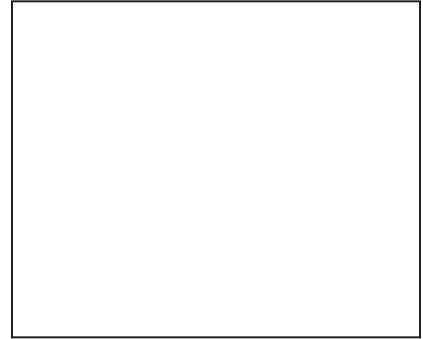


**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
September 25, 2023**



**Present**

Brian Wotton, Commissioner  
Robert Hobson, Commissioner  
Travis Rapoza, Commissioner  
Daniel Lopes, Commissioner  
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent  
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager  
Joshua Crabb, Highway Superintendent  
Nancy Bobola, 6 Terry Street  
Lindsey Bobola, 6 Terry Street

**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. September 11, 2023**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of September 11, 2023. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

**IV. Appointments**

**A. Nancy Bobola, 6 Terry Street, Broken Sewer Line**

Mr. Rapoza entered the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Ms. L Bobola – We are trying to get a resolution to get our sewer line fixed. It started back in the beginning of August and they did fix a small section of it but we are still having issues. Mr. Nunes who is our plumber came and put a cap in the basement so the sewer would not back up into our basement but it is still backing up onto the sidewalk. We then had Speedy Rooter come to the property and camera in front of the property from the cleanout. I put in a claim with Eversource and it was denied because they said they confirmed with the Town that the sewer was marked incorrectly and they told us that our lines are flat and that’s what the issue is.

Mr. Wotton - Apparently Eversource put a telephone pole through your sewer line and then the gas company compromised your service as well. Mr. Furtado will be meeting with Eversource on a Zoom call this Wednesday so hopefully there will be light at the end of the tunnel.

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Mr. Furtado - After speaking with Mr. Robillard it was my understanding that it was an internal issue. I understand that Eversource put a pole through her service and we replaced a section of her line to try and fix the issue. We have a responsive representative at Eversource so I reached out to him and let him know what happened and he got the claim approved internally. He then sent me a link to have Ms. Bobola submit a claim for the repairs and that claim was denied. Eversource denied the claim because they state that the Town marked the sewer service incorrectly for the Digsafe. To my understanding there were five Digsafes submitted for the gas company and the first one was marked incorrectly and then it was subsequently corrected. As for the electric marking they did not even refer to their property it was for 48 Spring Street.

Ms. L Bobola – Eversource said they did an internal investigation but could not give me any details on why the claim was denied.

Mr. Robillard - I went back and forth for a few weeks with the Bobola's because they were not getting any response from Eversource Gas or Electric. I went out to the property to investigate and see what I could do even though we do not take care of the sewer laterals anymore. After the investigation it sounded like the pipe was broken so I spoke with Mr. Furtado and that's when we decided to excavate and replaced a 13-foot section and installed a clean out. I went into the property and recommended that they put a cover in the basement to help with the backups and hopefully force everything out but then it started to come out of the cleanout, so we hand jetted to the main and cameraed the line to make sure that it was flowing freely. We have done everything in our power to try and resolve the issue.

Mr. Furtado - I will do my best with Eversource but if they refuse to make the repairs what is the will of the Board?

Mr. Wotton - How much more of the line needs to be replaced?

Mr. Robillard - About 10 feet.

Mr. Wotton - I am asking you to give us until we meet with Eversource and then we will be in contact and get things buttoned up.

**V. Item for Action**

**A. Rescind Memorandum of Understanding for Police Details from 8/28/2023**

Mr. Furtado – Mr. Crabb and Lt. Sobral worked together and generated an MOU for Police Details which was approved by the Police Chief, The Police Union and the Board of Public Works. Tonight, we need to rescind the MOU and bring it back up when we negotiate Union Contracts.

Mr. Lopes motioned to rescind the Memorandum of Understanding for Police Details from 8/28/2023. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes & Mr. Rapoza in favor.

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**B. Sign Contract Agreement, MXI Environmental, Household Hazardous Waste Day**

Mr. Hobson motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement with MXI Environmental for Household Hazardous Waste Day. Mr. Lopes seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes & Mr. Rapoza in favor.

**C. Sign Contract Agreement, Kimley-Horn, Phase 1 Bridge Street Improvement Project  
\$96,330.00**

Mr. Furtado- We are going to skip over this tonight.

**D. Stantec Consulting Services Inc., Town Wide Sewer System Force Main Condition  
Assessment, Payment #25 \$3,804.40**

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve Stantec Consulting Services Inc., Payment #25 in the amount of \$3,804.40 for Town Wide Sewer System Force Main Condition Assessment. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes & Mr. Rapoza in favor.

**E. Tighe & Bond, WPCF Upgrade Project, Construction Services, Payment #3 \$13,500.00**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve Tighe & Bond, Payment #3 in the amount of \$13,500.00 for WPCF Upgrade Project, Construction Services. Mr. Lopes seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes & Mr. Rapoza in favor.

**F. Garage Superintendent Interview Team**

Mr. Furtado – We are going to move forward with hiring the Garage Superintendent to replace Mr. McCarron who retired a few months back. We will be conducting interviews for this position starting tomorrow morning. The interview team consists of myself, Mr. Durant, Mr. Crabb and Ms. Vento. I am not sure if one of the Board members would like to sit in on the team with us as well.

Mr. Lopes nominated Mr. Wotton to the Garage Superintendent Interview Team. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes & Mr. Rapoza in favor.

**VI. Tabled Matter**

**A. Deposit for Events**

**VII. Public Comments / Open Forum**

**VIII. Old Business / New Business**

**A. Superintendent**

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**Superintendent Report for September 25, 2023**

- Multiple MRV meetings - usual plus borrowing issues for water plant upgrade
- Police Chief and I meet with TA re MOU
- Support letters for Fairhaven Tennis completed
- Prep for Fincom - Articles for Town Meeting - including rough rate structure
- Newsletter to go out with Fall billing
- SEMASS 8<sup>th</sup> amendment completed - awaiting their signature
- Annual Auction Completed
- Flushing memo completed and posted
- Rene and I meet principals of Methuen (Wastewater Upgrade) contractor
- 6 Terry St - broken sewer - numerous back and forth
- Eversource - re 6 Terry St sewer
- Sewer force main break and emergency procurement on Baxter Ave
- Garage Supt application review
- Cintas - uniform contract
- Appraiser beginning work for Safe Routes Project
- Meet with Buzzards Bay Coalition
- Attend BBAC Meeting as Town's rep

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

**B. Board Members**

Mr. Wotton – Now that the flushing is complete, I just want to thank everyone in Town. I know that it was an inconvenience for everyone but the Town is in better condition since we removed the sediment from the pipes.

Mr. Hobson – At the Town Beach the parking lot is back can we fix it up a little? Could you get a bigger dumpster for metal at the recycle center?

Mr. Raposa – I would like to revisit our decision on the water meter reading fee at the next meeting.

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

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

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

Mr. Hobson motioned to set the date for the next meeting on October 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Lopes seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes & Mr. Rapoza in favor.

**X. Adjourn**

Mr. Lopes motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Mr. Lopes & Mr. Rapoza in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rebecca L. Vento*

Rebecca Vento  
Office Manager

Minutes approved on October 16, 2023