

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
July 22, 2024**

Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner
Daniel Lopes, Commissioner
Hillary Rotondo, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager
Brian Messier, Resident
Doug Brady, Resident



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. July 8, 2024

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes from July 8, 2024. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. July 8, 2024 – Executive Session A

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve the minutes from July 8, 2024 – Executive Session A. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

IV. Item for Action

A. Tata & Howard, Lead Service Line Inventory, Payment #12 \$1,192.43

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Tata & Howard, Lead Service Line Inventory Payment # 12 in the amount of \$1,192.43. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Tata & Howard, UDF Plan Updates, Payment #2 \$1,239.00

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Tata & Howard, UDF Plan Updates Payment #2 in the amount of \$1,239.00. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

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C. BPW Authorized Signatures

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve the listed Board Members and Superintendents as approved authorized signatures for the Board of Public Works. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. Southcoast Health, Nicole Podkova Annual 5K, October 6, 2024

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve Southcoast Health, Nicole Podkova Annual 5K on October 6, 2024. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

E. GCG Associates, Engineering Agreement, 427 Sconticut Neck Road \$16,745.00

Ms. Smith motioned to sign the Engineering Agreement with GCG Associates for 427 Sconticut Neck Road in the amount of \$16,745.00. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

F. Trash Fee

Mr. Furtado – We will be sending out a postcard in a few weeks to all the property owners with the information regarding the trash fee. We did post it on social media and the Town website but we realize that not everyone accesses those kinds of things. The trash fee is going to be \$100 per year and property owners will receive two invoices for \$50 each in November and May. Also, on the card is what the Board voted on as far as senior property tax exemption 41C and the HUD Very Low Income Limits for seniors. It also explains the no opt out policy and the new procedure for bulky waste pickup.

Ms. Smith - 41C is not just for seniors?

Mr. Furtado – No, 41C is not just for seniors. There are about 20 properties that qualify.

Ms. Smith – So the discount is for residents that qualify for 41C and seniors only that qualify for HUD. Do we need to clarify what the senior cut off age is?

Mr. Wotton – I would assume that it is what we consider a senior for everything else.

Mr. Furtado – 62 for beach and recycle permits but Town Hall considers seniors 65.

Mr. Wotton – I feel the senior age should be 65.

Ms. Smith - It also states that applicants have 30 days to apply for the abatement/discount. Do you mean the applications are to be submitted, or you are to have an approved application for an abatement or discount within 30 days?

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Mr. Furtado – We can certainly tweak the language but I take that to read by October 1st and April 1st an application must be submitted.

Mr. Wotton – That’s how I read it as well.

Mr. Messier – Will you be able to pay this bill electronically?

Mr. Furtado – We should be able to offer this to people but we will look into it.

Ms. Smith motioned to amend the previous vote to set the age for a senior trash fee discounts at the age of 65 years old. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

G. Tree Department

Mr. Furtado - A couple of weeks ago there was a meeting with the Town Administrator, Mr. Webb, Mr. Crabb and myself because the Tree Warden retired as of June 30th. At Town Meeting a few years ago, there was a vote to make the Tree Warden an appointed position by the Town Administrator rather than an elected position. Mr. Webb is going to be the Tree Warden because he has some professional training when it comes to tree assessment, he will determine if a tree stays up or comes down and he will handle the hearings. The BPW will assume everything else from assessing the tree canopy to pruning.

Mr. Wotton – This sounds like a logistical nightmare.

Mr. Crabb - We are looking at training for the bucket truck and chipper for our employees. We are still working on all the details.

Mr. Wotton – I would like to table this until we can set up a meeting to discuss this with the Towns Attorney and the Town Administrator. This is unacceptable that she didn’t contact us to discuss this first. Are the Town Employees contractually obligated to use chain saws?

Mr. Furtado - Yes, we run the park department.

Mr. Brady – Is there any way to put in an article to change the Tree Warden position from an appointed position to hired position?

Mr. Wotton - We need to speak with the Town’s Attorney before we put the cart before the horse. I think that they should just hire an outside certified arborist and one laborer to oversee the tree department.

Mr. Hobson motioned to appoint Mr. Wotton as BPW Tree Department Representative. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous

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Ms. Smith motioned to table the tree department discussion to a future date. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

H. Award Bid for 2024 HMA Patches and Related Work

Mr. Hobson motioned to award the bid for 2024 HMA Patches and Related Work to Fairhaven Excavating. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

I. Award Bid for 2024 Sidewalk Restoration and Related Work

Mr. Lopes motioned to award the bid for 2024 Sidewalk Restoration and Related Work to LAL Construction Co., Inc. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

J. Brown & Caldwell, Contract Agreement for Environmental Monitoring, Bridge Street Landfill FY 2025 \$22,650.00

Mr. Furtado – We are waiting for Town Counsel for this agreement.

K. Tighe & Bond, WPCF Upgrade Project Construction Services, Payment #13 \$161,427.06

Mr. Furtado – We are going to skip over this tonight.

L. Sign Notice to Proceed, Ferreira Construction Co, Inc. Construction of Force Main Access Manholes – Phase 1 Contract 29

Ms. Smith motioned to sign the Notice to Proceed with Ferreira Construction Co., Inc. for Force Main Access Manholes – Phase 1 Contract 29. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Tabled Matters

A. n/a

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for July 22, 2024

- POTW upgrade meeting
- Attend Department Head Meeting

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- Attend new committee - making Town meeting better
- Meet with engineers re 0 % sewer borrowing logistics
- Pre-construction meeting with Ferreira re Sewer Force Mains
- Chair MRV Monthly meeting
- Assist Town with interviews for Building Commissioner and Town Planner
- Water Tower Maintenance Contract/Town Counsel
- Meet with/apply for Asset Management Grant
- Place on Committee re NB CSO's
- Attend Meeting with TA re: Tree Warden
- Attend Atlas Tack update meeting
- Bid openings for HMA patches and SW/DW
- Meet with Unibank re Water/Sewer borrowing schedule
- Attend BBAC Meeting as Town's Rep

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

B. Board Members

Mr. Hobson – I am curious about the work by Wood School.

Mr. Crabb gave an update for the Safe Routes to School Project. MassDOT is heavily involved and will be doing inspections.

Mr. Hobson – How long is the project going to take?

Mr. Crabb – It is schedule to take 18 months.

Ms. Smith – When will Eversource be starting all the work in the center?

Mr. Crabb – They are spread out and they are currently wrapping up Maple Avenue.

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Ms. Smith – Could we get an update on the work at the Treatment Plant at a future meeting. Maybe show some pictures and give an update.

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

Mr. Hobson – The Marine Resource Committee has not met since our last meeting.

D. Community Preservation Committee – BPW Related Matters

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Ms. Smith motioned to set the date for the next meeting on August 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Hobson motioned to adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Office Manager

Minutes approved on August 5, 2024.