

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
June 14, 2021**

Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Frank Coelho, Commissioner
Marcus Ferro, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager
Jeffrey Furtado, Water Superintendent
Antone Medeiros, A. Medeiros Contractor
Jessica Jeffrey, 4 Century Drive



I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. June 7, 2021

Mr. Ferro motioned to approve the minutes of June 7, 2021. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall vote Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson and Mr. Ferro in favor. Mr. Coelho abstained. Motion passes 3-0-1.

IV. Appointments

A. Jessica Jeffrey, 4 Century Drive- Abatement

Ms. Jeffrey - I received my bill in the mail which was about \$4,000. I have lived in Fairhaven for almost 7 years and I have never received a bill this high. We had someone come out to the property after I was notified of the high usage and they could not find any leaks. I know that I did not use that much water because it is only me and my kids that live here. I cannot prove where the water went so I am not sure if anything can be done to help me.

Mr. Furtado - This young lady sent in an abatement request and it was denied by the Water Superintendent because there was no evidence that the water did not go through the sewer. We asked the Town Administrator if there could be something done for hardships like a payment plan.

Mr. J Furtado - We have been going to the property and getting reads from the meter quite frequently and it appears that the usage is back to normal.

Mr. Ferro - Do you have an explanation for why the usage might have been so high?

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Mr. Furtado - All I can tell you is that there might have been an internal leak that fixed itself.

Mr. J Furtado - I have no explanation to what happened to make the usage this high.

Mr. Furtado - We asked the Town Administrator if she could be put on a payment plan. At this time, we have not heard back from her. I would like to see a payment plan implemented for cases like this with a hardship.

Mr. Hobson - I have been on this Board for over 10 years and I have seen many complaints about the water and sewer fees just like this one. I sympathize with you but I have seen bills like this and the property owner was responsible for the bill. If we grant this then we will be opening a can of worms.

Mr. Coelho – At the last meeting I brought up a few bills that had the same issues and all of those bills were abnormally high and they did not receive an abatement. It is pretty clear that the reading on the meter is the amount of water that they used and they should be responsible for the bill. Even the Water Superintendent does not think that this abatement should be approved. I think that we will be opening a can of worms if we approve this abatement.

Mr. Ferro – Mr. Furtado what do you think?

Mr. Furtado - All we can go by is the reading from the meter. When we saw that this property had high usage we went back and confirmed that the read that we got was correct. Since the initial read we have gone back multiple times to reread the meter and it appears that the usage is back on track. If the Town offered a payment plan for hardships this is one that I would advocate for.

Mr. Ferro - I guess I am trying to look for a way to make this better. I think a payment plan would be great but that is something we cannot take action with at this time.

Mr. J Furtado – Leaks like this are tough to figure out. The problem is the water went through the meter but there is no indication that the water did not go into the sewer. Unfortunately, the water is being treated and we have to pay for it either way. With that being said, the abatement was denied because there is no justification for an abatement.

Mr. Wotton – All I can recommend is that you hire a license plumber and see if they can find a leak that the water did not go down the sewer. If you can prove that the water didn't go into the sewer than we would possibly give you an abatement on the sewer charges.

Mr. Ferro motioned to table the discussion of the abatement at 4 Century Drive until the next meeting. Mr. Wotton seconded. Rollcall Vote Mr. Wotton and Mr. Ferro in favor. Mr. Hobson and Mr. Coelho opposed. Motion does not pass 2-2.

Mr. Coelho motioned to deny the abatement request at 4 Century Drive. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall vote Mr. Coelho and Mr. Hobson in favor. Mr. Wotton and Mr. Ferro opposed. Motion does not pass 2-2.

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Mr. Wotton – If you would like us to discuss this at a future meeting you can request to be on the agenda by calling the office.

B. Antone Medeiros, A Medeiros Contractor, 26 Timothy Street – Driveway Waiver

Mr. Furtado - Mr. Medeiros is not on the agenda and he has an emergency that he would like the Board to discuss tonight.

