

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
May 24, 2021**

Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Cameron Durant, Commissioner
Frank Coelho, Commissioner
Marcus Ferro, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager
Christopher Holland, Sewer Department
Thomas Crotty, Attorney
Richard Gelerman, Attorney
Stephen Hickox, 14 Cherrystone Road
Bob Joseph, 15 Cherrystone Road



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. May 17, 2021

Mr. Coelho motioned to approve the minutes of May 17, 2021. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall vote Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Coelho, Mr. Durant and Mr. Ferro in favor. Motion passes 5-0.

IV. Appointments

A. Stephen Hickox, 14 Cherrystone Road – Sewer Stub Request

Mr. Furtado – At the last meeting the Board asked me to invite Attorney Crotty to this meeting to clarify a few things.

Mr. Wotton – Mr. Crotty is this Board allowed to make the decision if this property is able to tie into the sewer system? If we allow this, is there any legal actions that we could be facing?

Mr. Crotty – There appears to be one property that has a stub and is waiting to tie in. The Board can approve or deny Mr. Hickox's request to tie in. Either way I do not see any legal impediments either way.

Discussion ensued amongst all present.

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Mr. Joseph - We are not opposed to anyone building on West Island and tying in to the sewer. I spoke with the previous owner and he did not tie into the water and sewer, as he was not mandated to do so because there was no toilet or running water there at that time. This was not an oversight and the property was not missed.

Mr. Coelho motioned to enter into a moratorium not to exceed one year to get more information regarding this project from state agencies and town officials. Mr. Durant seconded. Rollcall vote Mr. Coelho and Mr. Durant in favor. Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson and Mr. Ferro opposed. Motion does not pass 2-3.

Mr. Hobson motioned to deny the sewer stub request for 14 Cherrystone Road. Mr. Ferro seconded. Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson and Mr. Ferro in favor. Mr. Coelho and Mr. Durant opposed. Motion passes 3-2.

V. Items for Action

A. Covid-19 Matters

Mr. Furtado – I have nothing new at this time.

Mr. Wotton - On May 29th the Governor is lifting restrictions. Will the operation be at 100 percent?

Mr. Furtado - We have never not been at 100 percent. We will check with the Board of Health and see if they will have any rules and regulations in place.

B. Fairhaven High School Civics Projects

Mr. Furtado - We have received a few different emails from the students at the High School regarding Civics Projects. We just wanted to make you aware of this and see how you would like to proceed.

Mr. Durant- I had an individual reach out to me because he wanted to put a recycling bin at Fort Phoenix and West Island.

Mr. Furtado – We have done this in the past and people threw everything in the recycling containers including trash. If we do put containers I would like to see permanent structures put at both locations.

Mr. Wotton - These are all great ideas but since the budgets have been cut I do not know where we would get the money from or the personnel to do so.

Mr. Durant – I will reach out to the students.

Mr. Ferro left the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

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C. High Department Hours of Work

Mr. Furtado - I was approached by the AFSCME Union because the Highway Employees are looking to change their start time. They are looking to work from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. In order for this to be approved, it had to be approved 100% by the employees. If the Board is in favor of moving forward with this then it would have to be presented to the Selectmen for their approval.

Mr. Hobson - How many employees are in favor of this?

Mr. Furtado – All the Highway Employees are in favor of this. We would have to think of the logistics of the other two departments and the clerical staff. I would not want this to be implemented until at least July 1st.

VI. Tabled Matter

A. n/a

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for May 24, 2021

- Work on last minute changes to By-Law 194
- Receive information from Arbitrators - send to Labor Counsel
- Jeff and I attend meeting re: water tank cleaning
- Highway crews working on Billy's Way
- Send correspondence to West Island improvement re: Littleneck Rd
- Attend Complete Streets Meeting
- Becky contacts BOH re: Stormwater discharge at Pease park
- John and I attend meeting with Eversource - future handling of paving
- Contact Eric Dawicki re: private/public sewer definition

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- Contact Town Counsel re: 14 Cherrystone
- Conduct interview for Assistant Sewer Superintendent

Mr. Furtado answered any questions the Board had regard the Superintendent Report.

B. Board Members

Mr. Hobson – The brush needs to be cut at Hoppy’s Landing. Could you get in touch with Mr. Cox?

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

Mr. Hobson – I have nothing new at this time.

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Coelho motioned to set the date of the next meeting on June 7, 2021 at 6:15 p.m. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous. Motion passes 4-0.

X. Adjourn & Executive Session

Mr. Hobson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. and enter into executive session to conduct interviews for the Assistant Sewer Superintendent Position and to reconvene in open session after the interviews. Mr. Durant seconded. Rollcall vote Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Coelho, Mr. Durant and Mr. Ferro in favor.

Mr. Ferro motioned to adjourn executive session at 6:35 p.m. and reconvene in open session. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall vote Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Coelho, Mr. Durant and Mr. Ferro in favor.

Mr. Ferro motioned to hire Christopher Holland at a Grade 16 Step 4. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous. Rollcall vote Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Coelho, Mr. Durant and Mr. Ferro in favor.

Mr. Durant motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall vote Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Coelho and Mr. Durant in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Office Manager

Minutes approved on June 7, 2021