

**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
September 9, 2024**

**Present**

Brian Wotton, Commissioner  
Robert Hobson, Commissioner  
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner  
Hillary Rotondo, Commissioner  
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent  
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager  
Matthew Marko, Tranquil Tides Mobile Sauna



Mr. Lopes not in attendance.

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Wotton reconvened in open session at 7:04 p.m.

**II. Routine Matters**

**A. Signing of Departmental Bills**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**A. August 26, 2024**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes from August 26, 2024. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**B. August 26, 2024 – Executive Session A**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the minutes from August 26 2024 – Executive Session A. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

**IV. Executive Session**

- A. Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) 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. (workplace culture assessment)**
- B. Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) 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**

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**charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. (sewer department employee)**

**V. Appointments**

**A. Matthew Marko, Tranquil Tides Mobile Sauna at Fort Phoenix**

Mr. Marko - I started a business a few months ago in New Bedford. It is a mobile sauna and depending if we are going to an area with a natural body of water then we bring a cold plunge tub with us. It is kind of like a health and fitness business where someone can sign up for a time slot and come to the pop-up event. We have done a few pop-up events, festivals and also a few private events at this time. I am looking to do some pop-up events at Fort Phoenix by the Cannons.

Mr. Hobson - I think that this is kind of a cool idea. Next year you could set up on west island at Hoppy's Landing or Seaview Avenue boat ramp.

Mr. Marko – I will have to check out those locations.

Ms. Smith – I am a safety orientated person and I am wondering how you handle medical clearance for people to use the sauna? I am worried about the liability? I wonder about your liability insurance. I wonder about the risks of using a sauna with high blood pressure.

Mr. Marko – We are fully insured and I have worked with a lawyer and there are waivers that need to be signed before someone is able to use our services.

Ms. Smith – I think that the Town side of Fort Phoenix is a historical site and I am not sure about incorporating this kind of activity on the Town side. The entertainment side is more of the DCR side and they have a huge parking lot.

Mr. Wotton – The parking lot on the Town side is really small and the DCR has a large parking lot.

Ms. Rotondo – I think that the Huttleston Marketplace would be a great spot for your mobile sauna.

Mr. Marko – I am interested in setting up in the winter months.

Mr. Wotton - I think that you are looking for access to park your truck and trailer on Town property and set up your mobile sauna.

Mr. Furtado - Contingent with the Boards vote we should run this by Town Counsel.

Ms. Rotondo - How often are you looking to do this?

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Mr. Marko –a few times a week. I would be happy to either pay a per event fee or even a long-term fee. I am looking to keep the fees at a minimum for the service.

Mr. Wotton - We will take the info that you gave us and we will run it by Town Counsel and get back to you with anything that is required.

**VI. Item for Action**

**A. BPW Representative for Fairhaven Buzzards Bay Water Quality Working Group**

Ms. Smith - Are we talking about drinking water?

Mr. Furtado - I believe they are talking about the water that is discharged.

Mr. Hobson motioned to nominate Mr. Furtado as the BPW Representative for Fairhaven Buzzards Bay Water Quality Working Group. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

**B. Stantec Consulting Services, Town Wide Sanitary Sewer Force Main Condition Assessment, Payment #29 \$4,411.21**

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve Stantec Consulting Services, Town Wide Sanitary Sewer Force Main Condition Assessment Payment #29 in the amount of \$4,411.21. M. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**C. Water and Sewer Rates**

Mr. Hobson motioned to increase the sewer rate twenty-five cents effective immediately and the water rate 5% effective after the fall billing. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**D. Article for Town Meeting**

Mr. Furtado – We are going to skip this and we will put in an Article for the May Town Meeting.

**E. Methuen Construction Co., WPCF Upgrades, Payment #9 \$2,092,157.23**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Methuen Construction Co., WPCF Upgrades Payment #9 in the amount of \$2,092,157.23. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

**F. DEP Pay Req #9 (Loan CWP-22-67) \$2,092,157.23**

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve DEP Pay Req #9 (Loan CWP-22-67) in the amount of \$2,092,157.00. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

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**G. Tata & Howard, Lead Service Line Inventory, Payment #14 \$ 5,658.84**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve Tata & Howard, Lead Service Line Inventory, Payment #14 in the amount of \$5,658.84. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

**H. Tata & Howard, Meter Pit Evaluation at New Bedford Interconnections  
Payment #50 \$907.61**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Tata & Howard, Meter Pit Evaluation at New Bedford Interconnections Payment #50 in the amount of \$907.61. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

**I. Tata & Howard, UDF Plan Updates, Payment #3 \$1,239.00**

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve Tata & Howard, UDF Plan Updates Payment #3 in the amount of \$1,239.00. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**J. Tighe & Bond, WCPF Upgrade Project Construction Services, Payment #15  
\$105,580.04**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Tighe & Bond WCPF Upgrade Project Construction Services, Payment #15 in the amount of \$105,580.04. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

**K. DEP Pay Req #9A (Loan CWP-22-67A) \$201,762.00**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve DEP Pay Req #9A (Loan CWP-22-67A) in the amount of \$201,762.00. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**VI. Tabled Matters**

**A. Tree Department**

**B. Trash Fee Logistics**

Ms. Rotondo motioned to bring the trash fee logistics back to the table for discussion. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mr. Furtado- I was asked by the Town to make a Video regarding the trash fee.

Mr. Furtado reviewed the draft trash presentation with the Board.

Ms. Smith – I don't think that unpaid trash fees should be liened to the property if it is not paid. I feel like if they do not pay then they do not get their trash picked up until they pay.

Mr. Furtado – I will discuss this with Town Counsel.

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**VII. Public Comments / Open Forum**

**VIII. Old Business / New Business**

**A. Superintendent**

**Superintendent Report for September 9, 2024**

- POTW upgrade meetings
- Numerous meetings re Workplace Assessment
- August 27<sup>th</sup> incident
- Work on Departmental borrowing schedules
- HHW Day logistics
- CDBG Meetings
- Meet with Beth David re sewer upgrade
- Graffiti on Hurricane barrier addressed
- SN Rd Water Main meeting
- Speak with Union re various issues
- Speak with Labor Counsel
- Water Tower Contract Finalized
- Various MRV responsibilities - meet with new Counsel re WMA
- Eminent Domain Article for potential taking - Town Counsel - to address Shaw Rd drainage issue
- Attend Planning Department Meeting re water/sewer capacity - 40 R
- IMA Draft with Town of Acushnet
- Begin update on Fall Newsletter
- Trash Fee Presentation

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

**B. Board Members**

Mr. Hobson – On Orchard Street coming off the Neck you cannot see the bike path sign due to branches that need to be trimmed. Was the sign at Macomber Park trimmed?

Ms. Smith – When will we be able to check our water usage the app?

Mr. Furtado – There will be information in the fall newsletter.

Ms. Rotondo – Do we have any updates for Black Earth Composting?

**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**

Ms. Smith – I have nothing new at this time

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

Mr. Hobson motioned to set the date for the next meeting on September 16, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. seconded. Vote unanimous.

**X. Adjourn**

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. and enter into executive Session to discuss the Sewer Department and the workplace incident of August 27, 2024 Workplace Culture Assessment and to reconvene in open session. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith and Ms. Rotondo in favor.

Mr. Hobson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rebecca L. Vento*

Rebecca Vento  
Office Manager

Minutes approved on September 16, 2024