

**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
November 2, 2020**

**Present**

Brian Wotton, Commissioner  
Robert Hobson, Commissioner  
Cameron Durant, Commissioner  
Frank Coelho, Commissioner  
Marcus Ferro, Commissioner  
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent  
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager  
Eric Smith, W.C. Smith and Son



**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**II. Routine Matters**

**A. Signing of Departmental Bills**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**A. October 19, 2020**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of October 19, 2020. Mr. Coelho seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Coelho and Mr. Ferro in favor. Motion passed 4-0

**IV. Appointments**

**A. Eric Smith, WC Smith and Son, 250 Bridge Street – Driveway Waiver**

Mr. Wotton –Are you looking to go wider than what is currently there now?

Mr. Smith - It is staying the same width we are just looking to relocate the existing driveway forty-five feet west.

Mr. Coelho- I have no problem with this since the driveway is already there and you are just relocating it.

Mr. Coelho motioned to approve the driveway waiver for an opening of eighty feet wide at 250 Bridge Street. Mr. Hobson seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Coelho and Mr. Ferro in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

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**V. Items for Action**

**A. Covid-19 Matters**

Mr. Furtado - On Friday the State is going back to phase 3 step 1 and the Town of Mattapoisett and Dartmouth are both going to go back to rotating their crews. At this time, we are not going to rotate the staff but at some point, we may have to go back to a rotating schedule.

**B. 2021 Recycling Center Permits**

Mr. Furtado – Every year around this time we discuss the fees for the Recycling Center Permits. I have put some suggestions in the packet since we have less revenue coming in than in the past. One of the suggestions is to raise the resident rate from \$20 to \$25 and to raise the age for seniors from 60 years old to 62 years old. The question is does the Board want to raise the rates or leave them the same?

Mr. Wotton - I feel like this is something that we need to discuss to make sure that we are covering the costs. I know in the past we raised the rates for contractors. At what age are seniors actually considered a senior? This year the transfer station is operating \$8,000 in the negative. We are not looking to make money we are just looking to cover the expenses.

Mr. Hobson - You want to raise the rates for the seniors and raise the rates for the residents? What about the contractors? I think that the contractors should pay \$500..

Mr. Furtado - I did not suggest an increase in the contractor fees because the Board raised those fees in 2019 from \$100 to \$400.

Mr. Hobson - I think that \$500 is cheap for a contractor.

Mr. Coelho - Maybe we could split the fees between the contractors and the residents.

Mr. Furtado - Even if we were not in the negative we would have still brought this in front of the Board and asked how the Board wants to proceed for next year.

Mr. Wotton - When we raised the rates for the contractors we actually lost eight contractors.

Mr. Furtado - If you want to hold off on this that is fine but we need to know what we are going to charge before we start selling the permits in January.

Mr. Ferro - I would be more inclined to lean towards Mr. Furtado's recommendation.

Mr. Wotton - I feel that we should consider Mr. Furtado's recommendation as well. I would like to see how everyone feels about raising the senior age from 60 years old to 62 years old.

Mr. Hobson – I am against raising the senior age.

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Mr. Coelho - I hate to see any increases in fees but I think going from 60 to 62 years old is not a problem.

Mr. Ferro - I think that I would be in favor of raising the age for the seniors. If you ask someone that is 60 if they consider themselves a senior, they would tell you no unless it was to get a discount.

Mr. Wotton – The next thing is do we want to raise the rate from \$20 to \$25?

Mr. Coelho - I would be in favor of that.

Mr. Ferro - I think that is a good option.

Mr. Coelho - It is hard to believe that we have sold less resident stickers this year.

Mr. Wotton - I think as a Board there are a few things that we could do. We could raise the rates for contractors from \$400 to \$500 and then raise the resident rate for anyone under 62 years old from \$20 to \$25 and then keep the rate for seniors (anyone over 62) \$10.

Mr. Hobson - I would be in favor of that.

Mr. Coelho motioned to raise the age for seniors from 60 years old to 62 years old, raise the rate for the resident stickers from \$20 to \$25 and to raise the rates for contractors from \$400 to \$500. Mr. Hobson seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Coelho and Mr. Ferro in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

**C. Town Meeting Recap**

Mr. Furtado – I just want to quickly recap what happened at Town Meeting. The day of Town Meeting, I found out that even though the motion for the article listed all the streets that were voted on by the BPW, Selectmen and Finance Committee the only street that could be approved at Town Meeting was Chase Road. What that means is we will try to get the other three streets at the special Town Meeting in May.

Mr. Wotton - In reality these streets were not going to be paved until next summer.

Mr. Furtado - I want to make sure that these streets are on the warrant for the special town meeting so the money is released in May instead of July. I just wish that I knew this ahead of time so I could have had this approved at this town meeting.

Mr. Furtado reviewed the other articles from Town Meeting with the Board.

