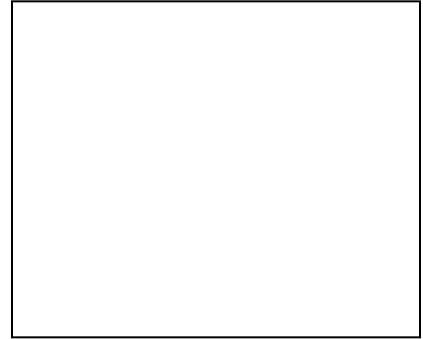


**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
October 16, 2023**

Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner
Daniel Lopes, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager
Joshua Crabb, Highway Superintendent
Jeffrey Furtado, Water Superintendent
Ken Pottel, Fairhaven Pickleball Association
Dan Ferreira, Fairhaven Pickleball Association



Mr. Rapoza absent.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Wotton reconvened in open session at 7:02 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. September 25, 2023

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of September 16, 2023. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote 3-1 with Ms. Smith abstained.

IV. Executive Session

- A. To consider or interview applicants for employment or appointment by a preliminary screening committee if the chair declares that an open meeting will have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants; provided, however, that this clause shall not apply to any meeting, including meetings of a preliminary screening committee, to consider and interview applicants who have passed a prior preliminary screening (Garage Superintendent Interview, Heavy Motor Equipment Operator Interview & Sewer System Maintenance Man / Craftsman)**
- B. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Rubbish & Recycle Contract)**

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- C. To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual (Highway Employees)**

V. Appointments

A. Ken Pottel, Container at Livesey Park

Mr. Pottel – We are looking to put an 8 by 20 foot container at Livesey Park to store our supplies in. We would paint the container to match the current colors of the present buildings.

Mr. Hobson - Are you looking to put a storage container or a tool shed?

Mr. Pottel – It would be the same container as we have at Cushman.

Mr. Hobson - I would rather see you install a permanent shed rather than a container.

Mr. Pottel - We need something larger than a shed.

Ms. Smith – I am starting to get concerned with all the containers that we have at Livesey Park.

Mr. Ferreira - We have contacted Fairhaven High School's Art Department to see if we could do a contest. The winner would design a mural to be painted on the container and they would receive a scholarship as well.

Mr. Wotton - There is currently a lot of graffiti happening at Livesey Park and the football association has had to paint the bathrooms at least three times since August.

Mr. Ferreira - I think that we have a history of being good citizens. In the spring we cleaned up all the leaves in the tennis courts. We have no problem getting volunteers.

Mr. Wotton - The only concern I have is that this location is going to be a high visible area and I feel like there will be a lot of maintenance to the container. We have already taken away quite a bit of area to make the new pickleball courts. I just want to make sure that we keep it as close to the pickleball courts as possible so we do not take any more green space from the park.

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve the request from the Fairhaven Pickleball Association to place an 8 foot by 20 foot storage container at Livesey Park near the Pickleball Courts (location must be approved by the Highway Superintendent). Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Item for Action

A. Hire Garage Supervisor

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Ms. Smith motioned to hire Mr. Franklin as the Garage Supervisor at a Grade 16 Step 2 pending preemployment screenings. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Hire Highway Department Heavy Motor Equipment Operator

Ms. Smith motioned to hire Mr. Fernandes at a Grade 5 Step 2 pending preemployment screenings. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

C. Hire Sewer System Maintenance Man / Sewer System Maintenance Craftsman)

Mr. Wotton we are going to skip over this tonight.

D. Century Paving, Livesey Park Pickleball Courts, Payment # 1 \$128,297.50

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Century Paving Payment #1 in the amount of \$128,297.50 for Livesey Park Pickleball Courts. Mr. Lopes. Vote unanimous.

E. Cooke Memorial Park Historical Sign

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the verbiage and location for Cooke Memorial Park Historical Sign that was agreed upon at the Historical Committee Meeting. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

F. Water Meter Fee

Mr. Furtado – Mr. Rapoza requested for this to be put on the agenda at the last meeting but he was unable to make it tonight. Mr. J. Furtado saw this on the agenda tonight so he wanted to come in and speak to the Board as well. We will discuss it but we will not vote on anything tonight. I think that we should rethink the policy. Back in September of 2021, when we were embarking on this meter changing adventure the Board voted to shut off the water to properties that did not have the courtesy to contact us and make an appointment after the three letters. The people who have not made appointments have been notified numerous times by either phone calls, letters or tags left at the property. We really need this to come to an end and personally I do not want to shut anyone's water off but professionally I think eventually that is what needs to be done.

Mr. Hobson – Can you explain how other towns handle this?

Mr. Furtado - There is no Bristol County Water Association but there is a Plymouth County Water Association, which is comprised of members from Bristol and Plymouth County communities. Fairhaven is the only municipality that does not shut off water. My thoughts are eventually we shut off the water to anyone that has not had their meter changed out. Once they make an appointment we will change the meter and turn the water back on at the same time. As long as they keep the appointment we will

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waive any fees that are normally charged. We do not want to hurt anyone but how long are we going to let this keep going on?

Mr. Hobson – How many people have not changed out their meters?

Mr. J Furtado – There are approximately 150 meters left. Out of the 150 there are approximately 30 that have never made an attempt to have their meter changed out.

Ms. Smith – Does that 150 meters include commercial properties?

Mr. Furtado – No, the commercial properties we can pretty much get into at any time. Also, some of the commercial properties that still need meters have plumbing issues that have not been rectified.

Mr. Furtado – Just so the Board is clear there are 30 properties that have not made 1 attempt in the last two years. There are also about 100 meters that have internal plumbing issues that do not allow us access to the meter.

