



**Fairhaven Select Board & Finance Committee  
Joint Meeting Minutes  
March 13, 2024**

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK  
RCUD 2024 MAR 25 AM9:33

**Select Board Members Present:** Chair Leon Correy, Vice-Chair Charles Murphy Sr., member Keith Silvia, 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, Pattie Pacella, Chris Fidalgo, Linda Gallant and David Patterson

**Not Present:** Select Board Clerk Stasia Powers, Finance Committee Stephen Levesque

**Mr. Correy called to order the Select Board meeting at 6:32 p.m.**

**Mr. Elliott called to order the Finance Committee meeting at 6:32 p.m.**

A moment of silence was observed for Jeff Szyal

**MINUTES**

**Select Board Motion:** Mr. Espindola motioned to accept the February 28, 2024 joint Select Board and Finance Committee minutes. Mr. Silvia seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

**Finance Committee Motion:** Ms. Millette motioned to accept the February 28, 2024 joint Select Board and Finance Committee minutes. Mr. Fidalgo seconded. The motion passed unanimously (9-0-0).

**Finance Committee Motion:** Ms. Millette motioned to accept the March 6, 2024 Finance Committee minutes. Mr. Souza seconded. The motion passed unanimously (9-0-0).

**BUDGET REVIEW**

Ms. Ellison and Ms. Carreiro reviewed the packet materials for the meeting. Ms. Carreiro will be preparing the FY25 budget document with comments indicating cuts, tonight's copy is draft #3. Department Heads met March 12<sup>th</sup> and made additional cuts to be reflected in draft #4.

Brief discussion on the trash fee, when the school budget document will be available, other department fees and potential impact to local receipts total, examples of what is considered "non-departmental," Special Revenue Fund is referred to as SRF and it is monies set aside for future use.

Other discussion ensued regarding gift account use and recent social media posts that inaccurately describe the use of gift accounts. Ms. Carreiro explained the process and that gift accounts have historically been used within the department they are from going back to Executive Secretary Osuch. Gift account funds do not go to the general fund, for example, the Animal Shelter gift account funds stay within the Animal Control department for expenses of that department only.

Overlay and the process to hold money for Appellate Tax Board (ATB) cases that if won would be paid from the overlay account.

Ms. Ellison reviewed the list of warrant article requests and the highlighted colors (yellow for bylaws, blue for citizens petitions).

**FY2025 BUDGET – PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Planning and Economic Development Director Paul DiGiuseppe reviewed the Planning Department budget line

items, Community Preservation Committee (CPC) project appropriate list and answered questions about reductions, contracted services, proposed articles, grant fund writer purpose, categories of CPC appropriations.

Mr. DiGiuseppe explained the need for zoning bylaw updates to align with the Master Plan that was approved at a prior Town Meeting.

**FY2025 BUDGET – MARINE RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Harbormaster Tim Cox reviewed the Marine Resources Department budget line items and answered questions about shellfish propagation, recent shellfishing shutdowns, analysis of fees, upcoming Marine Resources Committee meeting, partnership with New Bedford escorting the wind turbines out of the harbor and the revenue generated for the Town. Mr. Cox was asked about New Bedford/Fairhaven bridge meetings, he advised that individual Town departments have not been met with but that he has attended some of the public meetings held to date.

**FY2025 BUDGET – POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Michael Myers and Captain Daniel Dorgan reviewed the Police Department and Animal Control budget line items, Capital requests and answered questions. Chief Myers was congratulated on his upcoming retirement and thanked for his years of service.

Budget questions included overtime calculation, personnel count and number of positions, process of the future regional dispatch agreement with Holbrook, gas, hybrid vehicles, number of boats and surplus process of vehicles including boats.

Animal Control has put forth a bylaw article to align the current bylaw with Massachusetts General Law.

The Select Board and Finance Committee asked for the following:

- Presentations to support articles and help explain requests
- General fund summary
- Warrant articles in draft warrant book
- What the FY24 Net School Spending % was
- An explanation of Net School Spending and how it is calculated

The next joint meeting will be **Wednesday, March 20, 2024** at Town Hall.

**Finance Committee adjourned at 9:03pm**

**The Select Board adjourned at 9:03pm**

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

**Approved on March 20, 2024**