Mr. Durant entered the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

**D. Highway Union Side Table**

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Mr. Furtado - Tomorrow we will be having a meeting with the Highway Union to discuss light duty accommodations, reasonable accommodations and FMLA accommodations. I cannot discuss this in full detail at this time because we are not done negotiating this with the union. I will put this on the next agenda in executive session to discuss this further.

Mr. Durant - Currently when does FMLA kick in?

Mr. Furtado – Once an employee is on workers comp for three months we give them the FMLA paperwork for their doctor to fill out. Once the FMLA paperwork is approved then the employee goes on FMLA for twelve weeks.

Mr. Durant - Have we ever brought this policy in front of Attorney Kenny? I think that 3 months on workers comp before applying for FMLA is quite excessive.

Mr. Furtado - This will be in front of her tomorrow when we meet with the Union.

Mr. Durant - I think that this is a long time for us to hold someone's position.

Mr. Hobson left the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Mr. Furtado - We will talk about the language with the Union and then I will present it to the Board. This policy will be carried to the Water and Sewer contracts as well to keep everything uniform.

**E. Tighe & Bond, Notice to Proceed Recommendation, West Island Treatment Plant Upgrade**

Mr. Furtado - This is for the Improvements at the West Island Waste Water Treatment Plant. The engineers estimated that the project would cost about \$1.6 million and the lowest bidder was \$1,147,000. The Engineer is looking for the Board to approve their recommendation so they can move forward with this. We will also be including the alternates since the bid came in less than what was expected.

Mr. Durant motioned to approve Tighe and Bonds recommendation to execute the contract with Hart Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$1,147,000. Mr. Ferro seconded.

Roll call vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Coelho, Mr. Durant and Mr. Ferro in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

**VI. Tabled Matters**

**A. BPW Independent Study**

Mr. Coelho motioned to keep the BPW Independent Study as a Tabled Matter. Mr. Durant seconded.

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Roll call vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Coelho, Mr. Durant and Mr. Ferro in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

**VII. Public Comments / Open Forum**

**VIII. Old Business / New Business**

**A. Superintendent**

**Superintendent Report for November 2, 2020**

- Continued with Town Meeting Prep including a presentation
- Will recap Town Meeting at our meeting
- Bench removed at Bridge and Main
- Attend bid openings for west island TP work
- Attend MRV FY21 Budget meeting
- Attend monthly BBAC as Town Rep
- Finalizing MOU with ABC for recycle carts
- Linda and I meet with Stantec - re: client meeting
- Coordinate/prepare for union side table meeting
- Receive design grant for stormwater remediation on Jerusalem Rd.
- Approve Solar projects for MRV
- Attend pesticide refresher training
- Progress meeting update with Sunset beach Assn
- SRTS update meeting
- Review ANR project for MRV
- Meet with BETA re: new stormwater task contract
- Jeff and I attend AMI meeting with our water engineer - narrowed bidders to 3 - will call them in for interview

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Mr. Furtado - The Sewer Superintendent will be retiring next August. We should start looking into her replacement. I have received a couple of recommendations for the Assistant Sewer Superintendent Mr. Robillard.

Mr. Wotton - Why don't you get a job description together.

Mr. Furtado - I like to promote from within when possible.

Mr. Wotton – He can apply for the job but I would still like to see it posted.

**B. Board Members**

Mr. Coelho - A couple of the employees asked if we supply them with facemasks.

Mr. Furtado- Yes, all they have to do is ask for more.

Mr. Coelho - A couple of the employees would like us to have BPW printed on them. Another question I have is about the driveway fine from the property on West Island. Has the \$150 been returned back to the contractor?

Mr. Furtado – No, the contractor agreed to pay both his fine and the homeowners fine.

Mr. Coelho - When he was here at the meeting we voted a \$300 fine for both the homeowner and contractor. We ended up waiving the \$300 for the contractor and he ended up paying the \$300 for the homeowner.

Mr. Wotton - Can you look into the video and see what was motioned and square this away?

Mr. Coelho - How did you make out with getting someone to bring a dumpster for the scrap metal?

Mr. Furtado - It would cost us more money than what we are paying now because there is no money in scrap metal at this time.

Mr. Durant - I was wondering if the Board would be in agreeance in moving the meeting time from 6:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.?

Mr. Wotton - I did ask the board and no one had any objections.

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

Mr. Coelho - They put a set of rules together but at this time, they have not brought it up to the residents that they are changing the rules and regulations. I think there should be a public meeting for this so the residents can voice their opinions.

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

Mr. Ferro motioned to set the date for the next meeting on November 16, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. Mr. Coelho seconded.

Roll call vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Durant, Mr. Ferro & Mr. Coelho in favor. Motion passes 4-0

**X. Adjourn**

Mr. Ferro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. and enter into executive session to discuss a meter tampering violation and not to reconvene in open session.

In Favor: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Coelho, Mr. Durant, and Mr. Ferro

Respectfully submitted,

*Rebecca L. Vento*

Rebecca Vento  
Office Manager

Minutes approved on November 16, 2020.