Mr. J Furtado - There are 50 properties that need to make access to the meter. The meter is either behind a wall, a cabinet or in a crawl space that needs better access to get somebody in there to replace it. We are working with some of the residents that have these issues but there are some that are refusing to give us access.

Mr. Wotton - We are not trying to shut the water off on residents that have open communication with us.

Mr. Furtado – We have people that need to either give us access to the meter or have plumbing issues corrected that are making appointments and then cancelling them and just kicking the can down the road.

Mr. Lopes - If we shut the water off the response will be fairly quickly to get their water back on?

Mr. J Furtado – Yes

Ms. Smith – How quick are we talking?

Mr. J Furtado – If we shut the water off it will be an inconvenience to them for a few hours until we can get a crew there to change their meter and turn the water back on.

Mr. Wotton - We will put this on the next agenda. I think we need to be harsh and get the rest of these meters changed out.

Mr. J Furtado - When we first started this we did shut water off and we did get a good response. We are making it convenient for residents to have their meters changed out.

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Ms. Smith – Is the reason that we cannot get access to the app to monitor our usage because we still have meters that need to be changed?

Mr. J Furtado - Yes, we need everyone (residentially) to have their meters changed out. We are hoping by the spring to have this system up and running.

Mr. Wotton motioned to table the discussion of Water Meter Fee to the next meet. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

G. Tata & Howard, Lead Service Line Inventory, Payment #4 \$12,095.05

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve Tata & Howard Lead Service Line Inventory Payment #4 in the amount of \$12,095.05. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

H. Recycle Center Update

Mr. Crabb gave an update on the Recycle Center to the Board and answered any question that they had regarding the update.

I. Atlas Tack Sign

Mr. Crabb – MassDEP reached out and they are looking to put up a sign up at Atlas Tack along the bike path.

Ms. Smith- I think it would be nice if we could approve the wording on the sign.

Mr. Wotton - I think that we need a little more information before we approve anything as this is vague.

Mr. Crabb - We will provide updates accordingly.

J. CN Corp., Farmfield St., Harborview Ave. and Akin St. Roadway Improvement Project

1. Change Order #1 \$7,930.72

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve CN Corp Change Order #1 in the amount of \$7,930.72 for Farmfield St., Harborview Ave. and Akin St. Roadway Improvement Project. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

2. Payment # 5 \$44,192.08

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve CN Corp Payment #5 in the amount of \$44,192.08 for Farmfield St., Harborview Ave. and Akin St. Roadway Improvement Project. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

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K. Tighe & Bond, WPCF Upgrade Project Design Phase, Amendment #2 \$14,000.00

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve Tighe and Bond, Amendment #2 in the amount of \$14,000.00 for WPCF Upgrade Project Design Phase. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

L. Complete Street Project 1, 2 and 17

Mr. Furtado with the Boards permission I would like to discuss this tonight because we have to have the work completed by the end of December. It was not on the agenda because we received it today.

Mr. Wotton motioned for the Board to entertain the Award of Complete Streets Project 1, 2 and 17 to the lowest bidder. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mr. Furtado - The BPW was tasked with overseeing the Complete Street projects after the previous Town planner left. This has been a long time coming and the money needs to be expended by December 31, 2023.

Ms. Smith motioned to Award the Complete Streets Projects 1,2 and 17 Bid to Dagle Electrics. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Tabled Matter

A. Deposit for Events

Mr. Lopes motioned to bring the deposit for events back to the table. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mr. Furtado – In your packet Mr. Crabb provided a list of items with the price it costs us to replace them. These are the most requested items for events. We are looking for people to pay a deposit for the items that they are borrowing and when the items are returned they would receive their check back.

Mr. Wotton – I think that you should bundle the items.

Mr. Hobson motioned to table the Deposit for Events discussion until a future meeting. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for October 16, 2023

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- Conduct numerous employee interviews with applicable staff - Truck Driver - Garage Supervisor - Sewer System Maintenance Person
- Attend joint meetings of Finance Committee and Selectboard - re Town Meeting preparation/explanation of Articles
- Complete/submit CPC applications
- Josh and I meet with sidewalk contractor
- Josh and I attend NFIA meeting
- Meet with Eversource re: Terry St - matter is resolved - good work by sewer department
- Josh and I meet with Landfill Engineer re drainage
- Meet with Tighe and Bond re loan issues
- Josh and I meet with Tree Warden - re various issues
- Work on CWMP/loan package to State
- Jeff and I meet with Water Engineer - re flushing recap
- Meet with various union reps re union issues
- Meet with TA
- Staff meets with Southcoast Recycling Coordinator re next contract
- Chair monthly MRV
- Attend cyber security training
- Work with bond counsel re MRV borrowing

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

B. Board Members

Mr. Hobson - I would like to see the potholes at Union wharf fixed.

Mr. Crabb - If we are going to fix the potholes there then we will need to shut down the parking lot.

Ms. Smith - Do we have any shells for the garden at Cooke Park?

Mr. Furtado - I touched base with Mr. Cox and if they have any left over from Hoppy's Landing we can put them there.

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Mr. Wotton – At Macomber Park there is a picnic table that has some metal exposed if you could check it out.

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

Mr. Hobson - The Marine Resources Committee met and they would like you to spread some shell at the Hoppy's Landing in the apron area since there are a lot of boats being hauled out of there.

Mr. Crabb – I will get in touch with Mr. Cox.

D. Community Preservation Committee – BPW Relate Matters

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

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

X. Adjourn

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn at 6:03 p.m. and enter into executive session and to reconvene in open session. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith & Mr. Lopes in favor.

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.
Vote unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Office Manager

Minutes approved on October 30, 2023