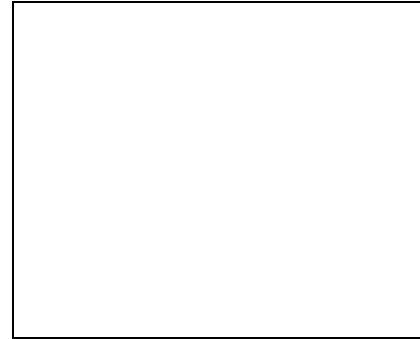


**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
December 14, 2020**

Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Cameron Durant, Commissioner
Frank Coelho, Commissioner
Marcus Ferro, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager
Gary Lavalette
Brett Silva



I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. November 30, 2020

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of November 30, 2020. Mr. Ferro second. Vote unanimous.

IV. Appointments

A. 2021 Beach Discussion

Mr. Furtado - We thought that it would be a good idea to start the discussion regarding the 2021 Beach season while Mr. Silva and Mr. Lavalette were available. Last year when we started selling the permits, we were inundated. We would like to get a head start and start selling the permits earlier this year and we also want to make sure that we are in compliance with the Board of Health regulations.

Mr. Lavalette - One of the things that we had the biggest issue with last year was dogs. It seemed like everyday we would have to walk the beach and pick up after them. Also, I think that is a liability to allow them on the beach.

Mr. Hobson - How many people show up with dogs on a daily basis?

Mr. Silvia - There could be up to 10 dogs a day on the beach. Last year I walked the beach daily and picked up after them.

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Mr. Lavalette - Another issue that we found was floatation devices. This is also a liability. I do not know of any other beach in the area that allows floatation devices.

Mr. Wotton - Are you talking about large floatation devices?

Mr. Lavalette - We are talking about all floatation devices. There are parents that fight with us because we do not allow the kids to use water wings, puddle jumpers or lifejackets.

Mr. Ferro - Other beaches do not allow floatation devices or dogs?

Mr. Lavalette- That is correct. If this is something that the Board will support I think that a sign should be posted.

Mr. Ferro - Do we only have jurisdiction to restrict in a certain area or can we restrict the whole beach?

Mr. Furtado - We only have jurisdiction over the town side.

Mr. Lavalette – I brought this up at the end of last season. I would like to attach a shower to the trailer and have a 4x4 cement pad poured so residents can rinse off without getting covered in mud. I will install the shower at my cost as long as the town will pour the pad. I was hoping that we could allow Acushnet Residents to use the beach this year.

Mr. Wotton - We still want to keep it residents only this year but we will discuss letting Acushnet residents use the beach. Many residents that I spoke with like it being Fairhaven Residents only.

Mr. Lavalette – The beach never reached full capacity last year.

Mr. Hobson – If we allow Acushnet residents I think that there should be a limit to the number of Acushnet permits that we sell.

Mr. Durant - I think that we should only allow Acushnet residents with children that attend Fairhaven Public Schools to buy a permit.

Mr. Hobson – What was the average number of people in a car?

Mr. Lavalette - 4 to 6 people.

Mr. Hobson - I would like to see us get organized ahead of time and start looking for lifeguards.

Mr. Furtado - Every year before the beach opens for the season we have a meeting with the staff. The issue is not at the beginning of the season, it is at the end of the season when the employees have to go back to school and cannot finish their scheduled shifts.

Mr. Wotton - We are going to reach out to the high schools at the beginning of the year.

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Mr. Silva - There is also a level of skill that is involved in being a lifeguard. Last season I try to get the lifeguards to train / swim when they were working and no one wanted to. I think that next season we should get more of a directive and have everyone train on a daily basis.

Mr. Lavalette -The biggest problem that we had last year was residents not putting their permit on their vehicle. The sticker should be placed on the driver side of the windshield at the top. That would make it the easiest for the gate attendant.

Mr. Furtado - This year our permits will adhere to the inside of the window.

