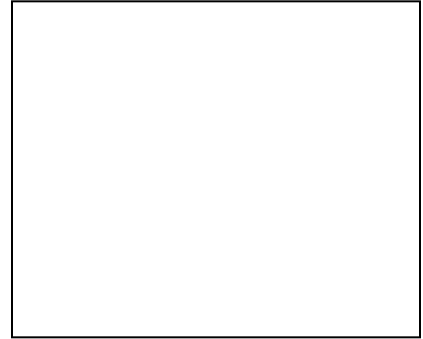


**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
November 27, 2023**



Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner
Daniel Lopes, Commissioner
Travis Rapoza, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager
Joshua Crabb, Highway Superintendent

I. Call to Order

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

Mr. Wotton reconvened in open session at 6:53 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. n/a

IV. Executive Session

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)

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 Employee)

V. Appointments

A. N/A

VI. Item for Action

A. Tata & Howard, Lead Service Line Inventory Payment #5 \$1,490.56

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Mr. Hobson motioned to approve Tata and Howard, Lead Service Line Inventory Payment #5 in the amount of \$1,490.56. Ms. Smith seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Mr. Lopes and Mr. Rapoza in favor.

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

1. Payment # 6 (final payment) \$11,409.52

Ms. Smith motioned to approve CN Corp., Farmfield St., Harborview Ave. and Akin St. Roadway Improvement Project Payment # 6 (final payment) in the amount of \$11,409.52. Mr. Lopes seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Mr. Lopes and Mr. Rapoza in favor.

2. Sign Certificate of Final Completion

Mr. Lopes motioned to Sign Certification of Final Completion, CN Corp., Farmfield St., Harborview Ave. and Akin St. Roadway Improvement Project. Ms. Smith seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Mr. Lopes and Mr. Rapoza in favor.

C. Appoint BPW Representative to the Community Preservation Committee

Mr. Hobson motioned to appoint Ms. Smith to the Community Preservation Committee. Mr. Rapoza seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Mr. Lopes and Mr. Rapoza in favor.

VII. Table Matters

A. Deposit for Events

Mr. Hobson motioned to bring Deposit for Events back to the table for discussion Ms. Smith seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Mr. Lopes and Mr. Rapoza in favor.

Mr. Crabb- Presented the bundle packages to the Board and answered any questions that the Board had.

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the Deposit of Events as presented by Mr. Crabb. Mr. Lopes seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Mr. Lopes and Mr. Rapoza in favor.

B. Water Meter Fees

Mr. Rapoza motioned to bring the water meter fees back to the table for discussion. Ms. Smith seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Mr. Lopes and Mr. Rapoza in favor.

Mr. Rapoza – I think around a month ago we had made a decision to create some sort of structure, to give people some sort of payment incentive, if you will, to make sure that they installed the water

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meters that we're looking to have installed. I thought we probably were incorrect with that motion. I immediately thought that we had probably overstepped a little bit. I think that the previous motion is too powerful, and probably it's not commensurate with what we're looking to happen. So, the question is, how do we get compliance, or like make sure, at least the town is not any worse off. I feel that there are a few things that we can do which might require some work, unfortunately, the first of which would be to actually solicit the people that we don't have compliance from, and actually figure out what is preventing them from changing their meter and trying to work with them. The other part of it if they still aren't compliant maybe access them a fair fee of what it takes for someone to go out to the property to read their meter but no more than that. I would like to recommend to the Board at a minimum that we rescind the previous vote for the \$100 per month fee.

Mr. Hobson – Every other Town in the area has a policy and if you do not abide by their rules they turn the water off. There are between 50 and 75 residents that still need to comply. I really do not want to have to shut anyone's water off but we need to get these meters changed.

Mr. V Furtado - I think I am a pretty morally sound guy. We started this adventure in September 2021 and I do not want to shut anyone's water off but I know if I came home and didn't have water I would call the Water Department, they would come and switch out the meter and then turn my water back on once the meter was changed. I agree with Travis about charging people money but I think we need to force people's hand to get their meters changed. I think 2 ½ years is enough time to have scheduled an appointment to have their meters changed out.

Ms. Smith – Did we charge the \$100 fee in November?

Mr. J Furtado- No, we have not sent any fees out because it would be a headache for the Town Hall and it would cost us a lot more to create that fee to be billed and for Town Hall to collect. We have come up with a program that we will shut a certain amount of properties off per day so we know we can get the water turned back on the same day. Once we have all the meters changed then we can move forward with getting the app for residents to monitor their own usage.

Mr. Rapoza- Can you tell me what efforts you made to reach out to the 50 people that we can't get in touch with?

Mr. J Furtado – The three initial letters were sent to them, there has been 3 rounds of pink tags left at each property, we have also gone to each property and knock on the doors, and we have made 3 or more telephone calls to each property.

Mr. V Furtado - I would say over 10 attempts per property.

Mr. Wotton – I do not think that any of us want to shut anyone's water off but at this point this has gone far enough. There are about 50 people that are ignoring us and have not contacted us at all. I think that we should send certified letters with a shut off date in those letters to 5 residents at a time and if they do not respond back to us by the date in the letter than we shut off the water to their property.

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Mr. Rapoza motioned to rescind the vote from September 11, 2023 for meter reading fee. Ms. Smith seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Ms. Smith, Mr. Lopes and Mr. Rapoza in favor. Mr. Hobson opposed.

Mr. Wotton motioned to send certified shut off letters to the residents who have failed contacted the water department, in the letter will be a date to have the water meter changed by or the water will be shut off at the property. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith and Mr. Lopes in favor. Mr. Rapoza opposed.

VIII. Public Comments / Open Forum

IX. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for November 27, 2023

- Attend Town Meeting
- Coordination of various logistics with State and Contractor after Town Meeting approval
- Chair monthly MRV Meeting
- Chair monthly BBAC Meeting
- Attend CPC Meeting with Josh to present our requests
- Attend rate study meeting
- Attend department head meeting
- Coordinate Capital Planning Committee Meeting (I serve as chair)

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

B. Board Members

Mr. Hobson – There are hole on Fir Street that needs to be filled.

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

Mr. Hobson – The Marine Resources Committee has not met since our last meeting. Also, I just wanted to mention that the project at Union Wharf has started and Union Wharf will be closed for two three months.

D. Community Preservation Committee – BPW Relate Matters

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X. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Hobson motioned to set the date of the next meeting on December 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

XI. Adjourn

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

Mr. Rapoza motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. Rollcall vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Mr. Lopes and Mr. Rapoza in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Office Manager

Minutes approved on December 11, 2023