured us that you would make sure we would be happy, and that you'd come up with some great way to accommodate us. We are just looking forward to hearing what that will be. I know it won't necessarily happen overnight, because we have to figure out how to handle it. But I'm willing to help facilitate that.

Mr. Rapoza – I just want to respond to what you just said. This Board never made a vote on any sort of issue. Even if we had said something, there was no vote that was taken. I read your very detailed email that you sent and I did not feel the way that you suggested that I felt. I didn't speak my concerns at that meeting, but I had suggested that we wait a month so that we can think about this and digest it. So I do take a little bit of issue with the characterization of how and what my opinions were on that day.

Ms. Simmons - I just want to clarify that I didn't mention your name at all in the email.

Mr. Rapoza - I also noticed that you mentioned that Brian had decided to make an accommodation. I respect Brian very much, but we are a 5 member board and his vote counts just as much as mine does. So if he made an assurance to you, that doesn't account for me or any other member on this board. I've struggled profoundly and to be honest it is not something I took lightly. I looked into lots of science about ionizing radiation or non ionizing radiation. I looked into the court case that you had made reference to and I try to put myself in your shoes. I personally believe that government can be a force of good for people and I think that this actually is the case with the meter system that the Town is

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
June 5, 2023**

installing. There are many benefits to the system. With the old system we physically have to go to each property, which there are thousands of houses in the town, and scan the outside reader to ascertain how much water they had used, and we have to do that twice a year. That is a lot of work and it is not particularly efficient for the town, because the workers could be doing other things. I know that you are concerned with the meter being installed on your property. I would like to propose that the new meter is moved off your property and into a meter pit on Town property.

Ms. Simmons – Oh no, I do not think that is acceptable.

Mr. Hobson - Do you have a cell phone, electric meter or gas meter?

Ms. Simmons – The gas meter that we have is on a wake-up system, when the car drives by it communicates with the device and then it shuts back off. We home school our children and we made all these accommodations to keep our family safe.

Ms. Smith – I appreciate the work that Mr. Rapoza put into this and I agree with the Town being able to take care of the Town's resources.

Mr. Hobson – Your neighbors all have the new meters.

Ms. Simmons – I am not concerned with my neighbors. I am concerned with my property.

Mr. Furtado - I asked both New Bedford and Mattapoisett if they made accommodations and neither of them made any accommodations for their residents. If they did not schedule to have their meters changed out they shut the water off.

Ms. Simmons - Why can't you get us an analog meter that we submit our reading to the office?

Mr. Lopes – I think either way this is going to set a precedence. I think that we have an option here and I know that you might not be happy with it but at least there can be some kind of accommodation. What I know about radio frequency and the topic is that inverse square law and the distance that you give between radiation decreases over time from the point of origin. I understand that you do not want it in your house and I appreciate that but at least with the accommodation that is on the table for your family it will be on the sidewalk in a pit.

Ms. Simmons – Without any warning someone could stand on the pit and be exposed to radiation. I do not accept the accommodation that the board is offering.

Mr. Wotton called for the end of discussion on this matter.

Mr. Wotton - I would like you to take into consideration the Town's option of putting a meter pit accommodation. The Town is willing to install the meter pit as far away from your home as possible.

Ms. Simmons – No thank you.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
June 5, 2023**

Mr. Rapoza motioned to offer two options to Ms. Simmons, the two options are either to change out the meter inside the property or to install a meter pit at the property owners' expense in the sidewalk area (town property) farthest away from their home as possible. Ms. Simmons is to inform the BPW of her decision by June 20, 2023. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mr. Wotton called a 5-minute recess at 6:59 p.m.

Mr. Wotton called the meeting back to order at 7:04p.m.

7:05-7:25 Eric Britto, TrueBounce 3 Man Basketball Courts at Cushman Park

Mr. Britto - I would like to propose to renovate the basketball courts at Cushman Park, this renovation would be at no charge to the Town, all I ask is that we could hold events there with the necessary permits from the Town. I would like to turn the current court into a 3 man court. A 3 man basketball game is fun for the kids. I noticed that the park is dormant and the court is beat up. We tried this in New Bedford but there was no interest. The hoops that are currently there are old and in need of replacement. All we would need to do is put in new hoops and reline the existing court because the black top is good and we would be able to use what is there.

Mr. Wotton - How many hoops are there now?

Mr. Britto – There are 2 there now.

Mr. Hobson- I understand what you are saying. I do not want to take a full court away without the residents knowing what we will be voting on.

Mr. Britto - What I was thinking is a lot of people do not play full court anymore. 3 man basketball is a different game and it is a lot of fun.

Mr. Wotton - What is the distance of a 3 man court?

Mr. Britto – 48' x 38' and a regular court is 84' x 50'. We could leave the full court and add the smaller court as well. The only thing that would be a challenge is you would not be able to use both courts at the same time. I have surveyed Cushman Park for a while and this park does not get a lot of use and I think that this would be a great addition to the Park.

Ms. Smith - Could we get a slide or two for the next meeting so we could show the residents what is being proposed so everyone has a chance to see it. Some residents may have input on this.

Mr. Wotton - I like the idea of Cushman Park as the action there is starting to pickup. I like the idea of keeping the existing court as well.