Mr. Lavalette - We rejected between 700-800 vehicles that either did not have a sticker or they did not want to purchase one. Maybe we could have a flyer with a list of other beaches in town that do not require a sticker. Also, where the gate attendant sits there is no shade. Can we get something that they can sit under? This year we need to do something about the parasailers. It became an issue last year and it is starting to become a liability. They approached the town beach constantly even though we ask them not too. Is there anything that can be done to keep them off the beach?

Mr. Silva - If one of the residents are taken out by a parasailer then we would be in trouble.

Mr. Lavalette - People are paying to go to the beach and they should not have to worry about being hit by a kite.

Mr. Furtado – Last year Mr. Silva saved someone’s life that was on a parasail. Something needs to be done next year because we do not want to have to make multiple saves.

Mr. Lavalette - The parasailers should stay off shore and stay on the other side.

Mr. Wotton - Thank you gentleman for coming in. I am in agreeance with you on a lot of this stuff.

Mr. Durant - One request that I have and I think that it will help with the social distancing is to extend the boardwalk further down the beach. I would like to see it extended the whole length of the town side.

Mr. Lavalette - I do not disagree with you but I think that the boardwalk would eventually end up in the marsh.

Mr. Coelho - About 2 years ago, Mr. Furtado and I went in front of Conservation to see if we could pave the parking lot. At that time, they were in agreeance with us.

Mr. Furtado - We are ready to pave the parking lot as far as the design, we are just waiting on the money to be approved. The last proposal that we received was for \$600,000. We have it in the capital improvement plan but it has to be approved by the town. We could certainly add the cost of the boardwalk to the capital plan.

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Mr. Coelho - Why wasn't the Board informed that you already had the survey done? I have been on this Board for two years and this is the first that I am hearing of this.

Mr. Furtado - The reason why we went to Conservation was so we could move forward with the design. We have a capital improvement plan and once we receive the money then we will get this project started.

Mr. Coelho - I would like a copy of the capital plan.

Mr. Furtado – We will be handing out the budget books within the next month.

V. Items for Action

A. Covid-19 Matters

Mr. Furtado - The only update that I have is from the Board of Health. They reached out to us to let us know that everyone has to wear a mask unless they are in an office by themselves.

B. BPW Independent Study

Mr. Furtado - We had the proposal from Tighe and Bond which was \$23,200. In the interim, we received a proposal for \$4,500 from another engineering company. I think that if we are going to proceed with the study that we need to be focused on the specific tasks that we are looking to have done. I have no problem with another set of eyes looking over everything but I do not see a problem here and I just want to make sure that we are focused on what exactly we are looking for.

Mr. Ferro - Do you think that the less expensive proposal is focused?

Mr. Furtado - What is the end game? If the will of the board is to have someone come in and give suggestions on how we can improve then we will welcome that. We are always looking to improve.

Mr. Wotton - Does the board see something in the proposals that they would like to have looked into further?

Mr. Coelho - I agree that some of the stuff wouldn't be necessary since that stuff has already been approved. For example, we have the digester that we are paying an electricity bill for that is costing the town money. Another thing is the recycling center.

Mr. Furtado - Back in 2008 this Board voted to embark on the digester journey even though the Sewer Superintendent and Assistant Sewer Superintendent both were against this project. When I came onboard in 2009, we had to get the digester online or the grant would have turned into a loan. When we upgrade the plant, I would like to try to take in grease. My thought for this is to resurrect the digester by taking in the grease.

Mr. Wotton - This project should have never been done.

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Mr. Furtado - As far as the recycling center. We hired brown and Caldwell to assess the Bridge Street location to see if the new recycling center can be moved to this location.

Mr. Ferro – It seems like Mr. Furtado has both the digester and recycling center covered.

Mr. Durant - The only thing that I would be interested in and support is for someone to come in and look into making things efficient. Many of the things listed in the proposal are not in our purview. I would like to have someone come in and watch to see if we could do things better.

Mr. Hobson - I am against the whole thing.

Mr. Wotton - I am for this but what they put in front of us is not what I am looking for. I want to know how we can be more efficient and how we could have a better operating procedure.

Mr. Furtado - I can reach out to the engineers, let them know exactly what we are looking for and then have them make recommendations in approving efficiency.

