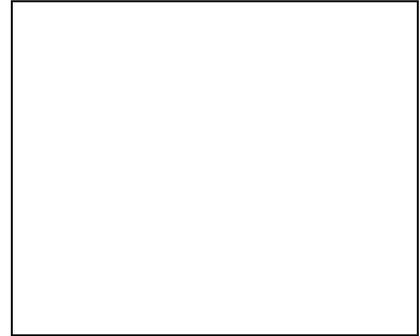


**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
March 18, 2024**



**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  
Anthony Veilleux – Eversource Gas  
John Babyajr – Eversource Gas  
Eugene Ridge – Eversource Gas

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

**II. Routine Matters**

**A. Signing of Departmental Bills**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**A. February 26, 2024**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of February 26, 2024. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous

**B. March 4, 2024**

Ms. Smith – I just have a question about the minutes. We talked about revisiting the trash program in one year, did we specify that we would revisit it in March?

Mr. Wotton – Yes, one year from the date of the last meeting, so we will schedule at the meeting closest to that date.

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the minutes of March 4, 2024 as amended . Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

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**C. March 4, 2024 – Executive Session A**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the minutes of March 4, 2024 – Executive Session A. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**IV. Appointments**

**A. Eversource Gas, Planned Roadwork 2024**

Mr. Furtado -Mr. Crabb and I have been meeting with Eversource the last couple of years. Mr. Veilleux is our Eversource representative that we work with and we all thought that it would be a good idea to share the roadwork that Eversource plans to do in 2024.

Mr. Veilleux - Thank you for the invite, I am community relations for Eversource in the Greater New Bedford region, which ranges from Wareham to Attleboro. Just a brief explanation why we replace the gas mains and services. Back in 2015 there was a law passed by the legislature and is mandated by the DPU that requires us to upgrade gas mains based on the gas system enhancement program, which requires us to replace cast iron and corroded steel pipe with plastic.

Mr. Veilleux presented the 2024 work for Eversource Gas (Attachment A) and answered any questions that the Board had.

Mr. Wotton – What is the anticipated time for all this?

Mr. Babyajr – We would like to start around March 25 and then work straight through until November. We will do one project at a time.

**V. Item for Action**

**A. Sign EL Harvey Trash & Recycle Extension**

Mr. Furtado - This has been on the agenda for the last couple of meetings and we are looking for the Board to sign the three-year extension for the terms that were agreed upon by the Board and EL Harvey.

Ms. Smith motioned to Sign the Trash & Recycle Extension with EL Harvey. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

**B. Sewer Rates**

Mr. Furtado –We will have to be discussing this within the next few months. Right now, the sewer rate is \$8.60 and based on the borrowing and the upgrades to the plant we should be around \$9.45 in FY25. We are working on a couple of documents that will allow us to achieve the 0% interest loan. The flow neutral bylaw which will be on the warrant at Town Meeting and the CWMP (Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan). Also, we have received \$11,600,000 in loan forgiveness. There are

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three different rates that we could get 0%, 2% and 2.4%. Right now, we have a 30-year loan because of the payback period, we amortized it for a longer period of time which would be at a rate of 2.4% if we do not get the 0%. Also, if we do not get the 0% than we will have to look at it and decide if we would rather do the 20 years at 2%. The difference between 0% and 2.4% for 30 years is over 20 million dollars. Even though it's only a couple of percent we are talking about a significant amount of money and we are working hard to make this as cheap as possible.

**C. Tata & Howard, Lead Service Line Inventory, Payment #8 \$2,562.88**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve Tata & Howard Payment #8 in the amount of \$2,562.88 for Lead Service Line Inventory. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**D. Tata & Howard, Water Tank Maintenance RFP, Payment #7 \$1,185.73**

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve Tata & Howard Payment #7 in the amount of \$1,185.73 for Water Tank Maintenance RFP. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**E. Recycle Center Hours of Operation Review**

Mr. Furtado – Once we open up for the season, we were thinking, with the Boards permission that we close one day to be able to clear out the stuff that was brought in.

Mr. Crabb – It took me a day and a half to clear out all the brush that was brought in this past Wednesday. We heard from the consultant that is handling the Bridge Street landfill and they may be able to give us an update soon. I am not asking the Board to decide yet, I want to see how chaotic it gets. There may be a day or afternoon that I'm inundated and have to shut down to clear it out.

Ms. Smith - In the past what is the quietest day?

Mr. Crabb – It is really hard to pinpoint.

Discussion ensued amongst all present.

**F. Methuen Construction Co., Inc, WPCF Upgrades, Payment #3 \$1,236,654.35**

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve Methuen Construction Co., Inc Payment #3 in the amount of \$1,236,654.35 for WPCF Upgrades. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**G. Award Bid for Jerusalem Road Stormwater Retrofits Project, Speakman Excavating \$276,820.00**

Mr. Hobson motioned to Award Jerusalem Road Stormwater Retrofits Project to Speakman Excavating in the amount of \$276,820.00 Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

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**H. Award Bid for Livesey Park Skatepark Project, Speakman Excavating \$200,350.00**

Mr. Furtado - We received money a few years back from the Community Preservation Committee and we are now ready to move forward with this project.

Ms. Smith motioned to Award Livesey Park Skatepark Project to Speakman Excavating in the amount of \$183,350.00. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

**I. The Nemasket Group, 11<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K, Saturday May 4, 2024**

Mr. Wotton – My only concern is the Eversource Road work that was just presented. Maybe we could let the know that they might be impacted and their may have to detour a little bit.

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve The Nemasket Group, 11<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K on Saturday May 4, 2024. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**VI. Table Matters**

**A. n/a**

**VII. Public Comments / Open Forum**

**VIII. Old Business / New Business**

**A. Superintendent**

**Superintendent Report for March 18, 2024**

- Chair MRV Meeting
- Attend Buzzards Bay meeting re Shellfish issue
- Attend Meeting with TA
- Staff and I attend Fincom/Selectboard meeting re FY 25 budget
- Bid opening - Jerusalem Rd Stormwater
- Bid opening - Livesey Park Skateboard (surface)
- Water Tower Maint bidding review
- WWTP Upgrade Progress Meeting

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- Flow Neutral Bylaw/CWMP Engineering Meeting
- Department Head Meeting re FY 25 budget cuts
- Plow routes Meeting
- Planning Board Meeting re bylaw
- Stormwater Bylaw Meeting with Consultant
- 97 Farmfield Emails
- Meeting with AFSCME re positions
- Mattapoissett Invoices

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

**B. Board Members**

Mr. Hobson – Are you going to be finishing Littleneck Road?

Mr. Crabb – Yes, once I get back from vacation.

Ms. Smith – There was talk about vegetation on the bike path.

Mr. Crabb – Yes, we are aware of this. I will have my park foreman take care of this once he comes back to work.

Ms. Smith – What is going on at the intersection of Adams Street & Bridge Street?

Mr. Crabb – I am actively working with the safety officer to come up with a short-term solution until we can get a permanent solution.

Mr. Hobson – They took a tree down in Cushman Park near Park Street and they left the debris there. Can we have someone pick it up?

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

Mr. Hobson gave an update from the Marine Resource Committee Meeting

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

Ms. Smith – There is a CPC meeting this week.

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

Mr. Lopes motioned to set the date for the next meeting on April 1, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**X. Adjourn**

Mr. Hobson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

**XI. Executive Session**

**A. n/a**

Respectfully submitted,

*Rebecca L. Vento*

Rebecca Vento  
Office Manager

Minutes approved April 1, 2024