Mr. Medeiros - I started a driveway on Friday and they asked me if I could widen the driveway since they have five cars and a boat that they would like to keep off the street. They are looking to extend the new driveway to 34 feet wide.

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the 34-foot driveway waiver for 26 Timothy Street. Mr. Ferro seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Ferro and Mr. Coelho in favor. Motion passes 4-0.

V. Items for Action

A. Baystate Winsupply Company – Water Meter & Radio Frequency Endpoint Installation

1. Award Bid

Mr. Ferro motioned to award the bid to Baystate Winsupply Company for the Water Meter and Radio Frequency Endpoint Installation. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Ferro and Mr. Coelho in favor. Motion passes 4-0.

2. Sign Contract Agreement \$582,278.00

Mr. Hobson motioned to sign the Contract Agreement with Baystate Winsupply Company in the amount of \$582,278.00 for the Water Meter and Radio Frequency Endpoint Installation. Mr. Ferro seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Ferro and Mr. Coelho in favor. Motion passes 4-0.

3. Notice to Proceed

Mr. Hobson motioned to sign the notice to proceed with Baystate Winsupply Company for the Water Meter and Radio Frequency Endpoint Installation. Mr. Ferro seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Ferro and Mr. Coelho in favor. Motion passes 4-0.

B. Hire Park Department Summer Help

Mr. Furtado - We have two employees that we would like to hire for Summer Help in the Park Department.

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Mr. Coelho motioned to hire Christopher Sobral and Corey Goldrick for Park Department Summer Employees. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall vote Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Ferro and Mr. Coelho in favor. Motion passes 4-0.

C. Beta Group, Inc., Year 3 MS4 Permit Tasks Amendment #1 \$20,000.00

Mr. Furtado - This is an addendum to the current stormwater contract that we have with Beta Group. With this amendment, they will do some additional tasks. This will also keep us in compliance.

Mr. Ferro motioned to approve Beta Group, Inc. Amendment #1 in the amount of \$20,000.00 for Year 3 MS4 Permit Tasks. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall vote Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Ferro and Mr. Coelho in favor. Motion passes 4-0

D. Award Contract for Sludge Disposal

Mr. Furtado - Synagro is our current vendor for sludge disposal and their contract expires on June 30, 2021. They were the only vendor that submitted a bid for the sludge disposal.

Mr. Ferro motioned to Award the Sludge Disposal Bid to Synagro. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall vote Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Ferro and Mr. Coelho in favor. Motion passes 4-0

VI. Tabled Matter

A. n/a

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for June 14, 2021

- Attend various pre-Town Meeting, Meetings
- Jeff meets with Water Engineer re: well capacity study
- Meet Conservation on Chambers St re issue with beach debris
- Go with Rene to 6 Vincent St - sewer issue
- Attend/chair Mattapoisett River Valley Meeting - pilot study for new filter technology (for DEP approval) on-going
- Coordinate fiscal year end work and invoices with Mass Maritime
- Coordinate fiscal year end work, invoices and new addendum with BETA

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- Coordinate fiscal year end work and invoices with Lloyd Center
- Submit grant work Jerusalem Road stormwater treatment construction
- Send notice to Board re cart by-law
- Work with Town Counsel re: Billy's Way and drop off contracts

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

Mr. Furtado recapped BPW related items from Town Meeting with the Board.

B. Board Members

Mr. Coelho – I received two recommendations for the barriers at Livesey Park. Maybe the barriers could be either moved into the street or placed on the grass.

Mr. Hobson - I went to the Town Beach this past weekend and the parking lot has a few potholes that needs to be filled before we open for the season.

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

Mr. Hobson - At the last meeting the Board talked about the water going across the street and the parking lot being paved.

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Ferro motioned to set the date for the next meeting on June 28, 2021. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall vote Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Ferro and Mr. Coelho in favor. Motion passes 4-0

X. Adjourn

Mr. Ferro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 p.m. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall vote Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Ferro and Mr. Coelho in favor. Motion passes 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Office Manager

Minutes approved on June 28, 2021.

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