Mr. Durant motioned to table the discussion of the BPW independent study until we receive further info from the engineers. Mr. Ferro seconded. Vote 4-1 with Mr. Hobson opposed.

C. Hart Engineering, Sign Contract Agreement, West Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades \$1,147,000.00

Mr. Ferro motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement for the West Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades with Hart Engineering in the amount of \$1,147,000.00. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. GCG Associates, Sign Contract Agreement, Fairhaven Shipyard Concrete Grade Beam \$2,790.00

Mr. Ferro motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement for Fairhaven Shipyard Concrete Grade Beam with GCG Associates in the amount of \$2,790.00. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous.

E. Department of Environmental Protection, Drinking Water Program, Public Water System Award

Mr. Furtado – I just wanted to make the Board aware of that award that the Water Department received. They received the 2020 Public Water System Award for Outstanding Performance and Achievement in the medium and large community systems category for 2019. I just want to congratulate the superintendent and the staff on this award.

F. Tata & Howard, Amendment #2, Procurement and Installation Assistance of Water Meters \$13,500

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Mr. Hobson motioned to approve amendment #2 in the amount of \$13,500 to Tata and Howard for the Procurement and Installation Assistance of Water Meters. Mr. Ferro seconded. Vote unanimous.

G. AMI Selection

Mr. Furtado- We received eight proposals for the automated meter reading system, which I have memorialized in the packet. The committee then rated each proposal in the twelve categories that are listed on the spreadsheet. This rating was done without knowing what their price was. From that, we narrowed it down to the top three proposals and then we met and interviewed each company. Based on everything we recommend going with TI Sales and the Neptune Meters. This system is very user friendly and based on all the criteria that we looked at we are recommending this company.

Mr. Hobson- Are we going to bill more than twice a year once we have the new system?

Mr. Furtado - The DEP requires us to bill more frequently than we do that is why there was such a big push for the AMI system. I would eventually like to bill quarterly.

Mr. Coelho - I have reviewed some of the proposals and I agree going with Ti Sales. I believe that this company is the better company and I believe this system was the most user friendly.

Mr. Durant motioned approve the recommendation of the committee and go with Ti Sales for the AMI Meters. Mr. Coelho seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Tabled Matters

A. N/A

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for December 14, 2020

- Attend BOH meeting re: BPW
- Meet with staff re: BOH appearance
- Conference call and Meeting with Engineer, IT and Vendor re: selection of Neptune Meters
- Labor Counsel - FMLA concerns - will appear before Board at next meeting
- Submit Capital plan for all Departments

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- Brush cut at Union Wharf
- Staff is working on FY 22 Budgets
- Provided Harbor Master shell vendor information
- Ruts will be repaired at Cushman after leaves are picked up
- Attend Complete Streets Meeting re: grant received
- Received additional proposal for Independent Study
- Attend 8 hour ERP Training for Water System
- Calculate FY 20 usage numbers in each water tier
- Meet with Bldg Dept re: House move
- Meet with Tom Crotty re: WI Contracts, T & H Amendment, 245 Huttleston Easement and North St
- Coordinate test pits at Drive-In

Mr. Furtado answered any questions from the Board regarding the superintendent report.

B. Board Members

Mr. Coelho - Why did we get the Personnel and Procedures Manual on November 30? Seems to me that we should have received this sooner. I feel like there are a lot of things that we are not notified about.

Mr. Wotton - This would have never come in front of us if Mr. Furtado did not make us aware of this.

Mr. Furtado – Are there any update for the cellphone antenna on the water tower?

Mr. Hobson - I am going to see what we can do when we install the antenna for the AMI.

Mr. Hobson - Is there any more information regarding the Tree Warden position? I would like to see this on the next agenda and get feedback from the Board and public.

Mr. Furtado- I think that we should invite the current Tree Warden in as well.

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

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IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Ferro motioned to set the date for the next meeting on December 28, 2020. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Ferro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous.

XI. Executive Session

A. N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Office Manager

Minutes approved on 12/28/2020