Discussion ensued amongst all present

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
June 5, 2023**

Mr. Wotton- I think that we just need to post this on another agenda to give the residents a chance to discuss this if anyone has any input.

Mr. Rapoza - I do want to make sure there is an interest in this before we approve anything.

Mr. Rapoza motioned to table the discussion of 3 man basketball courts at Cushman Park. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

V. Item for Action

A. Hire for Summer Help & West Island Town Beach

Mr. Furtado – Mr. Crabb, Ms. Vento and I interviewed a number of applicants. We put together a list of individuals that we recommend for hire.

Mr. Hobson motioned to hire the list of individuals in the packet for summer employment. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Tighe & Bond, Goulart Bridge Repairs, Payment #5 \$5,450.00

Mr. Furtado - This is for the engineering that is associated with going out to bid for this project. We received the bids and now we can finally move forward with making the repairs to the Goulart Memorial Bridge.

Mr. Rapoza motioned to approve payment # 5 to Tighe and Bond for the Goulart Bridge Repairs in the amount of \$5,450.00. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote 4-1 with Mr. Hobson opposed.

**C. Ti-Sales, Water Meters and Advanced Metering Infrastructure, Change Order #1
\$57,975.30**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve Ti- Sales Change Order #1 for Water Meters and Advanced Metering Infrastructure in the amount of \$57,975.30. Mr. Rapoza seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. Ti-Sales, Water Meters and Advanced Metering Infrastructure, Payment #9 \$55,076.54

Mr. Rapoza motioned to approve Ti- Sales Payment #9 in the amount of \$55,076.54 for Water Meters and Advanced Metering Infrastructure. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

E. Revisions to Metal Detector Permit Application

Mr. Rapoza motioned to remove the section from the application that states that the applicant must surrender all expired metal detector permits. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
June 5, 2023**

F. Tighe and Bond, Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements, Construction Phase Services \$5,478,362.00

Mr. Rapoza motioned to Sign the Engineering Agreement for Construction Phase Services with Tighe and Bond for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements in the amount of \$5,478,362.00. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

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

Mr. Hobson motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement with Century Paving in the amount of \$70,500.00 for 2023 Sidewalk Restoration & Related Work. Mr. Rapoza seconded. Vote unanimous.

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

Mr. Rapoza motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement with Rochester Bituminous in the amount of \$464,961.00 for 2023 Roadway Rehabilitation & Related Work. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

I. Century Paving, Livesey Park Pickleball Court Project

Mr. Furtado – We are going to skip over these two items as we are waiting for Town Counsel to Sign the Contract.

1. Sign Contract Agreement \$163,300.00

2. Sign Notice to Proceed

J. Sign Engineering Agreement, GCG Associates, Lewis Landing \$10,870.00

Ms. Smith motioned to Sign the Engineering Agreement with GCG Associates in the amount of \$10,870.00 for Lewis Landing. Mr. Rapoza seconded. Vote unanimous.

K. Northern Construction Services, LLC., Goulart Memorial Bridge Repairs

1. Sign Contract Agreement \$ 147,750.00

Mr. Rapoza motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement with Northern Construction Services, LLC. in the amount of \$147,500.00 for Goulart Memorial Bridge Repairs. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote 4-1 with Mr. Hobson opposed.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
June 5, 2023**

2. Sign Notice to Proceed

Mr. Rapoza motioned to Sign the Notice to Proceed with Northern Construction Services, LLC. for Goulart Memorial Bridge Repairs. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**L. Sign Contract Agreement, Tata & Howard Lead Service Line Agreement
\$100,000.00**

Mr. Hobson motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement with Tata & Howard in the amount of \$100,000.00 for Lead Service Line Agreement. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Tabled Matter

A. n/a

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for June 5, 2023

- Brokerage account with Town Counsel
- Jeff and I meet with engineer re scope for water tank maintenance
- Josh and I meet with BETA re pavement management
- Meet with BBAC re grant opportunities
- Meet with Mass Maritime Reps re FY 24 intern contract
- Meet with Tighe and Bond re construction services agreement update
- Jeff and I meet with engineer re water tower maintenance program
- Becky, Josh and I interview for summer help
- Attend Concom meeting - rear Arsene St approved
- Josh and I meet with Eversource re various issues and running overhead line
- Synagro issue - I will talk about this at meeting
- Becky posts encampment firing notice

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
June 5, 2023**

- Conduct interviews for next Town Planner
- Attend BBAC meeting as Town Rep
- Meet with Finance team re FY 24 borrowing projects
- Attend MVP meeting for grant opportunities

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

B. Board Members

Mr. Hobson - There is a new ice cream place on Ferry Street and the sidewalk is bumpy and looking lousy. Could we look into putting a cement sidewalk there? There are a lot of weeds on the Causeway and some of the bushes are overgrown and in the street. Union Wharf has weeds near the lobster boats that need to be cut back.

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

Mr. Hobson - They are going to be shutting down Union Wharf sometime in September and they might need some signs.

D. Community Preservation Committee – BPW Relate Matters

Mr. Rapoza – The CPC has not met.

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Wotton motioned to set the date for the next meeting on June 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Rapoza seconded. Vote unanimous.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Rapoza motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Office Manager

Minutes approved on July 10, 2023