



**Fairhaven Select Board & Finance Committee  
Joint Meeting Minutes  
February 28, 2024**

**Select Board Members Present:** Chair Leon Correy, Vice-Chair Charles Murphy Sr., Clerk Stasia Powers, Select Board member Keith Silvia, Select Board member Robert Espindola, Town Administrator Angie Lopes Ellison, Assistant Town Administrator of Finance Anne Carreiro.

**Finance Committee Members Present:** Chair Padraic Elliott, Vice-Chair Claire Millette, Robert Grindrod, Peter Gardner, James Souza, Stephen Levesque, Linda Gallant and David Patterson

**Present via zoom:** Finance Committee members Chris Fidalgo and Patricia Pacella.

**Mr. Correy called to order the Select Board meeting at 6:31 p.m.**

**Mr. Elliott called to order the Finance Committee meeting at 6:31 p.m.**

**Select Board Motion:** Mr. Espindola motioned to take item C, Reserve Fund Transfer out of order. Ms. Powers seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**Finance Committee Motion:** Ms. Millette motioned to take item C, Reserve Fund Transfer out of order. Mr. Levesque seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Elliott in favor, Mr. Grindrod in favor, Ms. Gallant in favor, Mr. Patterson in favor, Ms. Millette in favor, Mr. Gardner in favor, Mr. Levesque in favor, Mr. Souza in favor, Ms. Pacella in favor and Mr. Fidalgo in favor. The motion passed unanimously (10-0-0).

**RESERVE FUND TRANSFER**

Ms. Ellison reviewed the emergency request for \$12,986.58 for floor replacement and French drain installation at the Fire Department. She answered questions about the account balances and future expenses. Facilities Manager Kevin Fournier addressed questions about the cause and said no asbestos was found.

**Finance Committee Motion:** Ms. Millette motioned to transfer \$12,986.58 from the Reserve Fund to the Fire Department Repair and Maintenance Account. Mr. Grindrod seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Elliott in favor, Mr. Grindrod in favor, Ms. Gallant in favor, Mr. Patterson in favor, Ms. Millette in favor, Mr. Gardner in favor, Mr. Levesque in favor, Mr. Souza in favor, Ms. Pacella in favor and Mr. Fidalgo in favor. The motion passed unanimously (10-0-0).

**BUDGET REVIEW**

Ms. Ellison provided an update on the FY25 Budget draft two and the requests from the prior meeting that are included in the packet. Ms. Carreiro said she can add comments to list the different reduction amounts per category.

Discussion ensued regarding format of the information from last year to this year, debt schedule and what the projections are based on.

**FY2025 BUDGET – PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS**

Water Superintendent Jeff Furtado, Assistant Water Superintendent Nick Parker and Public Works Superintendent Vinnie Furtado reviewed the Water Department budget line items and answered questions about budget line item changes, Water Enterprise Fund turnback process, rate concerns, tiered rate process, water meter replacement program, billing process, plot planner printer use and need, Capital requests for Water Tower Maintenance Program and an Equipment Trailer.

Superintendent Furtado reviewed the sewer treatment plant borrowing, status on loan forgiveness, ongoing attempt to secure zero percent interest, Sewer budget line items, Sewer Capital project requests for a pump station

and inflow and infiltration.

Highway Superintendent Joshua Crabb reviewed the Highway and Park Department budget line items and answered questions about overtime, gas and diesel spending, shared equipment across public works departments, process for ordering gas and diesel and clarification on how other Town departments “pay” public works for the gas/diesel, contracted services and software, shifts in projects and staffing to assist with budget deficit, Capital Project for roadwork, process improvement initiatives through equipment or work process, resurface, hard surface and roadwork definitions, recycling plant equipment, creative collaboration to potentially rent equipment to other towns, Capital requests for equipment and lifespan of equipment.

The Park Department Capital request for a tractor replacement was reviewed and questions as to use, need and trade in options were asked.

Mr. Crabb will have the overtime amount reviewed. Ms. Ellison will ask the Town Clerk if a fee can be implemented with dog licenses to offset the cost of mutt mitts. Superintendent Furtado will verify the number of weeks for lifeguards.

Superintendent Furtado reviewed Sanitation, Department 423, these are contractual obligations and he reviewed the history of trash collection, use of Southeastern Massachusetts (SEMASS) Resource Recovery Facility, changes to tonnage, potential penalties for not meeting the agreements on tonnage. He addressed questions about trash fees. The Public Works Administration Department was reviewed, salary and wages with one Capital request for floors.

The Select Board and Finance Committee asked for the following:

- Public Works Capital Projects in a list
- Highway Department overtime to be confirmed
- Make the line item for the bike path in bold
- Contact the Town Clerk about a potential fee added to dog licenses
- Confirm number of weeks for lifeguards
- Confirm Capital summary sheet
- Create an index of departments
- Draft warrant booklet
- Consider two-sided printing

The next joint meeting will be **Wednesday, March 13, 2024** at Town Hall.

**Finance Committee adjourned at 9:54pm**

**The Select Board adjourned at 9:54pm**

*Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Select Board Clerk (ah)*

**Approved on March 13, 2024**